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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 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Report on the activities of the World
Heritage related category 2 centres**

10. Progress report on the World Heritage related category 2 centres

In conformity with Decision **35 COM 6** (UNESCO, 2011), this document includes a consolidated report of activities by the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF); the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research-Asia and Pacific (WHITR-AP); the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH); the Regional Heritage Management Training Centre in Brazil; the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), and the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas, Mexico.

Draft Resolution: 18 GA 10, see Point III.

I. Background

1. In the recent years, the framework for training and research in the field of World Heritage has changed significantly since the Global Training Strategy was first adopted by the World Heritage Committee (2001), and became much richer around the world with more and diverse training opportunities being offered. In particular, States Parties have established capacity building institutions that have been granted the status of “category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO” dealing specifically with World Heritage. All these changes to the landscape of training and research have led to the need to take advantage of these new positive developments and, in the meantime, to ensure a clearer definition of the roles and responsibilities of each of the main actors involved in the implementation of the World Heritage strategy for capacity-building (see *Document WHC-11/35.COM/9B*).
2. Currently, there are six World Heritage related category 2 centres established under the auspices of UNESCO. These are the following:
 - a) Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF), with its Headquarters in Oslo, Norway;
 - b) World Heritage Institute of Training and Research-Asia and Pacific (WHITR-AP), with its three operational centres located in Beijing, Shanghai and Suzhou, China;
 - c) Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), with its Headquarters in Bahrain;
 - d) Regional Heritage Management Training Centre in Brazil, with its Headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;
 - e) African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), with its Headquarters in Johannesburg, South Africa;
 - f) Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas, Mexico.
3. The first annual meeting of World Heritage related category 2 centres and of relevant UNESCO Chairs and Higher Education and Research Institutions, was held on 19-20 December 2010 in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, hosted by the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Bahrain and jointly organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and by the Kingdom of Bahrain.
4. This meeting was held following Resolution **17 GA 9**, adopted by the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention at its 17th session (UNESCO, 2009), which “request[ed] the World Heritage Centre to convene in 2010 through extra budgetary funding a meeting of the existing UNESCO category 2 centres active on World Heritage issues together with representatives of relevant UNITWIN networks, UNESCO Chairs and other regional and national research centres at the regional and national levels and graduate programmes in order to facilitate their activities and to strengthen their regional relevance”.
5. The meeting was also held on the basis of Decision **34 COM 9C**, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), which “welcome[d] the offer by the Kingdom of Bahrain to host a meeting of the category 2 centres in December 2011” (Decision **34 COM 9C**).
6. The meeting was the opportunity to discuss the role and the involvement of the category 2 centres in complementing the work of the World Heritage Centre and of the Advisory Bodies in designing and implementing Capacity-building strategy activities and to also discuss the framework of a strengthened network among the category 2 centres.
7. The full report of the first annual meeting of World Heritage related category 2 centres and of relevant UNESCO Chairs and Higher Education and Research Institutions is

available in English at the following web address:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/35COM/>.

II. Category 2 Centres

8. The **Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF)** was initially granted category 2 centre status in 2003. The status was renewed in May 2008 for the period 2008-2014. In 2010 the NWHF's Board of Directors adopted a new Strategy for 2010-2014. Subsequently the Foundation developed a Results Based Management System and indicators in line with UNESCO's working methods. NWHF's reporting system is now parallel to that of UNESCO with biannual work plans and reports. NWHF's Strategy 2010-2014 encompasses three strategic objectives (SO), each with a Nordic-Baltic and an International dimension:
 - a) SO1: Promote Sustainable Development through Tourism: *the Nordic-Baltic Workshop on World Heritage, Tourism and Development – Towards a Nordic-Baltic Approach to Stakeholder Involvement and Cooperation*, took place in Visby, from 13-15 October 2010. The workshop was co-funded by the Governments of Norway, Sweden and Denmark, coordinated by the NWHF, and attended by 50 participants representing a broad spectre of stakeholders. The workshop results will be made available in the new UNESCO Programme on World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism (see Document *WHC-10/34COM 5F.2*). The exchange of staff between NWHF and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), facilitated by the Fredskorpset Norway Norway Exchange Programme (FK), has increased the organisations' collaborative efforts relevant to SO1. In 2010 the NWHF and AWHF specifically collaborated to explore the potential to strengthen sustainable tourism through upstream processes in nominations;
 - b) SO2: Strengthen the Periodic Reporting (PR) tool: NWHF has, together with its regional partners and through various efforts including facilitation of and participation in workshops and training courses, as well as the provision of training and assistance in the development of implementation strategies, contributed to capacity building in the Nordic-Baltic region on PR. The NWHF has furthermore, and in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, contributed to enhancing capacities with regards to PR in Africa and Asia-Pacific through the provision of technical assistance to regional workshops and meetings in Africa and Asia-Pacific (see Document *WHC-10/34.COM/10B.1*);
 - c) SO3: Implementation of the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO approved by the General Conference of UNESCO (35C/22). NWHF has expanded its operational network of category 2 centres through, *inter alia*, establishing Memoranda of Understanding with the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) and with the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP). NWHF expanded its network also through its observer role on the Board of Directors of the African World Heritage Fund and of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH).
9. The exchange of staff made possible through the FK Norway Agreement between NWHF and AWHF, has contributed towards capacity building both in Africa and the Nordic region. It has furthermore strengthened the collaboration and partner network between the two organisations, in line with the overall objectives of the draft World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (see *Documents WHC-10/34.COM/9C* and *WHC-11/35.COM/9B*). NWHF holds office in Oslo and has three permanent staff members. More information on NWHF is available at the NWHF web address: <http://www.nwhf.no/>
10. The **World Heritage Institute of Training and Research-Asia and Pacific (WHITR-AP)** was established as category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO by the General

Conference of UNESCO at its 34th session in 2007. The first Governing Board took place from 23 to 24 July 2008 in Beijing and the second session was held in June 2011 at the Tongji University in Shanghai. WHITR-AP submitted its 2010 progress report to the World Heritage Centre in March 2011. Information meetings on the programme activities of WHITRAP were organized at the UNESCO Headquarters in April 2008 and at the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008). WHITR-AP, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM, organized a number of training activities on Management Planning for Cultural Heritage (Shanghai, December 2008 and September 2010), Disaster and Risk Reduction for World Heritage properties in Asia and the Pacific Region (Peking University, December 2009). A National training course on Conservation and Development of Historic Cities and Towns (June 2010) was organized in Shanghai. Other international conferences and heritage workshops were organized in collaboration with partner institutions such as the *Cite de l'Architecture et du patrimoine* (France), the Region *Emilia Romagna* (Italy) and academic institutions in China. In November 2011, WHITR-AP will launch a Master Programme on World Heritage Studies at the Peking University and the Tongji University in China. This programme aims to train future professionals in the field of cultural and natural heritage. More information on WHITR-AP is available at the WHITR-AP web address: <http://www.whitr-ap.org>.

11. The **Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH)** in Bahrain was established as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 35th session in 2009. The global objective of ARC-WH is to assist States Parties in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the Arab States region, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre. ARC-WH aims principally at being a relay for the action of the World Heritage Centre and its partners in the region by federating regional energies for the conservation, promotion and presentation of the region's cultural and natural heritage, along three major lines: information, assistance, and financial and logistic support. The purpose of these actions is to increase balanced representation of Arab States properties on the World Heritage List, promote better protection and management of such World Heritage properties, mobilize regional and international financial support for these purposes, and raise awareness of World Heritage in the region. ARC-WH is designing and developing an Arabic language website, with the aim to ensure the translation, publication and dissemination of relevant documents, and the promotion of the establishment of new conservation programmes in all the Arab region states. The procedures towards the establishment of ARC-WH have been implemented since the signature of the UNESCO – Kingdom of Bahrain Agreement on 5 February 2010. On 16 December 2010, the Royal Decree 53/2010 was issued and published in the Official Gazette of the Kingdom thus officially instituting the creation of ARC-WH in Bahrain. As per Article XX of the Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Bahrain, the Agreement shall enter into force following its signature by the contracting parties, when they have informed each other in writing of the completion of the formalities required to that effect by the domestic law of the Kingdom of Bahrain and by UNESCO internal regulations. The entry into force of the Agreement will allow the Ministry of Culture to receive the necessary funds from the Government of Bahrain to launch the establishment of the administrative and financial structures of ARC-WH.
12. The first meeting of the Governing Board is expected to take place within the coming months in order to approve the administrative and financial manual of ARC-WH, the proposed name for the post of Director and the first programme of activities to be implemented. The programme axes of ARC-WH being rooted in the results of the First Periodic Reporting of the Arab Region (2000), the members of the Unit for the Establishment of ARC-WH participated in the meeting entitled "Follow-up to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States: Regional Meeting for the Elaboration of the Regional Programme", held in Rabat (Morocco), from 7 to 9 March 2011. This

meeting aimed at developing the programme of the Arab Region for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* while identifying the relevant regional and international partners to support this implementation. ARC-WH was identified as a key actor by the three sub-regions to facilitate a number of training and capacity-building activities, as well as for fund-raising. ARC-WH aims to focus on raising awareness and translation of documentation into Arabic in order to ensure wide dissemination of information. Another area which ARC-WH will address in its first years of activity is the World Natural Heritage as it deemed that the potential in the Arab Region is very high and the expertise available in many fields. Specifically, marine heritage should be one of the key programmes to be implemented as all States Parties in the region have direct access to the sea.

13. The **Regional Heritage Management Training Centre “Lucio Costa”** in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil was established as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 35th session in 2009. The category 2 centre in Rio de Janeiro has played an important supporting role in the organization of the sub-regional meetings for the preparation of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Region and will also play a fundamental role in the implementation of the process. The primary objective of the sub-regional meetings was the training of representatives (Focal Points, site managers and national authorities) from all the States Parties of the region on the activities related to the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise, which are: Analysis of all retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value which have been submitted; the decisions of the World Heritage Committee concerning policies affecting the LAC Region; the preparation of guidelines for advances made in the Retrospective Inventory process; the training of participants in the completion of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire (Sections I and II) and the establishment of thematic discussion groups.
14. The second sub-regional meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), from 7 to 10 December 2010, at the Headquarters of the category 2 centre. The first day was devoted to retrospective Statements of Outstanding Value, with the managers of the Brazilian sites. The following days were spent on the Periodic Reporting exercise, where national focal points and site managers of South America took part. One hundred and twenty participants from 10 countries attended, including national focal points, site managers and Brazilian Authorities in charge of the protection of World Heritage, representatives of the category 2 centre in Rio de Janeiro and Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS, and ICCROM). The four-day meeting was organized by the World Heritage Centre in cooperation with the category 2 centre of Rio de Janeiro, the National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) and the international Social Institute Chico Mendes.
15. The **African World Heritage Fund (AHWF)** has made progress on various activities since the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee (Brasilia, 2010). In view of achieving its strategic objective to increase the number of nominations from Africa on the World Heritage List, the second series of training programmes on the preparation of nomination files was initiated in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies, *Ecole du Patrimoine Africain* (EPA), *Centre for Heritage Development in Africa* (CHDA) and African Governments. The training programmes were organized for the English speaking countries of Africa (Namibia, November 2010), and for the Arabic speaking countries of Africa (Algeria, December 2010). As a result of the training programmes, two nominations files were submitted to the World Heritage Centre for consideration in 2011 (*Surame Cultural Landscape*, Nigeria and *Sehlabathebe National Park*, Lesotho). The training programmes will continue to be part of the Fund's new strategic plan for the period 2011-2015, which has been developed as a result-based document, and which will require continuation of support by the World Heritage Centre. The process for the preparation of this new plan was complemented by an External Review of the implementation of the previous Strategic Plan 2008-2010.

