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# World Heritage

## 18 GA

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### UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters

7- 9 November 2011

**Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: Determination of the amount of the contributions to the World Heritage Fund in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of the *World Heritage Convention***

#### SUMMARY

In accordance with the Article 16 paragraph 1 of the *World Heritage Convention*, the General Assembly shall determine, in the form of a uniform percentage, the amount of the contributions to be paid to the World Heritage Fund by the States Parties to the *Convention* for the financial period 2012-2013.

The above-mentioned paragraph of Article 16 continues stating that "This decision of the General Assembly requires the majority of the States Parties present and voting, which have not made the declaration referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article. In no case shall the compulsory contribution of States Parties to the Convention exceed 1% of the contribution to the regular budget of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization."

**Draft Resolution: 18 GA 7, see Point III.**

## I. Background

1. In accordance with the provisions of the *World Heritage Convention*, the States Parties at the time of the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession, may declare that they shall be bound or shall not be bound by the provisions of Article 16 § 1. In the latter case, their contributions “should not be less than the contributions which they should have paid if they had been bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article.”
2. Every two years during the session of the General Assembly the States Parties decide to set the amount of the contributions and a draft resolution is proposed in those terms at the end of the present document (Part III).
3. Since the allotments of the World Heritage Fund to the World Heritage Centre are provided by the Bureau of Financial Management on a quarterly basis based on the assessed contributions received, the World Heritage Committee called upon the States Parties to pay their contribution early in the year to ensure the implementation of the statutory and programme activities.
4. According to the Statement of compulsory assessed contributions established by the Bureau of Financial Management of UNESCO as of 31 March 2011, UNESCO had not yet received the compulsory assessed contributions from 123 States Parties totalling US\$1,277,414. In the Statement issued as of 30 June 2011, there were still 98 States Parties, whose contributions were still due totalling US\$910,580 and representing 44% of the total contributions expected. As regards the voluntary contributions, in March 2011, 7 States Parties had not paid and they were 6 in June 2011. The expected amount is \$946,998, representing 64% still due.
5. The financial resources of the World Heritage Fund depend on the assessed contributions and these are not infinite. The World Heritage Centre is looking for ways to ensure the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund and increase its resources in accordance with the decisions of the World Heritage Committee as cited below.

## II. Decisions of the World Heritage Committee related to States Parties contributions

6. Since the 17th session of the General Assembly (Paris, 2009), the World Heritage Committee met twice and took the following decisions to express concern about the payment of the assessed contributions:

### **Decision: 34 COM 16**

The World Heritage Committee,  
(...)

4. Thanks the States Parties who have already made their contributions and calls upon the other States Parties, who have not yet paid the totality of their contributions, even voluntary ones, where possible, to ensure that their contributions are paid at the earliest convenience;
5. Requests the States Parties in the future to pay their annual contributions by 31 March wherever possible in order to facilitate the timely implementation of the activities financed by the World Heritage Fund;  
(...)
12. Welcomes the proposed range options for equitable additional voluntary contributions to the Fund with a view to increase activities under the *World Heritage Convention*, and requests the World Heritage Centre to further develop the proposal through a dedicated special feasibility study to be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session.

**Decision: 35 COM 15B**

The World Heritage Committee,

Part I

(...)

3. Thanks the States Parties, who have already made their contributions and urges the other States Parties, who have not yet paid the totality of their contributions, including voluntary ones to ensure that their contributions are paid expeditiously;

(...)

Part II

(...)

10. Notes that the resources of the World Heritage Fund have not kept pace with the increasing workload under the *Convention*;

(...)

22. In addition requests the States Parties in the future to pay their annual contributions by 31 January wherever possible in order to facilitate the timely implementation of the activities financed by the World Heritage Fund;

23. Also invites States Parties to make supplementary contributions to the World Heritage Fund with a view to implement activities under the *World Heritage Convention*;

24. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to provide an analytical report, in full collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, on ways to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and sustainability of the World Heritage Fund, including a sustainable funding model and measures to ensure adequate resourcing for Advisory Bodies to meet their responsibilities under the *Convention*;

(...)

6. The Document WHC-10/34.COM/16.ADD on various Options for equitable additional voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund was presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010) following its Decision **33 COM 16**, but none of these options was retained.

7. The World Heritage Centre in cooperation with the Bureau of Financial Management of UNESCO continue their efforts in exploring ways to accommodate both the *Convention* needs and the Financial Regulations of the World Heritage Fund.

**III. Draft Resolution: 18 GA 7**

*The General Assembly,*

1. Taking into account Article 16 paragraph 1 of the World Heritage Convention on the determination, in the form of a uniform percentage, of the amount of the contributions to be paid to the World Heritage Fund by States Parties,

2. Decides to set at 1% the percentage for the calculation of the amount of the contributions to be paid to the World Heritage Fund by States Parties for the financial period 2012-2013;

3. Also takes note of Document WHC-11/18.GA/INF.7 on the status of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund;

4. Further takes note of the initiatives of the World Heritage Centre to propose options for equitable additional voluntary contributions to the Fund (with a view to increase activities under the World Heritage Convention);
5. Reiterates the plea of the World Heritage Committee to States Parties to the Convention to pay their annual contributions by 31 January wherever possible in order to facilitate the timely implementation of the activities financed by the World Heritage Fund;
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to report to the General Assembly at its 19th session on the results of its analysis related to the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund.