

**Experts meeting on decision-making procedures
in statutory organs of the *World Heritage Convention***

15-17 December 2010

Manama, Bahrain

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT 2:

**STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF DECISION-MAKING
BY STATUTORY ORGANS FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS, INCLUDING:**

- Time Management**
- Production of documents**
- Distribution of experts**

(drafted by UNESCO/CLT/WHC/POL/rv)

I. STATISTICS REGARDING THE TIME MANAGEMENT OF THE 10 PAST ORDINARY SESSIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (2001-2010)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Session	Year	Nb of days of debate	Nb of hours of debate	Nb of daily hours of debate	Nb of decisions adopted	Time spent per decision (average time, in minutes)	Nb of Agenda items
25COM	2001	5	39 h	7 h 45	106	22	27
26COM	2002	5	37 h	7 h 30	175	12.7	35
27COM	2003	6	41 h 30	7 h	245	10.1	32
28COM	2004	8	59 h	7 h 30	252	14	36
29COM	2005	7	66 h 30	9 h 30	233	17.1	31
30COM	2006	6.5	52 h	8 h	231	13.5	37
31COM	2007	7.5	58 h	7 h 45	207	16.8	41
32COM	2008	6.5	56 h	8 h 30	292	12.6	37
33COM	2009	7	67 h	9 h 30	267	15	36
34COM	2010	8	62 h	7 h 45	248	15	44

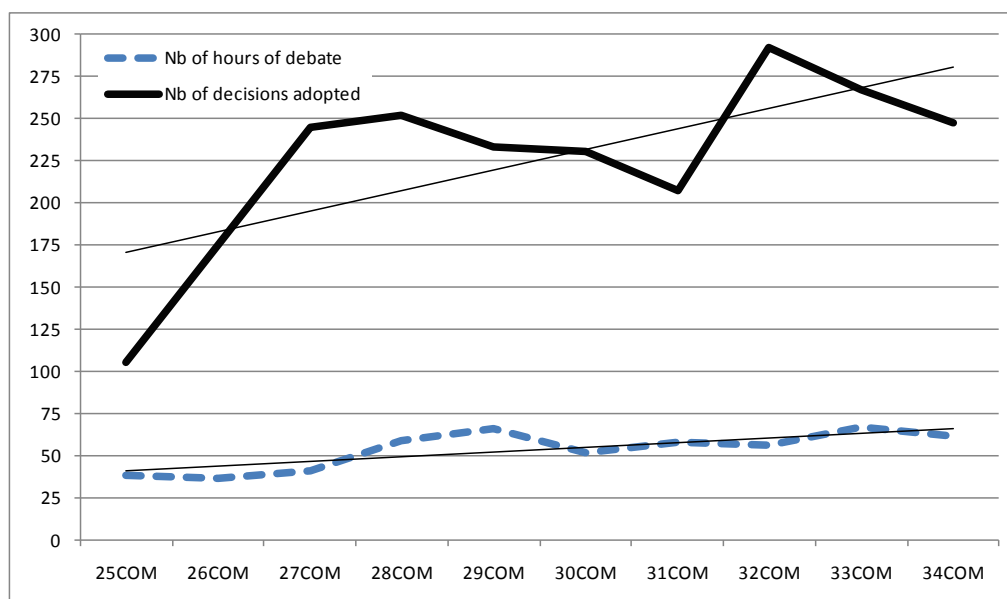


Chart 1: Evolution of the number of hours of debates during the Committee sessions and the number of decisions adopted

Since the 25th session in 2001, the **number of decisions** adopted by the Committee has continuously increased. Indeed, from 106 decisions adopted in 2001, it has increased to reach almost 300 decisions in 2008 (292). This represents a nearly three-fold increase.

In parallel, during the same period of time (10 years), the **number of working days** of each Committee session has also increased, from 5 working days in 2001 to 8 working days in 2010.

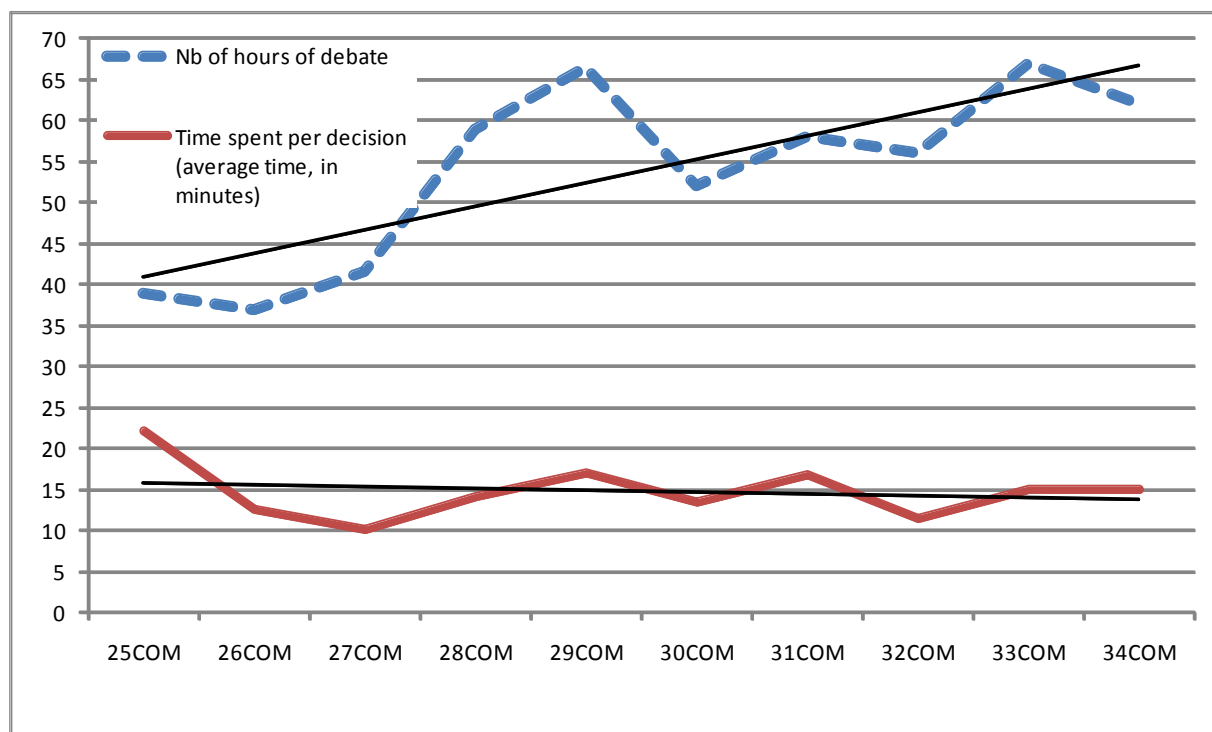


Chart 2: Evolution of the number of hours of debates during the Committee sessions and the average time spent for the adoption of each decision (in minutes)

Over the years, the **average time spent by the Committee to adopt one decision** has significantly reduced, from 22 minutes in 2001 to 15 minutes in 2010, but has been rather stable since 2004. The main drop occurred during the 27th session in 2003 when only 10 minutes were spent per decision due to the high number of decisions to be adopted (245 instead of 175 the previous year). As a corrective measure, the number of days allocated to the following session in 2004 was increased from 6 to 8.

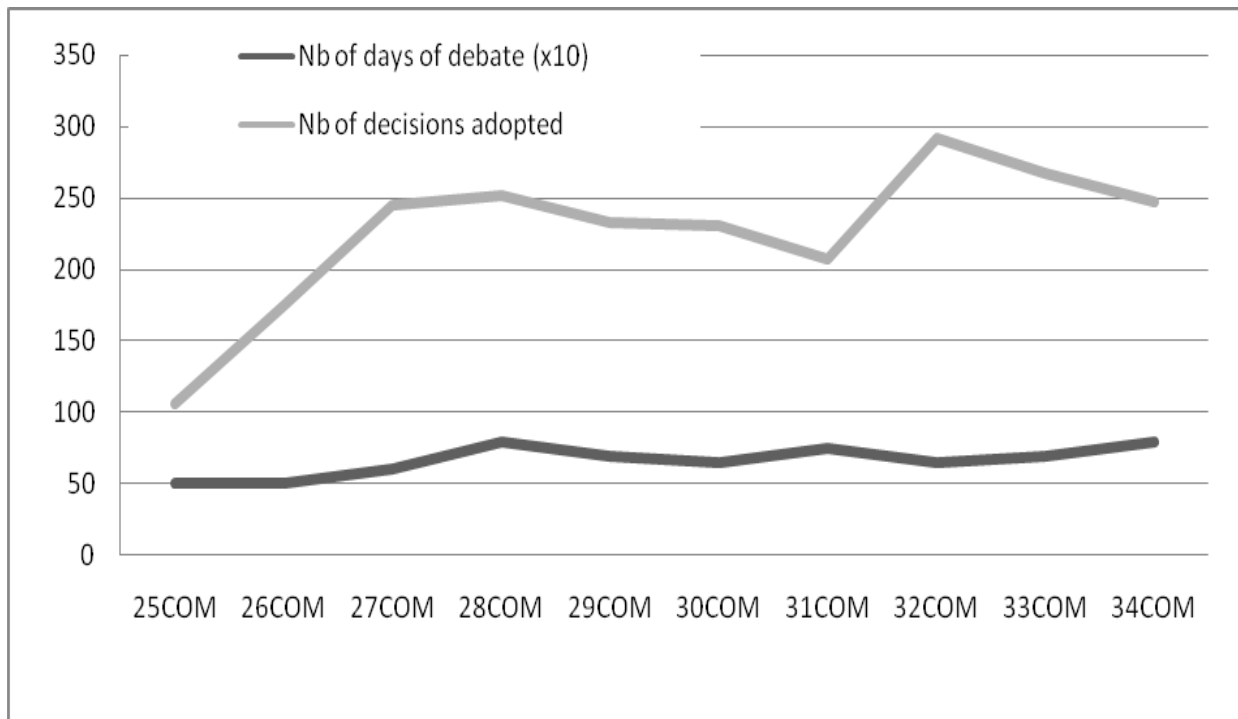


Chart 3: Evolution of the number of days of debates during the Committee sessions and the number of decisions adopted at each session
(Nota: to be readable, the number of days has been multiplied by 10 on this chart)

It appears that (Chart 3) the number of days for any given session is decided based on the number of decisions adopted at the previous session. We can notice that an increase in the number of decision leads to an increase the following year to the duration of the session. Conversely, a decrease in the number of decisions adopted seems to lead to a decrease of the duration of the following session; for example:

- Increase of decisions at 27COM → increase of the duration of 28COM
- Increase of decisions at 32COM → increase of the duration of 33COM
- Decrease of decisions at 31COM → decrease of duration of 32COM

An important element to take into account is that the **duration of a session** is set a year in advance, at the same time than the Agenda is adopted. However, during the 11 following months, the Agenda items are refined, more sub-items added (e.g. Item 5 is subdivided into Items 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, etc...., multiplying the number of documents to be presented, the number of debates and eventually the number of decisions to be adopted).

The **time allocated for Agenda items** dealing with both state of conservation reports (7A and 7B) and nominations (8B) is usually anticipated based on the average time spent during the previous sessions. However, should there be a difficult discussion/negotiation on a particular issue, or should a vote be required on a particular issue, more time is therefore needed.

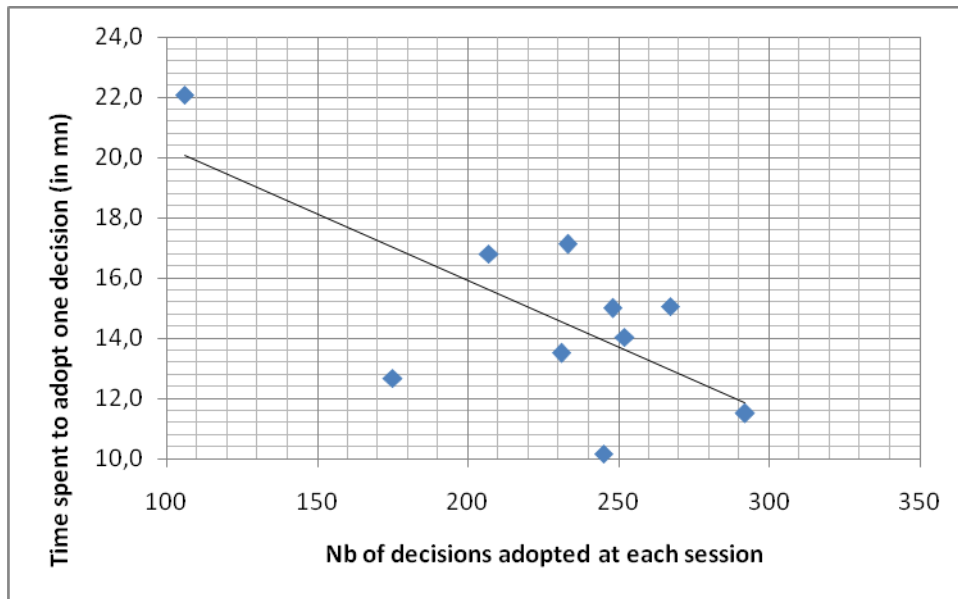


Chart 4: Correlation between the number of decisions adopted during the Committee sessions and the average time spent for the adoption of each decision (in minutes) (Correlation factor: - 0.69)

Chart 4 clearly shows that these two data sets are inversely correlated; the average time spent to adopt one decision decreasing when the total number of decisions to adopt during a session increases (from 22 minutes for 106 decisions to 11.5 minutes for 292 decisions), independently of the total duration of the meeting or number of hours worked.

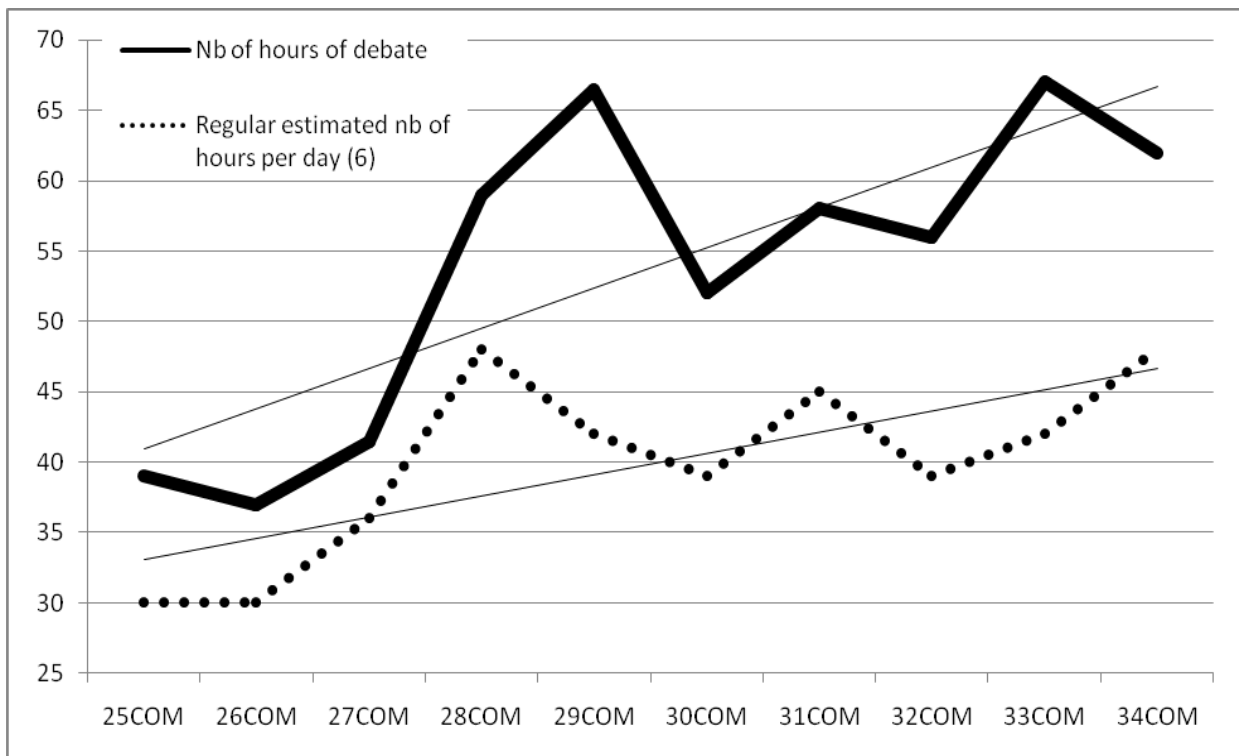


Chart 5: Evolution of the number of hours of debates during the Committee sessions compared to the "regular" working hours" for the same number of days (based on the standard 6 working hours per day)

It is interesting to compare the **number of hours worked during a session** (Chart 5) with the number of “regular” working hours for the same number of days (based on 6-hour working days). We can notice that the number of hours of debates increases more than the “regular” number of hours. This means that, even though the number of days is extended, the average number of daily hours of debates also increases, but at a faster rate and still doesn’t cover for the number of decisions to be adopted.

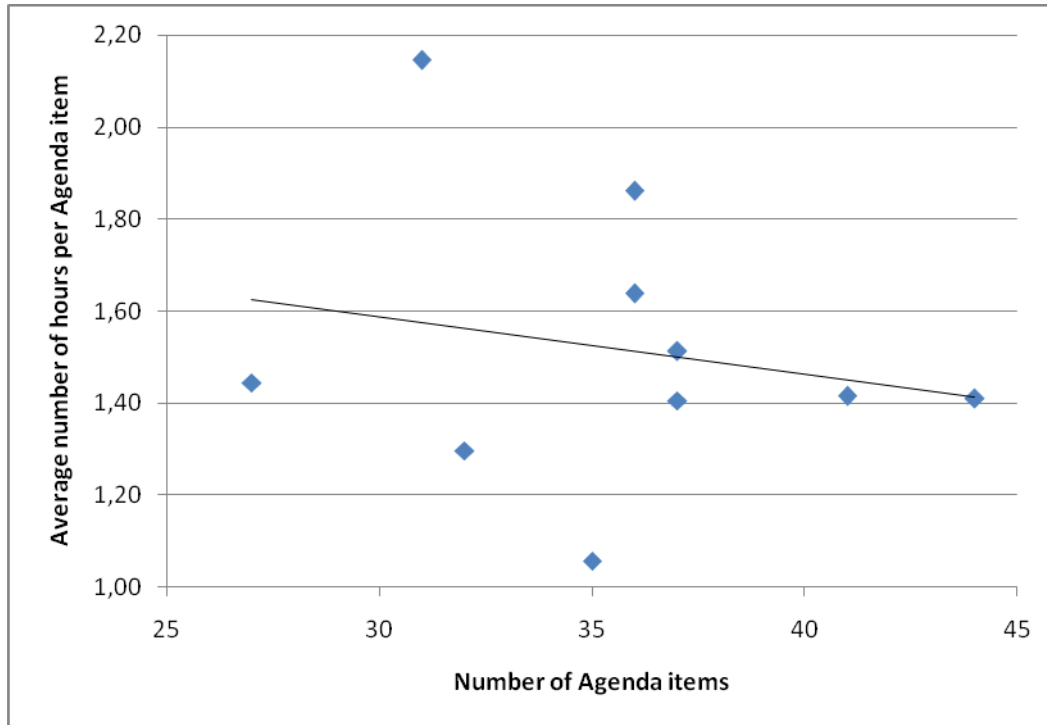


Chart 6: Relation between the number of Agenda items per session and the average number of hours spent to examine each one of them