16. Financial contributions amounting 515,000 USD for operations, programmes and the Endowment Fund have been provided since April 2010 by the following countries: South Africa, Namibia, Sultanate of Oman, Thailand, Zambia, Tanzania and Norway. Pledges amounting to 2,406,333 USD have been made by the following countries: Spain, South Africa, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Mali, Angola, Gabon, Nigeria, Algeria and Benin. Ms Christina Cameron (Canada), Ms Viviane Wade (Senegal) and Mr Koïchiro Matsuura (Japan) are now Patrons of AWHF. The following workshops were supported: (1) *workshop for the regional harmonization of Tentative Lists* held in Gabon (December 2010); (2) *Training workshop on the preparation of the management plan of Tchitunduhulo rock art site* in Angola (March 2011) and (3) *workshop to define a strategy of cooperation for sites of human evolution in Africa* was organized in Ethiopia (February 2011). In addition to financial and technical support, AWHF has actively participated in the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise for the Africa Region. The Periodic Reporting exercise also highlighted the issue of dealing with the coexistence between World Heritage conservation and development needs with the support of AWHF. Finally, AWHF brought assistance and technical support in management and state of conservation of World Heritage properties in Africa (including an assessment mission with the World Heritage Centre at Kasubi Tombs after the fire tragedy that took place on 16 March 2010). More information on AWHF is available at the AWHF web address: <http://www.awhf.net>
17. The **Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas** (Mexico) was established as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 35th session in 2009. The category 2 centre in Zacatecas has played an important supporting role in the organization of the sub-regional meetings for the preparation of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Latin America and Caribbean region (LAC) and will also play a fundamental role in the implementation of the process. The primary objective of the sub-regional meetings was the training of representatives (Focal Points, site managers and national authorities) from all the States Parties of the region on the activities related to the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise, which are: Analysis of all retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value which have been submitted; the decisions of the World Heritage Committee concerning policies affecting the LAC Region; the preparation of guidelines for advances made in the Retrospective Inventory process; the training of participants in the completion of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire (Sections I and II) and the establishment of thematic discussion groups. The first sub-regional meeting for Mexico and Central America was held in Zacatecas (Mexico) from 6-10 September 2010 which coincided with the inauguration of the category 2 centre at Zacatecas. 80 participants from 7 countries took part in this meeting and in the inauguration of the Centre. Representatives of heritage institutions from Cuba and the Dominican Republic participated as observers. Mexican Authorities in charge of heritage protection such as the National Council for Culture and Arts (CONACULTA), the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), the National Institute of Fine Arts (INBA), and the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) also participated. The three-day meeting was organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in close cooperation with the category 2 centre of Zacatecas, the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), and the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP).
18. The Government of India and the Government of Spain have expressed their interest in putting forward proposals aimed at the possible establishment of category 2 centres related to World Heritage, in accordance with UNESCO's guidelines and criteria for category 2 institutes and centres. The proposals by India and Spain would aim at the establishment of higher education and research regional centres with special focus to Cultural and Natural Heritage and to World Heritage and Rock Art, respectively.

III. Draft Resolution

Draft Resolution 18 GA 10

The General Assembly,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/18.GA/10 and Document WHC-11/18.GA/INF.10,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 6** adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*
3. *Thanks the Government of Bahrain for having hosted the first meeting of World Heritage related category 2 centres and of relevant UNESCO Chairs and Higher Education and Research Institutions;*
4. *Takes note of the report on this meeting, as well as of the reports on the World Heritage related category 2 centres in Bahrain, Brazil, China, Mexico, Norway and South Africa;*
5. *Also takes note that an updated report of activities of the World Heritage related category 2 centres will be presented for examination at the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2012.*