



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

42 COM

WHC/18/42.COM/10A

Paris, 29 Mai 2018

Original: English

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-second session

**Manama, Bahrain
24 June – 4 July 2018**

Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports

10A: Progress Report on the Preparation of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting

SUMMARY

This document is presented pursuant to Decision **41 COM 10A** and contains a report on the preparation for the start of reporting for the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, including the measures taken to facilitate a State-Party driven approach for the Third Cycle as per Decision **41 COM 10A**. A new web platform for the Third Cycle is available at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/prcycle3>.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 10A, see Point V.

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Periodic Reporting Reflection Period (2015–2017), which followed the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting (2008–2015), saw the introduction of a large number of changes and improvements to the Periodic Reporting process and format based on the work of Periodic Reporting Reflection Expert Group. With Decision **41 COM 10A**, the Committee welcomed the recommendations of the Expert Group and decided that the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting should be launched, and that the World Heritage Centre should ensure a holistic approach across regions, providing overall coordination, guidance tools and analysis and facilitating a State Party-driven approach for the exercise. Furthermore, it was decided by the Committee that the Arab States region should begin the reporting exercise in 2018, followed by Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe and North America.

II. PREPARATION OF THE THIRD CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING

2. Further to the World Heritage Committee Decision **41 COM 10A**, the World Heritage Centre has carried out final technical improvements and language editing of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire in order to ensure consistency between the English and French versions.
3. In accordance with the recommendations of the Expert Group, and in line with the Committee Decision **41 COM 10 A** and its call for a State Party-driven exercise and a holistic approach across the regions, and with a view to facilitating the States Parties' and World Heritage stakeholders' preparations ahead of the Third Cycle, the World Heritage Centre has developed a set of training and guidance materials.
4. The materials developed will allow States Parties the autonomy to successfully lead the Periodic Reporting exercise in their countries, providing them with tools to carry out capacity-building activities with Site Managers and other stakeholders. The set of training materials is adapted for use in a range of contexts and accessible to a broad audience. Designed as user-friendly and intuitive tools, their accessibility will facilitate the inclusion of Periodic Reporting on the programmes of a range of meetings and events occurring in the regions, allowing Focal Points and other facilitators to carry out training and discussion sessions. Their use across all regions throughout the Third Cycle will provide a framework of understanding that should promote cooperation, enhance understanding of the exercise and thereby of the implementation of the Convention, and thus contribute to achieving the objectives of Periodic Reporting.
5. The materials developed include:
 - Guidance to the questionnaire
 - Glossary of terms
 - Animation Video 1 on the Periodic Reporting Process
 - Animation Video 2 focusing on Section 2 of the questionnaire
 - A Site Managers' Handbook
 - A Periodic Reporting Curriculum

6. The development of comprehensive **guidance** responds to a number of issues that were identified in the Second Cycle. Primarily, it is a tool that will improve understanding of the questions, elucidate concepts that may not be known by all respondents, provide clarifications on the kind of information sought in specific questions, and provide context and background to many of the thematic areas covered through linkages with publications, relevant World Heritage policies, documents and recommendations as well as external websites. The guidance represents a dynamic resource within the questionnaire, and can be modified and supplemented according to evolving circumstances. It is available within the tool and also as a separate document in PDF format.
7. The **glossary** of key terms which supplements the guidance provides clear definitions to World Heritage, general conservation or UN terms, based on pre-existing texts and definitions available in published sources.
8. **Animation video 1** explains the Periodic Reporting process in clear and simple terms through engaging visuals and is available in English, French and Arabic (with the Spanish, Chinese and Russian versions under development).
9. **Animation video 2** focusses on Section 2 of the questionnaire, explaining the key functionalities of the online tool, the main concepts involved and the assistance available. It is available in English, French and Arabic (with the Spanish, Chinese and Russian versions under development).
10. The **Site Managers' Handbook** for Periodic Reporting describes the objectives, process and format of the exercise to a broad range of stakeholders in a concise manner, using clear and accessible language. The Handbook has initially been published in English and French; an Arabic version is in preparation. Further language versions will be developed according to the availability of funding.
11. The **Periodic Reporting Curriculum** has been developed to allow Focal Points or experts to carry out trainings for those involved in Periodic Reporting. The curriculum brings together a large number of World Heritage resources, both pre-existing and newly developed (see paragraphs 5–10) and will function as a road map to those engaged in capacity building for Periodic Reporting. The curriculum is currently being adapted to be made accessible in basic and advanced versions. Furthermore, the comprehensive nature of the curriculum will make it a resource that can be adapted to many different World Heritage training contexts, and not exclusively Periodic Reporting.
12. An online platform dedicated to the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, **Periodic Reporting Cycle 3 Platform**, was also developed. The questionnaire and all of the training materials referred to in paragraphs 5–10 will shortly be available for consultation on the following platform: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/prcycle3>. The Periodic Reporting Cycle 3 Platform will be updated as new resources become available
13. The World Heritage Centre has ensured that the progress and innovations being made in relation to Periodic Reporting are communicated to key stakeholders, such as representatives of the Advisory Bodies, Category 2 Centres and UNESCO Chairs who represent key partners in the reporting exercise.
14. A side event on the launch of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting (2018–2024) was held during the Second coordination meeting with C2Cs and UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs related to the UNESCO Culture Sector (UNESCO Headquarters, 23–24 November 2017). The presentation was dedicated to the outcomes of the Periodic Reporting Reflection period (2015–2017), including the improvements and new content introduced into the questionnaire, the training and guidance materials being developed by the World Heritage Centre, and the