The trend evidenced in the Chart 6 above shows that the more Agenda items there are for examination by the Committee at any given session, the average time spent to examine each Agenda item decreases. As shown previously, the **number of Agenda items** has continuously increased since 2001; hence the number of hours spent to examine each of these Agenda items has continuously decreased. It is however important to note that the average time spent for each Agenda item is always more or less in the same range, around one and a half hour.

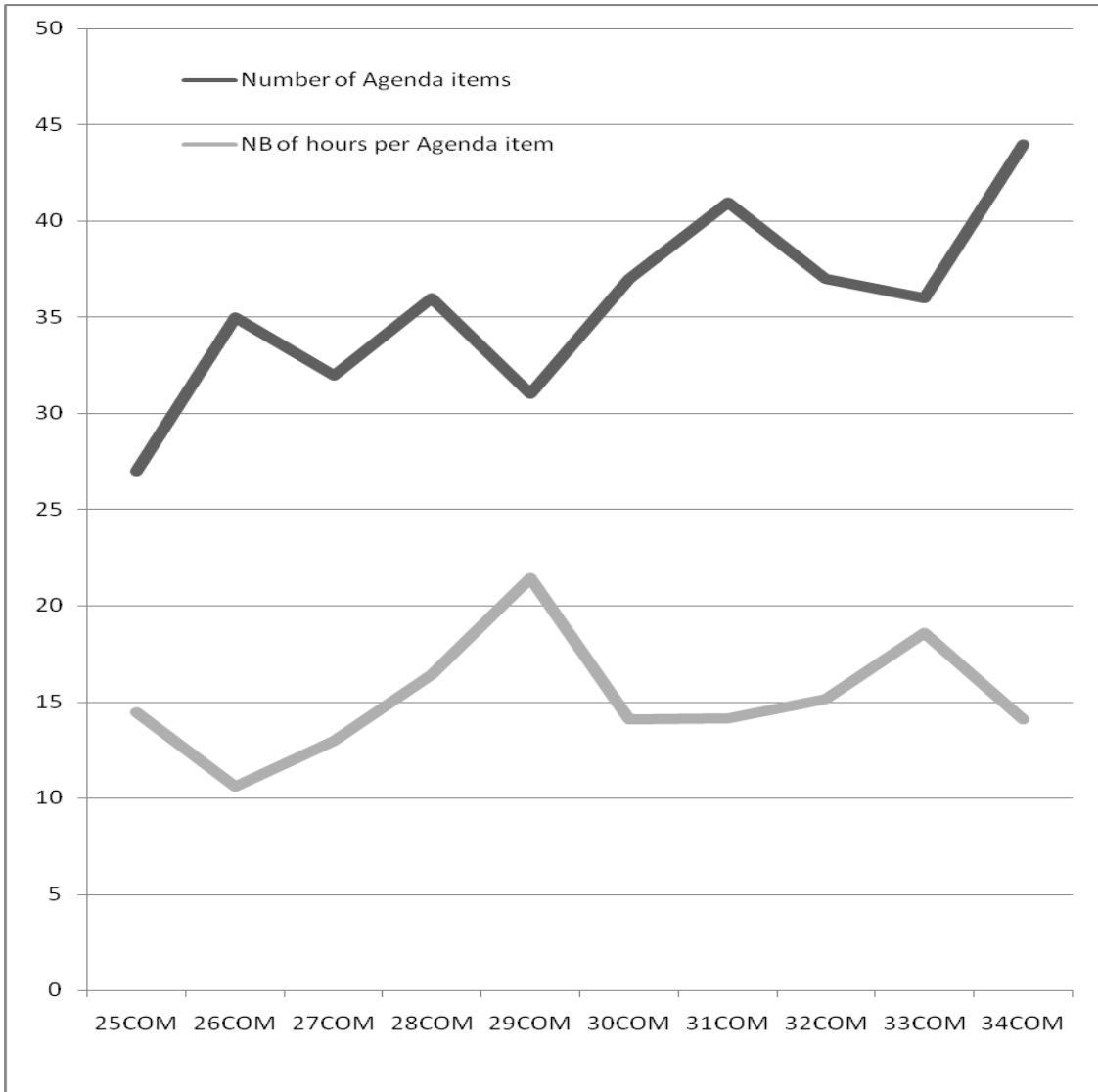


Chart 7: Relation between the number of Agenda items per session and the average number of hours spent to examine each one of them

The Chart 7 above has voluntarily been distorted regarding the **number of hours spent per Agenda item**; indeed, for illustration purpose, this latter has been multiplied by 10 to better reflect the inverse symmetry between the two data. This Chart indeed clearly shows that the more the Agenda items, the less time is spent for each of them; and reciprocally.

