

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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

First session

Nairobi, 26 November 1976

**Summary Record**

1. The first General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage (1972) met in Nairobi on 26 November 1976.
2. Of the twenty-six States Parties to the Convention at the date of 26 November 1976 and thus having the right to vote, the following States were represented :

Algeria	Morocco
Australia	Niger
Bulgaria	Nigeria
Canada	Pakistan
Ecuador	Poland
Egypt	Senegal
France	Sudan
Federal Republic of Germany	Switzerland
Ghana	Syrian Arab Republic
Iran	Tunisia
Iraq	United States of America
Jordan	Yugoslavia
	Zaire

3. Representatives of the following States also participated, as observers, in the General Assembly : Austria, Cameroun, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Mali, Portugal, Republic of Surinam, United Kingdom as well as representatives of the following international organizations : United Nations Environment Programme ( UNEP ), International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

4. The list of all the participants in the General Assembly is given in Annex II.
5. The Secretariat of the meeting was assured by the Secretariat of Unesco.
6. After the meeting had been opened by Mr. John E. Fobes, Deputy Director General of Unesco, the General Assembly adopted its Rules of Procedure, with the amendments to Article 12, paragraphs 3 and 6, proposed by the representative of the Director General of Unesco. The Assembly thereafter elected by acclamation His Excellency Ambassador Hamid Rahnama (Iran) as its Chairman, the representatives of Algeria, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Senegal and the United States, as Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. Michel Parent (France) as Rapporteur.
7. The General Assembly held two meetings devoted to the election of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage of Outstanding Universal Value, called "the World Heritage Committee" and to different questions relating to the establishment of the "World Heritage Fund".
8. Nineteen States Parties were candidates to the World Heritage Committee : Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria, Poland, Senegal, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United States of America, and Yugoslavia.
9. After explaining that the Committee was composed of 15 members, the Chairman pointed out that there were more candidatures than seats to be filled and he asked if the Assembly wished to proceed to a vote.
10. The Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic proposed, in view of the practice followed in the elections to various bodies of Unesco and considering the way in which the 26 States Parties to the Convention were assigned to the electoral groups set up for the elections to the Executive Board, that the fifteen seats be attributed in the following way :
  - 4 seats to Group I
  - 2 seats to Group II
  - 1 seat to Group III
  - 1 seat to Group IV
  - 7 seats to Group V  
of which 3 to Africa  
and 4 to the Arab States
11. This proposal gave rise to a wide exchange of views, in which nineteen delegations took part, on the principles to be applied in distributing the seats. Whereas certain delegations expressed their entire agreement with the proposal of the Syrian Arab Republic,

others pointed out that, according to Article 8, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the election of members of the Committee should ensure an equitable representation of the different regions "and cultures of the world" and that it was necessary to take into account the nature and purpose of the Convention in determining the geographical distribution of the members of the Committee.

12. At the close of the debate, the delegate of the Syrian Arab Republic announced that two of the Arab States would withdraw their candidature (Syria and Sudan), in order to leave four Arab candidatures (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia), if the Assembly accepted the geographical distribution that he had advocated.

13. After a suspension of the meeting proposed by the Chairman to permit the delegations to reach an agreement, such an agreement could not be reached and the delegation of Australia, seconded by the delegations of Ecuador, Switzerland, Zaire and France, requested a vote by secret ballot, in application of Rule 13.1 of the Rules of Procedure.

14. After the representative of the Director General had explained the voting procedure by secret ballot, the Chairman appointed the delegates of Bulgaria and Pakistan as tellers and the Assembly proceeded to a vote.

15. The results of the vote, announced by the Chairman, were as follows :

Number of States Parties present and voting	25
Number of valid voting papers	25
France	25 votes
Iran	23 votes
Nigeria	23 votes
Tunisia	23 votes
United States of America	23 votes
Egypt	22 votes
Ecuador	21 votes
Yugoslavia	19 votes
Australia	18 votes
Canada	17 votes
Federal Republic of Germany	17 votes
Ghana	17 votes
Poland	17 votes
Senegal	17 votes
Iraq	15 votes
Jordan	14 votes
Switzerland	14 votes

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16. The Chairman declared elected the first fifteen States mentioned above which had obtained the majority of votes required.
17. At the opening of the second meeting, the representative of the Director General recalled the procedure foreseen for the renewal of members of the "World Heritage Committee" designated at the first election. In conformity with Article 9 of the Convention, the term of one-third of the members of the Committee shall cease at the end of the first ordinary session of the General Conference following that at which they were elected, and the term of office of a further third of the members designated at the same time shall cease at the end of the second ordinary session of the General Conference following that at which they were elected. The names of the outgoing members shall be chosen by lot by the President of the General Conference after the first election.
18. The choice by lot took place in Nairobi on 30 November 1976. The official record thereof is set out in Annex I.
19. In introducing the information document concerning the "World Heritage Fund", the representative of the Director General explained that the draft financial regulations set out in Annex I of the document, were communicated to the General Assembly to enable the Director General to take into consideration any comments made by the Assembly before he reported thereon to the Executive Board, in conformity with Article 6.7 of the Financial Regulations of the Organization.
20. With respect to the amount of the compulsory or voluntary contributions that States Parties will make to the "World Heritage Fund", the delegations of Switzerland and Poland proposed that it be fixed at 0.75 % of the contribution to the Regular Budget of Unesco, whereas the delegations of Zaire, Nigeria, Algeria, Syria and Australia proposed 1%. Since no objection was lodged when the Chairman asked the General Assembly if it accepted this latter percentage, this was adopted without recourse to a vote. The delegation of Switzerland stated that, had a vote occurred, it would have abstained.
21. The Assembly took note without discussion of the method and procedure for payment set forth in the information document on the "World Heritage Fund" and did not formulate any comments concerning the draft financial regulations of the Fund.

ANNEX I

Official record

of the choice by lot of the members  
of the World Heritage Committee  
whose term of office will cease in 1978 and 1980

In conformity with Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage, a choice by lot has been made, on November 30, 1976, at the opening of the 38th plenary meeting of the 19th session of the General Conference of Unesco, held at Nairobi, on the terms of office of the Members of the Intergovernmental Committee elected on November 26, 1976, by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention.

The President of the 19th session of the General Conference, His Excellency Mr. Taaitta Toweett, first proceeded to the choice by lot of the names of five members, constituting one third of the Committee, whose term of office shall cease at the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference to be held in 1978 :

- France
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Canada
- Poland
- Senegal

He then proceeded to the choice by lot of the names of five members constituting another third of the Committee, whose terms of office shall cease at the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference to be held in 1980 :

- Nigeria
- Iran
- Yugoslavia
- Ecuador
- Ghana

As a consequence, the following members shall hold their office, in conformity with Article 3, paragraph 1, until the end of the third ordinary session subsequent to their election, that is until the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference to be held in 1982:

- Tunisia
- United States of America
- Egypt
- Australia
- Iraq.

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In witness thereof, the present has been signed by the President and by the Secretary General of the 19th session of the General Conference of Unesco.

Done in Nairobi, on November 30, 1976.

Taaitta Toweett  
President of the 19th session  
of the General Conference  
of Unesco

Amadou Mahtar M'Bow  
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A N N E X II

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