



Evolution of decision-making procedures of the World Heritage Convention

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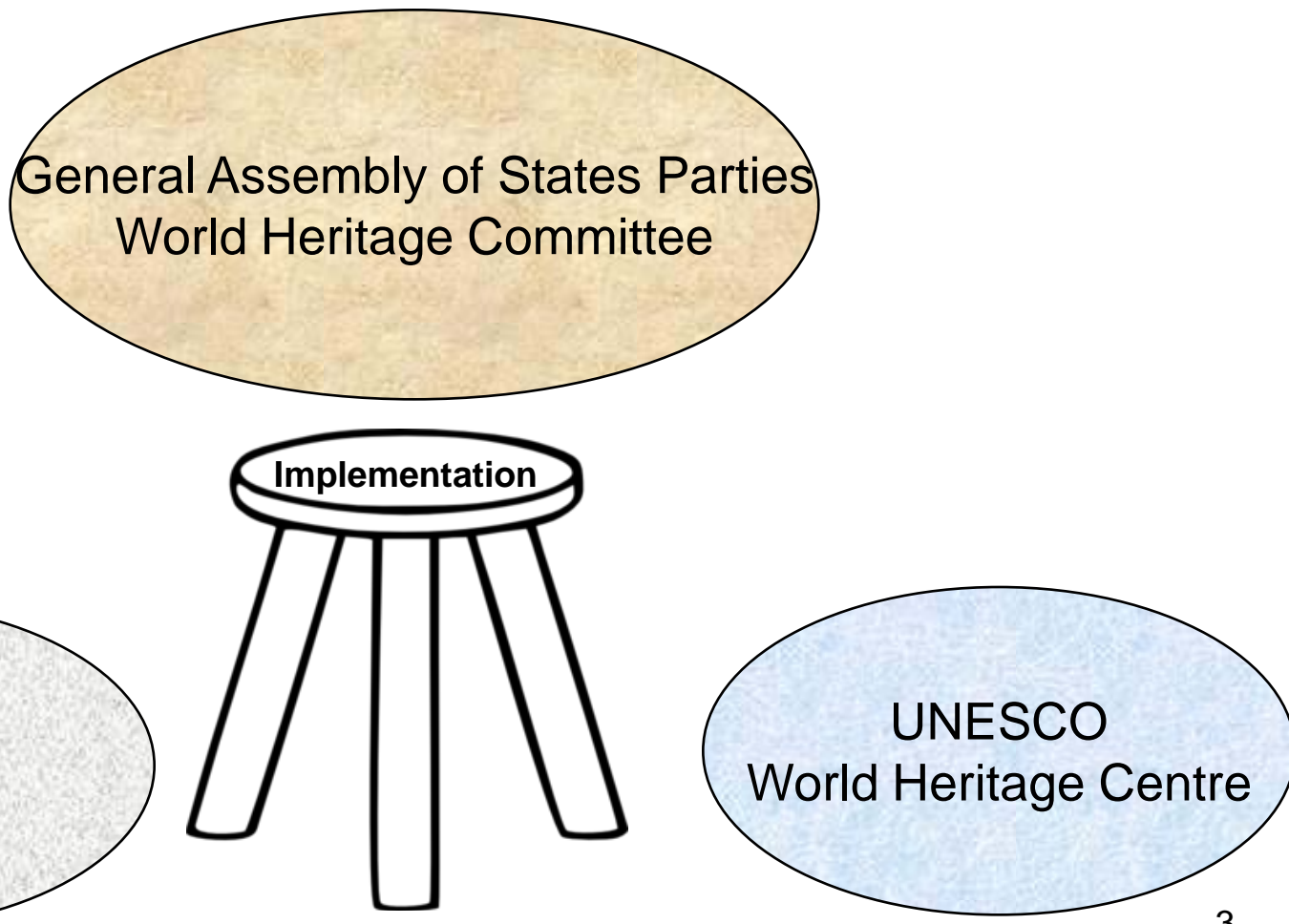


This presentation

- Statutory organs
- Overview of previous reforms
- Evolution of specific Issues:
 - 1. Strategic direction and accountability
 - 2. Strategic policy issues
 - 3. Cycle of meetings
 - 4. Preparatory discussions: sub-committees
 - 5. Venue of meetings
 - 6. Order and time-limit of speakers
 - 7. Participation by natural/cultural heritage experts
 - 8. Rate of examination of new nominations
 - 9. Documentation



World Heritage Convention (1972)





Statutory Organs

General Assembly of States Parties
187 members

World Heritage Committee
21 members

ICCROM
ICOMOS
IUCN

UNESCO
World Heritage Centre



Previous Reforms of decision-making processes

1977-1980s

- **1979 Michel Parent report on Principles and Criteria for inclusion on the World Heritage List**
- **Operational Guidelines modified 5 times**
- **1987-1988 Guruge Working Group report**