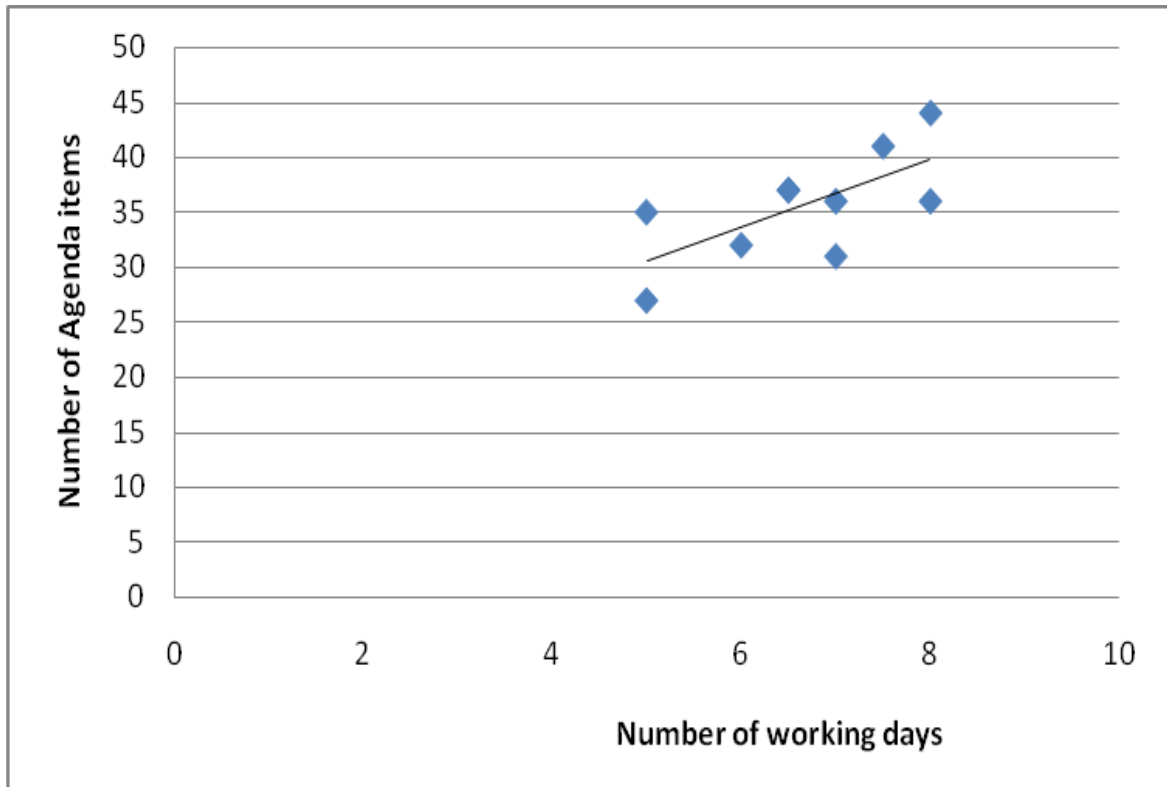


Chart 8: Relation between the number of Agenda items per session and the number of working days (correlation: 0.6789)

Chart 8 above shows that there is a relatively important correlation between the number of Agenda items to examine at any given session and the **number of working days**. This means that the increase of the workload due to the number of items is anticipated through additional working days. However, not in a satisfactory manner since the time spent to adopt each decision keeps decreasing (see Chart 2 above).

II. STATISTICS REGARDING THE PRODUCTION OF THE WORKING AND INFORMATION DOCUMENTS OF THE 10 PAST ORDINARY SESSIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (2001-2010)

Session	Year	Nb of docs	Nb of working docs	Nb of INF	% of working docs	% of INF documents	Nb of INF only in 1 lang.	% of bilingual working docs	% of bilingual INF	Nb of Agenda items
25COM	2001	44	25	19	56,8	43,2	7	100	63,2	27
26COM	2002	47	31	16	66,0	34,0	4	100	75,0	35
27COM	2003	54	34	20	63,0	37,0	0	100	100,0	32
28COM	2004	45	31	14	68,9	31,1	0	100	100,0	36
29COM	2005	55	42	13	76,4	23,6	0	100	100,0	31
30COM	2006	59	45	14	76,3	23,7	0	100	100,0	37
31COM	2007	66	50	16	75,8	24,2	0	100	100,0	41
32COM	2008	56	40	16	71,4	28,6	0	100	100,0	37
33COM	2009	49	36	13	73,5	26,5	0	100	100,0	36
34COM	2010	54	38	16	70,4	29,6	0	100	100,0	44

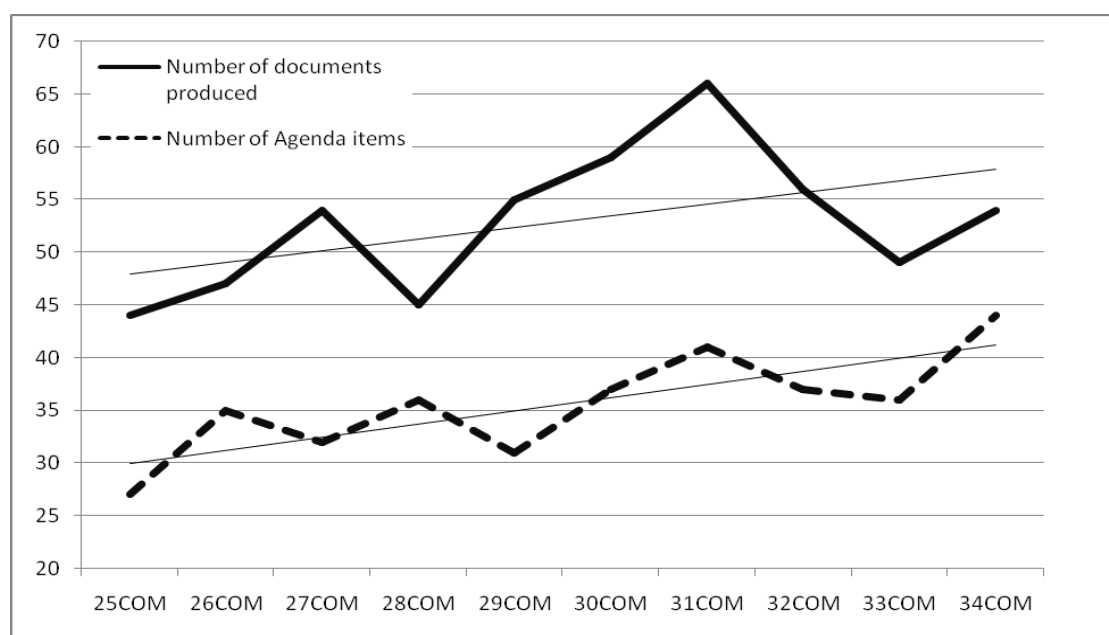


Chart 9: Number of documents and Agenda items of the World Heritage Committee sessions over the past 10 years

We can notice that the general trend is to an increase of the **number of documents** prepared for each Committee sessions. Indeed, from 44 documents prepared in 2001, this number has increased as much as 66 in 2007.

The **number of Agenda items** has also tremendously increased since the 25th session in 2001. From 27 items on its agenda, the Committee now has to examine 44 items, more than one and a half times more; still noting that the number of working hours during the meetings itself has also increased in the same figure. However, the number of decisions has more than doubled in this same period of time.

