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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Eighteenth session

Phuket, Thailand
9-10 December 1994

**Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda: Revision of the Operational
Guidelines**

In addition to the proposals presented in Working Document WHC-94/CONF.001B/5 The Bureau is requested to examine the attached draft proposal for revision of the Operational Guidelines and to make recommendations to the World Heritage Committee on the following item:

- F. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE (APPROVAL OF REQUESTS FOR PREPARATORY, TECHNICAL AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE)

F. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE (APPROVAL OF REQUESTS FOR PREPARATORY, TECHNICAL AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE)

F.1. BACKGROUND

At present, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee is authorized to approve requests for preparatory assistance (to a maximum of US\$ 15,000), international cooperation and training assistance (to a maximum of US\$ 20,000). Requests up to US\$ 30,000 can be approved by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, whereas requests above US\$ 30,000 are to be approved by the World Heritage Committee. These procedures cause in some cases unnecessary delays in the approval and implementation of small-scale projects. Their examination requires considerable time at the sessions of the Bureau and the Committee.

It is proposed, therefore, that the Committee delegates more authority to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and to the Director of the World Heritage Centre, as follows:

- **Preparatory assistance:** the Director of the World Heritage Centre is authorized to approve requests for preparatory assistance and is required to report to the Bureau on the requests approved.
- **Training:** the Director of the Centre is authorized to approve requests up to US\$ 20,000, whereas the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee is authorized to approve requests up to US\$ 40,000. Requests for large-scale assistance above US\$ 40,000 are to be examined and approved by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee.
- **Technical cooperation:** idem as for training.

F.2. PROPOSED REVISION OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

It is proposed to revise Section III of the Operational Guidelines as follows:

"(...)

(i) Preparatory assistance

(...)

84. Requests for preparatory assistance should be forwarded to the Secretariat. *The Director of the World Heritage Centre will examine the requests and will decide on the preparatory assistance to be granted within the budget allocated for this purpose by the Committee. The Director will report to the Bureau on the requests approved.*

(...)

(iii) Training

(...)

91. All requests for support for training activities should be transmitted to the Secretariat which will ensure that the information is complete. The Director of the World Heritage Centre is authorized to approve requests up to US\$ 20,000. Requests for sums above this amount follow the same procedure for approval as for requests for technical cooperation set out in paragraphs 95-100.

(iv) Technical co-operation

(...)

96. Large-scale technical cooperation requests (that is those exceeding US\$ 40,000) should be submitted to the Secretariat as early as possible before each of the sessions of the Bureau. Those received before 1 May and 1 October respectively will be considered by the following session of the Bureau.

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99. At the Bureau session, the Bureau will make a decision on each request for technical cooperation, and for emergency assistance and training beyond amounts authorized for approval by the Director of the Centre and the Chairperson. Representatives of a State Party, whether or not a member of the Bureau, shall not speak to advocate the approval of an assistance request submitted by that State, but only to deal with a point of information in answer to a question. The Bureau's decisions will be forwarded to the States Parties and the Centre will proceed to implement the approved projects.

100. The above schedule does not apply, however, to projects the cost of which does not exceed a ceiling of US\$ 40,000 for which the following simplified procedure will be applied.

- (a) In the case of requests not exceeding US\$ 20,000, the Secretariat will examine the dossier. The Director of the Centre, after receiving the advice of ICCROM, ICOMOS or IUCN, as appropriate, is authorized to take decisions on the financing of such requests.
- (b) Requests above US\$ 20,000 but not exceeding US\$ 40,000 will be examined by the Secretariat and will be, after receiving the advice of ICCROM, ICOMOS or IUCN, as appropriate, forwarded accompanied by all relevant

documents, to the Chairperson of the Committee for decision-making. The Chairperson is not authorized to approve requests submitted by his own country.