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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
23 – 28 October 2009

Item 3B of the Provisional Agenda: Elections to the World Heritage Committee

SUMMARY

This document consists of the following 4 Sections:

- I. Number of Seats to be elected to the World Heritage Committee
- II. Eligibility for candidates to the World Heritage Committee
- III. Procedures for the election of the World Heritage Committee
- IV. Draft Resolution

I. NUMBER OF SEATS TO BE ELECTED TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

1. Article 8 of the *World Heritage Convention* establishes the World Heritage Committee and determines that it is to be composed of 21 States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*. The members of the Committee are to be elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* which meets during the ordinary session of the UNESCO General Conference.
2. At present the World Heritage Committee is composed of the following 21 States Parties:

AUSTRALIA	EGYPT	NIGERIA
BAHRAIN	ISRAEL	PERU
BARBADOS	JORDAN	REPUBLIC OF KOREA
BRAZIL	KENYA	SPAIN
CANADA	MADAGASCAR	SWEDEN
CHINA	MAURITIUS	TUNISIA
CUBA	MOROCCO	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3. In accordance with Article 9 of the *Convention*, the terms of office of half of the members of the Committee will expire at the end of the 35th session of the UNESCO General Conference (UNESCO, 6-23 October 2009).
4. Consequently, **12 seats of the World Heritage Committee are to be filled during the 17th session of the General Assembly**. The seats of the following 12 States Parties will be filled by the newly-elected members of the Committee:

CANADA	MADAGASCAR	REPUBLIC OF KOREA
CUBA	MAURITIUS	SPAIN
ISRAEL	MOROCCO	TUNISIA
KENYA	PERU	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

II. ELIGIBILITY FOR CANDIDATES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

5. In order for a State Party to be eligible to become a member of the World Heritage Committee the conditions set out in Article 16, paragraph 5 of the *Convention* have to be met. This Article states that,

Any State Party to the Convention which is in arrears with the payment of its compulsory or voluntary contribution for the current year and the calendar year immediately preceding it shall not be eligible as a Member of the World Heritage Committee [...].

6. The Statement of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund can be found in Document WHC-09/17.GA/INF.5.

7. Note should also be taken of Rule 13.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly which states that:

(...) This list of candidatures shall be finalised 48 hours before the beginning of the election. No other candidatures nor payments of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund (for the purpose of presenting a candidature to the Committee) will be accepted after this time.

III. PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

8. The procedures for the election of the World Heritage Committee are set out in Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.
9. The General Assembly, when electing the new members of the World Heritage Committee, might wish to take into consideration Article 8 paragraph 2 of the *Convention* which states that the "election of members of the Committee shall ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world", as well as its Resolution on the Equitable Representation of the World Heritage Committee (adopted by the 13th General Assembly) which invites, *inter alia*, the States Parties elected to the Committee to voluntarily reduce their term of office from six to four years (see Annex 1).
10. Furthermore, after a two-year reflection process carried out by an open-ended Working Group established on this matter at its 16th session in 2007, the General Assembly will examine a proposal to amend its Rules of procedure at its 17th session in 2009. This proposal is presented in Document WHC-09/17.GA/3A.
11. At the time of drafting the present document, it is not known whether the proposal will be adopted by the General Assembly and whether the new proposed Rules of procedure will apply for the election of the 12 new World Heritage Committee members during the 17th session of the General Assembly.

IV. DRAFT RESOLUTION

DRAFT RESOLUTION: 17 GA 3B

The General Assembly,

1. Elects * * * (State Party without properties on the World Heritage List) as member of the World Heritage Committee;
2. Elects the following eleven States Parties *** as members of the World Heritage Committee.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE 13TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES ON THE EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE¹

The General Assembly,

Recalling Article 8, paragraph 2, of the Convention which stipulates that “Election of members of the Committee shall ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world”;

Recalling Article 9 of the Convention which stipulates that “The term of office of States members of the World Heritage Committee shall extend from the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference during which they are elected until the end of its third subsequent ordinary session”;

Recalling the Resolution of the 7th General Assembly of States Parties (1989);

Considering the representivity of the World Heritage List could be enhanced through the increased participation in the work of the Committee of States Parties whose heritage is currently unrepresented in the List;

Considering that the strong interest of States Parties in participating in the work of the World Heritage Committee could be addressed by a more frequent rotation of Committee members;

Invites the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, to voluntarily reduce their term of office from six to four years;

Encourages States Parties that are not members of the Committee to make use of their right to participate in meetings of the World Heritage Committee as observers;

Discourages States Parties from seeking consecutive terms of office in the World Heritage Committee;

Decides that before each election of Committee members, the President of the General Assembly of States Parties will inform States Parties of the situation of the representation of regions and cultures in the World Heritage Committee and World Heritage List;

Decides to amend its Rules of Procedure as follows:

New Rule to be inserted after Rule 13.1

A certain number of seats may be reserved for States Parties who do not have sites on the World Heritage List, upon decision of the World Heritage Committee at the session that precedes the General Assembly. Such a ballot for reserved seats would precede the open ballot for the remaining seats to be filled. Unsuccessful candidates in the reserved ballot would be eligible to stand in the open ballot.

¹ See paragraph 86 of the Report of the 13th General Assembly of States Parties (Document *WHC-03/14.GA/INF.1*)

Amendment to existing Rule 13.8 (new text in bold)

13.8 Those States obtaining in the first ballot the required majority shall be elected, unless the number of States obtaining that majority is greater than the number of seats to be filled. In that case, the States obtaining the greatest number of votes, up to the number of seats to be filled, shall be declared elected. ~~If the number of States obtaining the majority required is less than the number of seats to be filled, there shall be a second ballot, followed by a third and, if necessary a fourth, to fill the remaining seats.~~ **If the number of States obtaining the majority required is less than the number of seats to be filled, there shall be a second ballot. If the number of States obtaining the majority required is still less than the number of seats to be filled there shall be a third and, if necessary a fourth ballot, to fill the remaining seats. For the third and fourth ballots,** the voting shall be restricted to the States obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, up to a number twice that of the seats remaining to be filled.

Decides that this resolution should be implemented immediately.