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

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 2 - 3 November 1995
Room XI

**Point 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Proposed procedural changes
for the election to the World Heritage Committee - Proposed
amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly**

1. The ninth General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which took place in Paris on October 29 and 30, 1993 was called upon, under item 8 of its agenda, to elect seven members of the Committee to replace those members whose mandate would expire at the end of the 27th session of the General Conference.

2. As it may be recalled, after a lengthy procedure eight ballots were necessary for the election. The General Assembly thus felt that the voting system as set out in the Rules of Procedure was no longer compatible to a situation characterized, among other things, by the increasing number of States Parties, to-date 142. It was therefore recommended by the General Assembly that the revision of its Rules of Procedure should be inscribed in the agenda of the present session.

3. At the request of the Secretariat, possible revisions of the Rules of Procedure were discussed by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (4-9 July 1994), in order to sound out desirable amendments of rule 13 - Election of members of the World Heritage Committee.

4. The Bureau members concurred in that the procedure for election of new members to the Committee should be simplified. It was suggested that there should be four ballots with an absolute majority after which a simple majority rule would apply. Most of the speakers also agreed on the fact that it was not possible to forbid an outgoing State Party to stand for election for a second mandate immediately; it was, however, necessary to limit such possibility.

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5. At the eighteenth session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Phuket from 12 to 17 December 1994, the organization of the present General Assembly of States Parties was discussed. There was a general support of the Bureau's proposal to simplify the procedures of the election of the Committee. The Committee also endorsed the proposed amendment presented by the Bureau to shift to the simple majority after four ballots.

6. The General Assembly may therefore wish to amend the text of rule 13 as follows:

- 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, the voting being restricted to the States obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice that of the seats remaining to be filled.
- 13.9 After the fourth ballot, the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes, up to the number of seats to be filled, shall be declared elected.
- 13.10 If, in the fifth ballot, two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes, the Chairperson shall decide between them by drawing lots.