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THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports

10A. Report on the Periodic Reporting Reflection (2015-2017) and launch of the third Cycle

SUMMARY

This document is presented pursuant to Decision **40 COM 10A** and contains a report on the Periodic Reporting Reflection period (2015-2017) launched by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015). It includes the outcomes of the work of the Periodic Reporting Reflection Expert Group, including the main conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group with regards to the revision and updating of the Periodic Reporting format, proposals for World Heritage Monitoring Indicators and an Analytical Framework for Periodic Reporting, a Feasibility Study on a Global World Heritage Report and the steps forward to the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 10A, see Point VIII

I. BACKGROUND

1. Following the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, which came to a close at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (Bonn, 2015), it was decided that there should be a two-year reflection period from 2015 to 2017 (Decision **39 COM 10B.5**) to further improve the modalities of the Periodic Reporting exercise and to update it in line with various evolving factors. It was further decided to entrust a small working group of experts with drafting an updated format of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire and proposals for improving the process, format, analysis and use of data, further to feedback from States Parties and outcomes of Reflection meetings. In addition, the World Heritage Committee called upon States Parties to provide extra-budgetary resources to ensure a proper reflection and requested that the outcome of all activities undertaken during the Periodic Reporting Reflection Period be presented at its 41st session in 2017.

2. Further to the request of the World Heritage Committee, an item on the Periodic Reporting Reflection was included on the agenda of the 20th session of the General Assembly. The General Assembly discussed the matter and, by Resolution **20 GA 14,** highlighted the importance for all States Parties to participate actively in the Reflection on the Periodic Reporting exercise and called upon them to provide extra-budgetary funding. Support from the Flemish Funds in Trust was received in January 2017 with a contribution of 10,000 Euros.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PERIODIC REPORTING REFLECTION – FIRST STEPS

3. In line with the Committee Decision **39 COM 10B.5**, the Reflection Period was initiated through the launch of a **Periodic Reporting Reflection Survey,** followed by the establishment of a Periodic Reporting Expert Working Group (Periodic Reporting Expert Group).

4. **The online Periodic Reporting Reflection Survey, the least costly and most accessible option available,** was designed by the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies and gathered comprehensive feedback from States Parties on key issues related to Periodic Reporting (relevance and objectives, periodicity, training and guidance, format and content, use of data). The survey was conducted between October – December 2015, with the participation of over 75 States Parties. The results were communicated to all States Parties in April 2016.

5. The **Outcomes and Analysis of the Periodic Reporting Reflection Survey** were also presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and formed the basis of the further work on Periodic Reporting carried out by the Expert Group.

6. Following the elaboration of Terms of Reference for the **Periodic Reporting Reflection Expert Group** (see II.7 below), which were subsequently approved by the Committee at its 40th session, a small **Expert Group** comprised of experienced natural and cultural heritage experts, the UNESCO Institute of Statistics, and representatives of the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN), was established in the second quarter of 2016.

7. **Terms of Reference of the Periodic Reporting Reflection Expert Group**

- Review the outcomes of the Periodic Reporting Reflection Survey and provide a short analysis of the lessons learned from the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting;

- Develop recommendations for revisions to the Periodic Reporting process and questionnaire, taking into account the key issues and priority areas for improvement regarding the process, format, relevance, main thematic areas (i.e. tourism, disaster risk management, awareness raising, conflict etc.), training and guidance, use and analysis of data, and efficiency of the exercise;

- Develop recommendations regarding synergies with other cultural or biodiversity related Conventions, in the framework of Periodic Reporting, with a particular focus on the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague,1954);

- Identify monitoring indicators to improve follow-up on progress made by States Parties in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, following the recommendation of the Evaluation of UNESCO's Standard-Setting Work of the Culture Sector (Part III – 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, April 2014 http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002269/226922e.pdf).

- Develop recommendations regarding the integration of the Sustainable Development approach in line with the World Heritage and Sustainable Development policy (WH-SDP) and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, within the framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise;

- Study the feasibility of a Global World Heritage Report, based on the outcomes of the reflection survey;

- Prepare an updated format of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire for presentation to the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

III. PERIODIC REPORTING REFLECTION EXPERT GROUP – REFLECTION METHODOLOGY AND MEETINGS

8. The World Heritage Centre provided overall strategic guidance to the Periodic Reporting Reflection Expert Group and coordinated the process and workflow. The Expert Group met three times, 2 June 2016 (1-day Inception Meeting), 28-30 September 2016 (2.5-day meeting) and 6-8 December 2016 (3-day meeting). During the intervening periods, all work was carried out remotely, via e-mail and the SharePoint platform, UNESTEAMS. Further meetings and discussions were held via videoconference. All of these activities were coordinated by the World Heritage Centre.

9. Prior to the first meeting of the group, the World Heritage Centre compiled a detailed background document of relevant World Heritage policies, Committee Decisions and other topics related to Periodic Reporting in order to provide a comprehensive theoretical basis for the reflection work. At the Inception Meeting of the Expert Group, held in Paris on 2 June 2016 the approach and methodology of the Reflection were discussed and a work plan was decided.

10. Accordingly, and in line with the approved Terms of Reference, the work of the group was divided into six main task areas. Each task area was lead by a member of the Expert Group according to experience, expertise and ensuring a balance of perspectives. Each task area was approached through a process of brainstorming

sessions, the development of proposals, followed by consultation and wider review with the group.

11. **Task Areas of the Periodic Reporting Expert Group:**

    i. Analysis of the lessons learned from the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting.

    ii. Development of recommendations for revisions to the Periodic Reporting process and questionnaire regarding the process, format, relevance, main thematic areas (i.e. tourism, disaster risk management, awareness raising, conflict etc.), training and guidance, use and analysis of data, and efficiency of the exercise.

    iii. Development of recommendations regarding synergies with other cultural or biodiversity-related Conventions.

    iv. Development of recommendations on the integration of the Sustainable Development approach within the framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise.

    v. Identification of monitoring indicators and development of recommendations on an analytical framework for the Periodic Reporting exercise.

    vi. Preparation of a report on the Feasibility of a Global World Heritage Report based on the outcomes of the reflection survey.

12. The Expert Group met again in Paris from 28-30 September 2016 where initial results of each task area were presented and concrete changes to the Periodic Reporting format were developed. In addition to the Experts and Advisory Body representatives, participants included Secretariat staff with subject-specific expertise, observers from other conventions and regional and other Units of the World Heritage Centre.

13. An extensive analysis of the results of the Reflection Survey and feedback from the Second Cycle was carried out with a region-by-region and then cross-regional comparative approach. The outcomes of this analysis, together with Decision **40 COM 10A**, shaped the priorities and framework of the subsequent work. An analysis of the attitudes to the suitability of the objectives of Periodic Reporting, as defined in Chapter V of the *Operational Guidelines*, lead to the conclusion that the existing objectives should be maintained rather than modified or supplemented, as many of the necessary changes could be accommodated within the current objectives and addressed with new questions.

14. The work plan and timeframe were further defined detailing the tasks and outputs of each task area. Between September and December 2016, the experts worked on introducing the agreed sets of revisions to the questionnaire. Review versions of the revised format were prepared and shared widely with Secretariat staff, as well as staff from other relevant services in the Heritage Division. Comments and feedback were collated into the working versions of the questionnaire Sections I and II.

15. The Reflection meeting held from 6-8 December 2016 was a working session where the Expert Group carried out a systematic question-by-question review of the revised questionnaire.

16. In the first quarter of 2017, further online consultations amongst members of the Expert Group and staff at the Secretariat were carried out and working versions of the questionnaire Sections I and II were shared with the Regional Units and other

Units involved in the work for comment and feedback. Between February and March 2017, the proposed changes to the questionnaire were finalized in Word format and technical modifications to the online tool for completing the questionnaire were introduced.

17. Lead by the Policy and Statutory Meetings Unit of the World Heritage Centre, the work of the Expert Group continuously considered a balance of perspectives on the regional level as well as between the specific concerns of natural and cultural heritage. The involvement of internal and external expertise as well as the maintenance of a consultative working method, involving input from each of the regional units of the Secretariat and other UNESCO colleagues with specific expertise in the subject areas addressed by the Reflection Period facilitated this multi-perspective approach. With regards to thematic areas, such as the integration of the Sustainable Development approach and the focus on synergies with other conventions, the questionnaire was circulated to relevant staff members and secretariats of other conventions, online consultations were carried out and feedback was gathered from the **Regional Units**, the **Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit, the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme and the Convention on Biological Diversity**.

18. A **Consultative Online Testing Phase** of the Revised Format was carried out in April 2017. Feedback was sought on the changes introduced and on the usability of the tool. Over 100 national Focal Points and Site Managers volunteered to participate in this Testing Phase. An analysis of the feedback received was carried out by the Secretariat and members of the Expert Group in May 2017 and incorporated into the final recommendations. The extensive feedback received is now being used in the final phase of development of the online tool.

IV. MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXPERT GROUP

19. The following summary presents the principal conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group with regards to the revision and updating of the Periodic Reporting format. The nature of this exercise was of a very broad scope and complexity, involving a diverse range of perspectives, a high volume of feedback, numerous complex cross-cutting themes and the coordination of numerous aims and objectives. The recommendations and conclusions outlined below are thus the result of an intense and careful distilling of needs and requirements of Periodic Reporting, and the balancing of innovation within an exercise that also requires comparability across cycles.

20. Above all, and in response to the results and detailed recommendations of the Reflection Survey and various requests from the Committee, the questionnaire is no longer an isolated tool focusing solely on one process of the *Convention*, but has a far broader reach and scope and reflects the *Convention* as it is today;, extending to include numerous relevant World Heritage policies, forging links with other conventions, programmes and recommendations, as well as core processes such as the State of Conservation reports, the Upstream Process and approaches such as the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy. The tool is now improved and streamlined, with greater flexibility to respond to the needs of the diversity of stakeholders that engage with it, whether as respondents or in the management of content and analysis of data. It takes a forward-looking approach while maintaining its use and relevance as a monitoring tool that can provide vital insights into conservation trends across the globe.

IV.1 Format and User-friendliness of the Questionnaire

21. Many of the practical improvements to the questionnaire directly respond to the feedback analysed in the Task Area I (Analysis of lessons learned from the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting). A large amount of feedback related to the questionnaire stated that it is too general and does not allow specific cases (at property level and governance level) to be adequately expressed. The revised format offers more opportunity to provide commentary and specific answers through the addition of further comment boxes as well as 'other' options in multiple-choice answers with comment boxes to allow respondents to qualify answers. Further nuances have been added to the rating scales to reflect a broader range of possible scenarios and many questions have been modified to allow respondents to provide information specific to natural or cultural properties (or natural/cultural elements of properties) and serial/transboundary/transnational properties. With regards to state of conservation, the questionnaire now allows respondents to review their previous responses when reporting on factors affecting properties (Section II) and will provide links to the State of Conservation Database where relevant.

