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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

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

**Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII
14-15 October 2003**

Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda: Elections to the World Heritage Committee

Draft Resolution on the elections to the World Heritage Committee

SUMMARY

This document consists of the following 4 Sections:

- I. Number of Seats to be elected to the World Heritage Committee
- II. Eligibility for candidates to the World Heritage Committee
- III. Procedures for the election of the World Heritage Committee (including one reserved seat)
- IV. Draft Resolution

This document also contains the following 3 Annexes:

- Annex I. Extract from the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly
- Annex II. List of States Parties with no properties inscribed on the World Heritage List
- Annex III. Resolution on the Equitable Representation of the World Heritage Committee (adopted by the 13th General Assembly)

I. NUMBER OF SEATS TO BE ELECTED TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

1. Article 8 of the World Heritage Convention establishes the World Heritage Committee and determines that it is to be composed of 21 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention. The members of the Committee would be elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention which meets during the ordinary session of the UNESCO General Conference.

2. At present the World Heritage Committee is composed of the following 21 States:

Argentina	Hungary	Republic of Korea
Belgium	India	Russian Federation
China	Lebanon	Saint Lucia
Colombia	Mexico	South Africa
Egypt	Nigeria	Thailand
Finland	Oman	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Greece	Portugal	Zimbabwe

3. In accordance with Article 9 of the Convention, the terms of office of one third of the members of the Committee will expire at the end of the 32nd session of the UNESCO General Conference (Paris, 29 September - 17 October 2003).

4. In addition to the seven States whose mandate expires at the end of the 32nd General Conference, Belgium (whose mandate was to expire at the end of the 33rd session of the General Conference, 2005) has announced its intention to voluntarily give up its seat on the Committee during the 32nd session of the General Conference.

5. Consequently, **eight seats of the World Heritage Committee are to be filled during the 14th session of the General Assembly.** The seats of the following eight States Parties will be filled by the newly-elected members of the Committee:

Belgium	Mexico
Finland	Republic of Korea
Greece	Thailand
Hungary	Zimbabwe

II. ELIGIBILITY FOR CANDIDATES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

6. In order for a State Party to be eligible to become a member of the World Heritage Committee the conditions set by Article 16, paragraph 5 of the Convention have to be met. This Article states that,

Any State Party to the Convention which is in arrears with the payment of its compulsory or voluntary contribution for the current year and the calendar year immediately preceding it shall not be eligible as a Member of the World Heritage Committee [...].

7. The Statement of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund can be found in document WHC-03/14.GA/INF.7.

8. In this sense, it should be noted that the World Heritage Committee recommended, at its 27th session (Paris, 29 June-5 July 2003), that the General Assembly incorporate in its Rules of Procedure the following Rule¹:

(...) This list of candidatures shall be finalised 48 hours before the beginning of the election. No other candidatures nor payments of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund (for the purpose of presenting a candidature to the Committee) will be accepted after this time.

III. PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (INCLUDING ONE RESERVED SEAT)

9. The procedures for the election of the World Heritage Committee are set out in Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly and are attached as Annex I to this document. The attention of the Committee is drawn to Rule 13.1 which establishes that

A certain number of seats may be reserved for States Parties who do not have sites on the World Heritage List, upon decision of the World Heritage Committee at the session that precedes the General Assembly. Such a ballot for reserved seats would precede the open ballot for the remaining seats to be filled. Unsuccessful candidates in the reserved ballot would be eligible to stand in the open ballot.

10. **At its 27th session (Paris, 29 June-5 July 2003) the World Heritage Committee decided to allocate one seat amongst the seats that have to be filled at the 14th General Assembly to a State Party who does not have any properties on the World Heritage List².** The Committee also requested the Secretariat to provide all States Parties, immediately following the 27th session, with an up-to-date list of all States Parties who do not have properties on the World Heritage List (see Annex II).

11. The General Assembly, when electing the new members of the World Heritage Committee, might wish to take into consideration Article 8 paragraph 2 of the Convention which states that the "election of members of the Committee shall ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world". The Resolution on the Equitable Representation of the World Heritage Committee (adopted by the 13th General Assembly) which invites, *inter alia*, the States Parties elected to the Committee to voluntarily reduce their term of office from six to four years, has also been included as Annex III to this document.

