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# World Heritage

# 41 COM

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
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**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Forty-first session**

**Krakow, Poland  
2 – 12 July 2017**

**Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports**

**10B: Follow-up to the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for all regions**

**SUMMARY**

This document presents the progress on follow-up activities and implementation of regional Action Plans of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting for Asia and the Pacific (Section I), Africa (Section II), the Arab States (Section III), Latin America and the Caribbean (Section IV) and Europe and North America (Section V). The reporting on regional activities since the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee is presented in a harmonized format.

**Draft Decisions:**

- **41 COM 10B.1** see Section I;
- **41 COM 10B.2** see Section II;
- **41 COM 10B.3** see Section III;
- **41 COM 10B.4** see Section IV;
- **41 COM 10B.5** see Section V.

## I. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

### A. Second Cycle Action Plans/Regional Programmes

#### i. Pacific Action Plan and Suwon Action Plan for Asia and objectives

1. In view of the region's cultural and geographical diversity as well as its physical scale, it was considered important to produce two distinct regional Action Plans in order to adequately address the challenges and needs identified through Periodic Reporting. Sub-regional priorities were also identified within the regional Action Plans and occasionally led to the development of sub-regional Action Plans.
2. The *Pacific Action Plan 2010-2015* was originally developed in 2009. Following the end of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, a revised and extended version was adopted during the final Regional Meeting for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Pacific, held in Apia (Samoa) in September 2011. The Periodic Reporting exercise provided important additional inputs to the pre-existing Action Plan and served as a valuable mid-term check, allowing for an informed assessment of the progress accomplished while highlighting activities that still needed to be included and/or carried out. The implementation of the first Pacific Action Plan was considered successful in many ways, as it led to first inscriptions on the World Heritage List (Federated States of Micronesia) and ratifications of the *Convention* (Timor-Leste), and a general improvement of capacities for the conservation of World Heritage properties.

In December 2015, a Regional Workshop was organised in Suva (Fiji) with the support of the World Heritage Fund and the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (FiT) to review the implementation of the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2010-2015. Representatives from Pacific Member States, regional institutions, the Advisory Bodies and UNESCO gathered to review the existing Action Plan and develop the *Pacific Action Plan 2016-2020*. The revised Action Plan consists of 11 main actions, from which were derived 19 regional activities:

- Dialogue between communities, agencies and organisations;
- Awareness building of local communities;
- Supporting successful nominations;
- Capacity development at all levels (including indigenous people);
- Development of in-country heritage expertise;
- Partnerships (between communities, heritage agencies, regional organisations, educational institutions and NGOs);
- Assisting communities for sustainable development through heritage-related enterprises;
- Information sharing through communication networks;
- Supporting the development and implementation of effective policies and legislation for heritage;
- Establishment of sustainable financing arrangements for the conservation of heritage;
- Sustaining on-going consultative processes.

This new Action Plan can be found on the World Heritage Centre's website (<http://whc.unesco.org/document/142213>).

3. The *Suwon Action Plan for Asia* was adopted at the final Regional Meeting for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia, held in Suwon (Republic of Korea) in

December 2011. It outlines priorities for the entire region of Asia and identifies 21 sub-regional issues that concern one or more sub-regions in Asia. Three issues of region-wide importance were identified:

- Development, review, and implementation of management plans (including visitor management);
- Disaster risk reduction and risk preparedness; and
- Better regional cooperation.

In addition to the priority issues that are shared by all sub-regions, two others were considered as shared priorities by most sub-regions in Asia:

- Community involvement; and
- Regional Gap Analysis and thematic studies on Tentative Lists.

Thus far, the implementation of the Suwon Action Plan has been progressing steadily despite the fact that there has been no financial support from the Regular Programme and the World Heritage Fund. Many activities were successfully implemented via extra-budgetary projects such as the nomination of the Silk Roads or the community involvement project in Pakistan and Bangladesh, which derive directly from the Periodic Reporting exercise.

#### **ii. Follow-up activities according to the objectives of the Pacific Action Plan and the Suwon Action Plan for Asia**

4. The *Capacity Building Strategy and Associated Programmes for Asia and the Pacific* were developed by the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP) in China and adopted by the Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014), as a direct result of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region and in line with a number of the priority areas identified in the Action Plans. In line with this strategy, WHITR-AP and ICCROM organized, on 17-28 October 2016, a course on Heritage Impact Assessments, which took place at the World Heritage property 'Historic Town of Vigan' (Philippines). This international course involved some 20 participants, notably mid-career heritage practitioners, key decision makers and representatives of States Parties in the region requested to carry out Heritage Impact Assessments. A training of trainers approach was used, implying that the message of the course can reach a broad audience. The World Heritage Centre and WHITR-AP are also preparing a regional training course, scheduled for late 2017, to provide State Parties in the Pacific with some basic knowledge, resources and tools for the protection of natural and cultural heritage. Tailored to respond to the specific needs of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS), this course aims to provide participants with a shared set of concepts which will empower them to tackle heritage preservation for both natural and cultural properties. Besides capacity building about the *Convention* and its key concepts, the course will introduce a series of tools such as Heritage and Environmental Impact Assessments, in an effort to enhance local capacities for the resolution of the environmental, social and management challenges linked to cultural and natural heritage preservation.
5. In the Pacific, in support of the priority areas 'Dialogue between communities, agencies and organisations', 'Awareness building of local communities', 'Capacity development at all levels (including indigenous people)', and 'Development of in-country heritage expertise', the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust (FiT) project 'Capacity Building to Support the Conservation of World Heritage Sites and Enhance Sustainable Development of Local Communities in Small Island Developing States' (2011–2016) was set up in recognition of the fact that SIDS possess a wealth of culture, which is a driver and an enabler for sustainable development.

- The project uses the *Convention* as a tool to support the strengthening of local, national and regional capacities, promote awareness, involve local peoples and enhance the conservation and management of cultural and natural heritage.
  - In 2016, the project supported the participation of a focal point from Nan Madol (Federated States of Micronesia) to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee, at the occasion of the simultaneous inscription of the property on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger. This helped develop the capacity of the personnel of the Federated States of Micronesia on the most urgent conservation issues and led to a better understanding of the decision making processes and Committee's deliberations, which will doubtlessly enhance the conservation and management of the property.
6. In support of the priority areas 'Supporting successful nominations', 'Dialogue between communities, agencies and organisations' and 'Awareness building of local communities' in the Pacific, and with support from the UNESCO/Netherlands FiT, the first nomination from Tonga for 'The Ancient Capitals of the Kingdom of Tonga' is being prepared. This is also a follow-up to the capacity-building workshop for Tonga, organised within the framework of the UNESCO/Japan FiT project for capacity building (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/835/>). Following the first workshop organised by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Tonga National Commission for UNESCO in October 2014 and entitled "Developing a Management Plan: Ancient Capital Tonga World Heritage Nomination", a second workshop was held in July 2016 to present the draft nomination file to the local community and to discuss the remaining activities to finalize the nomination file.
  7. In support of the priority area 'Development, review, and implementation of management plans (including visitor management)', national workshops on the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) were organised at the World Heritage properties 'Samarkand – Crossroad of Cultures' and 'Historic City of Bukhara' (Uzbekistan) in October 2016 and February 2017, with the support of the UNESCO/Netherlands FiT and in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Tashkent. These workshops provided technical assistance to the Uzbek authorities by reviewing the existing management system and land use regulations for the properties and aiding with the introduction of the HUL approach.
  8. Also in support of the priority area 'Development, review, and implementation of management plans (including visitor management)' in Asia, the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project 'Strengthening the Conservation and Management of Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha, World Heritage Property (Nepal)' was established in 2010 to support the conservation and management of Lumbini, a property of great spiritual and archaeological significance.
    - A first phase (2010–2013) tackled the most urgent conservation work and reinforced the capacities of the national authorities for the protection and sustainable development of Lumbini.
    - In February 2017, a meeting of the Lumbini International Steering Committee (ISC) was jointly organized by the Nepali authorities and UNESCO and brought together high-level officials of the Nepali Government, representatives of the local authorities, international experts, representatives of UNESCO and Japan, various NGOs, and representatives of the Buddhist community from Lumbini and Kathmandu.
  9. In support of the priority area 'Disaster risk reduction and risk preparedness', a number of activities were organised in Asia, notably:
    - Various projects for the post-earthquake emergency safeguarding, conservation and rehabilitation process of the Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) are currently being

implemented through both the World Heritage Fund's Emergency Assistance mechanism and several UNESCO extra-budgetary projects.

- In March 2017, in the framework of the International Assistance granted to Afghanistan for the World Heritage property "Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam", a 3-day training workshop was conducted by the Institute for Hydraulic Engineering and Water Resources Management of the RWTH Aachen University (Germany) to present the results of the analyses carried out as a part of capacity-building activities for hydraulic engineering and the monitoring of the Hari Rud and Jam Rud rivers.

10. In support of the priority area 'Better regional cooperation', a number of activities were organised in Asia to support the serial transnational World Heritage nomination process for the Silk Roads:

- This nomination process was initiated by China and five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) as part of the follow-up to the Periodic Reporting exercise. It represents an important step forward for international cooperation around World Heritage in the region and now involves 14 countries who act as members of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee of the Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination. So far, two nomination dossiers have been presented, leading to one successful inscription in 2014 ('Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an-Tianshan Corridor' – China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan).
- In line with the Almaty Agreement for the Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination process, and as a follow-up to the 2015 Preparation and Documentation Workshop for the Nomination of the Fergano–Syr Darya Heritage Corridor held in Uzgen (Kyrgyzstan), an expert meeting was organised on 13-15 November 2016 in Kyzylorda (Kazakhstan) and involved 45 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. At this occasion, the participants adopted the Kyzylorda Action Plan, which sets the way forward for the World Heritage serial and transnational nomination process of the Silk Roads: Fergana-Syr Darya Corridor.
- The Silk Roads nomination process has now also been initiated in South Asia and is set to follow the same approach. The World Heritage Centre, in close collaboration with the UNESCO Offices in Kathmandu and New Delhi, implemented the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT project 'Support for the Preparation for the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia' (2013–2016). Aiming to support the South Asian States Parties, and especially Bhutan, India and Nepal, with the submission of Silk Roads-related nomination dossiers, the project significantly enhanced the capacities of the States Parties involved to understand, conserve and inventory their national Silk Road heritage sites, routes and/or corridors. It has also created a platform for sustained dialogue between the States Parties concerned, within the framework of the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in South Asia. At the end of the first phase of this project, the World Heritage Centre prepared two publications: one Final Report (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002460/246096e.pdf>) and one Technical Report in collaboration with the University College London (UCL) (<http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/1524854/>).
- The UNESCO/Japan FiT extra-budgetary project 'Support to the South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives' (2016–2018) was officially launched in Thimphu, (Bhutan) in August 2016. This project aims to support South Asian State Parties, and particularly Bhutan, in understanding, conserving and raising awareness of Cultural Landscapes. Although it focuses mainly on Bhutan, this project also provides valuable opportunities for Nepal to share its experience with

neighbouring countries. The overarching goal of the project is to attain a holistic protection of the heritage found in the cultural landscapes of Bhutan, from built heritage to natural settings, ways of life and values. The project focuses on national-level activities and provides technical assistance to raise awareness about the preservation of cultural landscapes in Bhutan and enhance capacities at the local level.

11. In support of the priority area 'Community involvement', a number of activities were carried out in Asia, including:

- Addressing the growing interest in the integration of sustainable development aspects in the management of World Heritage through the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT project 'World Heritage, Sustainable Development and Community Involvement', established in May 2014. In this regard, three World Heritage properties were selected for pilot activities to revitalise income-generating crafts related to World Heritage conservation (e.g. production of glazed tiles, traditional wood carving) among local communities:
  - the 'Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur' (Bangladesh), where the project is implemented by the UNESCO Office in Dhaka;
  - the 'Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore' and the 'Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta' (Pakistan), where the project is implemented jointly by the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Office in Islamabad, in co-operation with the governments of Sindh and Punjab and the Heritage Foundation in Pakistan.
  - A third activity was launched in Lahore in April 2017, with a view to carrying out a craftsmanship-centred conservation project involving not only highly-skilled master craftspeople but also young people from Lahore and its vicinity, who can be trained to use traditional building material and techniques.
- The International Symposium 'The Conservation of Brick Monuments at World Heritage sites' was held in Ayutthaya (Thailand) with the support of the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to raise awareness and foster recognition of international conservation standards for brick sites and associated monuments. The symposium also helped improve operating procedures and standards for the conservation of Ayutthaya and other World Heritage sites in Thailand.

## **B. Other regional cooperation highlights**

12. From 22 to 25 November 2016, the category 2 centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and the Pacific Region and part of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), organised the Annual Coordination Meeting of category 2 centres (C2C) related to World Heritage in Dehradun (India). The meeting involved discussions of C2C coordination matters, transboundary properties, Cultural Landscapes and mixed properties.

## **C. Draft Decision: 41 COM 10B.1**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/10B,

2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 10B.1** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region of Asia and the Pacific;*
4. *Thanks the governments of Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea for their contributions towards supporting follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region of Asia and the Pacific;*
5. *Takes note of the progress made on the Silk Roads nomination process, initiated by the Asian States Parties in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, and commends the fruitful international cooperation between the national institutions of various States Parties in the region, which makes this project a good practice example for other serial transnational nominations;*
6. *Reiterates its invitation to States Parties in Asia and the Pacific to actively implement the relevant sub-regional Action Plans, and encourages them to intensify their contributions towards the implementation of follow-up activities, to be planned and developed in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan(s) for Asia and the Pacific every two years as from 2019 (43rd session).*

## **II. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR AFRICA**

### **A. Second Cycle Action Plans/Regional Programmes**

#### **i. Action Plan 2012-2017 for the Africa Region and objectives**

1. The stated objectives of the Action Plan 2012-2017 for the Africa Region are:
  - 1) enhanced representation of African heritage sites on the World Heritage List;
  - 2) improved state of conservation at World Heritage properties;
  - 3) effective management of existing properties;
  - 4) the development and implementation of strategies enabling States Parties to effectively address the challenge of balancing heritage conservation and development needs;
  - 5) the establishment and implementation of mechanisms for heritage conservation, protection and conflict management.
2. Worldwide awareness of these objectives has been significantly enhanced thanks to the proclamation of African World Heritage Day by UNESCO Member States in 2015, which is celebrated annually on 5 May.
3. Considerable progress has been made in improving the state of conservation of properties thanks to extensive training and capacity building in the areas of heritage impact assessment and risk preparedness. There has been a noteworthy increase in awareness across the Continent about the importance of elaborating and implementing sustainable development strategies with the full engagement of local communities owing largely to the Ngorongoro Declaration (June 2016). Ongoing activities in Timbuktu demonstrate the successful integration of heritage conservation

into conflict management and peacebuilding efforts. Although the number of successful nominations of African sites remains low, the Nomination Programme in Africa launched in 2016 is expected to improve this situation in the coming years.

4. With the Action Plan 2012-2017 coming to an end, discussions at the International Conference "Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver of Sustainable Development" (Arusha, Tanzania, May/June 2016) have introduced an operational action plan to bridge the gap between the two cycles of Periodic Reporting and accelerate progress in responding to the regional priorities.

## ii. Follow-up activities according to the objectives of the Action Plan 2012-2017 for the Africa Region

5. The following initiatives were organized to improve the representation of African properties on the World Heritage List:
  - Two tentative List Upstream process workshops were organized in Togo and in Kenya in 2016 and in 2017 in the framework of the Nomination Programme in Africa launched by the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA) and the *Ecole du Patrimoine Africain* (EPA).
  - A project was developed for the elaboration of a nomination of sites in Benin related to the transatlantic slave trade (October 2016)
  - A number of meetings regarding the updating of tentative lists in the States Parties of South Sudan and Kenya (Thimlich Ohinga) were organized in 2016 with the participation of the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies, the relevant Field Office, and State Party representatives.
  - A workshop for capacity enhancement for States Parties in the initial stages of implementation of the *Convention* was organized in 2017: gathering Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea Bissau and Angola;
  - A workshop on the *Convention* and inscription of memorial sites was organized in Rwanda in 2016)
6. Regarding the improvement of the state of conservation at African properties, the following activities were carried out in collaboration with the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF):
  - Conclusion, in October 2016, of the regional training workshop in risk preparedness and management began in 2015 in the Brandberg National Monument Area (Namibia) with the participation of 19 heritage professionals from 7 World Heritage properties;
  - Risk preparedness and management workshop at the Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon, April/May 2017) with 16 site managers resulting in the development of resilience strategies for 8 World Heritage properties;
  - First workshop for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in the Africa region (Zanzibar, Tanzania, October/November 2016) with 31 participants resulting in identified national strategies for 7 States Parties;
  - In the framework of the Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI): a capacity-building workshop was organized in Cameroon in 2016 resulting in follow-up on-site activities to support conservation activities and enhanced management of natural properties in Central Africa.



7. In support of the priority to develop and implement strategies to enable States Parties to effectively address the challenge of balancing heritage conservation and development needs, the Arusha Conference (Tanzania, May/June 2016) has triggered a number of activities designed to contribute to sustainable development in the Africa region including:
  - Implementation of a new public-private partnership management model resulting in improved conditions for local communities and animal populations and overall enhanced sustainable conservation;
  - The municipality of the Island of Mozambique has mobilized the Government of Mozambique and the provincial government to reinvigorate the implementation of the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) Recommendations at the World Heritage site, with the involvement of the UNESCO Office in Maputo and in cooperation with other UN agencies (UNDP, UN Habitat).
8. The completion of the first phase of the rehabilitation of World Heritage sites in Timbuktu and Gao (Mali) in March 2017 is the most noteworthy example with regards to the establishment and implementation of mechanisms for heritage conservation, protection and conflict management. Furthermore, ongoing activities in Timbuktu demonstrate the successful integration of heritage conservation into conflict management and peacebuilding efforts.
9. Concerning increased community involvement and direct economic benefits to local communities:
  - A joint workshop on effective community engagement for the sustainable conservation of the World Heritage sites in Africa organized in Benin in March 2017 was attended by 12 African experts and representatives of ICOMOS, ICCROM, UNDP, AWHF, EPA, COMPACT project and site managers from Senegal, Mali and Benin;
  - On the Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal) a local and private sponsorship has led to the creation of a Support Fund for the conservation of the site, prompting considerable contributions by the Government of Senegal and the municipality of Saint-Louis as well as the establishment of a managing committee in the community for the use of the fund, which amounts to over 4 million USD.

## **B. Other regional cooperation highlights**

10. Initiatives were launched in West Africa (Senegal, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Burkina Faso) to address the lack of qualified African experts in heritage management and conservation by integrating heritage in curricula of African educational institutions and encouraging cooperation between academia and other specialized bodies in the field of World Heritage.

## **C. Draft Decision: 41 COM 10B.2**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/10B,
2. Recalling **Decision 40 COM 10B.2** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region;

4. *Thanks the governments of the China, Flanders (Belgium), the Netherlands and Hungary, the European Union and the African World Heritage Fund for their contributions towards supporting follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa;*
5. *Commends the States Parties of the Africa Region who have been actively implementing the Action Plan, and encourages States Parties, who have not already done so, to establish their National World Heritage Committees and to develop their National Action Plans and Budgets;*
6. *Calls upon States Parties to continue to support financially and technically the implementation of the Action Plan for the Africa region through follow-up activities in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF); and to take advantage of the annual mobilization of the African World Heritage Day on 5 May in fostering support for the Action Plan for the Africa region;*
7. *Further reminds States Parties which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by 1 February 2018 at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by 1 December 2017 at the latest;*
8. *Notes with appreciation the follow-up activities to the Ngorongoro Declaration, and also commends the World Heritage Centre for developing case studies on the strengthening, throughout Africa, of the sustainable development approach as well as the AWHF, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and their partners for the World Heritage nomination support programme launched in Africa;*
9. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, the AWHF, and with the support of States Parties, to continue its efforts to coordinate and implement the Regional Capacity-Building Programme according to the Action Plan 2012-2017;*
10. *Also requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan(s) for the Africa region every two years as from 2019 (43rd session).*

### **III. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR THE ARAB STATES**

#### **A. Second Cycle Action Plans/Regional Programmes**

##### **i. Objectives of the Regional Programme for the Arab States**

1. The second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States was carried out from December 2008 to February 2010. Its outcomes were presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010). The Regional Programme was approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011). Since then, the activities developed in the framework of the Programme have been carried out with the support of the World Heritage Centre, the national bodies in charge of World Heritage, the Advisory Bodies, the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) and other regional institutions such as the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).

2. This document provides information on the implementation of the Regional Programme for the Arab States from May 2016 to March 2017, based on the priority actions identified in the Regional Programme for the Arab States adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Brasilia, 2010), being; 1) Tentative Lists; 2) Nominations; 3) General Policy Development; 4) Protection, Conservation and Presentation; 5) Technical Research and Studies; 6) Training; 7) International Cooperation; 8) Information and 9) Awareness Raising.
3. The progress in the priority areas as outlined in the Regional Programme and detailed below is as follows:
  - Regarding Tentative Lists, support was provided to the States Parties of Kuwait and Morocco in the preparation of Tentative Lists;
  - Concerning Nominations: Support was provided to Morocco in the reflection on two potential Nomination Files, to Jordan and to Tunisia;
  - In the framework of Protection, Conservation, and Management: Assessment mission to the Tentative List site of Failaka Island (Kuwait, March 2017). Day-to-day follow-up according to arising needs and a strong focus on conflict-affected properties. Field missions to Egypt and Lebanon. Technical support to the management and restoration of World Heritage properties in Lebanon;
  - No progress was achieved regarding Technical Research and Studies during the above mentioned period. However, fundraising has been successful to launch a research on case studies related to post-conflict reconstruction. A publication prepared jointly with UNITAR-UNOSAT on damage assessment in the Ancient City of Aleppo is also under preparation, and technical research continues on rock consolidation techniques at Petra (Jordan);
  - Training was provided to Kuwait, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.
  - Regarding International Cooperation through joint initiatives and regular coordination: cooperation was reinforced with ALECSO and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH).
  - Regular information and supporting documents are provided on the UNESCO and World Heritage Centre websites in the framework of Information and Awareness Raising.

Within the implementation of the Regional Programme, the following should also be underlined:

4. Although the safeguarding of cultural heritage in countries affected by conflicts was not among the priorities identified by the Regional Programme in 2011, it became a priority area of action for the World Heritage Centre.
5. Six years after the beginning of armed conflicts in the Arab region, the safeguarding of cultural heritage in the affected countries continues to be a major field of action of the implementation of the *Convention* in the region. In close cooperation with the concerned UNESCO Field Offices and in the framework of the action of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit (EPR) of the UNESCO Culture Sector's Heritage Division, important work has been carried out to pursue the regular monitoring, rapid damage assessment, emergency support to affected sites and the conduction of the #Unite4heritage Campaign. The reflection on key issues such as the post-conflict reconstruction in sites devastated by the armed conflicts and/or the actions of extremist armed groups is also at the heart of the action of UNESCO.
6. Concerning the conservation of urban heritage in the Arab region, substantial technical support was provided to ALECSO, which was designated by UNESCO as coordinator of the contribution of the Arab region to the UNESCO Global Report on

Culture for Sustainable Urban Development, presented at the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), in October 2016. The results of the studies and consultations carried out by ALECSO constitute an essential reference baseline for future actions in terms of urban heritage conservation in the region.

7. The Regional Programme also pursues the development and implementation of capacity-building activities and the provision of technical support towards the conservation and management of World Heritage sites.
8. The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), established in Bahrain as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, continues to provide an important support to the implementation of the activities defined in the framework of the Regional Programme, notably on natural heritage and conflict situations.

#### **ii. Follow-up activities according to the Objectives of the Regional Programme for the Arab States**

9. In the context of the safeguarding of cultural heritage in conflict situations, the following activities have been carried out: the International Expert Meeting for the Safeguarding of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, 9-11 May 2016), the First Aid Technical Meeting; Follow-up to the World Heritage Committee Decision on the Ancient City of Damascus (Syria), (Beirut, 14-15 November 2016), the Technical Assistance Workshop for the sites of Palmyra, Crac des Chevaliers and Ancient City of Damascus (Syria), (Beirut, 13-15 December 2016), the International Coordination Conference on the safeguarding of cultural heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq (23-24 February 2017) and the Technical Coordination Meeting for the Ancient City of Aleppo (Beirut, 1-3 March 2017).
10. In terms of capacity building, in addition to those developed for the response to conflict situations, several training activities have been carried out in this field on the mechanisms of the *Convention*, in particular, on the elaboration of Tentative Lists and the nomination of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List, with workshops carried out at the sites of Tangier and Chefchaouen (Morocco), Failaka Island (Kuwait) and Djerba (Tunisia).

#### **B. Other regional cooperation highlights**

11. A regional conference for the Arab States will be organized in collaboration with ALECSO at the end of 2017; it will discuss the outcomes of the Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development in the Arab region, which was presented at the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11.
12. Within the framework of the World Heritage Regional Programme, the Arab States Unit of the World Heritage Centre organized, from 15 to 19 May 2017, an international expert meeting on the role of the Historic Urban Landscape approach in the nomination and conservation of Cultural Landscapes. This meeting aimed at reflecting on the potential cultural landscapes that exist in the Arab region and how to better identify them and conserve them, as well as on the way to have the Historic Urban Landscape approach efficiently used for the identification, nomination and management of cultural landscapes which hold important urban attributes. It also allowed, for the Arab region, to address two issues: the quite frequent confusion between “cultural landscape” and “mixed site” and the difficulty to establish a relation between a “cultural landscape” and the “Historic Urban Landscape approach” carried

by the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation. Among the outcomes of the meeting, two documents will be prepared over the coming months, a guiding text on actions to be undertaken at the level of the Arab region for the identification and conservation of cultural landscapes; and a baseline document on the relation between the Historic Urban Landscape approach and the category of Cultural Landscapes.

**C. Draft Decision: 41 COM 10B.3**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/10B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 10B.3** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Arab States;*
4. *Thanks the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), based in Bahrain, for its contribution towards supporting follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States, especially for the countries which are affected by armed conflicts;*
5. *Invites the Arab States to increase their cooperation with the World Heritage Centre in order to reinforce the capacities of the national heritage professionals in the field of conservation and management of the World Heritage properties;*
6. *Notes with concern that the safeguarding of cultural heritage in countries of the region which are affected by conflicts remains one of the priorities of the Regional Programme and requires more human and financial resources;*
7. *Reminds the Arab States which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2018** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2017** at the latest;*
8. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan(s) for the Arab States every two years as from 2019 (43rd session).*

**IV. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**A. Second Cycle Action Plans/Regional Programmes**

**i. Objectives of the Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean 2014-2024**

1. The Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2014-2024 is structured around five objectives clearly linked to the strategic objectives of the *Convention*: 1) Strengthen the Credibility of the World Heritage List; 2) Ensure the effective conservation of World Heritage properties; 3) Promote the development of effective Capacity Building in the State Parties; 4) Increase public awareness,

involvement and support to World Heritage through Communication; and 5) Enhance the role of communities in the identification and management of World Heritage.

2. Following decision **38 COM 10B.4**, by which the Committee adopted the 2014-2024 regional Action Plan, the World Heritage Centre has worked to facilitate the establishment of sub-regional action plans organically linked to the Regional Action Plan, but with a focus on the specific needs of each sub-region. In this regard, Sub-regional action plans have been established for South America (Cusco, May 2015) and the Caribbean (Havana, November 2014), while a meeting for the establishment of a sub-regional action plan for Central America and Mexico is scheduled to take place in Mexico during the second half of 2017.
3. The Action Plan for World Heritage in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region 2014-2024 foresees a triennial monitoring. A survey to assess the level of implementation of the Plan in each State Party of the region is therefore scheduled to be circulated at the end of 2017. A significant number of joint activities involving several State Parties have been implemented in conformity with the priorities and objectives of the Plan, notably those outlined below.

#### **ii. Follow-up activities according to the Objectives of the Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean 2014-2024**

4. To strengthen the credibility of the World Heritage List, support to State Parties in the updating of their Tentative Lists, in the context of a balanced and representative World Heritage List in Latin America and the Caribbean, has been provided to El Salvador, Ecuador and Paraguay. International Assistance was granted to those States Parties to organize workshops attended by national heritage managers and experts designated by the Advisory Bodies. A capacity-building initiative specifically focusing on cultural and natural heritage inventories in view of the reflection on further updating of the Tentative List was carried out in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines thanks to the financial support of the Netherlands Fund-in-Trust, including a workshop led by international experts. Also, a national stakeholder's workshop on the updating of national Tentative Lists was organized in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2016, with the support of the UNESCO Participation Programme.
5. In the field of the effective conservation of World Heritage properties, the implementation of the project "Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System", financed by UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust, launched in 2016 and involving six States Parties (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) has significantly progressed. The first activity, concerning the production of a data system for the monitoring of the state of conservation of the property, was carried out in Colombia during the first semester of 2017, followed by two international workshops, held in Bolivia (May 2017) and in Ecuador (June 2017).
6. Also in the field of conservation, the State Party of Bolivia, through its Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Centre for Archaeological, Anthropological and Administration Research of Tiwanaku (CIAAAT), is progressing in the implementation of the Project "Preservation and Conservation of Tiwanaku and the Akapana Pyramid", financed by the Japanese FIT and supported by the UNESCO Office in Quito. Progress has been achieved in the reformulation of the Management Plan and in the development of an Integral Conservation Plan for the property, as well as in the capacity building of the local communities. The project is scheduled to be finalized in 2018.

7. Also related to conservation, in the framework of the project entitled “Heritage Conservation and Support to the Tourism Sector” (*Préservation du patrimoine et appui au secteur touristique – PAST*), financed by the World Bank, assistance has been provided to the government of Haiti throughout the 2016-2017 period for the assessment and reinforcement of the capacities of the National Heritage Institute (*Institut de sauvegarde du patrimoine national – ISPAN*) and for the elaboration of the Conservation and Management Plans of the National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers.
8. Several activities have been implemented to serve the objective of promoting the development of effective capacity building of the States Parties. The category 2 centre Lucio Costa for Capacity-Building on Heritage Management (C2C-LCC) organized, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the three Advisory Bodies, an International workshop on the fundamental notions of the *Convention* with the objective to define a Capacity Building Programme for the region, gathering participants from the 10 South American countries, as well as representatives of the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Brasilia and other professionals concerned by capacity-building activities in the region.
9. Another capacity-building workshop on the fundamental notions of the *Convention* was organized for the Caribbean sub-region in November 2016 in Trinidad and Tobago, thanks to the financial support of the UNESCO Participation Programme, and in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Offices in Havana and Kingston. The seminar was attended by some 60 participants from several Caribbean states.
10. Also, a symposium and a workshop on the important topic of World Heritage and Climate Change, with the financial contribution of the UNESCO Participation Programme, were attended in May 2017, in Kingston, by approximately 60 participants mainly from the Caribbean countries. This activity, organized by the UNESCO Office in Kingston, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre, broadly contributed to the Objective 3 of the Sub-Regional Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage 2015-2019: Reduce the impact of climate change by increasing capacities in risk management.
11. A capacity-building assistance project focusing on the conservation and management of Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park, a World Heritage property in Saint Kitts and Nevis, was implemented throughout 2016 thanks to the financial assistance of the Netherlands FiT. The project included a seminar attended by representatives of neighbouring countries, a structural engineering study and the implementation of preliminary conservation works to counter damages after the 2013 earthquake.
12. Concerning the objective to “Increase public awareness, involvement and support to World Heritage through Communication”, a first edition of the volume produced in the framework of the project “Methodology for the Implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscapes in the city of Puebla” was launched on the occasion of an International Meeting of Historic and Urban Landscape at the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III, Quito, Ecuador, October 2016), with the participation of the Mayor of the City of Puebla.
13. Also in the field public awareness, the publication “Rio de Janeiro: Carioca Landscapes between the Mountain and the Sea” was co-published by UNESCO Publishing and Editora Brasileira in December 2016 as a contribution to the knowledge and interpretation of this property – a cultural landscape – inscribed on the

World Heritage List in 2012. Furthermore, in the same field in January 2017 the UNESCO Office in Lima and the Municipality of Rímac launched the publication of “A walk through the Historic Center of Rímac,” 12,000 copies of which were distributed to schools in, including a guide for teachers.

14. Concerning the enhancement of the role of communities in the identification and management of World Heritage, the operational phase of the project “Towards a sustainable community-based tourism strategy in the Valley of Viñales in Cuba” was approved. This project is financed through Spanish cooperation and developed with the support of the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Office in Havana. It aims to contribute to a better management of the cultural landscape of the Valley of Viñales by providing training, facilitating community empowerment and developing a Sustainable and Community Tourism Strategy, in a moment marked by rapidly growing tourism demand. Furthermore, as a contribution to the enhancement of the role of communities, the project “Towards a sustainable and participative Management Plan for Pantanal in Paraguay” financed through Spanish cooperation, entered its operational phase. This initiative, put in place with the support of the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Office in Montevideo, aims to reinforce the capacities of the national staff in charge of the management and conservation of the property, and to provide general training to all other actors concerned, in particular the indigenous communities.

**B. Draft Decision: 41 COM 10B.4**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decision 40 COM 10B.4, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Latin America and the Caribbean;
4. Notes with appreciation the contribution of the Centre Lucio Costa for Capacity-Building on Heritage Management (C2C-LCC), category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, to the development and implementation of a Capacity-Building Strategy as a follow-up to the Action Plan for World Heritage in South America 2015-2020 (PAAS 2015-2020), and encourages the category 2 centre to continue its cooperation with the World Heritage Centre on the implementation of the Capacity Building Programme and activities related to World Heritage;
5. Strongly encourages the UNESCO category 2 centre for World Heritage in Zacatecas (Mexico) to enter into its operational phase, in view of the important contribution it could provide to the future implementation of capacity-building activities within the framework of the Action Plan for World Heritage in Mexico and Central America to be adopted in 2017;
6. Also notes with appreciation the contribution of the State Party of Mexico in organizing a meeting, in close coordination with the World Heritage Centre, for the establishment of a sub-regional Action Plan in Mexico and Central America, with the participation of all stakeholders;



7. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean, including the results of the survey scheduled for the end of 2017, at its 43rd session in 2019.*

## **V. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES ON THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA**

### **A. Second Cycle Action Plan/Regional Programmes**

#### **i. Objectives of the Helsinki Action Plan for Europe**

1. The Helsinki Action Plan for Europe was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session. The three main priorities of the Action Plan are: 1) Identification and Protection of Outstanding Universal Value; 2) Effective Management; and 3) Increased Awareness of the *Convention*. The priorities correspond to a number of objectives, which are further subdivided into specific actions with quantitative regional targets. The Action Plan was developed in cooperation with the European national Focal Points at the close of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting. Focal Points and national authorities are invited to take ownership of the plan, and to decide which of the 34 actions are most relevant for the implementation of the *Convention* in their respective countries. The plan was also designed to allow easy monitoring. In addition, to compare the results over the years, a survey will be carried out every two years.
2. The survey enables Focal Points to carry out a regular self-assessment and track national progress between cycles of Periodic Reporting, and before the beginning of the Third Cycle. The process thereby maintains a regular level of engagement among the Focal Points and the World Heritage Centre with regards to the Action Plan implementation. Analysis of the national and regional results will contribute to the reassessment of priority areas over the years, based on accomplishments and progress made over time.
3. The first online monitoring survey was held from 15 October to 15 December 2016 and covered the previous 15 months, from the adoption of the Action Plan in July 2015 to the launch of the survey in October 2016. Focal Points received information, instructions, and a copy of the survey questions well in advance of the launch at a side event organized by the Europe and North America Unit of the World Heritage Centre at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2015). Focal Points requiring assistance were invited to directly contact the Europe and North America unit, which provided specific guidance on filling out the survey.
4. The overall rate of response was satisfactory: Focal Points for 33 out of the 49 States Parties in Europe responded. The responses account for 412 World Heritage properties in Europe, out of 498. The national Focal Points reported that: progress was made toward the achievement of 13 of the 44 regional targets; 12 regional targets were achieved or surpassed; and twenty baselines were established. A fair degree of progress was therefore reported by the Focal Points, given that the timeline set for achieving the targets corresponds to the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting. Moreover, a certain number of targets were reported to have been greatly surpassed, indicating higher levels of engagement than anticipated at the close of the Second Cycle. The results of the survey therefore provide an opportunity to reassess the sub-regional and regional priorities, adjust regional targets and set baselines for the next survey round accordingly.

5. The full report of the survey results can be found on the website of the World Heritage Centre at the following link: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/eur-na/>.
6. The Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring Survey being the first of its kind, some lessons can be learned from results to improve the process and methodology. Certain questions could, for example, be reformulated to improve clarity. Additionally, the need became evident for more focussed communication and knowledge sharing by the World Heritage Centre on some elements of World Heritage terminology, such as the upstream process and nominations: a short guidance text or link could be added to improve the clarity of some of the questions in this regard.

## ii. Follow-up activities to the Helsinki Action Plan for Europe

7. A number of follow-up activities and initiatives have been carried out at various levels towards the implementation of the Helsinki Action Plan. Highlights of some activities, linked to their specific priority areas as defined in the Action Plan, are outlined below.
8. In support of the priority area “Effective Management Systems” and the objective “Reinforcement of interdisciplinary skill sets for Site Managers”, a number of sub-regional meetings were organized in Europe:
  - The Second Meeting of European World Heritage Associations was held in Segovia (Spain), organized by the Spanish Group of World Heritage Cities. Held one year after the first meeting of this kind (October 2015, Strasbourg, France), the meeting was an opportunity for national heritage authorities and site managers to meet and exchange on the theme of “The Social Role of Heritage”. The work of the meeting resulted in the Segovia Declaration, a document outlining strategies, tools, and mechanisms for fully integrating communities in heritage management. The third meeting of European World Heritage Associations is scheduled to take place in Lübeck (Germany) in October 2017. (Action 22)
  - The Nordic World Heritage Association was formed at a meeting in Reykjavik (Iceland) in September 2016, on the occasion of the annual Nordic World Heritage Conference. The focus of discussion was sub-regional cooperation and sharing experiences on the implementation of the *Convention*. (Action 22)
  - The second edition of the International Academy on Sustainable Development was organized jointly by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) and the Research Center Silvia Santagata (EBLA) (Torino, Italy). The conference theme was “Managing Multiple designated areas related to UNESCO Conventions and Programmes for sustainable development”. It was conceived as a gathering of site managers from all around Europe to exchange ideas and experiences, with the goal of informing a development agenda for the city of Torino that incorporates its different designations as a Creative City, World Heritage property, and Biosphere Reserve. (Actions 21 and 24)
  - The VI<sup>th</sup> Iberian Meeting of World Heritage Managers was held in the city of Santiago de Compostela (Spain) in March 2017. It was organized by the Ministry of Culture of Spain, the region of Galicia and the City of Santiago with the support of the Portuguese National Commission and Ministry of Culture, and is held every two years in either Spain or Portugal. The topic of the 2017 meeting was the “Impact of tourism on World Heritage”, and it allowed site managers from both countries discuss sustainable urban planning, economic development, management of the negative impacts of mass tourism and to share experiences and best practices. (Action 22)

9. The national authorities and site managers of Europe have therefore been active in sharing knowledge and experiences through existing and newly created networks. This trend is further indicated by the results of the monitoring survey, through which Focal Points noted a high level of interest and participation in national and thematic site manager networks (Action 22). It was reported that about 75% of site managers in Europe participate in national and/or thematic networks.
10. Regarding the priority of “Effective Monitoring”, Action 15 (Identify monitoring indicators and establish a regular monitoring system) was considered relevant by the greatest number of Focal Points responding to the survey (32 out of 33). In the identification of monitoring indicators, Focal Points reported progress in comparison with the Periodic Reporting data (47% of properties, in comparison to 38% reported during the Second Cycle). Progress was also reported with regards to the implementation of a regular monitoring process (51% of properties, compared to the 47% reported during the Second Cycle).
11. Other priorities considered relevant by the greatest number of Focal Points were Actions 18 (Review and update Management Plans to integrate World Heritage mechanisms, or prepare them if they do not exist) and 9 (Clearly identify attributes of OUV and include them as a key component of site management plan/system). The Focal Points of Europe clearly indicated that “Effective Management” is of the highest priority to their work with a clear focus on monitoring activities and the integration of World Heritage mechanisms into the management of World Heritage properties, and there has already been some progress towards the achievement of the regional targets.
12. According to the survey, the majority of States Parties (25 out of 33) found the Action related to community engagement and participatory processes (Action 27) to be relevant. They reported that 29% of properties have a formalized framework for community participation in their management system (regional target 50%). The relevance of community engagement and participatory processes is also underlined by a growing interest of civil society organisations working on natural World Heritage properties seeking, for instance, collaborative stakeholder dialogues at the community level that would aim for a sustainable use of ecosystem services as an alternative to resource extraction that is harmful to the Outstanding Universal Value of properties. For example, civil society advocates such approaches at the World Heritage properties of Pirin National Park (Bulgaria) and Białowieża Forest (Belarus/Poland).
13. A progress report will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session on the follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Europe. The report will include a comparison of the quantitative indicators from the second edition of the Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring Survey, to be carried out in the autumn of 2018.
14. The progress report for North America will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session.

## **B. Other regional cooperation highlights**

15. The World Heritage Centre will actively participate in the European Year for Cultural Heritage in 2018. As one of 12 flagship projects of the year, the project proposed by the World Heritage Centre will focus on awareness-raising and learning activities in selected cities to engage children and youth in World Heritage conservation. It will also address heritage conservation using a holistic approach, putting a particular emphasis on protecting and promoting immovable heritage of outstanding universal value, Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001 Convention), Intangible Cultural Heritage of communities, groups, and individuals (2003 Convention).

## **C. Draft Decision: 41 COM 10B.5**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 10B.5** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO 2016),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Europe;
4. Commends the States Parties of Europe who participated in the Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring Survey, the first of its kind, which will allow for a regular self-assessment and tracking of progress by the States Parties of Europe towards the achievement of the regional targets set out in the Action Plan;
5. Takes note of the responses received on the implementation of the Helsinki Action Plan and of the publication of the results of the survey on the website of the World Heritage Centre, and requests the World Heritage Centre to take the opportunity to fine-tune the survey in preparation for its second edition in 2018;
6. Encourages the States Parties of Europe to continue pursuing their efforts, with a focus on monitoring activities and integrating World Heritage mechanisms into the management of World Heritage properties;
7. Also encourages the States Parties of Europe to accelerate their efforts on the Action Plan targets for which little progress has been reported, and, if needed, to seek out technical assistance from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies where appropriate;
8. Further encourages States Parties to financially support the implementation of the regional Action Plans through support to the World Heritage Centre;
9. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Europe every two years as from 2019 (43rd session), and further requests the States Parties of North America to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for North America at its 43rd session.