22. Extensive technical modifications were carried out in-house to adapt and improve the online Periodic Reporting platform. These were introduced in three main areas:

    a) New question types were developed to respond to the requirements of the Third Cycle and the gathering of specific and measurable data, as outlined by the Expert Group.
    b) Prefilling was carried out in 12 different types of fields, based on information already available in World Heritage Centre databases or newly added information such as synergies between multilateral agreements. The automatic prefilling of this information will significantly reduce manual work of members of the Secretariat, Focal Points and Site Managers.
    c) Numerous ergonomic changes to the user interface were introduced, facilitating both the work of filling in the questionnaire as well as subsequent content management and analysis of the data.

23. Working within a tight timeframe, from the end of January to the end of March 2017, the IT team at the Secretariat translated the recommendations of the Expert Group into a fully functional and user-friendly tool. While a large number of the changes introduced are not visible at the surface-level, these technical modifications have enhanced the navigation and management of the questionnaire, making it a more intuitive, responsive and user-friendly tool. Bugs and other technical issues identified by participants of the Testing Phase were resolved on an ad-hoc basis and users' comments continue to contribute to the optimization of the tool.

24. The questionnaire has undergone a number of changes, which provide the respondents with more opportunity to express positive achievements in the protection, conservation and management of natural and cultural heritage. The inclusion of a larger number of comment boxes provides more space for narrative descriptions in both Sections I and II. In addition, Section II gathers information on websites and social media pages of properties (the Testing Phase has already shown a very positive response here with properties providing links to official websites, project pages related to their site etc.). A specific field, asking for examples of good practices in selected core areas of the analytical framework (State of Conservation, Management, Governance, Synergies with other Conventions, Sustainable Development and Capacity Building), has also been

integrated into Sections I and II and may be used to provide the basis of research into case studies for future reports and publications.

25. A key outcome of the Periodic Reporting Reflection Expert Group is the recommendation to develop a clear and comprehensive guidance for the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire. A first draft of guidance has been prepared and was included in the online tool for the Testing Phase with volunteer Focal Points and Site Managers carried out in April 2017 (see paragraph 18 above), while the development of more extensive guidance, including a glossary of terms, is work in progress.

26. The development of comprehensive guidance responds to a number of issues that were identified in the Second Cycle. Primarily, it is a tool that will improve understanding of the questions; elucidate concepts that may not be known by respondents, provide clarifications on the kind of information sought in specific questions, and provide context and background to many of the thematic areas covered through linkages with publications, relevant World Heritage policies, documents and recommendations as well as external websites.

27. The use of case study examples to illuminate questions will also be an important element of the guidance. Examples will be drawn from all regions and property types providing context for many of the topics covered, and imbuing the questionnaire with a diversity of perspectives and experiences in implementing the *Convention*.

28. The guidance is foreseen as a dynamic and evolving tool, which can reflect changing circumstances across cycles. It will be a practical guide to the Periodic Reporting questionnaire but also function as an important awareness-raising tool, providing World Heritage stakeholders with up to date information relevant to their implementation of the *Convention*. The development of the guidance will incorporate large amounts of information within the questionnaire without making it visually heavier, as it is an optional extra. It will function as a capacity-building tool in itself, which can be used for training by national authorities and Site Managers.

29. It is further recommended by the group that the guidance and its glossary be made available as a publication independent of the online tool. This will allow for greater dissemination, particularly in areas with poor internet connectivity.

30. With regards to training needs and tools, awareness of existing resources is one important area to address. The online resources developed for Europe and North America region are universal and can be extended across regions, with translations and certain adaptations. The successful implementation of this process also largely depends on individual States Parties willingness to fund the exercise.

31. Complementary to the guidance, it is recommended that further FAQ and online tools such as video-tutorials on the questionnaire and on Periodic Reporting in general be developed, taking into consideration issues highlighted during the consultative online testing and other stakeholder feedback.

32. The creation of a dedicated position of Periodic Reporting coordinator within the Policy and Statutory Meetings Unit of the Secretariat would facilitate the development of the training resources referred to above and ensure the presence of a dedicated Periodic Reporting Helpdesk during the Third Cycle. This would help to ensure consistency of reporting and analysis across the Cycle as a whole. In order to ensure successful implementation of training processes, these will need to be more State-Party driven, such as through the translation of tools or provision of funding for the development of training resources.

33. It is further recommended, in particular considering the volume of work on Periodic Reporting being managed by the Secretariat, that the role of States Parties as drivers of the Periodic Reporting exercise be reinforced. The engagement of States Parties in training, analysis and use of data and follow-up to the exercise will be facilitated by the Secretariat through the provision of training resources and coordination support, with a view to enhanced protection and management of World Heritage, and to a more active role by States Parties.

IV.2 Recommendations regarding Synergies with other cultural or biodiversity-related Conventions

34. As highlighted in a number of Decisions (**39 COM 5A**, **40 COM 5A**) and outlined in the *Operational Guidelines* (I.J, paragraphs 41-44), the World Heritage Committee, recognizes the benefits of closer coordination of its work with other UNESCO programmes and their relevant Conventions and, with the support of the Secretariat, will ensure appropriate coordination and information-sharing between the *World Heritage Convention* and other conventions, programmes and international organizations related to the conservation of cultural and natural heritage.

35. One of the core areas for development as outlined in the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group was that of synergies with other cultural or biodiversity-related Conventions and programmes. In line with the cooperation of the Biodiversity Liaison Group to create further synergies between the Conventions, and that of the Culture Conventions Liaison Group, established to increase coordination between the UNESCO Culture conventions, the work of revising and updating the questionnaire to reinforce synergies among conventions and programmes focused on the conventions of these groups[1]. In addition, a specific emphasis was given to the two UNESCO Recommendations, which are key for World Heritage. These are the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and the 1972 Recommendation concerning the protection, at National Level of the Cultural and Natural Heritage, the latter in line with the recommendation No1 of the Evaluation of the Standard-setting work of the Culture Sector (Part III – 1972 Convention

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[1] Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)

- Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

Culture Conventions Liaison Group (CCLG)

- Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict
- Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict
- 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property
- 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage
- 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, April 2014 http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002269/226922e.pdf), by Prof. Francioni.

36. While the Expert Group recognized the limitations of the purposes of Periodic Reporting, specific information can now be obtained through the introduction of various modifications. Synergies are integrated into various questions of the questionnaire and specific information on synergies is sought through targeted questions on relevant conventions and programmes. In addition, the implementation and use of guidance of the 1972 Recommendation and the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape are measured through targeted questions on policy development.

37. At the State Party level, information is sought on coordination and implementation of UNESCO Culture Conventions, with a specific focus on the 1954 Hague Convention and its Protocols, and the Conventions of the Biodiversity Liaison Group as well the Man and Biosphere Programme and the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network. At property level, information on synergies between these designations, as well as the Memory of the World Programme is gathered to identify overlaps and levels of coordination between them. In addition, plans for future nominations of whole or part of a property, which is already protected under another designation or benefits from another UNESCO programme, can be recorded. The emphasis on synergies introduced into the questionnaire serves to raise awareness of the importance of the whole spectrum of these international conventions and designations and their relevance to contributing to and improving the efficiency of the protection, conservation and management of World Heritage.

38. As referred above, the prefilling of information into the questionnaire has been extended. In this regard, existing synergies between conventions and programmes have been introduced in Section I and II, for each State Party and each property, as far as possible.

39. The development of Guidance for the Periodic Reporting questionnaire, as outlined above (see paragraphs 26-31), is another channel through which synergies will flow. Through links to external pages, it will promote synergies with other UNESCO Conventions and Programmes, providing context and building awareness of crossovers and interrelationships. It will also highlight the interconnectedness of UNESCO and non-UNESCO instruments for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage at the regional and global levels.

IV.3   Integration of the Sustainable Development Approach – Mainstreaming Sustainable Development in the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire

40. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Policy on the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the *Convention* adopted by the 20th General Assembly of the States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* in November 2015 (World Heritage Sustainable Development policy or WH-SDP), the Expert Group was tasked with developing recommendations on the integration of the Sustainable Development approach into the Periodic Reporting process (see also document **41COM.5C**).

41. The overall goal of the World Heritage Sustainable Development policy is to assist States Parties, practitioners, institutions, communities and networks, through appropriate guidance, to harness the potential of World Heritage properties and heritage in general to contribute to sustainable development. As an integral core process of the *World Heritage Convention*, Periodic Reporting presents an opportunity for both data gathering and awareness raising on this topic.

42. While many aspects of sustainable development were already pre-existing in the questionnaire, the revised format of the questionnaire presents an innovative, comprehensive approach to the three dimensions of sustainable development; namely environmental sustainability, inclusive social development and inclusive economic development, complemented by the fostering of peace and security. Through direct and continuous reference to Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the WH-SDP, as well as direct links to external sources of information, the topic is mainstreamed into the reporting obligations of States Parties and their World Heritage properties.

43. Relevant questions on the dimensions of sustainable development in all World Heritage Processes at both State Party and property level are embedded throughout Sections I and II of the questionnaire with the dual objective of acquiring measurable data and raising awareness of this topic. The data to be gathered thus includes Climate Change, Disaster Risk Management, Sustainable Tourism, Conflict and the fostering of peace and security, gender equality and the participation of specific groups (youth, indigenous people, local communities).

44. The Sustainable Development perspective also harmonizes with the range of new content in the questionnaire focusing on synergies with other cultural and biodiversity-related conventions. The promotion of environmental sustainability is strengthened through the emphasis on synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (as outlined in IV.2 above) while the special emphasis on the Hague Convention and its two protocols brings an essential focus to the importance of these instruments for the protection of cultural heritage in the face of war, civil conflict and all forms of violence.

45. At a broader scale, the revised format strongly binds the Sustainable Development concept with World Heritage status (gathering data in **Section I** on the perceived benefits of inscription) and establishes clear links between the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and of the Sustainable Development Goals and the SDG 2030 Agenda (whether the State Party plans to use the data from the PR exercise in their reporting on implementation of the SDGs).

46. The recommendation of the Expert Group on the development of comprehensive guidance for the Periodic Reporting questionnaire presents another opportunity for Sustainable Development to be integrated in the questionnaire for awareness raising and capacity building.

IV.4 Assessing the extent to which other policies adopted by the World Heritage Committee have been implemented

47. Apart from the WH-SD policy, the World Heritage Committee has adopted other policies directly relevant to the implementation of the *Convention* nationally and at individual properties. Questions have therefore been introduced to assess the effectiveness of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (adopted by the Committee in 2011, Decision **35 COM 9B**), the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties (adopted in 2006, Decision **30 COM 7.1**), and the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties (adopted in 2007, Decision **31 COM 7.2**). Responses to these questions can be used to assess the effectiveness of their implementation.