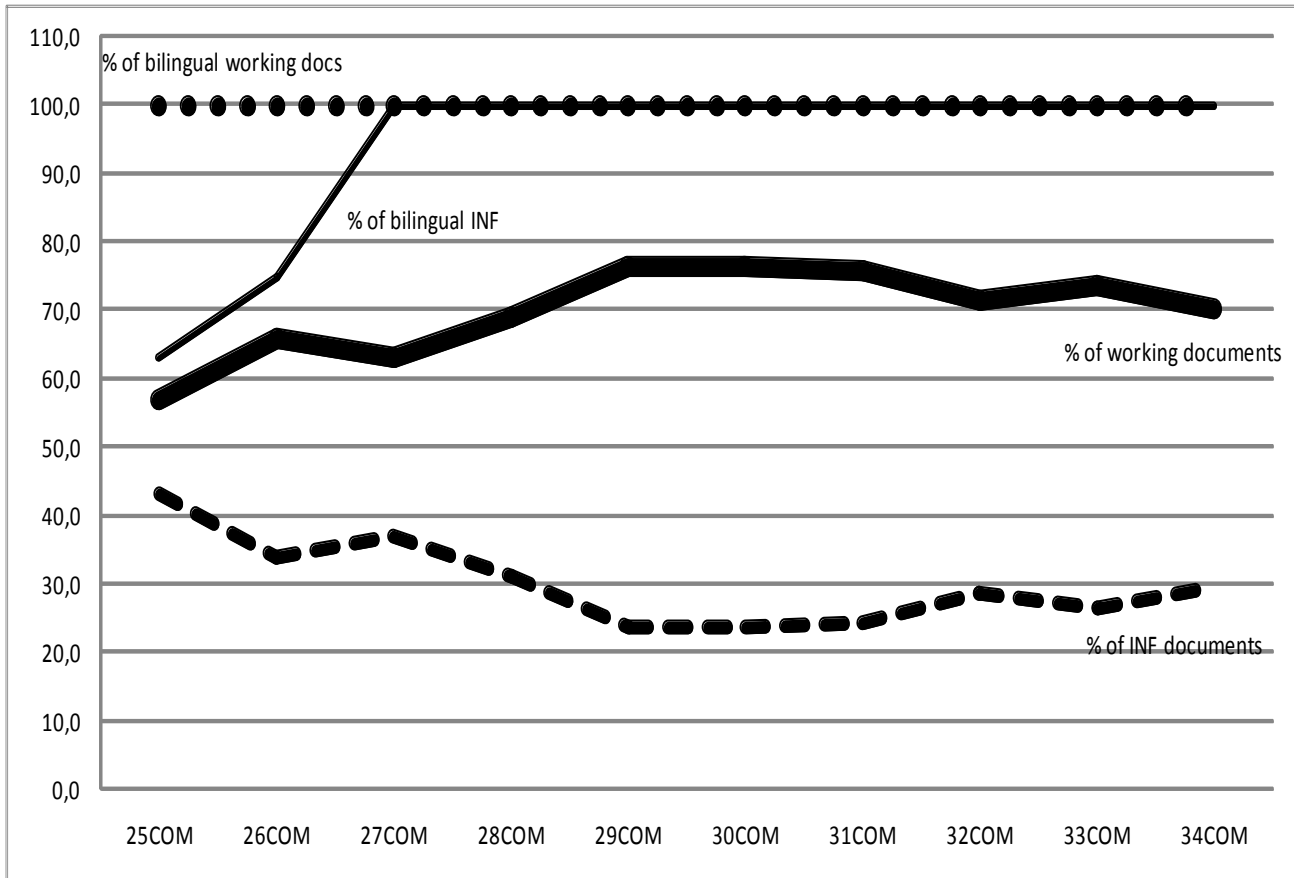


Chart 10: Proportion of working and information documents and total number of documents prepared in both languages (French/English) for the World Heritage Committee sessions over the past 10 years

Even though the total number of documents is on the increase, we can notice that the proportion of working documents has increased over the past 10 years while the proportion of information documents has slightly decreased (see Chart 10 above).

However, Chart 10 (above) shows that since the 27th session in 2003, all information documents have been presented in the two **working languages** of the *Convention* (English and French) when most were only proposed in one language before. This has therefore led to an increase of the workload of the Secretariat in the Committee preparation. Working documents have always been presented in both languages. The size of the documents should also be considered but no study has been conducted yet on this factor.

III. STATISTICS REGARDING THE DISTRIBUTION OF EXPERTS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS DELEGATIONS IN THE 10 PAST ORDINARY SESSIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (2001-2010)

Session	Year	Nb of participants (COM members)	Nb of part. per COM del.	% of NAT experts	% of CLT experts	Total % of experts	Total % of diplomats
25COM (Helsinki)	2001	108	5,1	25,00	50,93	75,93	24,07
26COM (Budapest)	2002	121	5,8	18,18	52,07	70,25	29,75
27COM (UNESCO)	2003	128	6,1	16,41	50,00	66,41	33,59
28COM (Suzhou)	2004	129	6,1	22,48	48,06	70,54	29,46
29COM (Durban)	2005	160	7,6	26,88	38,75	65,63	34,38
30COM (Vilnius)	2006	121	5,8	23,97	46,28	70,25	29,75
31COM (Christchurch)	2007	115	5,5	22,61	44,35	66,96	33,04
32COM (Quebec City)	2008	132	6,3	22,73	50,76	73,48	26,52
33COM (Sevilla)	2009	161	7,7	18,01	57,76	75,78	24,22
34COM (Brasilia)	2010	117	5,6	27,35	49,57	76,92	23,08

Before any analysis is made, it is important to note that this study is solely based on the lists of participants compiled for each Committee session, with the details submitted by the participants themselves at the time of their registration. On those lists, it is sometimes not clear whether a participant is a diplomat, or a cultural/natural specialist (e.g. the Director of a Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department having a cultural/natural background; or a Permanent Delegate of a State Party to UNESCO having a cultural/natural background). In addition, it should be noted that some registered participants actually don't attend the session and in some cases, some participants were not registered in due course and don't appear on those lists.

Furthermore, a Delegation is sometimes represented by a large number of participants; most of them actually coming to the session only to attend the debate on a specific nomination.