role and involvement of Category 2 Centres and UNESCO Chairs in the Third Cycle in the context of the more State Party-driven approach of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, as requested by the Committee (Decision **41 COM 10A**). The Power Point slides of the presentation were made available for consultation on the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs forum (<http://unescochairs-c2c.net>).

15. Progress on the preparation for the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting was also discussed during the meeting with the Advisory Bodies, which took place at UNESCO Headquarters in January 2018. An overview of preparatory activities underway for the Third Cycle was likewise given, including the new training and guidance materials under preparation.
16. In order to enhance communication on Periodic Reporting to all World Heritage stakeholders, the World Heritage Centre has fully updated its Periodic Reporting webpage, which has now been improved and enhanced visually, and with regards to navigation with clearer links to other relevant World Heritage pages. The updated webpage can be consulted at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/periodicreporting/>.

III. ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR PERIODIC REPORTING

17. In preparation for the roll-out of the Analytical Framework developed within the framework of the Periodic Reporting Reflection Period (2015-2017) as a global template for the analysis of data in all regions (as per Decision **41 COM 10A**), a trial of the Analytical Framework is being undertaken, based on the results of the Periodic Reporting Testing Phase (April 2017). Experts involved in the working subgroup on Monitoring Indicators and the Analytical Framework will continue to work in this regard and develop a report based on their review, including key recommendations
18. Preliminary comments on the Analytical Framework note the necessity to continue to develop new methods of analysis and technical improvements to handle the data gathered, with a particular recommendation that an analytical tool should be developed within the questionnaire to facilitate data analysis by States Parties. Further recommendations focus on improving the presentation of data for enhanced accessibility and usability, allowing States Parties to use these more effectively for their own monitoring activities and also to develop an improved user-friendly format of the Monitoring Indicators table (presenting the new Monitoring Indicators developed for the exercise, and approved by Decision **41 COM 10A**) to be made accessible via the PR Cycle 3 Platform at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/prcycle3/> .

III. PREPARATION OF THE THIRD CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING – REPORTING IN THE REGIONS

19. In view of the commencement of reporting, the Secretariat is undertaking a number of measures to facilitate the process. Among others, these include: carrying out a full review and update of the records and contact details of those participating in the exercise, maintaining communication with the States Parties involved, informing them of key dates and deadlines and updating them on the availability of the training and guidance materials, ensuring that Periodic Reporting is included on the agenda of World Heritage meetings taking place in the regions, ensuring a helpdesk during the reporting year and supporting States Parties in the post-reporting data analysis and the preparation of Action Plans.

20. In addition, a holistic approach to the exercise is being assured by the overall coordination of the exercise by a World Heritage Centre based coordinator working in cooperation with the Regional Units.
21. With the Arab States' reporting set to begin in September 2018, the Secretariat stands ready to assist the States Parties and other partners in the region in their preparation for and implementation of the exercise. In this regard, the Secretariat has already translated some of the training, information and communication materials referred to in paragraphs 5–11 into Arabic and is seeking means to translate the remainder in the coming months. The scope of this undertaking will rely largely on the availability of funding. The World Heritage Centre is planning the Periodic Reporting exercise closely with the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) based in Manama, Bahrain. To support the States Parties in the region in this process, it is foreseen that ARC-WH organises a joint regional meeting on the Periodic Reporting exercise. ARC-WH is also planning to provide targeted technical support to States Parties, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre.

V. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 42 COM 10A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/10A,*
2. *Takes note with appreciation of the World Heritage Centre's efforts to implement the Decision **41 COM 10A**, and in particular of the set of training and guidance materials which have been developed to ensure a holistic approach to the Periodic Reporting Exercise in the Third Cycle and to facilitate a State-Party driven exercise;*
3. *Requests that the World Heritage Centre make these resources available to a broad range of World Heritage stakeholders and ensure that they are widely disseminated to foster effective preparation in the regions, in particular for the Arab States Region as the first region to report in the period 2018–2019;*
4. *Also takes note of the ongoing work on the Analytical Framework for the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, and encourages the World Heritage Centre to continue to develop new methods of analysis and technical improvements for the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting;*
5. *Reconfirms that, as per previous practice, the Periodic Reporting questionnaire will be accessible electronically to the relevant region from September of each reporting year, and that completed questionnaires should be submitted by July of the following year;*
6. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to submit to the Committee a progress report on the overall conduct and coordination of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting at its 43rd session in 2019;*
7. *Welcomes the offer of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) to assist in facilitating the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Arab States region, organize regional meetings and provide targeted technical support to States Parties, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre.*