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Paris, 5 June 2001

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL  
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE  
Twenty-fifth session

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room X  
25 – 30 June 2001

**Item 4.1 of the Provisional Agenda : Information on the preparation of the thirteenth  
General Assembly of States Parties (October 2001)**

The World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-fourth session, inscribed this item on the provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau. This document presents progress made in the preparation for the thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties to be held at UNESCO Headquarters on 30 and 31 October, 2001.

The report of the World Heritage Committee on its activities (2000-2001) (WHC-2001/CONF.205/3B) will be examined under item 4.2 of the Provisional Agenda.

**Action requested:** The Bureau is requested to approve the documents that will be submitted to all the States Parties:

**WHC-2001/CONF.206/1**  
**WHC-2001/CONF.206/INF.1**  
**WHC-2001/CONF.206/5**

Provisional Agenda (Annex 1)

Provisional List of Documents (Annex II)

Representivity of the World Heritage List (follow-up to the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties) (Annex III)

**WHC-2001/CONF.206/6**

Equitable representation in the World Heritage Committee (follow-up to the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties, including amendments to the *Rules of Procedure* 13.1 and 13.8) (Annex IV)

**WHC-2001/CONF.206/7**

Elections to the World Heritage Committee (Annex V)

## BACKGROUND

1. The thirteenth session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage will be held in Paris at UNESCO Headquarters, on 30 and 31 October 2001, during the thirty-first session of the General Conference. All the States Parties to the Convention will be invited to this meeting, as well as the representatives of the three advisory bodies for the World Heritage Convention (ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN), the Council of Europe, the non-governmental organizations maintaining relations with UNESCO, and the States that are not party to the Convention, as observers. According to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO will ensure the Secretariat of the Assembly.

2. According to Articles 3 and 13, the Assembly should elect a President, one or several Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur, and carry out elections of the members of the World Heritage Committee. Article 9, paragraph 1 of the World Heritage Convention stipulates “*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.*”

3. According to Article 16 of the Convention, the General Assembly must also decide “*the amount of the voluntary contributions the States Parties to this Convention undertake to pay regularly, every two years, to the World Heritage Fund, in the form of a uniform percentage applicable to all States*”.

4. The World Heritage Committee, during its twenty-fourth session held in Cairns from 27 November to 2 December 2000, requested that an item concerning the thirteenth General Assembly be inscribed on the agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee.

### Progress report on preparations for the thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties

5. The following documents have been prepared and are submitted to the Bureau for approval:

|                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/1</b>                                         | Provisional Agenda (Annex 1)                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/INF.1</b>                                     | Provisional List of Documents (Annex II)                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/5</b>                                         | Representivity of the World Heritage List (follow-up to the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties) (Annex III)                                                                                    |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/6</b>                                         | Equitable representation in the World Heritage Committee (follow-up to the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties, including amendments to the <i>Rules of Procedure</i> 13.1 and 13.8) (Annex IV) |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/7</b><br>Information on 13th General Assembly | Elections to the World Heritage Committee (Annex V)<br>WHC-2001/CONF.205/3A: p. 1                                                                                                                                                |

**WHC-2001/CONF.206/2**

Report of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage on its Activities [2000-2001] (General Conference Document 31C/REP/15)

This document will be examined by the twenty-fifth session of the Bureau under item 4.2 of the Provisional Agenda (WHC-2001/CONF.205/3B). It will be supplemented by an oral presentation by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee during the General Assembly of States Parties.

The following documents are being prepared and will then be sent for translation:

**WHC-2001/CONF.206/3A** Examination of the Statement of Accounts of the World Heritage Fund: Accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the financial period 1998-1999

Responsibility: Division of the Comptroller

**WHC-2001/CONF.206/3B** Examination of the Statement of Accounts of the World Heritage Fund: Statement of mandatory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund

Responsibility: Division of the Comptroller

**WHC-2001/CONF.206/4** Determination of the amount of contributions to the World Heritage Fund foreseen in Article 16 of the Convention

Responsibility: Division of the Comptroller

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## UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

### THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII  
30 –31 October, 2001

#### PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the General Assembly by the Director-General or his representative
2. Election of the Chairperson
3. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda
4. Election of the Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur
5. Report of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee
6. Examination of the statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund, including the status of the States Parties' contributions
7. Determination of the amount of the contributions to the World Heritage Fund in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of the Convention
8. Representivity of the World Heritage List (follow-up to the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties)
9. Equitable Representation in the World Heritage Committee (follow-up to the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties, including amendments to *Rules of Procedure* 13.1 and 13. 8)
10. Elections to the World Heritage Committee
11. Other business

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## UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII  
30 –31 October 2001

#### PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/1</b>  | Provisional Agenda                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/2</b>  | Report by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage on its activities (2000-2001) (General Conference document <b>31 C/REP/15</b> ) |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/3A</b> | Examination of the Statement of Accounts of the World Heritage Fund: Accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the financial period 1998-1999                                             |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/3B</b> | Examination of the Statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund: Statement of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund                                     |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/4</b>  | Determination of the amount of the contributions to the World Heritage Fund foreseen in Article 16 of the Convention                                                                    |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/5</b>  | Representivity of the World Heritage List (follow-up to the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties)                                                       |

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/6</b> | Equitable representation in the World Heritage Committee (follow-up to the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties, including amendments to the <i>Rules of Procedure</i> 13.1 and 13.8) |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/7</b> | Elections to the World Heritage Committee                                                                                                                                                                             |

## **INFORMATION DOCUMENTS**

### **(English and French only)**

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/INF.1</b> | Provisional List of Documents                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/INF.2</b> | List of States Parties to the Convention                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/INF.3</b> | Composition of the World Heritage Committee since 1976                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/INF.4</b> | Summary record of the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 28-29 October 1999) |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/INF.5</b> | Number of nominations proposed and inscribed on the World Heritage List (1978-2000)                                                                                                                      |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/INF.6</b> | Distribution of World Heritage properties in States Parties                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>WHC-2001/CONF.206/INF.7</b> | Progress report on the implementation of the regional and multi-year Global Strategy Action Plan                                                                                                         |

# World Heritage

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
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THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL  
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII  
30 –31 October, 2001

**Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Representivity of the World Heritage List (follow-up to the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties)**

**Action requested:**

The General Assembly is requested to take note of the decision of the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee in five parts (see Section II.6 of this document):

1. Respecting the Convention
2. Tentative Lists
3. Nominations
4. Resolution of the Twelfth General Assembly, 1999
5. Capacity Building for Under-Represented Regions

## **I. BACKGROUND**

**I.1** Following the adoption by the Twelfth session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in October 1999 (see Annex I attached), a Working Group was established. The Working Group was chaired by H.E. Mr Olabiyi B.J. Yai, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Benin to UNESCO and the Rapporteur was H.E. Mr Matthew Peek, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Australia to UNESCO. Other members of the Group were the following States Parties: Cuba, Egypt, Greece, India, Lithuania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Romania, South Africa and Tunisia.

**I.2** The mandate of the Group was to make recommendations towards improving the representivity of the World Heritage List. The substantive discussion in the Working Group, therefore focused in particular on sections A, B, C, and D of the Resolution.

**I.3** Issues covered during the meetings of the Working Group included:

- Possible changes to process issues within the World Heritage Committee which might contribute to addressing the issue of under-representivity, including the role of the tentative list in this context. It was noted that the work of the group should be complementary to work being undertaken by both Working Group II on Equitable Representation on the Committee and the Task Force on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.
- Concern about the implications of the rapidly increasing size of the World Heritage List for the management and rigour of the inscription process, the capacity of the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Committee to monitor and assist in the management of World Heritage properties, and the potential of these factors to detract from the credibility of the Convention.
- The need for a clearer understanding of the scope of the problem, including through an inventory of the World Heritage List and the tentative lists. It was noted that before such work could be carried out by the advisory bodies, States Parties would need, through the World Heritage Committee, to define clearly the different categories of sites and geographic regions to be used in the construction of the inventory.
- The need for technical and financial support for many non-represented and under-represented States in preparing and bringing forward proposed inscriptions.

**I.4** An outline of the discussions of these issues, and of the work of the Group more generally, can be found in the Rapporteur's Notes. These, together with other documents relevant to the Working Group, can be found at <<http://www.unesco.org/whc/wg-replist/>>.

**I.5** The Working Groups made a number of recommendations that were examined by the Special Session of the Bureau (Budapest, October 2000) and then transmitted with some changes to the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee (Cairns, 2000).

## **II. DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION (CAIRNS, 2000)**

**II.1** The Committee examined and discussed the recommendations of the Working Group.

**II.2** The Committee recognized that the issue of representivity of the World Heritage List was the most difficult of the reform issues under consideration by the Committee. The Committee noted that more effective use of tentative lists and greater regulation of the ever-increasing number of nominations was required. It was agreed that other measures, such as assistance for capacity-building would be vital for ensuring the representation of sites from all regions on the World Heritage List.

**II.3** The Committee therefore agreed on a decision presented in five sections:

1. Respecting the Convention
2. Tentative Lists
3. Nominations
4. Resolution of the Twelfth General Assembly, 1999
5. Capacity Building for under-represented Regions

**II.4** With reference to Section 3, the Delegate of Hungary asked that his request for a change in the deadline for submission of nominations to be examined in 2002, from December 2000 as agreed by the Committee, to April 2001, be noted in the Report of the Committee. The Committee agreed to note this request by the Delegate of Hungary but stated that in the interest of a smooth transition, the majority position of the Committee will be maintained.

**II.5** With the exception of Hungary, the text of the decision was adopted by all members of the Committee.

**II.6** The Committee agreed to transmit its decision to the Thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties in 2001.

### **1. Respecting the Convention**

*The Committee reaffirmed the Convention for the Protection of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage as an instrument of consensus, cooperation and accord between States Parties and takes particular note of Articles 6 (1) and 6 (2) and Article 11 (1):*

*(i) Whilst fully respecting the sovereignty of the States on whose territory the cultural and natural heritage mentioned in Articles 1 and 2 is situated, and without prejudice to property right provided by national legislation, the States Parties to this Convention recognize that such heritage constitutes a world heritage for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate (Article 6 (1))*

*(ii) The States Parties undertake, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, to give their help in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage ... if the States on whose territory it is situated so request (Article 6 (2)).*

*(iii) Every State Party to this Convention shall, in so far as possible, submit to the World Heritage Committee an inventory of property forming part of the cultural and natural heritage, situated in its territory and suitable for inclusion in the list ... (Article 11 (1)).*

*Decisive cooperative action is required by the Committee and States Parties to ensure that the World Heritage List is fully representative of the world's natural and cultural heritage.*

## **2. Tentative Lists**

*(i) In the future, consistent with Article 11, the tentative lists of cultural and natural sites should be used, as a planning tool to reduce the imbalances in the World Heritage List. States Parties are reminded of the invitation to submit tentative lists in conformity with Article 11 of the Convention. The Committee should revise paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Operational Guidelines to extend to natural sites its decision not to examine nominations of sites for inscription if the property does not appear on a tentative list.*

*(ii) The advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre should proceed with an analysis of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and the tentative list on a regional, chronological, geographical and thematic basis. This analysis should be undertaken as soon as possible, taking into account the workload on advisory bodies and the financial implications of this work, particularly in regard to the large number of sites on the tentative list. For this reason, the work should be undertaken in two parts, sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and sites on the tentative list. The analysis will provide States Parties with a clear overview of the present situation, and likely trends in the short- to medium- term with a view to identifying under-represented categories.*

*(iii) The advisory bodies should take into account in their analyses:*

- *The diversity and particularities of natural and cultural heritage in each region,*
- *The results of regional Periodic Reporting, and*
- *The recommendations of the regional and thematic meetings on the harmonisation of tentative lists held since 1984 and those on the Global Strategy organised since 1994.*

*(iv) The World Heritage Centre and advisory bodies should communicate the results of the analyses to the World Heritage Committee and, following the Committee's examination, the results should be conveyed to States Parties to the Convention, together with the Committee's recommendations. This will allow them to prepare, revise and/or harmonise their tentative list, taking into account, where appropriate, regional considerations, and to take the results of the analyses into consideration for the submission of future nominations.*

*(v) The results of the analyses should be communicated no later than 30 September 2001.*

## **3. Nominations**

*In order to promote the effective management of the increasing size of the World Heritage List, the Committee at each ordinary session will set the maximum number of nominations to be considered. In the first instance and on an interim basis, it is proposed that at the twenty-seventh session of the Committee in 2003, the number of nominations examined by the Committee will be limited to a maximum of 30 new sites.*

