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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

Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: New Monitoring Activities
related to the World Heritage Sites

PROPOSED REVISION OF DR.3 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY AS READ OUT ON 3 NOVEMBER 1995

The Tenth General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

1. Having examined the Document (WHC-95/CONF.204/7) submitted by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee on "New monitoring activities related to the World Heritage Sites":

2. Recalling the following relevant provisions of the Convention:

(a) Article 4, which provides that each State Party to the Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the protection and conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and situated on its territory belongs primarily to that State;

(b) Article 7, stipulating that "international protection of the world cultural and natural heritage shall be understood to mean the establishment of a system of international cooperation and assistance designed to support States Parties to the Convention in their efforts to conserve....that heritage";

(c) the eighth preambular clause of the Convention expressing the intent to establish "an effective system of collective protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value, organized on a permanent basis and in accordance with modern scientific methods";

3. Considers that:

(a) periodic observation by the States Party concerned of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties is one of the appropriate scientific means to meet the responsibilities of States Parties under the Convention for ensuring protection and conservation of properties on the World Heritage List;

(b) systematic observation as an integral component of the management of World Heritage properties by the States Parties themselves, in close collaboration with the site managers or the agency with management authority, constitutes an effective operational method capable of countering the dangers that may threaten the cultural and natural world heritage;

(c) systematic observation of World Heritage Sites by the State Party concerned is essential for the States Parties themselves in order to be able to remedy serious problems of conservation and to plan for preventive conservation; and

(d) regular reporting to the General Assembly as well as to the General Conference of UNESCO, which will then bring their reports to the World Heritage Committee, under Article 29, is important for the WHC to evaluate changes in the main characteristics of the properties since their inscription on the World Heritage List.

4. Reaffirms that systematic observation of the conditions of World Heritage properties and the reporting on the implementation of the Convention is the prime responsibility of the States on whose territory these properties are situated;

5. Emphasises further, that only in agreement with the State Party concerned will the World Heritage Centre or the advisory bodies mentioned in Article 13.7 provide expert advice on how to monitor the state of conservation of a world heritage site or on how to improve its state of conservation,

6. Invites States Parties to the Convention to make appropriate arrangements for observation of the conditions of World Heritage properties on their territory and for taking timely measures to prevent their deterioration;

7. Invites States Parties to the Convention to submit periodic reports to the General Conference of UNESCO under Article 29 of the Convention as well as the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention;

8. Invites further States Parties to the Convention, independently of the above-mentioned periodic reports, to submit to the World Heritage Committee through the World Heritage Centre, specific reports and impact studies each time exceptional circumstances occur, or work is undertaken which may have an effect on the state of conservation of the property.

9. Invites the World Heritage Committee to explore the possibility of activating the reporting procedure mentioned

in Article 29 which has remained a dormant article since the date of the Convention's adoption in 1972.

10. Requests the World Heritage Committee to make the necessary arrangements to assist the States Parties upon their request, in their observation of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties.