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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
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### Report

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## REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE ON ITS ACTIVITIES

### OUTLINE

**Source:** Article 29.3 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (“the World Heritage Convention”) stipulates that “the Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization”.

**Background:** The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (“the World Heritage Committee”) was established under Article 8 of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference at its 17th session on 16 November 1972.

**Purpose:** This document presents the report concerning the main activities and Decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the 21st session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention held from 14 to 15 November 2017. This document is a summary of Document WHC/19/43.COM/INF.5A.Rev that was presented to the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Baku, July 2019) and updated accordingly after the session and that is available at the following address:  
<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2019/whc19-43com-INF5A-en.Rev.pdf>



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## Introduction

1. This document is intended to provide the UNESCO General Conference with information regarding the main activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the 21st General Assembly of States Parties (14-15 November 2017) in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The main activities and decisions of the World Heritage Committee have been grouped according to its Strategic Objectives.

## II. Information on statutory meetings

### Current number of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention

2. As of July 2019, there are 193 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention<sup>1</sup>.

### Current members of the World Heritage Committee

3. **21 members:** Angola, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Spain, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

4. Terms of office are: until the **end of the 40th session of the General Conference (2019):** Angola, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Indonesia, Kuwait, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe; and until **the end of the 41st session of the General Conference (2021):** Australia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Guatemala, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Spain and Uganda.

### Composition of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee since July 2017

5. 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (July 2016-November 2017), Chairperson: Professor Jacek PURCHLA (Poland), Vice-Chairpersons: Angola, Kuwait, Portugal, Peru, Republic of Korea and Mr Muhammad Juma (United Republic of Tanzania) as Rapporteur.

6. 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee (November 2017-July 2018), Chairperson: Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa (Bahrain), Vice-Chairpersons: Azerbaijan, Brazil, China, Spain, Zimbabwe and Ms Anna E. Zeichner (Hungary) as Rapporteur.

7. 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee (July 2018-July 2019). The World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session decided to hold a 13th Extraordinary session during the 22nd session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in November 2019 to elect a Vice-Chairperson from the Latin America and the Caribbean region and, consequently, decided to prolong the mandate of Brazil as Vice-Chairperson until its 13th Extraordinary session.

8. For the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Manama, June-July 2018) 31 working documents and 11 information documents (WHC/18/42.COM) were prepared.

9. For the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Baku, June-July 2019) 31 working and 11 information documents (WHC/19/43.COM) were prepared.

10. In total, 84 documents were prepared, out of which 62 working documents and 22 Information documents.

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<sup>1</sup> The list of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention is available at the following web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/>

### III. Information related to the Implementation of Strategic Objectives

#### (a) Strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List

11. Since the 21st General Assembly (2017), 48 properties were inscribed on the World Heritage List. 19 properties (13 cultural, three natural and three mixed) were inscribed during the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Manama, 2018) and 29 properties (24 cultural, four natural and one mixed) were inscribed at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Baku, 2019). The detailed breakdown by region and categories can be found in document WHC/19/43.COM/INF.5A.Rev (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2019/whc19-43com-INF5A-en.Rev.pdf>).

12. The total number of properties on the World Heritage List as of July 2019 is 1,121 (869 cultural, 213 natural and 39 mixed).<sup>2</sup> These properties are located in 167 States Parties (i.e. 26 States Parties have no property inscribed on the World Heritage List). One hundred and seventy-eight States Parties have submitted Tentative Lists of properties they may decide to nominate in future years.

13. The total number of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger as of July 2019 is 53 (36 cultural and 17 natural).<sup>3</sup>

14. At the 42nd and the 43rd sessions of the World Heritage Committee, 87% (14 out of 16) and 73% (8 out of 11) of the Advisory Bodies recommendations for referral, deferral and non-inscription of nominations to be examined by the World Heritage Committee at the respective sessions have not been taken into consideration by the World Heritage Committee. During these two sessions, for the first time, the World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe on the World Heritage List three sites recommended for non-inscription (two at the 42nd session and one at the 43rd session). At the 42nd and 43rd sessions, in 22 cases the World Heritage Committee did not follow the Advisory Bodies' recommendations presented in the Draft Decisions. Eight referrals became inscriptions, four deferrals became inscriptions, two deferrals became referrals, three non-inscriptions became inscriptions, two non-inscriptions became referrals, one non-inscription became deferral, one referral for an extension became approval, one postponement became adjournment. Furthermore, two recommendations for inscriptions became referrals for different reasons, one in 2018 and one in 2019.

15. In addition, by Decision **42 COM 12A**, the World Heritage Committee decided to review the nomination and evaluation process with a view to increasing the balance and credibility of the World Heritage List. The report of the ad-hoc working group, whose mandate was to examine different possibilities of reforming the nomination process as well as to discuss the modalities for the possible use of advisory services of other entities in addition to the current three Advisory Bodies, is available in Document WHC/19/43.COM/12 (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2019/whc19-43com-12-en.pdf>). At its 43rd session, the World Heritage Committee endorsed the recommendations of the ad-hoc working group and decided to extend its mandate until the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2020 to review nominations related matters.

