



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Culture Sector The World Heritage Centre

To: All States Parties to the World Heritage Convention

Ref.: CL/WHC-13/25

16 December 2013

Subject: First meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the revision of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (23rd January afternoon and 24th January 2014 all day, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XI)

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, by its Resolution **19 GA 4** (attached herewith) the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention decided to fully apply Article 8, paragraph 2, of the World Heritage Convention which stipulates that "Election of members of the Committee shall ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world".

In this regard, the General Assembly, decided to establish an Open-Ended Working Group of limited duration of one year with an equitable participation of all regions, which would meet in Paris, with extrabudgetary resources.

This Open-Ended Working Group will have to make proposals to amend the Rules of Procedures in order to achieve the goal of an equitable geographical and cultural representation, including through allocation of seats by region (defined with reference to UNESCO's electoral groups) on the World Heritage Committee, as well as other measures.

In conformity with this Resolution, I would like to inform you that the first meeting of this Open-Ended Working Group (open to all States Parties to the *Convention*) will take place on **23rd January 2014 in the afternoon and on 24th January all day at UNESCO Headquarters, Room XI.**

You will also remember that the General Assembly decided to hold an extraordinary session in Paris, no later than November 2014, financed by extrabudgetary resources, to examine a draft resolution concerning the proposals referred to in paragraph 8, to be applied at the 20th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention.

Therefore, other meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group may be convened before the extraordinary session of the General Assembly in November 2014, if deemed necessary by the Working Group. Consequently, as indicated in Paragraphs 7 and 9 of Resolution **19 GA 4**, States parties are also invited to contribute extrabudgetary resources for the organisation of these meetings.

Should you need any further information in this regard, kindly contact Ms Mechthild Rössler (m.rossler@unesco.org) or Mrs Frédérique Aubert (f.aubert@unesco.org)

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and for your support in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Kishore Rao
Director
World Heritage Centre

4. Revision of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly

Resolution: 19 GA 4

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/19.GA/4,
2. Recalling the amendments to Draft Resolution **19 GA 4** proposed by Brazil and other States and the debates held at the 19th General Assembly,
3. Also recalling its Resolution **18 GA 8** and the World Heritage Committee's decision **35 COM 12B** encouraging States Parties members of the Committee not to submit nominations during their mandate,
4. Further recalling Article 9.3 of the *World Heritage Convention* which stipulates that "*States members of the Committee shall choose as their representatives persons qualified in the field of the cultural or natural heritage*",
5. Bearing in mind that Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure requires a two-third majority to amend the Rules of Procedures,
6. Decides to fully apply Article 8, paragraph 2, of the *World Heritage Convention* which stipulates that "*Election of members of the Committee shall ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world*";
7. Also decides to establish an open-ended working group of limited duration of one year with an equitable participation of all regions, which would meet in Paris, with extrabudgetary resources;
8. Requests the open-ended working group to make proposals to amend the Rules of Procedures in order to achieve the goal of an equitable geographical and cultural representation, including through allocation of seats by region (defined with reference to UNESCO's electoral groups) on the World Heritage Committee, as well as other measures;
9. Further decides to hold an extraordinary session of the General Assembly in Paris, no later than November 2014, financed by extrabudgetary resources, to examine a draft resolution concerning the proposals referred to in paragraph 8, to be applied at the 20th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*;
10. Calls upon States Parties to contribute to the organization of the extraordinary session of the General Assembly with extrabudgetary resources and also requests the Director-General to organize the extraordinary session of the General Assembly in a cost-efficient way.

**First meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group for the revision of the Rules of
Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage
Convention**

***Première réunion du groupe de travail ouvert pour la révision du Règlement
intérieur de l'Assemblée générale des Etats parties à la Convention du
patrimoine mondial***

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room XI
*Siège de l'UNESCO, Salle XI***

**23 January 2014/23 janvier 2014
3pm-6pm/15h-18h**

and/et

**24 January 2014/24 janvier 2014
10am-1pm / 3pm-6pm
10h-13h/15h-18h**

**Provisional Agenda
*Ordre du jour provisoire***

- I. Opening of the Open-Ended Working Group meeting
Ouverture de la réunion du Groupe de travail ouvert
- II. Election of the Chairperson and Rapporteur
Election du Président et du Rapporteur
- III. Discussion on the Revision of the Rules of the Procedure of the General
Assembly
Discussion sur la révision du Règlement intérieur de l'Assemblée générale
- IV. Closure of the meeting
Clôture de la réunion