1990-1995

- **1992: Strategic Orientations**
- **1992: Cultural Landscapes concept**
- **1994: Global Strategy for representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List**
- **1994: Nara Document on Authenticity**

1996-2005

- **1996-1997: Audit**
- **1999-2000: Implementation Task Force**
- **1999-2000: Working Group on representativity**
- **1999-2000: Working Group on equitable representation**
- **1999-2005: New Operational Guidelines**
- **2002: Budapest Declaration**

2005-2010

- **2006-2007: Audit**
- **2008- present: Future of the Convention**



1. Strategic Direction and Accountability

- 1992: Strategic Goals and Objectives
- 1996: Centre proposed strategic review
- 1999-2000: Implementation Task Force
- 2002: Budapest Declaration

Q: recommend development of Strategic Direction and Accountability Framework?

Q: which statutory organ is responsible?



2. Strategic Policy Issues

- 1997: Audit « raise level of debate to policy issues »
- 2000: Implementation TF and 2 Bureaus « ensure adequate time for strategic policy discussions ».
 - Note: Cairns (2000) Committee is silent
- 2007: Christchurch session lists issues in need of policy discussion and recommends agenda of General Assembly of States Parties
- 2008: Quebec session opens « Trends in conservation »

Q: what is best way to discuss strategic policy issues?

Q: which statutory organ is accountable?



3. Cycle of meetings

- 1977-2000:
 - spring Bureau; fall/winter Bureau and Committee
- 1997 Audit: raises time issue and suggests biennial meetings
- 2000-2001:
 - cancels one Bureau and limits role of other Bureau (implementation Budapest (2002))
 - approves new cycle spring Bureau and Committee session
 - unintended consequences

Q: does current cycle provides maximum efficiency and effectiveness for the Committee's work?

Q: should some form of intermediary preparatory meeting be reinstated?

Q: Should the cycle be speeded up (two meetings a year) or slowed down (meetings every two-three years)?



4. Preparatory discussions: sub-committees

- 1992 Strategic Orientations: permanent working groups « to improve the functioning of the Committee » (monitoring, IA, budget, OG revisions)
- 1997 Audit: use sub-committee mechanism to facilitate efficiency; follow EB model
- 2000 Implementation Task Force: recommends sub-committees for time-management and substantive discussion at plenary
- 2001: Director WHC suggests using existing ad hoc bodies as per Rules of Procedure

Q: how could preparatory work be carried out to lighten the workload of the Committee?

Q: should formal working groups or sub-committees be established, on what subjects, and what timing?



5. Venue of meetings

- 1997 Audit:
 - meetings outside Paris costly
 - rotate every two years in conjunction with GASP
- 2000 Implementation TF:
 - rotate every two years in conjunction with GASP

Q: whether to recommend rotation of Committee meeting venues on basis of cost effectiveness



6. Order and time-limit of speakers

- 1980s-1990s: smaller number of participants
- 2000: time management a backdrop to reform agenda
- 2006: time limits introduced (timer and bell)
- Recent practice: repeated interventions by members and advocacy

Q: is there a need to formalize the order and time-limit of speakers?

Q: should States Parties respond to questions during discussions of their nominations or only once at the end, following specific questions formulated by Chair?

Q: should Observers have the right to speak?



7. Participation by natural/cultural experts at Committee

- Convention: article 9.3
- 1997 Audit and Cairns (2000) reiterate requirement of Convention
- Shift over time
- Chart showing 75%-25%
- M'Bow quote

Q: whether there is a way to encourage greater substantive participation by cultural/natural heritage experts in Committee sessions



8. Rate of examination of new nominations

- 1978: 2 per SP
- 1988-1990s: « SPs to consider whether their cultural heritage is already well represented on the List and if so to slow down voluntarily”
- 1997: 58 nominations
- 1999: 70 nominations
- 2000: 80 nominations



Implementation TF (2000)	Cairns (2000)	Suzhou (2004)	Christchurch (2007)
40 new nominations	30 new nominations 1 per SP	45 new nominations 2 per SP (1 natural)	45 new nominations 2 per SP (without restriction)
	Plus referrals and deferrals	Includes referrals and deferrals	Includes referrals and deferrals

Q: is current ceiling manageable?

Q: is goal of equitable representation being met?



During nominations ...





9. Consistency, volume and timeliness of documentation

- 1997 Audit: voluminous, duplication, confusing, needs streamlining
- 2000 Implementation TF: distribution 6 weeks prior to meeting
- Continuing issues:
 - consistency of language and content
 - timeliness
 - volume

Q: are there recommendations to improve consistency, volume and timeliness of documentation?



Conclusion

- Convention has mobilized a global movement
- global heritage community counts on leadership of Committee to set standards and strategic direction for heritage conservation activities
- To be credible, Committee needs time to address the big-picture strategic questions
- to improve efficiency, effectiveness and transparency, Committee needs to resolve these long-standing issues



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