16. In addition, International, inter-regional and regional meetings as well as workshops have been organized for the implementation of the Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List. Details of all these activities are available in Document WHC/19/43.COM/5A (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2019/whc19-43com-5A-en.pdf>).

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<sup>2</sup> The World Heritage List is available on the web at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

<sup>3</sup> The list of World Heritage in Danger is available on the web at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/danger/>

## **(b) Ensuring the effective conservation of World Heritage properties**

### **State of conservation reports of World Heritage properties examined by the World Heritage Committee since the 21st General Assembly (2017)**

17. A total of **157** State of conservation reports, including **54** reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, were examined during the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Manama, 2018). A total of **166** State of conservation reports, including **54** reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, were examined during the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Baku, 2019). The detailed breakdown by region can be found in Document WHC/19/43.COM/INF.5A.Rev (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2019/whc19-43com-INF5A-en.Rev.pdf>). Since the 21st session of the General Assembly of States Parties in 2017, two properties have been inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and three sites have been removed from it.

### **Approved International Assistance (IA) from the World Heritage Fund since the 21st General Assembly (2017)**

18. A total amount of \$1,530,817 has been approved since 2017. Detailed breakdown by region can be found in Document WHC/19/43.COM/INF.5A.Rev (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2019/whc19-43com-INF5A-en.Rev.pdf>)

### **Periodic reporting**

19. A progress report on the preparation of the Third cycle of Periodic Reporting was presented to both the 42nd session (Manama, 2018) and the 43rd session (Baku, 2019) of the World Heritage Committee. A progress report on the follow-up to the Second cycle of Periodic Reporting was also presented to the 43rd session (Baku, 2019) of the World Heritage Committee.

### **Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism**

20. As per Decision **31 COM 5.2**, the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism is a constant cooperative process with the State Party concerned. At its 42nd session (Manama, 2018) and 43rd session (Baku, 2019), the Committee decided to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to 11 properties and also decided to start applying it to one more property. The list of these properties can be found in Document WHC/19/43.COM/INF.5A.Rev (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2019/whc19-43com-INF5A-en.Rev.pdf>)

## **(c) Promoting the development of effective capacity-building in States Parties**

### **Capacity-building strategy**

21. Over the past biennium, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in close cooperation with States Parties and category 2 centres, have undertaken a number of activities which contributed directly to the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011). These included programmes aimed at strengthening regional and national institutions responsible for heritage protection, training initiatives targeting professionals and youth and the development of new guidance materials.

### **Education activities**

22. A number of international and regional World Heritage Youth Fora were organized by the World Heritage Centre or with the Centre's assistance to develop educational activities, including by the Host Countries of the last two sessions of the World Heritage Committee (Bahrain and Azerbaijan).

23. The World Heritage Volunteers 2018 and 2019 campaigns carried out numerous camps on several World Heritage properties and sites on the Tentative Lists around the world involving a large participation of local organizations and mobilizing youth.

24. A detailed inventory of the activities mentioned above and others education activities can be found in documents WHC/18/42.COM/5A (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2018/whc18-42com-5A-en.pdf>) WHC/19/43.COM/5A (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2019/whc19-43com-5A-en.pdf>) and WHC/19/43.COM/INF.5A.Rev (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2019/whc19-43com-INF5A-en.Rev.pdf>)

#### **(d) Increasing public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through communication**

##### **Awareness-raising**

25. In 2018, the World Heritage website (<https://whc.unesco.org>) received an average of 33,227 visits per day. The visits to the World Heritage website represent 44.97 % of the total page views and 38.87 % of the visits to the UNESCO webpages in 2018.

26. Six e-newsletters, “World Heritage Information”, were sent in 2017 and 2018 in French and English to 28,025 World Heritage Centre website subscribers.

27. Articles and interviews on World Heritage have been published in response to requests by numerous national and international well-known media.

##### **Publications**

28. Between 2017 and 2019, 135,000 **World Heritage Maps** were produced and disseminated in English, French, Spanish and Arabic in partnership with Bahrain and Azerbaijan as well as *National Geographic*.

29. Eight issues of the quarterly magazine **World Heritage** (issues 84 to 91) were published between June 2017 and April 2019.

30. The **World Heritage Resource Manual Series** continues with a translation in Armenian in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies. This translation was supported by the World Heritage Fund through International Assistance and the Armenian National Commission for UNESCO.

##### **Bilateral Agreements with States Parties and Partnerships**

31. In 2017-2019, bilateral agreements were concluded or continued with 14 States Parties and the European Commission

32. In the period of 2017-2019, the World Heritage Centre has established and/or extended **15 partnerships with private sector companies, foundations, and NGOs**, all of which are managed in close consultation with UNESCO’s Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP). Inventories of on-going and envisaged partnerships with the private sector and foundations were presented to the Committee in documents WHC/18/42.COM/5A (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2018/whc18-42com-5A-en.pdf>) and WHC-19/43.COM/5A (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2019/whc19-43com-5A-en.pdf>).