United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage 44 COM

WHC/21/44.COM/INF.5A.1
Paris, 4 June 2021
Original: English

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Extended forty-fourth session

**Fuzhou (China) / Online meeting
16-31 July 2021**

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Reports of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

5A: Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities and the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's Decisions

INF.5A. Consultation of the Governing Bodies of the World Heritage Convention on the preparation of UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and Programme and Budget 2022-2025 (41 C/5)

SUMMARY

This document contains the results of the consultation of the Governing Bodies of the World Heritage Convention on the preparation of UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and Programme and Budget 2022-2025 (41 C/5).

NB. This consultation took place in 2020 to feed into the Culture Sector's contribution to the Director-General's Preliminary Proposals on the 41 C/4 and 41 C/5 which were examined by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 210th session (December 2020 / January 2021).

I. INTRODUCTION

1. As recalled at the General Assembly of States Parties in November 2019 in Document WHC/19/22.GA/INF.8, according to Recommendation 74 of the Working Group on Governance approved by the General Conference (39 C/Resolution 87), all UNESCO's International and Intergovernmental Bodies (IIBs) "should have the opportunity to submit formal inputs to the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy (C/4) and the draft Programme and Budget (C/5) documents".

2. The preparation of UNESCO's Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022-2025 (41 C/5) is a high-level consultative process with UNESCO's principal constituencies and partners, in particular Member States, NGOs and IGOs.

3. In view of the specific calendar implied by this process and as indicated in Document WHC/19/22.GA/INF.8, the Secretariat has developed an online consultation in order to collect responses and prepare a synthesis report. The outcomes of this report should be subsequently reflected in the Culture Sector's contribution to the Director-General's Preliminary Proposals on the 41 C/4 and 41 C/5 and transmitted to all States Parties.

4. The consultation was launched online on the World Heritage Centre's website in both English and French, on 21 February 2020, with the deadline for reply set initially to 31 March 2020 and subsequently extended to 15 April 2020, to allow for a larger number of participants.

5. Out of 193 States Parties to the Convention, the Secretariat received replies to the online survey from **63** of them, that is a participation rate of **32.6%**. In details, the replies received show an unequal participation in the survey among the regions, with the larger participation in Europe-North America (52.9%) and in the Arab States (52.6%), and a much lower participation in the other regions (27.3% in Latin America and the Caribbean, 22.7% in Asia-Pacific and 15.2% in Africa). The online survey registered the participation of 17 Committee members out of 21.

6. The consultation was divided into 2 main sections: "UNESCO's future Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4)" and "Future Programme and Budget 2022-2025 (41 C/5)". The detailed replies to the survey are presented in Annex.

II. OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE PREPARATION OF THE 41 C/4 AND 41 C/5 DOCUMENTS

7. The first question of the survey (B.1) concerned the **key challenges** which should be considered as the most relevant for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention during the 2022-2029 period. Respondents were asked to select only 3 of them as a "high priority". A key challenge distinctly emerged from the replies: "Achieving a balance between World Heritage conservation and development needs", which is a high priority for almost two-third (63.5%) of the respondents.

8. Two other challenges were identified as a high priority by more than 40% of the participants: "Reducing the level of politicization of decisions by the Governing Bodies of the Convention" (46%) and "Addressing the effects of climate change on World Heritage properties" (42.8%).

9. In addition to the challenges proposed under question B.1, the Covid crisis appeared in 23% of the comments made. Other challenges were mentioned in a scattered manner.

10. A bit more than half of the respondents consider that the World Heritage Convention has a “medium impact” on **Gender priority** (54% in question B.3). By the same token, in question C.1 more than 40% of the respondents consider that the World Heritage Convention is of limited/no relevance in the pursuit of SDGs targets 5.5 and 5.c (both related to gender equality and the empowerment of women). Moreover, “Promoting gender equality in the management of World Heritage properties” is ranked as a “low priority” for one third of the respondents (34.9%) which makes it the challenge of lowest priority in question B.1. Additional comments made in relation to question B.3 are rather diverging, ranging from a gender-neutral to a gender transformative perspective. However it appears that the majority of the respondents consider that there is little evidence of the direct impact of the work under the World Heritage Convention on gender issues.

11. A majority of respondents (47.6%) consider that the World Heritage Convention has also a “medium impact” on **Priority Africa**. Again additional comments show that States Parties do not clearly see evidence of the impact of World Heritage activities in Africa. However efforts to enhance the representativity of African sites on the World Heritage List are mentioned: considered as visible by some, they achieved little results for others. It should be noted that this issue of representativity of Africa on the List is a “medium priority” for 66.6% of the respondents (question B.1), which means that conservation activities should be prioritized. This is true not only for Africa but for all regions, since the need to “shift the focus from listing mechanism towards conservation and management” comes as a 4th key challenge for the period 2022-2029 under question B.1.