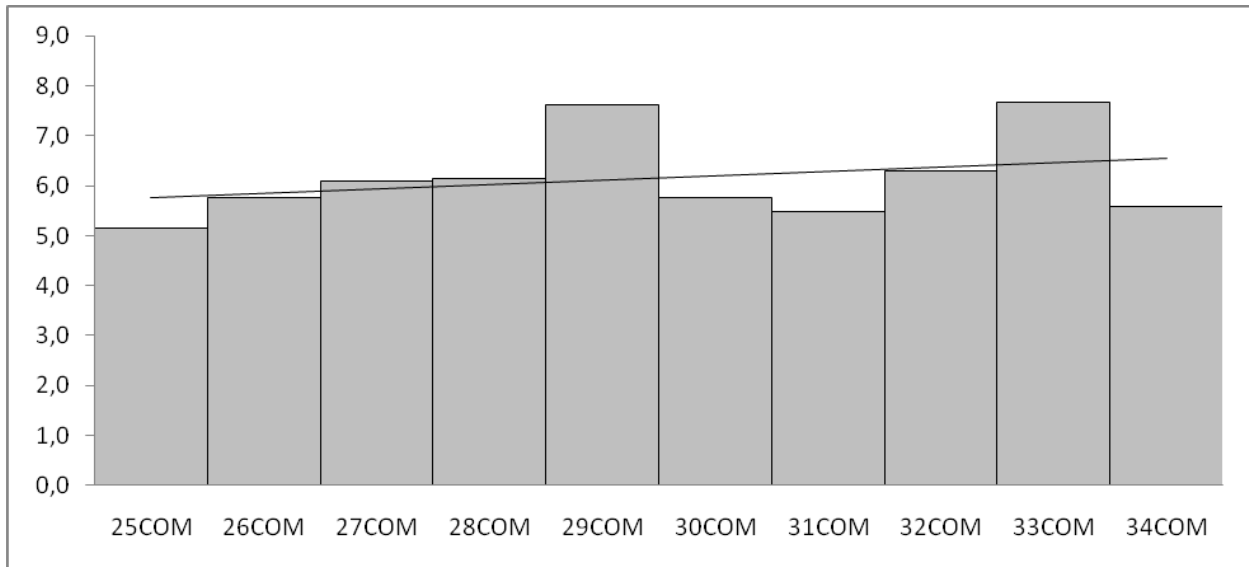


Chart 11: Average number of participants registered for each Committee member delegation

On the Chart 11 above, one can notice that the **average number of participants** for each of the Committee members delegations has increased since 2001 (from 5.1 participants in 2001 up to 7.7 in 2009). One could assume that the more a Committee session is held remotely from the UNESCO Headquarters, the less the participation rate will be. But this is not the case, partly through the financial assistance provided for Committee members by the World Heritage Fund. For example, the 27th session, which took place at the UNESCO Headquarters in 2003, had far much less participants from Committee members than the 29th session (Durban, South Africa, in 2005).

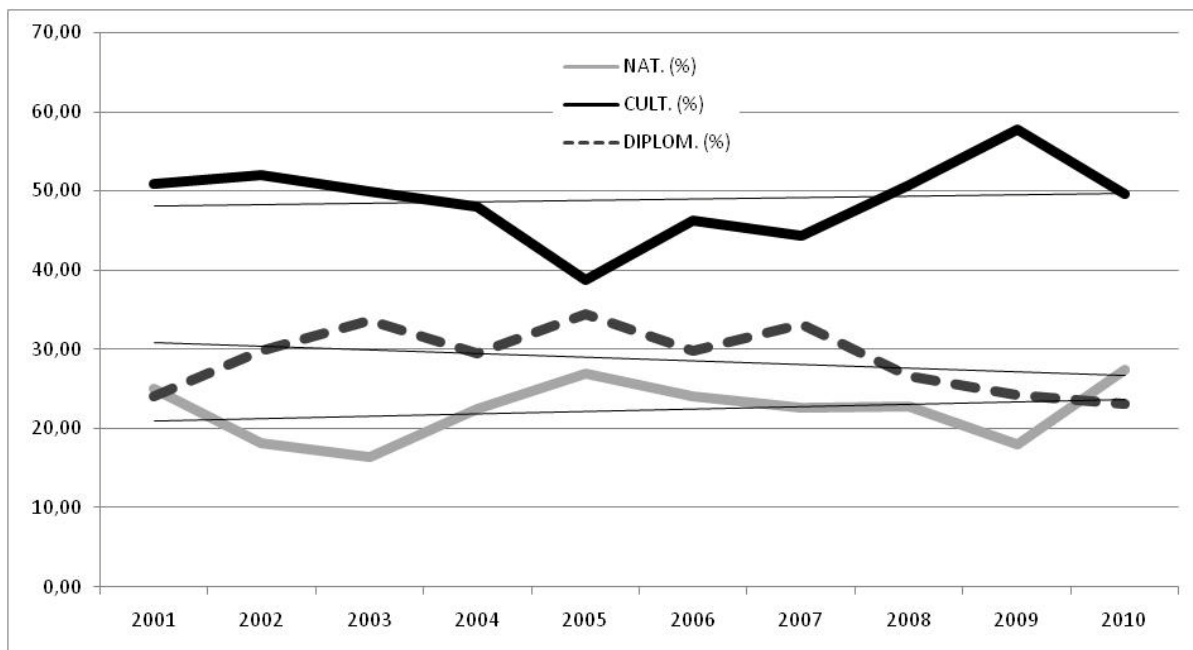


Chart 12: Percentage of cultural/natural experts and diplomats registered for each Committee member delegation

Chart 12 above shows that over the past 10 years, the proportion of **cultural experts** has been rather stable, even though there have been some yearly variations. It remains around 48-50% of the participants within any given Committee member delegation. The general trend is however of a slight increase of 2 points.

The trend regarding the proportion of **natural experts** is also slightly on the increase over the years, but always around 22-24%.

The general trend regarding the proportion of **diplomats** in Committee member delegations is on the contrary on the decrease since 2001 (from around 31% down to 28% in 2010). It is also interesting to note that when the Committee sessions were held either at the UNESCO Headquarters (where the Permanent Delegations are based) or in cities very remote to UNESCO Headquarters, the proportion of diplomats seems to always be higher (e.g. 33.5% in 2003 for the 23rd session at UNESCO Headquarters; 34.4% in 2005 for the 25th session in South Africa; 33% in 2007 for the 27th session in New Zealand). The qualitative analysis of the participants list for those 3 specific sessions shows that a number of diplomats based in the local diplomatic missions attended the session on behalf of their respective States Parties.