*In order to determine which sites should be given priority for consideration, all nominations to be considered at the twenty-seventh session of the Committee must be received in full by the new due date of 1 February 2002 agreed by the Committee as part of the change of cycle of meetings. No State Parties should submit more than one nomination, except those States Parties that have no sites inscribed on the World Heritage List who will have the opportunity to propose two or three nominations.*

*In order to address the issue of representivity of the List the following criteria will be applied in order of priority<sup>1</sup>: In the event that the number of nominations received exceeds the maximum number set by the Committee, the following priority system will be applied each year by the World Heritage Centre before nominations are transmitted to the advisory bodies for evaluation, in determining which sites should be taken forward for consideration:*

- 1. Nominations of sites submitted by a State Party with no sites inscribed on the List;<sup>2</sup>*
- 2. Nominations of sites from any State Party that illustrate un-represented or less represented categories of natural and cultural properties, as determined by analyses prepared by the Secretariat and the advisory bodies and reviewed and approved by the Committee;*
- 3. Other nominations.*

*When applying this priority system, date of receipt of full and complete nominations by the World Heritage Centre shall be used as the secondary determining factor within the category where the number of nominations established by the Committee is reached.*

*In addition to the approved maximum number of sites, the Committee will also consider nominations deferred, or referred, from previous meetings and changes to the boundaries of already inscribed properties. The Committee may also decide to consider, on an emergency basis, situations falling under paragraph 67 of the Operational Guidelines.*

### **Transition arrangements**

#### **Committee meeting, December 2001**

*No change to existing system.*

#### **Committee meeting June 2002**

*Full and complete nominations received by the World Heritage Centre prior to 31 December 2000 will be considered together with nominations deferred, or referred, from previous meetings and changes to the boundaries of already inscribed properties. The*

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<sup>1</sup> In nominating properties to the List, States Parties are invited to keep in mind the desirability of achieving a reasonable balance between the numbers of cultural heritage and natural heritage properties included in the World Heritage List (Paragraph 15 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

<sup>2</sup> In evaluating these, and all other nominations, the advisory bodies should continue to apply a strict evaluation of criteria as set out in the *Operational Guidelines*.  
Information on 13th General Assembly

*Committee may also decide to consider, on an emergency basis, situations falling under paragraph 67 of the Operational Guidelines.*

*Committee meeting June 2003*

*Nominations to be submitted by 1 February 2002 and prioritized in accordance with the system as described above.*

## **Review**

*The system described above is to be reviewed by the Committee after two full years of operation.*

## **4. Resolution of the Twelfth General Assembly, 1999**

*The Committee decided to call on States Parties concerned to inform the Committee with a minimum of delay, of measures taken in the implementation of the clauses of the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly (Paragraph B) that invites all States Parties that already have a substantial number of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List to:*

*(i) Apply paragraph 6 (vii) of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention:*

*a) by spacing voluntarily their nominations according to conditions that they will define, and/or*

*b) by proposing only properties falling into categories still under-represented, and/or*

*c) by linking each of their nominations with a nomination presented by a State Party whose heritage is under-represented, or*

*d) by deciding, on a voluntary basis, to suspend the presentation of new nominations.*

*ii) Initiate and encourage bilateral and multilateral co-operation with States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented in the List within the framework of the preparation of tentative lists, nominations and training programmes,*

*iii) Give priority to the re-examination of their tentative lists within the framework of regional consultations and to the preparation of periodic reports.*

## **5. Capacity Building for Under-represented Regions**

*The Committee decided that cooperative efforts in capacity-building and training are necessary to ensure that the World Heritage List is fully representative and agrees that:*

*(i) The World Heritage Centre should continue to promote training programmes, preferably at the regional level, aimed at allowing States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented to be better versed in the Convention and to better implement the measures*

under Article 5. These primarily concern the identification, management, protection, enhancement and conservation of heritage. Such programmes should also assist States Parties to acquire and/or consolidate their expertise, in the preparation and harmonisation of their tentative lists and the preparation of nominations.