IV.5 Identification of Monitoring Indicators and Recommendations for an Analytical Framework for Periodic Reporting

48. Following Recommendation 1 regarding the 1972 Convention in Part III of the Evaluation of UNESCO's Standard-setting Work of the Culture Sector ((Part III – 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, April 2014 http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002269/226922e.pdf) to *'Strengthen the existing results reporting framework, which includes the Periodic Reports, through the development of indicators and benchmarks to improve follow up on progress made by State Parties with the implementation of both the 1972 Convention and the 1972 Recommendation',* and in line with Decision **38 COM 5F.2**, the Expert Group developed recommendations to enlarge the indicators within the framework of Periodic Reporting (Annex I) in order to gauge the level of effective observance by State Parties to the *Convention* and of the 1972 Recommendation. The indicators will reinforce the results reporting framework and will provide the Committee with an effective overview for decision-making. Follow-up should be carried out by State Parties.

49. A key consideration of the Expert Group when carrying out revisions to the content of the questionnaire was the need to retain comparability of data across the cycles. Accordingly, the indicators developed and included in these recommendations (Annex I) are connected to the baseline of the cycle when the data was first collected.

50. Based on pre-existing questions and those newly developed for the Third Cycle, the indicators developed are directly linked to the objectives of the Periodic Reporting exercise and are grouped into the six core thematic areas of the Periodic Reports:

    I. **State of Conservation of World Heritage properties**: Indicators to assess temporal patterns in the status and trends of the OUV and factors affecting the property; integrity and authenticity of the site.
    II. **Management**: Indicators to measure the effectiveness of site management, the adequacy of financial and human resources and budget.
    III. **Governance**: Indicators to measure the adequacy of the legal framework for heritage protection, the nature and level of involvement of key stakeholders (transparency of processes), action plan(s) to promote heritage, legislation for heritage protection.
    IV. **Synergies**: Indicators to measure the existence of synergies with other cultural and biodiversity related conventions and normative instruments.
    V. **Sustainable Development**: Indicators to measure whether the application of the *Convention* is contributing to environmental sustainability, inclusive social development, and inclusive economic development, as well as the fostering of peace and security.
    VI. **Capacity Development:** Indicators to measure the existence, effectiveness of and participation in capacity building strategies and programmes.

51. With regards to the use and analysis of data and the efficiency of the exercise, the Expert Group found that no harmonized methodology has been developed for analysis of the data gathered from Periodic Reporting and that a standardized approach, in particular leading up to a potential global report, would be very beneficial. The recommendations on an Analytical Framework for the Periodic Reporting exercise present a template for the analysis of information gathered during the exercise and its presentation to the Committee (Annex II). It is recommended that this Analytical Framework be launched with the Third Cycle as a pilot phase, its testing in real circumstances will allow for optimised quality-control in ensuing cycles.

52. Following discussions on the monitoring of Outstanding Universal Value, the Expert Group identified a need to integrate an attribute-driven conservation approach into the reporting exercise and agreed that one of the core aims of the Third Cycle should be to have the attributes of the World Heritage properties clearly defined and understood by their site managers. While it was noted that the properties already have, or should have, a management plan that identifies attributes and that for the past ten years attributes have been defined by States Parties in line with the adoption of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value at the moment of inscription as well as through the submission and adoption of Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, the quality of this information varies greatly.

53. It is recommended that supplementary training in this area should be facilitated and tools developed to allow Focal Points and Site Managers autonomy in this work.

54. The template for an Analytical Framework to be used during the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting (Annex II) is based on the analytical framework that evolved during the Second Cycle. It has been amended to take account of the changes in emphasis in the questionnaires outlined in part III above, and to integrate use of the Monitoring Indicators described above. The proposed format places more emphasis on synergies with other international conservation instruments and programmes, and on sustainable development in accordance with the WH-SDP. It is recommended that this should be used in all regions together with the outline format for regional reports set out in Annex II.

IV.6 Feasibility of a Global World Heritage Report

55. There is currently no format for drawing the results of all regional reports into a 'State of the World's Heritage' style report. The idea was strongly endorsed by States Parties in the Reflection Survey, with 81% giving a positive response. The Expert Group noted that a Global Report could be produced in the reflection period after each cycle. There is great potential for such a publication that would integrate data gathered over past cycles, offer a bigger picture, charting the trends at properties and their evolution over time in an accessible format for wide dissemination.

56. A preliminary feasibility study for a Global World Heritage Report is contained in Annex III. It recommends that the format and approach used for the popular publication *World Heritage in Europe Today* (http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002436/243680e.pdf) produced at the end of the Periodic Reporting for Europe should be developed into a format for a Global World Heritage Report. The intention should be to produce a popular publication with appeal to all those involved with or affected by World Heritage. In addition to dealing with the results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, the publication could also raise awareness and understanding of the concepts and processes underpinning World Heritage. Further work needs to carried out on this proposal as experience of the utilisation of the revised questionnaire is gained from the first regional responses from States Parties in the first years of the Third Cycle.
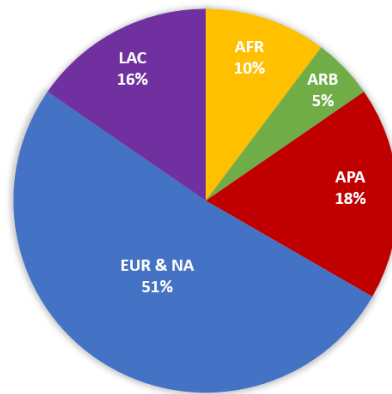
V. REVISED FORMAT OF PERIODIC REPORTING QUESTIONNAIRE, CONSULTATIVE ONLINE TESTING PHASE AND WAY FORWARD

57. In April 2017, a Consultative Testing Phase of the revised Periodic Reporting questionnaire was carried out online in order to gather feedback on the changes

introduced and the usability of the tool. A request for volunteers was launched with a circular letter in November 2016 resulting in over 100 Focal Points and Site Managers volunteering for the Testing Phase.
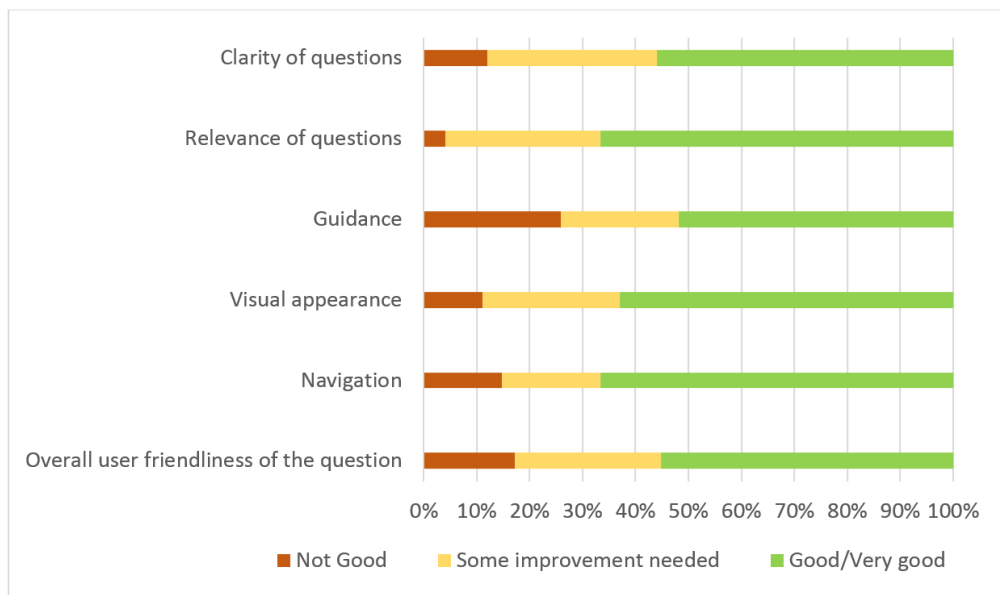
58. The distribution of volunteers demonstrated a positive balance of gender amongst participants and a regional balance as shown below. With regards to property types, both cultural and natural properties, as well as a number of transnational properties, transboundary properties and cultural landscapes participated in the Testing Phase, ensuring that the feedback gathered offered the broadest possible spectrum of viewpoints.

Regional distribution of volunteers for the Periodic Reporting Testing Phase (April 2017)

59. During the Testing Phase, the volunteers were required to simulate a real Periodic Reporting exercise, working through the questionnaire and then providing general feedback on the changes introduced and rating specific aspects of the tool using an evaluation form.

Periodic Reporting Reflection Testing Phase Evaluation Summary Results

60. The results of the Testing Phase carried out in April 2017 demonstrate general satisfaction with most of the content and functions of the revised format of the questionnaire while highlighting areas for further improvement. A number of volunteer respondents experienced technical difficulties during the testing phase thereby identifying issues, which were subsequently resolved by the Secretariat. Higher levels of satisfaction with the relevance of the questions and navigation within the tool were recorded whilst lower levels of satisfaction were expressed with regards to the guidance and the clarity of questions. Given that the clarity of questions and provision of guidance work in tandem, and that guidance within the questionnaire is a first draft which will be extended based on the recommendations of the Expert Group (as outlined above); it is foreseen that these two aspects will be optimized before the launch of the Third Cycle.

61. In addition to the ratings provided by Focal Points, the Secretariat gathered considerable feedback during the Testing Phase in the form of comments, e-mail queries and remarks as well as phone communication with respondents. All relevant issues and points were collated and used in the finalization of the questionnaire. Feedback and data gathered during the testing will likewise feed into the preparatory work for the launch of the Third Cycle.

VI. LAUNCH OF THIRD CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING

62. It is recommended that the revised format of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire be launched for the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting and accompanied by a considerably reinforced and sustainable suite of guidance and training tools.

63. The group further recommends that a Periodic Reporting Coordinator should be based at the Secretariat on a continuous basis, and tasked with ensuring that a holistic and consistent approach to the exercise is maintained. This will entail promoting exchange and cooperation across the regions via a closer integration of the regional units, monitoring progress on the implementation of regional action plans, maintaining a constant Periodic Reporting presence and continuity with regards to guidance and troubleshooting, and facilitating a more State Party-driven process through closer engagement of national Focal Points and category 2 centres.

64. In order to ensure the development and translation of the necessary tools and the funding of a coordinator, sufficient financial resources will need to be secured. As the current level of human resources at the Secretariat currently does not allow for this work to be carried out by a permanent staff member, such a position could be funded at this stage and until such time that the Secretariat could integrate a permanent coordinator position, through extra-budgetary resources, possibly with a contribution from the World Heritage Fund.

65. The draft Monitoring Indicators and Analytical Framework will be trialed based on Testing Phase data and, following any refinements necessary, be launched with the Third Cycle and used as a basis for analysis in each region.

66. It is recommended that the actual launch of the Third Cycle start after 42 COM, in order to, on one side, allow sufficient time to take into account the Expert Group Recommendations and develop training and guidance materials, and on the other side, allow more time for preparation to the Arab States region which is the first one to start the Third cycle.

67. It is recommended that the 6-year cycle and the established order of reporting by region is maintained in order to ensure better comparability of data across cycles.

68. It is thus suggested that the Arab States region and the Africa region undertake the Second Cycle simultaneously in 2018-2019, in order to avoid postponing the whole cycle by another year. It is also recommended that the Europe and North America region report in one year, to avoid duplication of work and promote further regional cooperation.

VII. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE *OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES*

69. In view of the revised format of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire and the recommendations outlined in this document, and further to Decision **39 COM 10.B.5**, it is proposed to revise the *Operational Guidelines* Chapter V and Annex 7 pertaining to Periodic Reporting.

70. Accordingly, the proposal for a revised Chapter V, presented in track changes format for ease of reference (Annex IV), incorporates the outcomes of the Periodic Reporting Reflection with regards to objectives, format and procedure. It is proposed that the four objectives of Periodic Reporting remain the same, as outlined in the Expert Group recommendation above. With regards to procedure, minor modifications such as the one-year reporting timeframe for the Europe and North America region are proposed to be introduced, while the Expert Group recommendations with regards to the aims of evaluation and follow-up and the role of States Parties and the Secretariat are integrated.

71. It is also proposed that the *Operational Guidelines*, Annex 7 presents a concise outline of the questionnaire. The revision which is proposed to replace the current Annex 7 of the *Operational Guidelines* is presented in Annex IV of this document. The outline is structured to reflect the 15 thematic headings of Sections I and II with brief explanations of the content and aims of the questions under each heading. A link to the online tool is included in the Annex 7, where the full questionnaire can be consulted.

VIII. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 41 COM 10A

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. *Recalling* Decisions **38 COM 5F.2, 39 COM 10B.5,** and **40 COM 10A**, *adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,*

3. *Notes with appreciation the successful implementation of the Reflection Period by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, and the use of innovative and cost-effective working methods;*

4. *Commends the Periodic Reporting Reflection Expert Group for the extensive and in-depth work carried out;*

5. *Thanks all States Parties who volunteered to participate in the Testing Phase for their active engagement in the Periodic Reporting Reflection;*

6. *Welcomes the recommendations and improvements proposed with regard to the format, content, relevance, analysis and use of data in the Periodic Reporting process;*

7. *Also welcomes the inclusion in the revised questionnaire of questions relating to synergies with other international instruments and programmes on cultural and natural heritage; questions relating to the implementation of the 1972 UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage and to the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, as well as questions assessing the implementation of the World Heritage Policy for integrating a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention, and of other key policies adopted by the World Heritage Committee;*

8. *Further welcomes the development of strengthened and comprehensive indicators to improve follow-up on progress made by State Parties in the implementation of the Convention as well as the 1972 Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage, further to the Recommendation of the Evaluation of UNESCO's Standard-Setting Work of the Culture Sector (Part III – 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage);*

9. *Takes note with appreciation of the analytical framework developed by the Expert Group and decides that it will be used as a global template for the analysis of data, for all regions, during the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting;*

10. *Also takes note of the feasibility study concerning the production of a global World Heritage report and recommends that further work on the format and resourcing of the report be carried out using responses from States Parties and Site Managers in the first years of the Third Cycle;*

11. *Also decides to maintain the order of regions and the 6-year periodicity of the Periodic Reporting cycles, with one region reporting every year (Arab States, Africa,*

Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and North America) and one year between cycles for a reflection, if necessary, and for the production of a global report on the basis of the outcomes of the cycle across all regions;

12. *Further decides to officially launch the Third Cycle (2017-2022), but in view of the need to allow sufficient time for appropriate preparation, by the Secretariat, and by the States Parties of the Arab States region, exceptionally postpones the start of the Periodic Reporting of the Arab States region to 2018, in parallel with the start for the Africa region;*

13. *Encourages the active engagement of the States Parties in the following reporting cycles, and furthermore decides, that, in view of the current financial and human resources constraints of the World Heritage Centre, its role should consist of ensuring a holistic approach across regions, by providing overall coordination, guidance tools and analysis, as well as facilitating a State Party-driven approach, and invites the States Parties to contribute extrabudgetary resources for this purpose, and further decides, in case the resources are insufficient to ensure continuity (in case it is necessary), to supplement the funding of an extra-budgetary position from the Periodic Reporting budget line in the World Heritage Fund;*

14. *Approves the revised Chapter V of the* Operational Guidelines *"Periodic Reporting on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention" and the revised Annex 7 to the* Operational Guidelines*, on the Format of the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire, contained in Annex IV of the present document.*

List of Annexes to Document WHC/17/41.COM/10A

Annex I   Recommendation on Monitoring Indicators for the Periodic Reporting Exercise

Annex II   Recommendation on an Analytical Framework for the Periodic Reporting Exercise

Annex III   Feasibility Study on a Global World Heritage Report

Annex IV   Proposed Revisions to Chapter V and Annex 7 of the *Operational Guidelines*

Recommendation of the Periodic Reporting Reflection Expert Group:
MONITORING INDICATORS FRAMEWORK FOR THE THIRD CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING

Periodic Reporting Objectives

1 To provide an assessment of the application of the *World Heritage Convention* by the State Party

2 To provide an assessment as to whether the World Heritage values of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List are being maintained over time

3 To provide up-dated information about the World Heritage properties to record the changing circumstances and state of conservation of the properties

4 To provide a mechanism for regional co-operation and exchange of information and experiences between States Parties concerning the implementation of the *Convention* and World Heritage conservation

Topics	Periodic Reporting Objectives	Description	Relevant questions in questionnaire Sections I and II	Objectives	Indicators based on Periodic Reporting Cycle 3	Baseline SI= Section I SII = Section II
I. **State of conservation of World Heritage Properties**	2, 3	Indicators to assess temporal patterns in the status and trends of the OUV and factors affecting the property; integrity and authenticity of the site	**Section II** *3. Statement of OUV* *4. Factors Affecting properties* *12.1. Summary - Factors Affecting the Property* *12.3. Conclusion on the state of conservation of the property*	State of conservation of World Heritage properties maintained and improved over time	1. **Status OUV:** Number of properties considering that OUV has been maintained (SII,Q12.3.3) 2. **Trend OUV**: Compare percentage of properties (of total) considering that OUV has been maintained in current cycle vs previous cycle. (SII,Q.12.3.3) 3. **Trend factors**: number of current negative factors vs previous cycle number of current negative factors + correlation between current and previous cycle current negative factors (SII,Q4.16). – The same for positive factors – Compare over time - are positive or negative impacts increasing/decreasing 4. **Integrity**: Number of properties considering that integrity is intact (SII,Q12.3.2). 5. **Authenticity**: Number of properties considering that authenticity has been preserved (SII,Q12.3.1).	PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q5.3.3) PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q3.16) PR Cycle 1 (SII, Q04.05) PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q5.3.1)

Topics	Periodic Reporting Objectives	Description	Relevant questions in questionnaire Sections I and II	Objectives	Indicators based on Periodic Reporting Cycle 3	Baseline SI= Section I SII = Section II
II. Management	1, 2, 3, 4	Indicators to measure the effectiveness of site management, and adequacy of financial and human resources and budget	**Section I** 8. *Financial Status and Human Resources*	Adequate financial and human resources for site management	6. Percentage of State Parties that consider the available **budget** for World Heritage to be adequate to meet the current conservation, protection and presentation needs (SI, Q8.3) 7. Percentage of State Parties that consider available **human resources** as adequate to meet the current needs of cultural and/or natural heritage conservation, protection and presentation (SI, Q8.6)	PR Cycle 2, (SI, Q8.4) PR Cycle 2, (SI, Q8.5)
			Section II *5. Protection and Management of the property* *4.16 Assessment of current and potential negative and positive factors*	Improved management effectiveness of World Heritage properties	8. **Management systems/plans** a) Number of properties with a management plan or appropriate management system (SII, Q5.3.2). b) Number of properties where management system is being fully implemented and monitored (SII, Q5.3.13). c) Number of properties where management system/plan is adequate to maintain site's OUV (SII, Q5.3.12) 9. **Management coordination** a) Number of properties where there is adequate coordination between all bodies/levels involved in the management of the property (SII, Q5.3.11)	PR Cycle 1 (SII, Q07.01) PR Cycle 1, (SII, Q07.02 - implementation only); PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q4.3.5 - implementation and monitoring) PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q4.3.4) PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q4.3.3)

Topics	Periodic Reporting Objectives	Description	Relevant questions in questionnaire Sections I and II	Objectives	Indicators based on Periodic Reporting Cycle 3	Baseline SI= Section I SII = Section II
					10. Monitoring a) Number of properties with a formal programme of monitoring (SII, Q10.1). b) Number of properties where indicators have been i) defined (SII, Q10.3), and ii) defined and in use (SII, Q10.3).	PR Cycle 1, SII, Q15.01) PR Cycle 2, (SII, Q4.8.2)
					11. Management impact a) Number of properties where management activities (as a factor) are having a positive current impact (SII, Q4.13.4). b) Number of properties where management activities (as a factor) are having a i) negative current impact (SII, Q4.13.4), and ii) negative potential impact (SII, Q4.13.4)	PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q3.13.3) PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q3.13.3)
					12. Management response a) Number of properties where actions are being taken to address priority management needs identified in periodic reporting questionnaire (PR Cycle 3, SII, Q12.2).	PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q5.2.2
III. **Governance**	1, 2, 3, 4	Indicators to measure the adequacy of the legal framework for heritage protection, nature and level of involvement of key	**Section I** *1.3 Groups and institutions involved in the preparation of Section I of the Periodic Report* *3.5 Level of involvement of different actors in the preparation of Tentative Lists*	Improved adequacy of the legal framework for heritage protection	**13.** Number of State Parties considering that the **legal framework** is adequate for the **identification** of the State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage (SI, Q5.5) **14.** Number of States Parties considering that the **legal framework** is adequate for the **conservation and protection** of the State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage (SI, Q5.6) **15.** Number of States Parties where **effective cooperation mechanisms between stakeholders**	PR Cycle 2 (SI, Q5.4) PR Cycle 2 (SI, Q5.4) PR Cycle 2 (SI, Q6.1, Q6.2 and Q6.3)

Topics	Periodic Reporting Objectives	Description	Relevant questions in questionnaire Sections I and II	Objectives	Indicators based on Periodic Reporting Cycle 3	Baseline SI= Section I SII = Section II
		stakeholders (transparency of processes), action plan(s) to promote heritage Legislation for heritage protection	*4.1 Level of involvement of different actors in the preparation of nomination dossiers* *5.5. Adequacy of the legal framework for the identification of cultural and/or natural heritage* *5.6. Adequacy of the legal framework for conservation and protection of cultural and/or natural heritage* *7.3. Effectiveness of cooperation of different levels of government in identification of cultural and/or natural heritage*		are established in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage (SI, Q7.1, Q7.2, Q7.3. and Q7.4)	
			Section II *5.3.13-15 Adequacy and implementation of management system/ management plan* *5.3.15 Involvement of stakeholders in World Heritage property*		**16.** Number of properties where roles and responsibilities are clearly defined in the management system (SII, Q5.3.15)	PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q4.3.3)
IV.	1, 4	Indicators to measure the	**Section I** *2. Synergies with other*		**17.** Of the States Parties that have ratified/joined MEAs, UNESCO conventions and programmes, the percentage that maintain communication between	PR Cycle 3 New question(s)

Topics	Periodic Reporting Objectives	Description	Relevant questions in questionnaire Sections I and II	Objectives	Indicators based on Periodic Reporting Cycle 3	Baseline SI= Section I SII = Section II
Synergies		existence of synergies with other cultural and biodiversity related conventions and normative instruments	*conventions programmes and recommendations for the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage* *5.14 World Heritage policies and strategies* **Section II** *2. Other conventions/programmes under which the World Heritage property is protected*		World Heritage Focal Points, and focal points of other programmes/conventions (results displayed by programme/convention). (SI, Q 2.1 to Q2.4) **18.** Number of World Heritage properties with multiple designations (could be further split by double, triple, quadruple designations): a) Of the World Heritage properties that are designated under other programmes/conventions, the percentage where there is communication on a regular basis between the World Heritage Site Manager and the focal points of other designations/programmes (results displayed by programme/convention) (SII, Q2.7) b) Of the World Heritage properties that are designated under other programmes/conventions, the percentage which have an integrated management plan combining World Heritage and any other designations (SII, Q5.3.2.10)	PR Cycle 3 New question(s)
					19. Number of State Parties using the provisions of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape to set policies or strategies for the protection of their cultural and natural heritage (SI, Q2.5.1)	PR Cycle 3 New question(s)
					20. Number of State Parties using the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties to set national policies or strategies for the protection of their cultural and natural heritage (SI, Q5.14.1.2)	PR Cycle 3 New question(s)
					21. Number of State Parties using the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties to set national policies or strategies for the protection of their cultural and natural heritage (SI, Q5.14.1.1)	PR Cycle 3 New question(s)

Topics	Periodic Reporting Objectives	Description	Relevant questions in questionnaire Sections I and II	Objectives	Indicators based on Periodic Reporting Cycle 3	Baseline SI= Section I SII = Section II
V. Sustainable development	1, 2, 3	Indicators to measure whether the application of *the Convention* is contributing to environmental sustainability, inclusive social development, and inclusive economic development, as well as the fostering of peace and security	**Section I** *4.4 Level of contribution to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals* **Section II** *9.16 Economic benefits for local communities*	Sustainable tourism and benefits to local communities	**22.** Number of properties where the management system/plan for the World Heritage property includes a strategy with an action plan, to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived economic, socio-cultural and environmental impacts (SII,Q9.7) **23.** Number of properties where the benefits of tourism are shared with local communities (SII,Q9.16)	PR Cycle 3 New question(s)s PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q4.4.5)
			Section I *5.11 Effectiveness of integration of conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national Sustainable Development policies and strategies* **Section II** *5.3.17 Contribution of management system of property to Sustainable Development Goals* Monitoring Sustainable	Effective contribution of the *Convention* to environmental sustainability, inclusive social development, and inclusive economic development, as well as the fostering of peace and security	**24.** Number of State Parties considering that inscription of properties on the World Heritage List contributes to achieving the objectives of the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SI, Q4.4) **25.** Number of State Parties that effectively integrate the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies (SI,Q5.11) **26.** Percentage of total annual public expenditure on the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of cultural/natural heritage (SI, Q8.4)	PR Cycle 3 New question(s)s PR Cycle 3 New question(s) PR Cycle 3 New question(s)s

Topics	Periodic Reporting Objectives	Description	Relevant questions in questionnaire Sections I and II	Objectives	Indicators based on Periodic Reporting Cycle 3	Baseline SI= Section I SII = Section II
				Development Goals indicator 11.4.1 (SI Q4.4)	27. Percentage of total annual public expenditure spent on the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of cultural/natural heritage is allocated from national/federal, provincial/regional and local levels (SI, Q8.5)	PR Cycle 3 New question(s)
				Gender balance/equity	28. Number of State Parties where an explicit gender balanced contribution and participation has been considered in the entire process (tentative lists, nominations, inscriptions) (SI, Q3.6 and Q4.2)	PR Cycle 3 New question(s)s
					29. Number of properties with a management system comprising a formalised framework for women's participation (SII, Q5.3.15.5)	PR Cycle 3 New question(s)
					30. Number of properties with education and awareness programmes targeting women (SII, Q8.3.5)	PR Cycle 3 New question(s)
			Section II *5.1.2 Knowledge of boundaries of World Heritage properties by stakeholders* *5.1.4 Knowledge of buffer zones of World Heritage properties by stakeholders* *5.3.16 Level of cooperation between stakeholders and local communities* **Section I**	Improved involvement of communities and indigenous groups	31. Number of State Parties recording effective involvement of communities and indigenous people in the entire process (tentative lists, nominations, inscriptions) (SI, Q1.3, Q3.5 and Q4.1)	PR Cycle 2 (SI, Q3.3.7, Q3.3.8, Q4.2.7 and Q4.2.8)
					32. Number of properties with a Management Plan comprising a formalised framework for community participation (SII, Q5.3.15)	PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q4.3.7.1, Q4.3.7.2 and Q4.3.7.3)
					33. Number of properties where the boundaries are clearly known by the authorities and the local communities (SII, Q5.1.2)	PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q4.3.8 and Q4.3.9)
					34. Number of properties where the buffer zones are clearly known by the authorities and the local communities (SII, Q5.1.4)	PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q4.3.8 and Q4.3.9)

Topics	Periodic Reporting Objectives	Description	Relevant questions in questionnaire Sections I and II	Objectives	Indicators based on Periodic Reporting Cycle 3	Baseline SI= Section I SII = Section II
			3.5. Involvement of communities and indigenous people in the preparation of inventories/lists/registers			
VI. **Capacity development**	1, 4	Indicators to measure the existence, effectiveness of and participation in capacity building strategies and programs	**Section I** *9. Capacity development* *10.8. Existence of a national capacity building strategy for World Heritage* **Section II** *6.1.12 Effectiveness of site-specific capacity building plans or programmes*	Capacity building	**35.** Number of properties having site-specific capacity building plans or programmes that develop local expertise and that contribute to the transfer of skills for the conservation and management of the World Heritage property (SII, 6.1.12) **36.** Number of States parties having a national capacity building strategy for World Heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management (SI.Q10.8) **37.** Number of State Parties having an implemented national strategy for capacity development (SI, Q9.4) **38.** Top 5 capacity building needs identified by State Parties for conservation, protection and presentation of cultural heritage (SI, Q9.1)	PR Cycle 2 (SII, Q4.4.15) PR Cycle 2 (SI, Q9.3.) PR Cycle 2 (SI, Q9.3) PR Cycle 2 (SI, Q9.2)
			Section I *4.3 Perceived benefits of inscribing World Heritage properties* *12.3 Existence of heritage education programme*	Harnessing benefits of heritage for society through effective communication Sustainability of educational programmes on heritage ensured	**39.** Top 5 perceived benefits by State Parties from the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List (SI.Q 4.3) **40.** Number of State Parties with heritage education programmes implemented (SI, Q12.3) **41.** Number of State Parties participating in the World Heritage in Young Hands programme (SI, Q12.5) **42.** Number of properties with an education and awareness programme (SII, Q8.2) and (SII, Q8.3.6 directed towards children/youth)	PR Cycle 2 (SI, Q4.3) PR Cycle 2 (SI, Q9.1) PR Cycle 2 (SI, Q11.2.3) PR Cycle 3 New question(s)

Topics	Periodic Reporting Objectives	Description	Relevant questions in questionnaire Sections I and II	Objectives	Indicators based on Periodic Reporting Cycle 3	Baseline SI= Section I SII = Section II
			Section II *8. Education, Information and Awareness Building* *8.2 Existence of youth programmes*			

Recommendation of the Periodic Reporting Reflection Expert Group:
APPROACH TO DEVELOPING AN ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE THIRD CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING

A PRELIMINARY POINTS

1. The transition from First Cycle to Second Cycle Questionnaire was considerable and fundamental. The questionnaire was developed as an entirely electronic tool and the questions were made more objective, and therefore more measurable. The proposed transition from Second Cycle to Third Cycle Questionnaire is more evolutionary; basic principles of the questionnaire have not changed. Following the Reflection Survey of States Parties, there have been some changes to content. Changes have also been made in response to World Heritage Committee requests and policy decisions.

2. In both Sections, there is now an increased emphasis on synergies with other conventions and programmes. It is also proposed to have a clearer division between States Parties' general responsibilities under Article 5 of the *Convention*, and their specific responsibilities for World Heritage.

3. In Section II, there is more focus on attributes and their condition as indicators of the state of conservation of individual properties. In response to the Reflection Survey, more information is being sought on Site Managers' perceptions of future trends of impacts of factors. It has also been proposed to examine more closely the positive impacts of factors affecting properties as well as negative impacts.

4. In both Sections, questions have been introduced to examine the extent to which Committee policy decisions on Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, as well as on the extent of use of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape have been adopted into general practice by States Parties and World Heritage properties.

5. Another significant change from Second Cycle to Third Cycle is the development of Monitoring Indicators, linked to the original objectives of Periodic Reporting and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development). These need to be used in the analysis of the Third Cycle Periodic Reports and this will require some adjustment to the process of analysis that was used in the Second Cycle.

6. Methods of evaluation and analysis were developed throughout the Second Cycle because the questionnaire was substantially different to that of the First Cycle. Generally, it has been agreed that the process used by Europe was acceptable. As it was the last region to report during the Second Cycle, Europe was able to greatly benefit from the experience of the preceding regions.

7. One of the major benefits of Periodic Reporting is that over time it will provide both positive and negative trend data on the implementation of the *Convention* and on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties. As far as possible, the same analytical framework should be used in successive cycles and across all regions of

the world. It will also be important to maintain key questions through successive cycles so that trends can be adequately identified and examined.

8. To some extent, both the First and Second Cycles can be regarded as experimental because of the complexity of an exercise of this scale, covering (now) nearly 200 States Parties and more than 1,000 World Heritage properties. With the Third Cycle, a more mature framework has been attained based on experience of the previous two cycles. Essentially, the Third Cycle uses the same methodology as the Second Cycle, covering the same topics and extending some areas to reflect evolving themes. Since the analytical framework that was developed during the Second Cycle has worked well in its most mature form, as used in the last Region to report, it is appropriate to use the same analytical approach for the Third Cycle, adjusted as necessary to take account of changes in the content of the questionnaire and the proposed introduction of Monitoring Indicators. This revised Analytical Framework will need to be supported by appropriate guidance.

9. It is therefore **recommended** that the Analytical Framework for the Third Cycle should be that developed during the Second Cycle in its most mature form, modified to take into account the points set out above.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK USED FOR THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING IN THE EUROPE REGION

10. Analysis was carried out using methods and software that were widely available (Microsoft Excel). The starting point of the analysis was descriptive statistics, utilising pivot tables in combination with filters. An advantage of this approach is that data analyses can be replicated by other researchers using the same data. It would also be possible to replicate the same approach to analysis from one region to another by substituting the dataset of the new region to be analysed. This would enable a similar analytical approach to be used across all regions.

11. Full national datasets were provided to national Focal Points for both Sections I and II to enable States Parties to carry out further work with the data if they so wished.

12. Three datasets were extracted and analysed. These were:

   i.   Section I, covering each State Party's general responses to the quantitative questions on the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.
   ii. Section II, covering the responses of each property to the quantitative questions on the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, except for the analysis of factors affecting each property (see below).
   iii. Factors dataset analysing the factors, positive and negative, affecting each World Heritage property, its buffer zone and the wider setting. Factors can be currently or potentially affecting the property.

13. The quantitative replies in both Section I and Section II of the questionnaire were supplemented by qualitative data provided by States Parties and site managers in comments on questions. This data must be read carefully but provides essential information for analysis of the results of the questionnaire. Its use as part of the overall analysis is essential.

14. Apart from the full dataset, provided to each State Party, the principal output of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting was a full report for each region to the World Heritage Committee. In its most developed form, this consisted of:

   i. An executive summary with main conclusions
   ii. An introduction to describe process, data, methodology, validity/reliability, etc.
   iii. Section I: Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* by the States Parties
- Follows the structure of the questionnaire
- Snapshot of current situation – what is relevant and significant?
- Comparison over time/across cycles
- Conclusions on Section I, both based on current situation but also over time

   iv. Section II: World Heritage Properties
- Follows the structure of the questionnaire
- Snapshot of current situation – what is relevant and significant?
- Comparison over time/across cycles
- Conclusions on Section II, both based on current situation but also over time

   v. Action Plan based on conclusions presented in Chapters 3 and 4, with actions, timelines, responsible actors, budgets/financing, regional targets and indicators to monitor their achievement
   vi. Annexes: Full descriptive, quantitative analysis of Sections I and II.

15. The report is essentially a narrative based on a statistical analysis, illustrated from the qualitative replies to the questionnaire. Inevitably, the narrative of the report gives more emphasis to some elements than others, but the inclusion of the quantitative data in appendices provides an opportunity for readers to test the conclusions of the report against the actual data.

16. The Committee reports from the Second Cycle were published in full in the list of documents for the respective Committee sessions. They are, however, lengthy documents, full of detail. As an experiment, a more popular publication, *World Heritage in Europe Today*, was produced for Europe.[2] This summarised the results of the Periodic Report and attempted to do so in a more accessible way. As well as this summary, the publication described the processes of World Heritage, such as Reactive Monitoring, and examined some of the concepts such as Outstanding Universal Value. It contains many case studies to illustrate the results of the Periodic Report and is intended for all those interested in World Heritage. It also examined partnership opportunities and collaborations with outside partners.

C PROPOSED ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE THIRD CYCLE

17. The recommendations concerning the Analytical Framework below contain specific recommendations on firstly how to **analyse** and secondly on how to **report** to the World Heritage Committee.

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[2] World Heritage in Europe Today

http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002436/243680e.pdf

18. Purpose of the Analytical Framework: To ensure that a harmonised and streamlined approach towards the analysis of data derived from Periodic Reporting is utilised across regions and time, a standardised Analytical Framework should be developed from the outset, and implemented as a shared standard. This will ensure a more uniform practice of reporting to the World Heritage Committee and facilitate a potential global World Heritage report, based on the individual regional reports.

19. Timeline for development: The recommendations for an Analytical Framework for the Third Cycle are built on experiences gained through the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, where the models for analysis were continuously developed and refined. The presentation of findings, conclusions and recommendations evolved throughout the cycle, and both the Committee documents and more popular publications were continuously developed and refined. For the Third Cycle, the questionnaires (and hence the data collected for analysis) have been substantially modified. The existing approach/model for analysis will need amendments, refinements and new additions. As such, it is strongly recommended to build the new model on actual data coming from the first region to report, building on existing analytical models, approaches and experiences. Actual data and experiences are necessary for a robust and stringent model, which needs to be tested on a real audience (i.e. the Committee and States Parties concerned). Full scale development work should begin parallel to the implementation of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting. Initial development and testing can be based on the test cases collected in the Third Cycle Testing Phase (Spring 2017).

20. Changes to the framework used in Europe during the Second Cycle can be summarised as:

    i. Greater emphasis on synergies between the *World Heritage Convention* and other international instruments and programmes used for conservation;
    ii. Assessment of the extent to which use is being made of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape;
    iii. Assessment of the extent to which policies agreed by the World Heritage Committee have been utilised by States Parties and by World Heritage properties; this applies particularly to the Policy on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties, the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy, and The World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy;
    iv. Placing more emphasis on the identification of attributes of Outstanding Universal Value and requiring an assessment of the state of conservation of each attribute;
    v. Extending the site managers' analyses of factors affecting properties to include potential as well as current factors, positive impacts as well as negative impacts, and also predictions of future impacts of selected factors.

21. A further change to the process is the proposal to have specific monitoring indicators covering key elements of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. These will be used during the process of analysis. They are linked to objectives 1 – 3 of Periodic Reporting, which are:

    • To provide an assessment of the application of the *World Heritage Convention* by the State Party;

- To provide an assessment as to whether the World Heritage values of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List are being maintained over time;
- To provide up-dated information about the World Heritage properties to record the changing circumstances and state of conservation of the properties.

22. Performance is assessed under the following headings:
   a. State of conservation of World Heritage properties;
   b. Management effectiveness and adequacy of financial and human resources;
   c. Governance;
   d. Synergies with other Conventions and programmes/Extent to which World Heritage Committee policies have been implemented;
   e. Sustainable development
   f. Capacity development

23. On the basis of these changes, it is recommended that the Analytical Framework used for the Second Cycle should be adopted and modified as follows for analysing the completed questionnaires of the Third Cycle:

   a. Analysis of four datasets using descriptive statistics:
      i. Section I, covering each State Party's general responses to the quantitative questions on the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*;
      ii. Section II, covering the responses of each property to the quantitative questions on the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, except for the analysis of factors affecting each property (see below);
      iii. Attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, and their state of conservation for each World Heritage property;
      iv. Factors dataset analysing the factors, positive and negative, affecting each World Heritage property, its buffer zone and wider setting. Factors can be currently or potentially affecting the property.

   b. Evaluation of Monitoring Indicators for each State Party and each property:
      i. The Monitoring Indicators should be processed and documented in one freestanding document, to allow for it to be used independently of the Committee report(s);
      ii. The Monitoring Indicators refer to specific questions and chapters in Sections I and II of the questionnaire, and information from the document described in a. i above should be extracted as necessary when dealing with/describing the results of the question(s) it monitors.

   c. Preparation of a narrative report based on the results of the previous two steps, and also on qualitative replies within the Periodic Reporting questionnaires. This narrative report would form the basis for the report presented to the World Heritage Committee.

   d. Possible contents for the report could include:
      (i) An executive summary with the main conclusions;

> (ii) An introduction to describe process, data, methodology, validity/reliability, etc.;

e. Section I:
   i. Summary of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* by States Parties, following the structure of the questionnaire;
   ii. Assessment of the results against the Monitoring Indicators;
   iii. Snapshot of current situation – what is relevant and significant?
   iv. Comparison over time/across cycles;
   v. Conclusions on Section I, both based on the current situation but also over time, including specific comment on synergies with other international conventions and programmes, the extent to which the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and World Heritage Committee policies have been adopted and implemented, and on the progress towards integrating a Sustainable Development Perspective into the implementation of the *Convention;*

f. Section II:
   (i) Summary of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* by individual World Heritage Properties, following the structure of the questionnaire;
   (ii) Snapshot of current situation – what is relevant and significant?
   (iii) Comment on the overall State of Conservation of properties (using assessments of attributes of Outstanding Universal Value), and on factors affecting properties;
   (iv) Comparison over time/across cycles
   (v) Conclusions on Section II, both based on the current situation but also over time, including specific comments on synergies with other international conventions and programmes, the extent to which the HUL Recommendation and World Heritage Committee policies have been adopted and implemented, and on the progress towards integrating a Sustainable Development Perspective in the management of World Heritage properties;
g. Action Plan based on conclusions presented in Chapters 3 and 4, with actions, timelines, responsible actors, budgets/financing, progress indicators, links to Monitoring Indicators for Periodic Reporting (a S.M.A.R.T approach or similar should be followed/adopted, and used similarly across regions).
h. Annexes: Full descriptive quantitative analysis for Sections I and II

24. Specific methodological guidelines:

   a. Potential tools: Analysis should be done with methods and software widely available and comprehensible to as large an audience as possible. Microsoft Excel is a sensible starting point, as it is widely available and the files can be accessed by most users.
   b. Standard tables: The starting point for analysis should always be descriptive statistics, utilising for example pivot tables in Excel in combination with filters. A full data analysis from one region can be replicated by any other researcher to verify the analysis. Further, a complete analysis with separate pivot tables per question (i.e. in separate tabs) will allow for replication of the analysis

through substituting the dataset from one region with that of another region, thus ensuring that a similar analytical approach is utilised across regions.

c. Datasets to be extracted from the questionnaires and produced:

   (i) **Section I** dataset:
   - One State Party has one row and many columns;
   - Should be split into quantitative data and qualitative data respectively;
   - Qualitative data must be read carefully.

   (ii) **Section II** dataset:
   - One World Heritage property has one row and many columns;
   - Should be split into quantitative data and qualitative data respectively;
   - Qualitative data must be read carefully.

   (iii) Attributes dataset
   - One World Heritage property can have many attributes and therefore many rows (equals the total number of attributes);
   - The assessment of the condition of attributes should be correlated with data from the SOC database. PR is self-reporting (the site manager describing what is good and what is not); is based on Committee decisions and expert considerations (somebody else telling the site manager and the State Party what is not good). This may be perceived as an early warning mechanism, in which it is possible to identify current and potential impacts which are becoming threats to the property.

   (iv) Factors dataset
   - Separate dataset as one World Heritage property has many rows (the total number of factors) and many columns;
   - Should be correlated with data from the SOC database. PR is self-reporting (i.e. the site manager describing what is good and what is not), SOC is based on Committee decisions and expert considerations (i.e. somebody else telling the site manager and the State Party what is not good). This may be perceived as an early warning mechanism, in which it is possible to identify current and potential impacts which are becoming threats to the property;
   - Should be analysed across time/cycles to look for changes in positive and negative factors/trend data;
   - Current negative factors should be analysed specifically. A deeper level of analysis must be performed, where impact and trend information is included. The analysis must also be extended to include qualitative input provided on how to cope with significant and catastrophic impacts. Properties where the site manager reports such impacts should be flagged and followed up closely, and potentially trigger a SOC.

d. Data must be triangulated with information from relevant Committee decisions, SOC decisions, the SOC database, info from other conventions and mechanisms in specific cases, etc.

e. Data has historically been analysed according to sub-regions and regions. This may be a practical approach, but not always the most efficient. For

example, we know that the overseas natural World Heritage properties in the Europe region have specific needs and challenges, which only to a limited degree are shared with other properties in the region. Transboundary properties may also need special treatment. Care and consideration must be applied when deciding how to group data and cluster units, and again when deciding on how to treat the data and the information provided. Averaging is not always the best approach.

f. Correlation is not the same as causality – always try to understand this.

g. It is not necessary to report on every single question. Look for what is significant (not necessarily in the statistical meaning of the term, rather significant in terms of substance) and report and elaborate on that. The full analysis (quantitative) should be provided in annexes. This may shorten the overall length of the Committee document and make it easier to focus the conclusions and messages that are to be conveyed.

h. Action Plans, intended to focus efforts in the follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations of the report, are the main output of Periodic Reporting and provide the follow-up tools for site managers, States Parties, WHC, etc. All Action Plans should follow the same logic and be easily integrated into the overall programming in WHC and States Parties and must take into account the Monitoring Framework as described above.

Outcome of the Periodic Reporting Expert Group:

FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE PREPARATION OF A GLOBAL WORLD HERITAGE REPORT

A Introduction

1. A Reflection Survey on Periodic Reporting, completed at the end of the Second Cycle, included a question (no. 29) on the desirability of having a Global Report on World Heritage at the end of the Third Cycle. The response of States Parties was overwhelmingly positive with 81% of States Parties endorsing the idea.

2. There is currently nothing that brings all the regions together in such a format and a state of the World's Heritage-style report is something which could be done in the Reflection Period at the end of each cycle. The report should be in an accessible and reader-friendly format which emphasizes the importance of World Heritage for humanity. A highly visible publication would offer a strategic tool for World Heritage priorities.

3. Such a report could offer a global picture of World Heritage, integrating mega trends. The publication could integrate data gathered over past cycles, offer a bigger picture and chart the trend at properties and their evolution over time.

4. It was requested that the feasibility study consider the proposed format, table of contents, costs and timeframe, number of contributors, etc. Such a project could have many potential funding sources. All these factors depend to a large extent on the character and nature of the proposed report and not all can be specified precisely at the present time. Further work will be needed to develop a costed model for future discussion.

B   Format of *World Heritage in Europe Today* publication and its suitability as a model for a Global World Heritage Report

1. A possible model is *World Heritage in Europe Today,* published in February 2016 following completion of the Periodic Report for Europe[3]. This new type of publication was aimed at the wider World Heritage community beyond the World Heritage Committee and used information from Periodic Reporting and other sources to present a broad picture of World Heritage in Europe. It has been generally well-received.

2. The publication brought together insights from States Parties, Site Managers and other stakeholders involved in the protection, conservation and management of World Heritage properties in the region, presenting an in-depth look at current trends and practices as well as a clear vision for future priorities. Drawing on the wealth of data that emerged from the recently-completed Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, the publication featured engaging graphics and analyses as well as case studies highlighting the experience of the thousands of people directly involved with the management and conservation of World Heritage in Europe.

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[3] http://whc.unesco.org/en/world-heritage-in-europe-today/

3. In addition, the publication not only highlighted challenges involved in the conservation and management of World Heritage properties, but also a number of good practice examples taken from the day-to-day work of national authorities, site managers, experts and local communities in the region. In so doing, the publication highlighted the current realities of World Heritage in Europe, proposed recommendations for improvements and aimed to inspire innovative approaches for World Heritage in the 21st century.

4. The *World Heritage in Europe Today* publication did not duplicate information from the report presented to the World Heritage Committee and subsequently published in the World Heritage Papers series (no. 43),[4] rather, it took information from the Periodic Report as the starting point of its description of World Heritage in Europe. It also drew on information from many other sources both inside and outside the World Heritage system, such as the State of Conservation system and the information held by the World Heritage Centre on partnerships and opportunities for collaboration. It also tried to explain in an accessible manner some of the basic concepts of the World Heritage system such as Outstanding Universal Value.

   The three main sections of the publication are as follows:

   * The A to Z of being a World Heritage property
   * Highlights and Challenges for World Heritage in Europe
   * Partnerships and Collaboration Opportunities

   The use of well-illustrated case studies was an important part of the publication as was the use of an appealing layout and graphics. This approach was adopted to make the publication accessible and user-friendly, allowing it to convey basic information and food for thought.

5. The book was written by a team of authors, inside and outside the World Heritage Centre, all of whom had been involved in the analysis of the European Periodic Report. This prior involvement was a major asset for the development of the text. A professional editor was employed to put the text into its attractive format.

6. The approach outlined above is one potential model for a Global World Heritage Report. There are of course many others. UNESCO itself participates in many annual or multi-annual reviews of various aspects of its work. Examples include the Global Educational Monitoring Report,[5] the World Water Development Report.[6] And the recently published global report on culture for sustainable development, *Culture: Urban Future*.[7] However, the scope of these reports extend beyond what is feasible for World Heritage and are probably too detailed in their approach since a Global World Heritage Report would be produced alongside reports to the World Heritage Committee on the results of the Periodic Report for each of the five world regions. The bulk of the data would necessarily need to be included and published in these regional reports, particularly as reporting takes place over a six-year cycle.

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[4] http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/43/

[5] http://en.unesco.org/gem-report/

[6] http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/wwap/wwdr/

[7] http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002459/245999e.pdf

7. In some respects, this could be an advantage as it would allow the Global Report the flexibility to focus on specific aspects of World Heritage as well as presenting the overall picture. Specific themes could be pursued as appropriate. It would also be possible for the Global Report to draw on other sources of data, such as the State of Conservation database, in order to fill out and illustrate the picture it is trying to paint.

8. It is recommended that further work should be carried out to develop proposals for a Global World Heritage Report based on, and developed from, the approach used for the *World Heritage in Europe Today publication*.

C   A possible model for a Global World Heritage Report based on results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting

1. The model is based on the assumption that regional reports will be produced as previously for each of the five regions for presentation to the World Heritage Committee on an annual basis. These reports would contain the basic analysis of the data collected through the questionnaire and specific conclusions relating to each region.

2. In order to be able to draw consistent data from all the regional reports, it is essential that the regional results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting are reported and evaluated consistently across the world. A proposed analytical framework and outline format for these reports has been included in Annex II of WHC/17/41.COM/10A. Use of this framework and format by all parts of all regions would greatly facilitate consistency in reporting and the ability of the World Heritage Committee to perceive overall trends in the conservation and sustainable use of World Heritage. Consistency would also be greatly improved by the appointment within the World Heritage Centre of a member of staff with overall responsibility for coordinating the whole Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting. Such a resource would also greatly support States Parties as the process becomes more States Party driven in the future.

3. The Global World Heritage Report should be more popular in its approach than is the case with the working papers presented to the World Heritage Committee, which are subsequently published. It should be aimed very much at the wider World Heritage community including national Focal Points, Site Managers, other stakeholders including landowners in World Heritage properties, local and other interested communities, as well as academia.

4. The Global World Heritage Report would make use of the data presented in the regional reports to draw overall conclusions about the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the state of conservation of World Heritage properties right across the world. The Global World Heritage Report would also draw on other data held by the World Heritage Centre and others. It would be able to look back over previous cycles of Periodic Reporting in order to identify trends in the treatment of heritage across the world.

5. Because the basic data will be collected and analysed consistently in the regional reports made to the World Heritage Committee, there will be some scope for the Global World Heritage Report to concentrate more on some areas of implementation of the Convention than others. It could, for example, focus on particular areas of interest, such as the extent to which sustainable development is being integrated into

the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. As in *World Heritage in Europe Today*, the Global World Heritage Report could also be used to describe in an accessible way the processes and concepts of World Heritage which are not always clearly understood by World Heritage stakeholders at all levels.

6. It is difficult to predict in 2017 even the main sections of a Global World Heritage Report, which will not be published until 2022 or 2023. It is suggested though that the three sections contained in *World Heritage in Europe* are essential parts of a Global World Heritage Report. Within that overall structure particular emphasis should be given to the extent to which synergies have been achieved with other international conventions and programmes, and on progress towards the practical integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the processes of the *World Heritage Convention*. Some assessment of performance against the recently developed Monitoring Indicators would also be essential.

D Conclusion

1. There is a strong case for publishing a Global World Heritage Report at the end of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting. This would provide the opportunity to produce a popular and accessible assessment of the state of World Heritage across the world, drawing attention to similarities and differences between different regions and identifying priorities for action. A Global World Heritage Report would also provide an opportunity for raising awareness and understanding of the concepts and processes underpinning the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

2. The popular publication, *World Heritage in Europe Today*, provides a model which could be the basis for developing a Global World Heritage Report, suitably amended for a global context and taking into account the priorities of UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee.

3. This feasibility study is a preliminary outline. It will be possible to provide more detail and to develop concrete proposals on producing a Global World Heritage Report once it is possible to assess the first regional responses from States Parties and Site Managers in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CHAPTER V AND ANNEX 7 OF THE *OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES*

A. Proposed Revisions to Chapter V:

V	**PERIODIC REPORTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION***

V.A   Objectives

199.   States Parties are requested to submit reports to the UNESCO General Conference through the World Heritage Committee on the legislative and administrative provisions they have adopted and other actions which they have taken for the application of the *Convention*, including the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties located on their territories.

<div style="float:right; font-style:italic; font-size:small;">Article 29 of the *World Heritage Convention* and Resolutions of the 11th session of the General Assembly of States Parties (1997) and the 29th session of the UNESCO General Conference.</div>

200.   Periodic Reporting is a self-reporting process and should be led as far as possible by the States Parties in each region. The Secretariat coordinates and facilitates the Periodic Reporting Process at the global level. States Parties may request expert advice from the Advisory Bodies and the Secretariat, which may also (with agreement of the States Parties concerned) commission further expert advice.

201. Periodic Reporting serves four main purposes:

   a)   to provide an assessment of the application of the *World Heritage Convention* by the State Party;

   to provide an assessment as to whether the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List is being maintained over time;

   to provide up-dated information about the World Heritage properties to record the changing circumstances and state of conservation of the properties;

   to provide a mechanism for regional co-operation and exchange of information and experiences between States Parties concerning the implementation of the *Convention* and World Heritage conservation.

