ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/AS/1523/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 21 December 2018

H. E. Mr Alexander Kuznetsov Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to UNESCO 8, rue de Prony 75017 Paris

World Heritage List 2019 Monuments of Ancient Pskov (Russian Federation) – Interim report and additional information request

Dear Ambassador,

As prescribed by the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies have been requested to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2019. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to the "Monuments of Ancient Pskov" was carried out by Tamás Fejérdy (Hungary) in September 2018. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organization and implementation of the mission.

On 8 October 2018, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the selection of serial components, the integrity and the management and protection schemes of the property and the Buffer Zone. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 8, 9, and 15 November 2018 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2018, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2019. The additional information, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2019.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Monday 26 November 2018 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the discussions at the ICOMOS Panel meeting. Following the completion of their deliberations, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas where it considers further information is needed.

While the ICOMOS Panel considered that the "Monuments of Ancient Pskov" might have the potential to meet the requirements for Outstanding Universal Value, this has not yet been demonstrated.

Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

The ICOMOS Panel expressed its view that the highest potential to meet the requirements of Outstanding Universal Value would be in relation to a nomination which presents the architectural testimony and typology

of the Pskov School of Architecture, as it is already suggested in the justification presented under criterion (ii). The ICOMOS Panel considered that the justifications in relation to historical events in Ancient Russian and religious tradition of the local population were not equally promising.

However, with respect to the Pskov School of Architecture, the ICOMOS Panel considered the timeframe for the selection of monuments (12th – 19th century) rather large and not corresponding to the key era of production and height of the Pskov School of Architecture. While the earlier churches and the fortification structures selected in the serial nomination are usually seen in literature as influenced by the earlier Novgorod School, the latest architectural constructions included, such as the bell tower of the Kremlin, rather highlight the architectural typology of the later Moscow School.

The ICOMOS Panel would therefore request the State Party to present a survey aimed at identifying the potential components which could be considered as the masterpieces of the Pskov School of Architecture, which have been preserved, also considering – if relevant – monuments which were not included in the initial nomination. The survey should include a reference to the specific typological and decorative features, which are unique to the Pskov School. The survey should indicate if these are uniquely found in a specific monument or are also present in others. It should also list the master architect – whenever known – and highlight his/her affiliation with the Pskov School as well as illustrate these aspects by means of drawings and photographs. Based on this survey, the ICOMOS Panel recommends that the State Party could reconsider whether the selection of serial properties presented is indeed satisfactory to represent the most exceptional examples that Pskov School architects produced in Russia or whether the serial selection of components should be revised.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

We would be grateful if you could provide ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre with the above information by **28 February 2019 at the latest**, the deadline set out in paragraph 148 of the Operational Guidelines for supplementary information on nominations to be received. Please note that any information submitted after this date will not be considered by ICOMOS in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while ICOMOS will carefully consider any supplementary information submitted, it cannot properly evaluate a completely revised nomination or large amounts of new information submitted at the last minute. So we request to keep your response concise and respond only to the above requests.

We thank you for your support of the World Heritage Convention and the evaluation process.

Yours faithfully,

Gwenaëlle Bourdin Director ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

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State Committee of the Pskov Region on Protection of the objects of Cultural Heritage UNESCO World Heritage Centre