(ii) The advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre should use the opportunity of evaluation missions to hold regional training workshops to assist under-represented States in the methods of preparation of their tentative list and nominations. Appropriate financial and human resources should be provided through the World Heritage Centre budget process to undertake such workshops.

(iii) Requests by States Parties whose heritage is non-represented or under-represented should be given a high priority when the portion of the World Heritage budget relating to Preparatory Assistance in preparing nominations is developed.

(iv) The order of priorities for the granting of international assistance, as defined in paragraphs 91 and 113-114 of the Operational Guidelines, should be revised in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the International Expert Meeting on the Revision of the Operational Guidelines (Canterbury, United Kingdom) to improve the representivity of the World Heritage List and to be coherent with the Global Strategy. Beyond the conditions provided for by the Convention, and subject to the conclusions of the evaluation of international assistance, the new priority order should take into account:

- The necessity of encouraging the beneficiary countries to develop measures for the implementation of the Convention in their country,
- The order of priority for the examination of the nominations for inscription,
- The state of preparation of the beneficiary countries, and
- The necessity of giving priority to the least developed countries (LDCs) and countries with a low revenue.

(v) Regional Plans of Action should be updated and developed within the framework of the Global Strategy. These should specify for each targeted region and State Party, the objective, action needed, responsibility, timetable for adoption, state of play and a mechanism to report on progress in implementing these at each session of the World Heritage Committee. In order to underline their incentive nature, the Plans of Action should highlight the actions by the States Parties concerned, notably in application of Article 5 of the Convention, and should mention the bilateral or multilateral co-operation programmes in the field of heritage in general, for the elaboration in particular of nominations.

(vi) The next UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy should stress the necessity of adopting an intersectoral policy aimed at better implementing the Convention. From the 2002-2003 biennium, an intersectoral project should be developed and implemented to encourage the States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented to reinforce their capacity to protect, conserve and enhance it.

The Committee noted that the Hungarian authorities had prepared a proposal for the establishment of a Heritage Partnership Programme to be examined by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session in Cairns (WHC-2000/CONF.204/19).

*The Committee decided that a review of the implementation and effectiveness of such measures should take place not later than 2003.*

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES  
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION  
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE  
Paris, 28 - 29 October 1999**

**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- **Considering** that the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, referred to here under as the 1972 Convention, is a general framework for international co-operation,
  - **Underlining** the importance of finding the correct balance between the various activities linked to the implementation of the Convention, in particular nominations of properties on the List, reporting on the state of conservation, training of specialists, and improving public awareness to safeguard the heritage of humankind,
  - **Noting** that the representative nature of the World Heritage List has been the subject of numerous debates by the World Heritage Committee since 1979,
  - **Recognizing** that since the adoption of the Global Strategy by the World Heritage Committee at its eighteenth session in December 1994 with a view to improving the representativity of the List, this objective has not been attained, despite the remarkable efforts of the Secretariat and States Parties concerned,
  - **Noting** that at present **two-thirds** of the States Parties have fewer than three sites on the List and that their heritage of outstanding universal value is still under-represented or not represented,
1. **Agrees** to give its full support for the implementation of the Convention, in the States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented on the List,
  2. **Recognizes** the interest of all the States Parties and the advisory bodies in preserving the authority of the 1972 Convention, by improving, through appropriate means, the representativity of the World Heritage List which must reflect the diversity of all cultures and ecosystems of all regions,
  3. **Endorses** the objectives of the Global Strategy while **reaffirming** the sovereign rights of the States Parties and the sovereign role of the General Assembly,
  4. **Shares** the will expressed by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session in December 1998 "to move from recommendations to action" and to improve the representativity of the List, and therefore:

**A. Invites all the States Parties to:**

- i) Give the highest priority to the *"adoption of a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes"*, according to Article 5 of the 1972 Convention,
- ii) Take measures to redress the imbalance and improve the representativity of the World Heritage List, in order to reinforce the authority of the 1972 Convention,
- iii) Prepare or re-examine their tentative lists in the light of the methodology developed and regional and thematic definitions by focusing on categories of heritage which are still under-represented on the List,
- iv) Rigorously establish the outstanding universal value of properties when preparing the tentative lists,
- v) Give priority to the submission of nominations resulting from regional consultations in the categories under-represented that highlight notably the interaction between human beings and their environment and human beings in society, expressing the diversity and richness of living or past cultures.

**B. Invites the States Parties that already have a substantial number of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List to:**

- i) Apply paragraph 6 (vii) of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention:
  - a) by spacing voluntarily their nominations according to conditions that they will define, and/or
  - b) by proposing only properties falling into categories still under-represented, and/or
  - c) by linking each of their nominations with a nomination presented by a State Party whose heritage is under-represented, or
  - d) by deciding, on a voluntary basis, to suspend the presentation of new nominations,

and

to inform the Committee of the measures taken,

- ii) Initiate and encourage bilateral and multilateral co-operation with States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented in the List within the framework of the preparation of tentative lists, nominations and training programmes,
- iii) Give priority to the re-examination of their tentative lists within the framework of regional consultations and to the preparation of periodic reports.

**C. Invites the States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented on the List to:**

- i) Give priority to the preparation of tentative lists and nominations,
- ii) Initiate and consolidate at regional level, partnerships based on the exchange of technical expertise,
- iii) Encourage bilateral and multilateral co-operation so as to increase their expertise and the technical capacities of institutions in charge of the protection, safeguard and management of their heritage,
- iv) Participate, as much as possible, in the meetings of the World Heritage Committee.

**D. Invites the advisory bodies to:**

- i) Pursue their collaboration with the Secretariat for the preparation and co-ordination of regional consultations,
- ii) Pursue their programmes of thematic studies and the classification of the themes into sub-themes, on the basis of the tentative lists prepared by States Parties and the recommendations of the regional experts meetings,
- iii) Observe the greatest scientific rigour during the evaluation of the proposals for inscription, so that the decisions of the Committee can reflect more systematically the positive results of the implementation of the Global Strategy,
- iv) Develop mechanisms that would give experts of the regions under-represented on the List the necessary training to prepare and evaluate nominations and ensure the state of conservation of properties.

**E. Invites the World Heritage Committee to:**

- i) Continue its actions undertaken within the framework of the Global Strategy,
- ii) Provide the necessary resources from the World Heritage Fund to support the efforts of the States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented on the List, in order to increase the number of their nominations,

- iii) Adopt a regional and multi-year Action Plan for the implementation of the Global Strategy, as a follow-up to the Action Plan adopted in 1999,
- iv) Evaluate the progress in the implementation of the Global Strategy Action Plan with the participation of all States Parties and define, should the need arise, adjustment measures to fulfil its objectives.

**F. Invites the Secretariat of the Convention to:**

- i) Pursue its collaboration with the advisory bodies in the framework of regional consultations,
- ii) Support in particular the efforts of States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented on the List in the preparation of their tentative lists and nominations,
- iii) Ensure that the human resources allocated to the implementation of the Action Plan are consistent with its objectives,
- iv) Submit to the General Assembly a progress report on the implementation of the regional and multi-year Action Plan.

**G. Invites the international community and more particularly the donor agencies to :**

- i) Support, in co-operation with the advisory bodies and the Secretariat, the protection of cultural and natural heritage and the implementation of the 1972 Convention,
- ii) Give priority to the actions directed towards the implementation of the Global Strategy, undertaken in States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented on the List.

**The General Assembly invites all States Parties, the advisory bodies and the Secretariat to transmit this resolution to the concerned agencies.**

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII  
30 –31 October, 2001

**Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda: Equitable Representation in the World Heritage Committee (follow-up to the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties, including amendment to *Rules of Procedure* 13.1 and 13.8).**

**Action requested:**

The General Assembly is requested to examine and approve the Draft Resolution (including amendments to *Rules of Procedure* 13.1 and 13.8 adopted by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session (Cairns, 2000)).

## **I. BACKGROUND**

### **I.1** In October 1999 the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties

- adopted by consensus a Resolution<sup>3</sup> underlining the importance of an equitable representation of the World Heritage Committee and the need to increase the number of its members
- requested the World Heritage Committee to submit proposals on this matter to the thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties and to inscribe an item on the agenda of the thirty-first General Conference in 2001.

**I.2** On 30 March 2001, the World Heritage Centre requested that this item be inscribed on the agenda of the thirty-first General Conference. The Secretary of the General Conference replied on 6 April 2001 that this subject did not justify inclusion on the General Conference agenda<sup>4</sup>.