202.   Periodic Reporting is important for more effective long-term conservation of the properties inscribed, as well as to strengthen the credibility of the implementation of the *Convention*. It is also an important tool for assessing the implementation by States Parties and World Heritage properties of policies adopted by the World Heritage Committee and the General Assembly.

V.B   Procedure and Format   ~~Decision 22 COM VI.7~~

~~**203.** World Heritage Committee:~~

   ~~a)   adopted the Format and Explanatory Notes set out in Annex 7;~~

   ~~b)   invited States Parties to submit periodic reports every six years;~~

   ~~c)   decided to examine the States Parties' periodic reports region by region according to the following table:~~

203. Every six years, States Parties submit periodic reports for examination by the World Heritage Committee. During the six-year Periodic Reporting cycle, States Parties report region by region in the following order:

- Arab States

- Africa

- Asia and the Pacific

- Latin America and the Caribbean

- Europe and North America

Region	Examination of properties inscribed up to and including	Year of Examination by Committee
Arab States	1992	December 2000
Africa	1993	December 2001/July 2002
Asia and the Pacific	1994	June-July 2003
Latin America and the Caribbean	1995	June-July2004
Europe and North America	1996/1997	June-July 2005/2006

d) requested the Secretariat, jointly with the Advisory Bodies, and making use of States Parties, competent institutions and expertise available within the region, to develop regional strategies for the periodic reporting process as per the timetable established under c) above.

204. The above-mentioned regional strategies should respond to specific characteristics of the regions and should promote co-ordination and synchronization between States Parties, particularly in the case of transboundary and transnational properties. The Secretariat will consult States Parties with regard to the development and implementation of those regional strategies.

204. The sixth year of each cycle is a period for reflection and evaluation. This pause will allow the periodic reporting mechanism to be assessed and revised as appropriate before a new cycle is initiated. The World Heritage Committee may also decide to use the reflection to initiate the development and publication of a Global World Heritage Report.

205. After the first six-year cycle of periodic reports, each region will be assessed again in the same order as indicated in the table above. Following the first six-year cycle, there may be a pause for evaluation to assess and revise the periodic reporting mechanism before a new cycle is initiated.

205. At appropriate intervals, and whenever deemed necessary, the World Heritage Committee adopts and revises Monitoring Indicators and an Analytical Framework for Periodic Reporting.

206. The Periodic Reporting process is used as an opportunity for regional exchange and cooperation and to enhance active co-ordination and synchronization between States Parties, particularly in the case of transboundary and transnational properties.

206. 207. The Format for the periodic reports by the States Parties consists of two sections: The Periodic Reporting questionnaire is an online tool to be completed by the respective National Focal Points and Site Managers of the World Heritage properties.

   a) **Section I** refers to the legislative and administrative provisions which the State Party has adopted and other actions which it has taken for the application of the *Convention*, together with details of the experience acquired in this field. This particularly concerns the general obligations defined in specific articles of the *Convention*.

   b) **Section II** refers to the state of conservation of specific World Heritage properties located on the territory of the State Party concerned. This Section should be completed for each World Heritage property.

   Explanatory Notes are provided with the Format in Annex 7.

208. The Periodic Reporting Format may be reviewed following each cycle of Periodic Reporting. An outline of the Format is contained in Annex 7 to the *Operational Guidelines.*

207. 209. In order to facilitate management and analysis of information, States Parties are requested to submit reports, in English or French, in electronic as well as in printed form to. using the online tool provided on the website of the World Heritage Centre. The online tool of the full questionnaire can be accessed here: http://whc.unesco.org/en/prcycle3/.

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   7, place de Fontenoy
   75352 Paris 07 SP
   France
   Tel: +33 (0)1 45 68 12 76
   Email: wh-info@unesco.org

V.C   Evaluation and Follow Up

208. 210. The Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies facilitate States Parties to consolidates national reports into Regional State of the World reports, which are available in electronic format at the following Web address http://whc.unesco.org/en/publications and in paper version (series World Heritage Papers).

209. 211. The World Heritage Committee carefully reviews issues raised in Periodic Reports and advises the States Parties of the regions concerned on matters arising from them.

210.**212.** ~~The Committee requested the Secretariat with the Advisory Bodies, in consultation with the relevant States Parties,~~ The Committee requested States Parties, working in partnership with the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies to develop long-term follow-up Regional Programmes structured according to its Strategic Objectives and to submit them for its examination. These Programmes are adopted as follow up to Periodic Reports and regularly reviewed by the Committee based on the needs of States Parties identified in Periodic Reports. They should accurately reflect the needs of World Heritage in the Region and facilitate the granting of International Assistance. ~~The Committee also expressed its support to ensure direct links between the Strategic Objectives and the International Assistance.~~

B. Proposed Revised Format of Annex 7:

FORMAT

PERIODIC REPORTING ON THE APPLICATION OF THE *WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION*

This Annex presents an outline of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire. The full questionnaire can be accessed at http://whc.unesco.org/en/prcycle3/.

General Requirements

- Information should be as precise, specific and concise as possible. It should be quantified where possible and fully referenced. Opportunities for comment are provided in each chapter.

- Expressions of opinion should be supported by reference to the authority on which they are made and the verifiable facts which support them.

SECTION I:
APPLICATION OF THE *WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION* BY THE STATE PARTY

Section I requests that the State Party provide information or validate existing information on the legislative and administrative provisions which they have adopted and other action which they have taken for the application of this *Convention,* together with details of the experience acquired in this field (Article 29.1 of the *World Heritage Convention*).

1. INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 lists the name of the State Party, year of ratification or acceptance of the *Convention* and seeks information on the groups and institutions involved in the preparation of Section I of the report.

2. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS, PROGRAMMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Chapter 2 aims to gather information on existing and potential synergies between Multilateral Environmental Agreements, as well as other UNESCO conventions, programmes, and recommendations.

The State Party is also invited to provide information on the extent to which it has implemented relevant policies adopted by the World Heritage Committee.

3. TENTATIVE LIST

Chapter 3 aims to gather information on the process of preparing their tentative list, the tools and guidance they have used, potential synergies with other conventions of properties on the tentative list as well as the sustainability of the process in line with the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy (2015).

4. NOMINATIONS

Chapter 4 aims to gather information on the process of nominating properties for inscription on the World Heritage List, the tools and guidance they have used, as well as the sustainability of the process in line with the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy (2015).

5. GENERAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Chapter 5 aims to gather information on the legal framework for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and/or natural heritage and its effectiveness.

6. INVENTORIES/LISTS/REGISTERS OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Chapter 6 aims to gather information on the status of inventories/lists/registers of cultural and natural heritage of national significance and the processes used to compile them.

7. STATUS OF SERVICES FOR PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND PRESENTATION

Chapter 7 aims to gather information on services within the territories of the State Party for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage and cooperation between the stakeholders involved.

8. FINANCIAL STATUS AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Chapter 8 aims to gather information on the availability and adequacy of financial resources available for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

9. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Chapter 9 aims to gather information on heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management capacity building in line with World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (2011).

10. POLICY AND RESOURCING OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Chapter 10 aims to gather information on specific legislation, policies and measures for the protection, conservation, presentation and management of World Heritage.

11. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND FUND RAISING

Chapter 11 aims to gather information on the co-operation with other States Parties–in the field of cultural and natural heritage.

12. EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND AWARENESS BUILDING

Chapter 12 aims to gather information on steps-taken to raise the awareness of decision-makers, property owners, and the general public, and in particular the youth, about the protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage.

13. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Chapter 13 automatically generates the main conclusions under each of the items of Section I based on the answers provided in the questionnaire. States Parties should also provide information about the actions they have taken regarding their implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

14. GOOD PRACTICES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION*

Chapter 14 offers the opportunity to provide an example of a good practice in World Heritage protection, identification, conservation or management implemented at national level.

15. ASSESSMENT OF THE PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE

Chapter 15 assesses the format, content and process of the Periodic Reporting exercise, including the degree to which it meets the objectives of Periodic Reporting, how the data generated is used and the training and guidance available to respondents.

SECTION II:
STATE OF CONSERVATION OF SPECIFIC WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Section II gathers information on the implementation of the *Convention* at site-level and must be completed for each individual World Heritage property. The preparation of this report should involve those who are responsible for the day-to-day management of the property. For transboundary properties, it is recommended that reports be prepared jointly by or in close collaboration between the agencies concerned.

1. WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY DATA

Chapter 1 requires that information be provided or existing information validated with regards to the basic data of the property (name, year of inscription, geographic coordinates, maps, social media presence), and also gathers information on the organizations or entities involved in the preparation of Section I of the report.

2. OTHER CONVENTIONS/PROGRAMMES UNDER WHICH THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY IS PROTECTED

Chapter 2 gathers information relating to synergies with other conventions and programmes (UNESCO and others) relevant to the property and on the extent of cooperation and integration existing between these conventions and programmes (where applicable).

3. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE AND DEFINING OF ATTRIBUTES

Chapter 3 gathers information on the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), their current condition and the trend in that condition since the last cycle of Periodic Reporting.

4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

Chapter 4 gathers information on the range of factors that are currently affecting or have strong potential to affect the property, both positively and negatively.

5. PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPERTY

Chapter 5 gathers information on practical issues of management, and the effectiveness of protection, management and monitoring of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value.

6. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Chapter 6 gathers information on the sources of funding available, the adequacy of budget for management needs, as well as the availability of human resources and levels of capacity building at the property.

7. SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

Chapter 7 gathers information on the adequacy of available knowledge (both scientific and traditional) regarding the values and attributes of the World Heritage property and the existence of research programmes directed towards management needs and/or the improvement of the understanding of Outstanding Universal Values.

8. EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND AWARENESS BUILDING

Chapter 8 gathers information on the existence and effectiveness of heritage education and awareness programmes at the property as well as general services dedicated to education, information, interpretation and awareness building.

9. VISITOR MANAGEMENT

Chapter 9 gathers information on tourism activities and visitor management at the property.

10. MONITORING

Chapter 10 gathers information on the existence of monitoring programmes and indicators for the property as well as on the implementation of property-related Committee Decisions (where applicable).

11. IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Chapter 11 automatically lists all the management needs requiring further action which have been highlighted in this Section of the Periodic Report.

12. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Chapter 12 highlights the most important positive and negative factors (up to ten of each) which have been highlighted in this Section of the Periodic Report.

13. IMPACT OF WORLD HERITAGE STATUS

Chapter 13 gathers information regarding the impact of World Heritage status in relation to various topics, with a particular focus on the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy (adopted in 2015).

14. GOOD PRACTICES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION*

Chapter 14 offers the opportunity to provide an example of a good practice in World Heritage protection, identification, conservation and preservation implemented at the property level.

15. ASSESSMENT OF THE PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE

Chapter 15 assesses the format, content and process of the Periodic Reporting exercise, including how the data generated is used and the training and guidance available to respondents.