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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للترقية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Culture Sector World Heritage Centre

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23 July 2019

To: All States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*

cc: Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN)

Subject: Invitation to the 22nd session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention and presentation of candidatures for the election of members to the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO Headquarters, 27-28 November 2019)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to invite you to the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention which will hold its 22nd session, in accordance with Article 8, paragraph 1 of the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, during the 40th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. The 22nd session will be held from 27 to 28 November 2019, at UNESCO Headquarters.

The General Assembly will be called upon, inter alia, to replace the outgoing members of the World Heritage Committee. In conformity with Rule 13.1 of the *Rules of Procedures* of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention concerning the presentation of candidatures for election to the World Heritage Committee, I would like to inform you that the seats of the following 9 States Parties will become available: Angola, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Indonesia, Kuwait, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

I would like also to draw to your attention that, for a State Party to be eligible as a member of the World Heritage Committee, the conditions set by Article 16, paragraph 5 of the *World Heritage Convention* must be met. That paragraph states that:

"...Any State Party to the Convention which is in arrears with the payment of its compulsory or voluntary contribution for the current year and the calendar year immediately preceding it shall not be eligible as a Member of the World Heritage Committee [...]"

Please note as well that according to Rule 13.2, members of the World Heritage Committee may stand for election after a gap of 6 years following the expiry of their previous mandate.

In conformity with Rule 13.1 of the *Rules of Procedure*, I would be grateful if you could inform the Secretariat at the World Heritage Centre, by **16 October 2019** at the latest, whether your country intends to stand as a candidate for the World Heritage Committee. Your candidature should be sent by email to the Chief of the Policy and Statutory Meetings Unit (p.totcharova@unesco.org, with copy to l.sellem@unesco.org).

I seize this occasion to recall that Resolution **13 GA 9** of the General Assembly of States Parties invites the States Parties to voluntarily reduce their term of office from 6 to 4 years. Should you wish to present your candidature to the World Heritage Committee elections, I should be grateful if you could indicate to us if your country will decide to voluntarily reduce its term of office to 4 years, if elected.

As per Rule 13.3, the provisional list of candidates - including updated information on the status of all compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund - will be made available to all States Parties at least four weeks before the 22nd session of the General Assembly. Please note that for the sake of transparency, candidatures already received have been uploaded on the website of the World Heritage Centre and that information related to the number of seats to be filled during the 22nd session of the General Assembly is also available at the same address:

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/22ga/>

You will find attached the Provisional Agenda of the 22nd session of the General Assembly. The working documents for this session will be made available in due course.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mechtild Rössler
Director
World Heritage Centre

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