

Third meeting of the open-ended working group of States Parties established with the mandate to develop a Code of Conduct, or a Statement of Ethical Principles or equivalent text (in conformity with Resolution 22 GA 10).

27 April 2021

Written Contribution from Australia in Advance of the 3rd Open-Ended Working Group Meeting

General remarks

Australia is grateful for the opportunity to provide written comments on the draft Code of Conduct. The draft document is a strong basis and a useful starting point for codifying our agreed principles.

Australia has reviewed the draft document and wishes to submit the following suggestions for consideration. Text highlighted in blue underline indicates new words for inclusion, with ~~striketrough~~ text indicating suggested words to be removed. We have included brief explanations for our amendments in each dot point below.

Suggested text amendments

(A) ~~“11. In its decision making concerning new nominations, a~~ Avoid making a decision that is moving more than one step from the draft decision as recommended in the Advisory Body technical evaluation when making decisions on new nominations. ~~This should only be done where there is clear technical and objective evidence in support of such a decision. For example, this may include decisions that move from a recommendation of ‘not to inscribe’ to a deferral, or a recommendation for a referral to inscription. To uphold the integrity and credibility of the nomination process and the World Heritage List, decisions that move from~~ between a recommendation ~~of~~ of ‘not to inscribe’ ~~to refer/ inscribe, or ‘defer’ to refer/inscribe must be avoided.”~~

- The non-paper as currently drafted requires each point under Section II to begin with a verb to make grammatical sense. The amendment to the first sentence above is made to reflect this. The second and third sentences are suggested as removed, as the principle of this paragraph is focused on deterring “**more** than one step from draft decisions” and therefore its focus should remain on this.

(B) ~~“The Committee strongly encourages the~~ Advisory Bodies, the Secretariat ~~World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies~~ as well as the States Parties to the Convention to observe the Code of Conduct and abide by the following provisions:”

- The non-paper notes at the beginning that the World Heritage Centre is “herein after: the Secretariat” and the edit above reflects this. The change in the order of the stakeholders is also made to reflect the order in which they are listed in the following paragraphs.

(C) “The Advisory Bodies shall:

15. Act in a manner consistent with ~~the~~^{is} Code of Conduct, particularly in their capacity to advise the Committee in its deliberations. This includes maintaining transparent, equal and open processes, publishing of principles and criteria for selection of experts to missions, evaluations and panels, strengthening~~ed~~ efforts to enhance dialogue and ensuring the provision of early advice.”

“The Secretariat to the Convention shall:

16. Act in a manner consistent with the Code of Conduct. This includes maintaining transparent, equal and strengthening~~ed~~ efforts to enhance dialogue and ensuring the provision of early advice.”

- This section needs the inclusion of active verbs to make clearer sense.

Final remarks

Australia appreciates the work of the Secretariat, having managed the many contributions made thus far to the draft Code of Conduct. We note the importance of the Code’s development to uphold the credibility of the World Heritage Convention.