¹ See decision 27 COM 18A.2 and paragraph 4 of working document WHC-03/14.GA/4 on the draft Resolution on new voting mechanism and revision of the procedures for election of the members of the World Heritage Committee

² See decision 27 COM 18A.3

IV. DRAFT RESOLUTION

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The General Assembly,

1. *Elects * * * (State Party without properties on the World Heritage List) as member of the World Heritage Committee,*
2. *Elects the following seven States Parties *** as members of the World Heritage Committee.*

ANNEX I - EXTRACT FROM THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Rule 13 - Election of members of the World Heritage Committee

13.1 The election of members of the World Heritage Committee shall be conducted by secret ballot whenever five or more delegations having the right to vote so request, or if the Chairperson so decides.

A certain number of seats may be reserved for States Parties who do not have sites on the World Heritage List, upon decision of the World Heritage Committee at the session that precedes the General Assembly. Such a ballot for reserved seats would precede the open ballot for the remaining seats to be filled. Unsuccessful candidates in the reserved ballot would be eligible to stand in the open ballot.

13.2 Before the election begins, the Chairperson shall appoint two tellers from among the delegates present; he/she shall hand to them the list of States entitled to vote and the list of States candidates. He/She shall announce the number of seats to be filled.

13.3 The Secretariat shall distribute to the delegations a voting paper in the form of a list of all the States which are candidates.

13.4 Each delegation shall cast its vote by encircling the names of those States for which it desires to vote.

13.5 The tellers shall collect from each delegation their voting paper and shall proceed to count the votes, under the supervision of the Chairperson.

13.6 Voting papers on which all names of States have been circled shall be considered to be abstentions.

13.7 Voting papers on which more names have been circled than there are seats to be filled shall be considered invalid.

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. If the number of States obtaining the majority required is still less than the number of seats to be filled, there shall be a third and, if necessary, a fourth ballot, to fill the remaining seats. For the third and fourth ballots, the voting shall be restricted to the States obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, up to a number 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.

13.11 The Chairperson shall announce the results of the election.

**ANNEX II - LIST OF STATES PARTIES WITH NO PROPERTIES
INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST***

Andorra	Liberia
Angola	Maldives
Antigua and Barbuda	Marshall Islands
Bahrain	Mauritius
Barbados	Micronesia (Federated States of)
Bhutan	Monaco
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mongolia
Burkina Faso	Myanmar
Burundi	Namibia
Cape Verde	Niue
Chad	Palau
Comoros	Papua New Guinea
Congo	Qatar
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Republic of Moldova
Eritrea	Rwanda
Fiji	Saint Lucia
Gabon	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Grenada	Samoa
Guyana	San Marino
Iceland	Saudi Arabia
Jamaica	Tajikistan
Kiribati	Togo
Kuwait	United Arab Emirates
Kyrgyzstan	Vanuatu

* As of 7 July 2003

ANNEX III - RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE 13TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES ON THE EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE³

The General Assembly,

Recalling Article 8, paragraph 2, of the Convention which stipulates that “Election of members of the Committee shall ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world”;

Recalling Article 9 of the Convention which stipulates that “The term of office of States members of the World Heritage Committee shall extend from the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference during which they are elected until the end of its third subsequent ordinary session”;

Recalling the Resolution of the 7th General Assembly of States Parties (1989);

Considering the representivity of the World Heritage List could be enhanced through the increased participation in the work of the Committee of States Parties whose heritage is currently unrepresented in the List;

Considering that the strong interest of States Parties in participating in the work of the World Heritage Committee could be addressed by a more frequent rotation of Committee members;

Invites the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, to voluntarily reduce their term of office from six to four years;

Encourages States Parties that are not members of the Committee to make use of their right to participate in meetings of the World Heritage Committee as observers;

Discourages States Parties from seeking consecutive terms of office in the World Heritage Committee;

Decides that before each election of Committee members, the President of the General Assembly of States Parties will inform States Parties of the situation of the representation of regions and cultures in the World Heritage Committee and World Heritage List;

Decides to amend its Rules of Procedure as follows:

New Rule to be inserted after Rule 13.1

A certain number of seats may be reserved for States Parties who do not have sites on the World Heritage List, upon decision of the World Heritage Committee at the session that precedes the General Assembly. Such a ballot for reserved seats would precede the open ballot for the remaining seats to be filled. Unsuccessful candidates in the reserved ballot would be eligible to stand in the open ballot.

Amendment to existing Rule 13.8 (new text in bold)

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.~~ **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. If the number of States obtaining the majority required is still less than the number of seats to be filled there shall be a third and, if necessary a fourth ballot, to fill the remaining seats. For the third and fourth ballots, the voting shall be restricted to the States obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, up to a number twice that of the seats remaining to be filled.**

Decides that this resolution should be implemented immediately.

³ See paragraph 86 of the Report of the 13th General Assembly of States Parties (document WHC-03/14.GA/INF.1)