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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
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TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
14-15 November 2017

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Progress report on the follow-up to the Recommendations of the External Auditor's "Report on the governance of UNESCO and dependant funds, programmes and entities" (Document 38C/23)

8. Progress report on the follow-up to the Recommendations of the External Auditor's "Report on the governance of UNESCO and dependant funds, programmes and entities" (Document 38C/23)

SUMMARY

This Document presents a progress report on the follow-up to the Recommendations of the External Auditor's "*Report on the governance of UNESCO and dependant funds, programmes and entities*" contained in Document 38 C/23, in conformity with Decision **40 COM 13B**.

Draft Resolution: see Point III.

I. BACKGROUND

1. By Resolution **38 C/ 101**, the General Conference established an open-ended working group with the mandate to examine the governance, procedures and working methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO on the basis of the views and proposals received from Member States, the External Auditor's *Report on the Governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities*, relevant evaluations and audits by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS), as well as previous decisions and resolutions related to governance. The Working Group aimed at providing a set of recommendations, along with their likely impact and financial implications, to be examined by the General Conference at its 39th session (2017).
2. Two sub-groups have been established by the General Conference open-ended working group on governance. Sub-Group 1 is discussing "*Structure, composition and methods of work of the Governing Bodies (General Conference and Executive Board)*", while Sub-Group 2 is examining the "*Structure, composition and methods of work of UNESCO's international and intergovernmental bodies*".
3. Further to Resolution **38 C/ 101**, this matter was inscribed on the Agenda of the World Heritage Committee, which examined it during its 40th session, in 2016, and during its 41st session in 2017.

II. PROGRESS REPORT

4. By Decision **40 COM 13B**, the World Heritage Committee recalled the work already undertaken by the Governing Bodies of the *World Heritage Convention* to assess and improve their working methods. The Committee recalled in this regard the ongoing reflection on working methods in the framework of the intersessional ad-hoc Working Group it established at its 38th session in 2014 to improve and streamline the working methods of the Governing Bodies¹. Furthermore, the Committee recommended the inscription of an item on matters on Governance on the Agenda of the 21st session of the General Assembly. It also transmitted Decision **40 COM 13B** along with the corresponding working document related to governance to the Chairperson of the open-ended working group of the General Conference, as requested.
5. At its 41st session, the Committee was informed of the ongoing work undertaken by the open-ended working group established by the General Conference on governance, and notably of the work of the Sub-Group 2 concerning structure, composition and methods of work of UNESCO's international and intergovernmental bodies. It took note of the fact that during several meetings of the Sub-Group 2, issues on governing bodies of Culture Conventions - including the 1972 *Convention* - were discussed and that recognition of good practices and appropriate methods of works as well as appreciation of the work of the 1972 Secretariat were strongly underlined. The Committee was also informed that the work of its own intersessional ad-hoc Working Group was recognized as a good practice and that no specific requirement on improvement of governance regarding the 1972 *Convention* was made.
6. By Decision **41 COM 12B**, the Committee took note of the progress report of the ongoing work undertaken by the General Conference on governance and decided to study the relevant recommendations of the Working Group established by the General Conference on this matter. It decided to examine the "follow up and implementation of

¹ The outcomes of the work of this Working Group can be found in Document *WHC/16/40.COM/13A and WHC/17/41.COM/12A*.

the recommendations of the Working Group on Governance as endorsed by the General Conference” at its 42nd session in 2018.

7. It is to be underlined that one more meeting is scheduled before the recommendations of the General Conference open-ended working group are submitted to the 202nd session of the Executive Board (October 2017), which will transmit it - with its own comments - to the 39th session of the General Conference. Therefore, at the time of the preparation of this document, the recommendations of the open-ended working group are not yet finalized.
8. The Informal Summary of the meetings of the open-ended working group that have already been held are available at the following address <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/general-conference-39th/working-group-on-governance/sub-group-2/>
9. Furthermore, it is to be noted that at the time of examination of this item by the General Assembly, the General Conference will have already examined Item 5.1 related to Governance and that, consequently, additional information in this regard will be presented to the General Assembly by the Secretariat at the time of the presentation of the present document.

III. DRAFT RESOLUTION

Draft Resolution: 21 GA 8

The General Assembly,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/21.GA/8,*
2. *Recalling Resolution **20 GA 11** and Decisions **40 COM 13B** and **41 COM 12B** adopted by the General Assembly at its 20th session (UNESCO,2015) and by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively and the ongoing reflection undertaken by the Governing Bodies of the World Heritage Convention to assess, improve and streamline their working methods,*
3. *Takes note of the progress report of the ongoing work undertaken by the General Conference to examine the governance, procedures and working methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO;*
4. *Requests that a progress report of the follow up and implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group on Governance as endorsed by the General Conference be presented at its 22nd session in 2019.*