**I.3** In 2000, a Working Group on Equitable Representation within the World Heritage Committee was established under the Chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador J. Musitelli (France). The report of the Working Group was discussed at the June and October 2000 sessions of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (WHC-2000/CONF.204/INF.9 and WHC-2000/CONF.204/6).

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<sup>3</sup> ***“The General Assembly of States Parties:***

*Underlining the importance of an equitable representation of the World Heritage Committee and the need to increase the number of its members,*

*Taking into consideration the intervention of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee on this subject,*

***Requests the World Heritage Committee:***

- a) *to set up a working group to study this question and to submit proposals to the thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties,*
- b) *to request the inscription of an item on the agenda of the thirty-first General Conference concerning this issue.”*

<sup>4</sup> The Secretary of the General Conference commented that: “The equitable representation within the World Heritage Committee is a question (issue) which (rests) at the competence of the bodies established by the World Heritage Convention. Only one possible revision to the text of the Convention will call for examination of this point by the General Conference. At the present time, it does not appear to me that the Assembly of the member States has decided (resolved) to recommend such a revision. Furthermore, the draft resolution transmitted by the World Heritage Committee to the Assembly for adoption during its 13<sup>th</sup> session does not propose (recommend) any revision of the Convention. There is, therefore, no decision to be submitted for the approval of the General Conference, thus adding this point to its Agenda is not justified.”

**I.4** The Bureau's recommendations to the twenty-fourth session of the Committee aimed to achieve implementation of the intent of the Resolution of the 7th General Assembly of States Parties (1989)<sup>5</sup>, and the recommendations of the Working Group on Equitable Representation in the Committee and specifically to:

- encourage State Parties to voluntarily reduce term of office on the Committee from six to four years;
- increase the rotation of States Parties on the Committee;
- discourage consecutive terms by States Parties;
- enhance the involvement of, and rotation within, all regions in the work of the Committee;
- encourage the participation of States Parties that are under-represented on the World Heritage List;
- define a number of seats for under-represented States Parties while leaving a certain number of seats open to election on a free basis; and
- take into account the potential of other options that may arise after consideration of the feasibility study into the proposed sub-committee system.

## **II. DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION (CAIRNS, 2000)**

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<sup>5</sup> "The General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,

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';

Considering that for this purpose it is important to observe the practice of rotation in the representation of States Parties on the Committee;

Invites the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, whose mandates on the Committee expire, to consider not to stand for re-election during an appropriate period;

Requests the Chairman, at each election, to invite States Parties to take account of this Resolution:

Invites the President of the World Heritage Committee to do everything in his power to encourage the States Parties, whose mandates on the Committee have just expired, to remain closely associated with its work for a period of four years, in conformity with Article 8.1 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure;

Invites the World Heritage Committee to give further consideration at its meetings in the next two years to additional procedures, such as regional quotas, to ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world, as required by Article 8, paragraph 2, of the Convention;

Invites furthermore the World Heritage Committee to formulate proposals in view of financing, in whole or in part, travel and sojourn expenses for the members of the Committee representing the least developed countries."

**II.1** The Committee noted the proposals on the equitable representation of the Committee developed following the Special Session of the Bureau (October 2000) (WHC-2000/CONF.204/6) and decided to recommend the following Draft Resolution for adoption by the 13th General Assembly:

**II.2** *The General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,*

*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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**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.*

**II.3** The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly organize the agenda of its thirteenth session so that the measures foreseen by these amendments may enter into force at that same session.

**II.4** In order to implement the new rule to be inserted following Rule 13.1, the Committee decided that one seat be reserved for a State Party not having a site inscribed on the World Heritage List at the date of the thirteenth session of the General Assembly.

**II.5** The Committee requested the Secretariat to inform all States Parties of the implementation of the new electoral procedures, particularly those States Parties which may fulfill the conditions to be candidates for the reserved seat<sup>6</sup>.

**II.6** The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare with the involvement of interested States Parties and the advisory bodies, a proposal for the twenty-sixth session of the World Heritage Committee for further amendment to Rule 13 of the *Rules of Procedures of the General Assembly* relating to the election of members of the World Heritage Committee in order to ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world. This proposal is to be based on a thorough analysis of the consequences of the proposed changes and the adjustments that would be required to the election procedures.

