The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/18/42.COM/8B and WHC/18/42.COM/INF.8B1;

2. Noting the thematic studies on “Guidance and capacity building for the recognition of associative values using World Heritage criterion (vi)” and “the Interpretation of sites of memory”;

   Recalling the reservations it has expressed concerning the inscription of sites related to negative memories;

3. Also noting decision WHC/18/42.COM 5A to convene an Expert Meeting on sites associated with memories of recent conflicts to allow for both philosophical and practical reflections on the nature of memorialization, the value of evolving memories, the inter-relationship between material and immaterial attributes in relation to memory, and the issue of stakeholder consultation; and to develop guidance on whether and how these sites might relate to the purpose and scope of the World Heritage Convention;

4. Recognises the international importance of the nominated property;

5. Welcomes the use by the nominating States Parties of principles to guide development of the proposal, including the adoption of a consensual approach involving all parties concerned, and the use of an inclusive, balanced interpretation framework incorporating the context and history of the sites;

6. Postpones consideration of the nomination of the Funerary and Memorial sites of the First World War (Western Front), Belgium and France, until a comprehensive reflection on whether and how sites associated with recent conflicts and other negative and divisive memories might relate to the purpose and scope of the World Heritage Convention is undertaken, and, if
considered necessary, guidance on how to assess the conformity of such sites with the requirements of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines is provided.

Defers the examination of the nomination of the *Funeral and Memorial Sites of the First World War (Western Front) in Belgium and France*, on the World Heritage List in order to allow the States Parties, with the advice of ICOMOS, to:

- a. Reassess the selection of component parts with focus on a clear and consistent typology and sustainability of memorial activity,
- b. Reassess the boundaries of the component parts and their buffer zones,
- c. Further reinforce, where necessary, the legal measures that are currently in place for each component part to ensure the proper protection of each site;

7. Encourages the States Parties of Belgium and France to take full account of the outcomes of decision WHC/18/42.COM 5A in preparing a revised nomination for consideration by the World Heritage Committee.