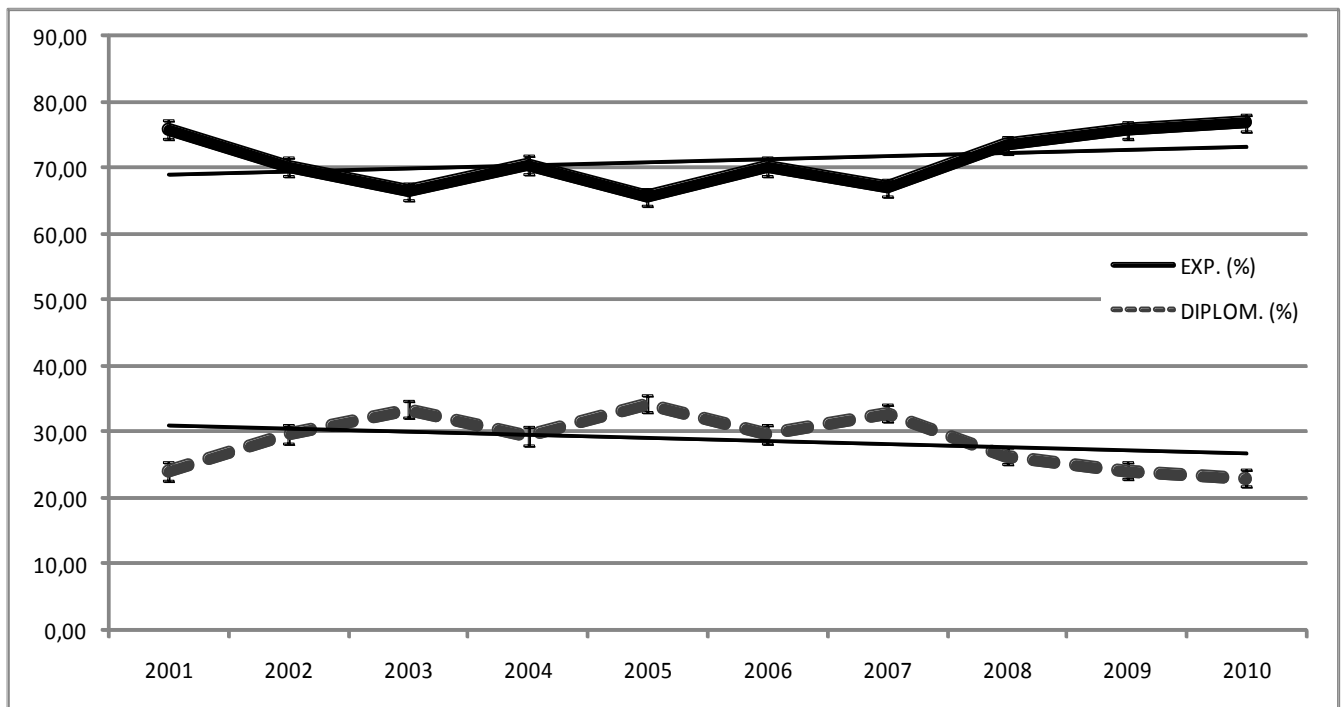


Chart 13: Percentage of cultural/natural experts and diplomats

In summary, as evidenced in Chart 13 above, the **average percentage of experts** (both natural and cultural) is on a slight increase since 2001 while the percentage of diplomats in Committee member delegations is on the contrary slightly on the decrease. The proportion of diplomats remains around 25% of the participants in the concerned delegations. The data analyzed show

that in average, the composition of a Committee member delegation is roughly as follows: $\frac{1}{4}$ Diplomats, $\frac{1}{4}$ Natural experts and $\frac{1}{2}$ Cultural experts (see Chart 14 below).

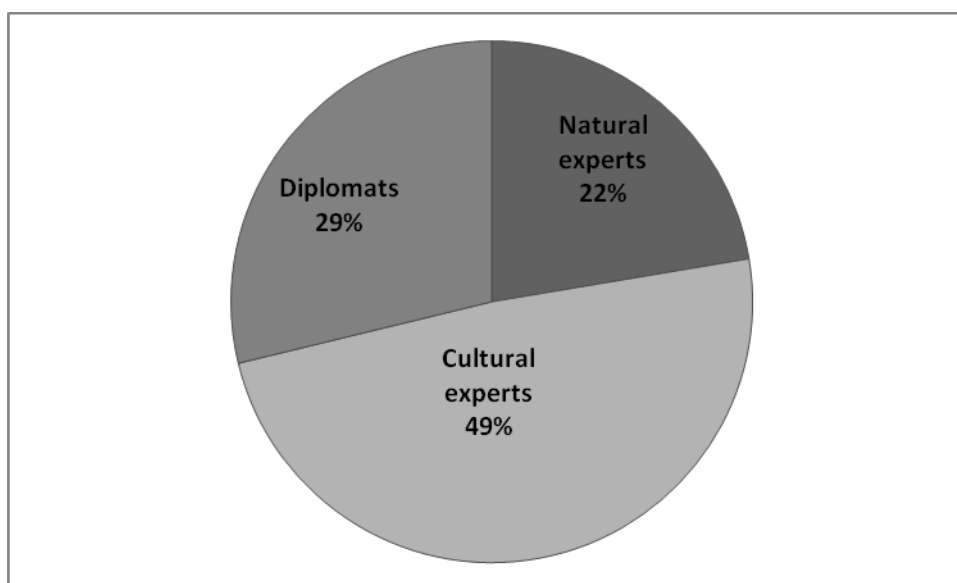


Chart 14: Percentage of cultural, natural experts and diplomats (average over the past 10 years: 2001-2010)

Although there are no scientific data on this matter, experience of Committee sessions indicates that, even though outnumbered by the experts, diplomats are most of the time the participants speaking on behalf of their State Party. They also attend the entire session while experts sometimes only attend specific Agenda items (such as state of conservation reports or nominations).

Furthermore, since the 2 past Committee sessions were recorded with a specific UNESCO software, a request has been placed to UNESCO/DIT in order to obtain the total speaking time of each Committee member delegation, of the Chairperson, of the Rapporteur, of the Secretariat as well as of the Advisory Bodies and Observers. These data, once available, should give an interesting indication of the time made available for all stakeholders to express their views during the Committee sessions.