**II.7** The Committee also decided to revise the *Rules of Procedure of the World Heritage Committee*<sup>7</sup> as follows:

**New Rule 4.3**

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<sup>6</sup> At the time of preparation of this document, the World Heritage Centre was preparing to inform all States Parties of the implementation of the new electoral procedures by Circular Letter.

<sup>7</sup> The World Heritage Centre has revised the *Rules of Procedure* of the World Heritage Committee. Copies are available from the Centre on request and at [www.unesco.org/whc/rules.htm](http://www.unesco.org/whc/rules.htm)  
Information on 13th General Assembly

**“In determining the place of the next session, the Committee shall give due regard to the need to ensure an equitable rotation among the different regions and cultures of the world.”**

**New Rule 20.4**

**“In appointing consultative bodies, due regard shall be given to the need to ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world.”**

**New Rule 21.3**

**“In appointing subsidiary bodies, due regard shall be given to the need to ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world.”**

# World Heritage

# 13 GA

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## UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

### TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII  
30 –31 October 2001

#### Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Elections to the World Heritage Committee

1. Article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage stipulates:

*"1. 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."*

2. Since the thirtieth session of the General Conference, the World Heritage Committee is composed of the following twenty-one States Parties:

|           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Australia | Greece            |
| Belgium   | Hungary           |
| Benin     | Italy             |
| Canada    | Malta             |
| China     | Mexico            |
| Colombia  | Morocco           |
| Cuba      | Portugal          |
| Ecuador   | Republic of Korea |
| Egypt     | South Africa      |
| Finland   | Thailand          |
|           | Zimbabwe          |

3. The above twenty-one members of the Committee were elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention at its tenth, eleventh and twelfth sessions held respectively on 2 and 3 November 1995, 28 and 29 October 1997 and 28 and 29 October 1999.

According to the terms of Article 9, paragraph 1, of the World Heritage Convention, the terms of office of the members listed below extend as follows:

- i) until the end of the thirty-first session of the General Conference (2001): Australia, Benin, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, Malta, Morocco;
- ii) until the end of the thirty-second session of the General Conference (2003): Finland, Greece, Hungary, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Zimbabwe.
- iii) Until the end of the thirty-third session of the General Conference (2005): Belgium, China, Colombia, Egypt,<sup>8</sup> Italy, Portugal, South Africa.

4. The present General Assembly is called to elect seven members of the World Heritage Committee in replacement of the seven members mentioned under point (i) paragraph 3 above and taking account of the footnote in point (iii) of paragraph 3 above.

5. It should be recalled that paragraph 5 of Article 16 of the Convention stipulates 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(...). The terms of office of any such State which is already a member of the Committee shall terminate at the time of the elections provided for in Article 8, paragraph 1, of this Convention.*" The statement of compulsory and voluntary contributions of the States Parties appears in working document WHC-2001/CONF.206/3B. This document thus indicates, as at the date of its preparation, which States Parties have the right to participate in the elections. All compulsory or voluntary contributions received after that date should be reported orally to the General Assembly.

6. The *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention* were adopted by the Second General Assembly of States Parties in 1978 and amended by the tenth General Assembly of States Parties in 1995, and the twelfth General Assembly in 1999.

7. Document WHC-2001/CONF.206/6 presents the decision of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee (Cairns, 2000) in the form of a Draft Resolution for the General Assembly. It includes a proposal to change Rule 13.1 and Rule 13.8 of the *Rules of Procedure*. The Committee's decision is made in an attempt to ensure equitable representation in the World Heritage Committee. The Committee decision calls for the resolution, if adopted by the General Assembly, to be implemented immediately.

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<sup>8</sup> In his speech to the Twelfth General Assembly, the President of the General Assembly referred to the growing number of nominations, the imbalances of the List, and emphasised the need to tackle these problems not just with words, but also with political will. He referred to a Note Verbale sent by the French Delegation to all the UNESCO Delegations which announced the withdrawal of their candidature to the Committee "for the sake of the system of rotation". He also referred to a written declaration of the Italian Delegation in which it pledged that if re-elected, it would resign after two years. He declared that this type of commitment and political will provided food for thought and were good examples for other Delegations.  
Information on 13th General Assembly