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Original English

SC-91/CONF.001/4  
15 May 1991

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Bureau of the World Heritage Committee  
Fifteenth Session

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 17-21 June 1991  
Room XIV

Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda - GLOBAL STUDY ON  
CULTURAL PROPERTIES

1. At its fourteenth session in Banff, Alberta, Canada 7-12 December 1990, the Committee noted progress on the global study of cultural sites, in particular the work of two Greek experts who had provided a pilot study on 3 geo-cultural areas, and the Bulgarian member of the Committee who had also contributed a study. The delegate of Canada offered to make available to the Secretariat the framework and account of its methodology developed in his country.
2. Since that session the German authorities have volunteered the assistance of an expert to work on Gothic architecture and the Turkish delegate to the Committee is working on a study of Hittite sites. An offer has also been received by the Secretariat from another State member of the Committee to work on Romanesque architecture.
3. Within the Secretariat a preliminary study has been prepared on rock art. This will need to be completed by a further study of other prehistoric sites, before being considered by an expert committee.
4. A study has been made within the Secretariat of the framework and methodology provided by the Canadian authorities. Unfortunately it was found that this would for the most part not constitute a suitable model for the global study, since its declared aim was to illustrate the history of Canada and was therefore designed primarily to illustrate themes, whereas the Committee had decided that the global study should have a mixed temporal, cultural and thematic approach. It was recognized also that the study of a national cultural heritage had an evident coherence enabling a choice of themes which would be much more difficult for a global study and, finally, that the resources devoted to the

development of the Canadian scheme were far beyond those available to the Secretariat, which had, in addition, to cover a much greater area and time scale. The Secretariat will keep the study at hand so that, in the later stages of the global study, a comparison could be made to check that the significant themes treated in the Canadian study had, where relevant, been included in the global study.

5. The two Greek experts who elaborated the pilot study had once again been made available to the Secretariat for one month by the Greek Ministry of Culture. On this occasion they had worked on the general framework : files have been prepared covering the following cultures or cultural phases from the Palaeolithic period up to the present time.

PALAEOLITHIC PERIOD

Europe  
 Western Asia  
 Far East Asia  
 India  
 South-East Asia  
 Africa  
 Americas  
 Oceania - Australia

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NEOLITHIC PERIOD

Europe  
 North Africa  
 Western Asia  
 Asia + South-East Asia  
 Australasia  
 China

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BRONZE AGE

Europe [Mediterranean Central Europe - Northern  
 Europe]  
 South-East Asia  
 Australia  
 Central Asia  
 Indus-Ganges Civilizations

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PHARAONIC EGYPT

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WESTERN ASIA

Anatolia  
 Hittites  
 Mesopotamia { Sumer-Elamites  
 { Assyrians  
 { Babylonians  
 Medes  
 Persians  
 Achaemenides  
 Parthians  
 Sassanides

## IRON AGE

Europe : Halstatt civilization  
           [La Tène - Celtic Art]  
 Asia : Scythians  
        Cimmerians

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## PHOENICIAN WORLD

## GREEK WORLD AND CORRELATED CULTURES

## ROMAN WORLD AND CORRELATED CULTURES

## THE BYZANTINE WORLD

## The World of BUDDHISM

Hindo-Buddhist India  
 South-East Asia  
 Buddhist China

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## FAR EAST

China  
 Japan  
 Korea

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## AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS

## OCEANIA

Melanesia  
 Micronesia  
 Polynesia  
 Australia  
 New Zealand

AMERICAS

Pre-columbian civilizations : North America  
 Central America  
 South America  
 [Antilles]

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The World of ISLAM

Europe  
 Asia  
 Africa

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The ROMANESQUE

Pré-Romanesque -Carolingian architecture  
 Romanesque Art  
 Cistercian style

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GOTHIC

Europe

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RENAISSANCE

Europe  
 Americas

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BAROQUE [Rococo-Classicism]

Europe  
 Americas  
 Asia + Africa

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MODERN + CONTEMPORARY TIMES

XIX Century : Romantic classicism to 1800  
 Iron + Glass architecture to 1855  
 Gothic Revival  
 Second Empire 1850  
 Art Nouveau 1890

XX Century

6. Each file, which represents a guide-plan for the necessary further study of the relevant culture, contains chronological tables showing its evolution, in time and space, maps giving its geographical extension in particular periods, general introductions to the subject and finally lists with all the monuments and sites inscribed to date (May 1991) in the World Heritage List.