12. Concerning **sustainable development** under question C.1, the relevance of the World Heritage Convention in the pursuit of SDG target 11.4 (Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage) was overwhelmingly considered as “most relevant” (95.2%). The other 2 targets for which the World Heritage Convention is considered as “most relevant” by more than half of the respondents are SDG target 8.9 on sustainable tourism (65%) and SDG target 13.1 on climate change (55.5%). These results fall in line with the fact that “Addressing the effects of climate change on World Heritage properties” is the 3rd highest priority among the challenges relevant for the 2022-2029 period (question B.1 – see above) and that the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme is rated with the highest priority among all thematic programmes under question C.4. It is to be noted however that “Tackling the effects of over-tourism on World Heritage properties” was rated as a “medium priority” challenge and not as a “high priority” one under question B.1. This may suggest that over-tourism as such is not the main issue for States Parties and that other tourism-related topics may be more relevant, such as the economic benefits derived from sustainable tourism (as shown by the level of relevance granted to target 8.9 under question C.1).

13. In addition to the SDGs listed in question C.1, States Parties were asked to possibly identify other SDGs to which the World Heritage Convention would contribute (question C.2). Half of them proposed additional SDGs, among which SDG 15 on biodiversity protection was largely predominant.

14. Finally, according to the various replies provided under question C.3, the 2 main axes along which the work under the World Heritage Convention can best contribute to support Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are the sharing of best practices (showcasing examples of the balance achieved between conservation and development) and capacity

building. These axes correspond to 2 SDGs targets which were rated equally (54%) as “most relevant” after climate change issues, that is SDG targets 17.16 (on knowledge sharing) and 4.7 (on knowledge and skills).

15. In terms of **thematic programmes** (question C.4), as indicated above the highest priority is indisputably the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme (69.8%), followed by the World Heritage Education Programme (63.5%). These 2 programmes come far before all the others, which all fall under “medium priority” except the Thematic Initiative on Astronomy and World Heritage, which has a majority of responses under the “low priority” category (50.8%). The SIDS Programme is rated as “medium priority” by 71.5% of the respondents and the Marine Programme is a high priority for a bit less than a quarter of them (23.8%). Both these results are in line with the result on SDG target 14.7 on SIDS and marine-related activities for which the World Heritage Convention is considered relevant by less than half of the respondents, while almost one third of them consider it of limited/no relevance. The representativity of SIDS on the List is also a “medium priority” for 66.6% of the respondents (question B.1), which suggests that conservation activities should be prioritized.

16. Only one third of the respondents made additional comments about the thematic programmes. They were very diverse and no convergent line of action emerged from them.

17. According to the participants in the survey, **cooperation with other UNESCO Conventions / Programmes** (question C.5) should concern in priority the 2003 Convention (88.9% of positive replies), followed on an equal footing by the 1954 and 1970 Conventions (81% both) and closely behind comes the 2001 Convention (79.4%) and the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (77.8%), complemented by the Geoparks Programme (73%). The only cooperation considered as not relevant (by 57.1% of the respondents) is with the Management of Social Transformations Programme.

18. Comments made in relation to this question demonstrate an interest in a holistic approach to heritage, on one hand by insisting on the links between local communities and their built heritage and/or natural environment, via their traditional knowledge and/or cultural practices, and on the other hand by calling for an integrated protection and monitoring system for heritage. Cooperation in the protection of heritage in conflict zones is another recurrent topic in the comments.

19. On the operational side, the **key success factors** identified (question B.2) are the quality of expertise under the World Heritage Convention (71.4%), and its “positive influence (inspirational and advocacy role) on the work at national level” and its “impact on public policies and national legislations related to cultural or natural heritage” (both at 69.8%). This latter result seems to be in contradiction with the fact that “Translating the provisions of the World Heritage Convention into legal and policy frameworks” is only a “medium priority” under question B1. But this may also mean that the provisions of the World Heritage Convention are already well translated into national policies, so that this topic does not need to be addressed as much as others.

20. The potential of the World Heritage Convention for mobilizing international support come in 3rd position (57.1%). Interestingly, its high visibility is a factor of high importance for less than half of the respondents (49.2%). By the same token, branding and merchandising (linked with visibility) were rated as the lowest priority among the funding opportunities proposed under question C.6.

21. Under this same question C.6, the **funding opportunity** to be explored in priority beyond the usual bilateral ones (States Parties and European Union) is the” international finance organisations, including regional development banks” (73%),

far before foundations (49.2%). Social events and crowd-funding are considered as a medium priority, which is in line with the results of question B.4 where civil society involvement is expected to be "medium" during the 2022-2029 period.

22. For almost three quarters (73%) of the respondents, the most pressing challenge to the World Heritage Convention's **operational effectiveness** (question B.5) is the insufficient regular programme resources. A significant challenge also lies in the heavy administrative procedures according to 54% of respondents, thus confirming the relevance of the reflection still ongoing under Pillar 2 (Strengthen UNESCO's means of action) of the Strategic Transformation initiative. The imbalance of distribution of voluntary contributions among thematic areas and regions/countries was identified as another significant challenge. This constitutes an indirect support to the Structured Financing Dialogue which aims at making voluntary contributions more predictable, more flexible and less restricted/earmarked.

23. The **main stakeholders** to be engaged/involved in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention for this same period (question B.4) were identified as follows: National Governments (high priority for 87.3% of respondents), then the Advisory Bodies (69.8%) and site managers networks (61.9%). This latter result combined with the fact that "Enhancing cooperation among World Heritage site managers" is a challenge rated as "medium" in question B.1, may suggest that site managers network are considered as already rather effective. In 4th position come Indigenous Peoples / Communities (58.7%) closely followed by Subnational/Local authorities (55.5%). Civil society, NGOs, Category 2 Centres and universities are all rate as "medium" in terms of involvement. These results show that during the 2022-2029 period the implementation of the World Heritage Convention should involve in priority stakeholders at the national level (governments, site managers, communities), with the assistance of the Advisory Bodies. This may be understood as an indirect call for more ownership of the World Heritage Convention by States Parties.

ANNEX

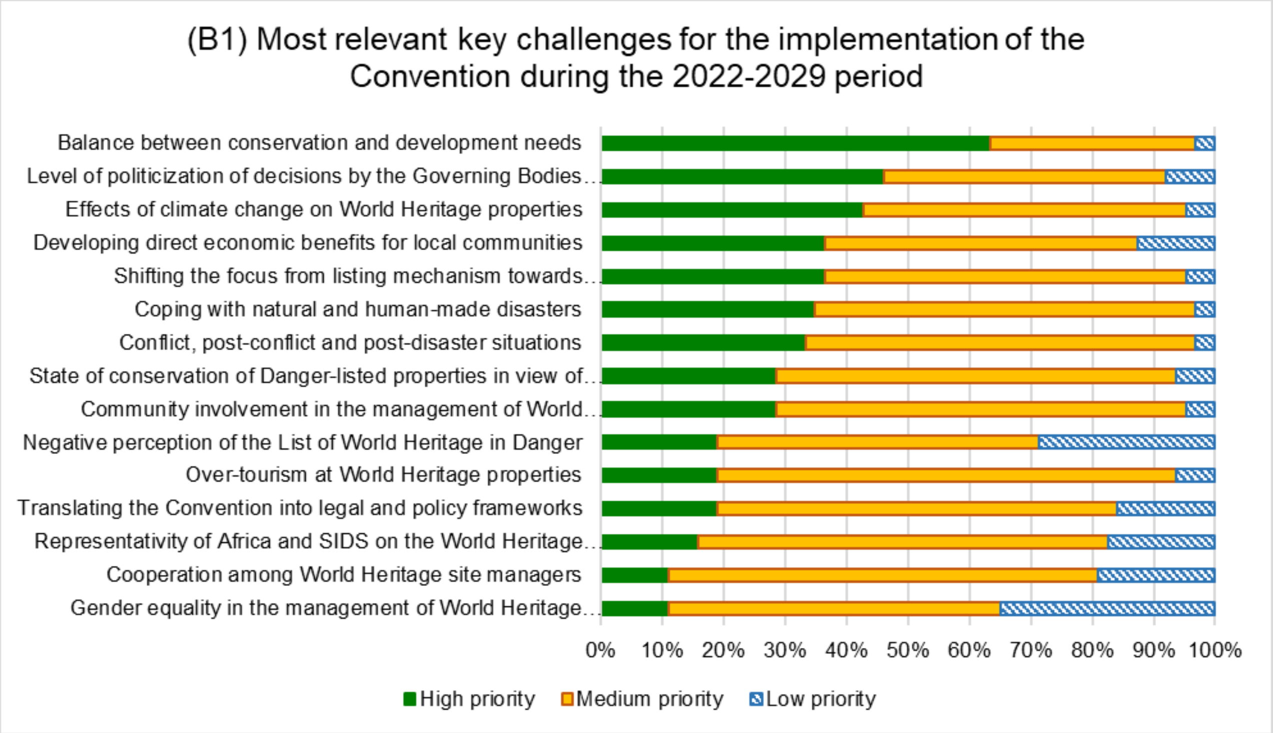
Consultation of the Governing Bodies of the World Heritage Convention on the preparation of UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and Programme and Budget 2022-2025 (41 C/5)

Detailed replies

UNESCO's future Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4)

Question (B1): In your view, which of the following key challenges will be most relevant for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention during the 2022-2029 period?

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
Achieving a balance between World Heritage conservation and development needs	63,5%	33,3%	3,2%
Reducing the level of politicization of decisions by the Governing Bodies of the Convention	46,0%	46,0%	8%
Addressing the effects of climate change on World Heritage properties	42,8%	52,4%	4,8%
Shifting the focus from listing mechanism towards conservation and management	36,5%	58,7%	4,8%
Developing direct economic benefits for local communities	36,5%	50,8%	12,7%
Preparing for and coping with natural and human-made disasters	34,9%	61,9%	3,2%
Responding to conflict, post-conflict and post-disaster situations	33,3%	63,5%	3,2%
Increasing community involvement in the management of World Heritage properties	28,6%	66,6%	4,8%
Ensuring the improvement of the state of conservation of the properties inscribed on the Danger List in view of their removal from the Danger List in the short / medium term	28,6%	65,1%	6,3%
Tackling the effects of over-tourism on World Heritage properties	19,0%	74,6%	6,4%
Translating the provisions of the World Heritage Convention into legal and policy frameworks	19,0%	65,1%	15,9%
Overcome the current negative perception of the List of World Heritage in Danger	19,0%	52,4%	28,6%
Improving the representativity of Africa and SIDS on the World Heritage List	15,9%	66,6%	17,5%
Enhancing cooperation among World Heritage site managers	11,2%	69,8%	19,0%
Promoting gender equality in the management of World Heritage properties	11,1%	54,0%	34,9%

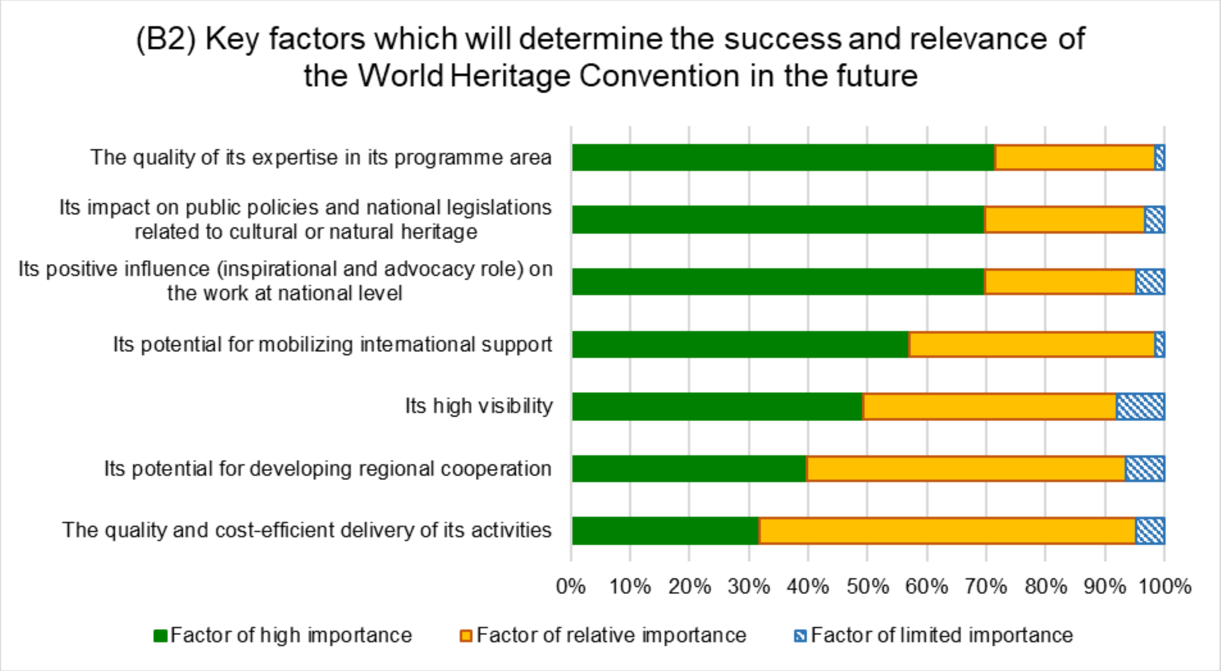


30 States Parties made additional comments. Among them:

- 20 States Parties mentioned challenges not included in the list, such as Covid-19 (7 States Parties), a balanced World Heritage List (4 States Parties), capacity building (3 States Parties), the links between nature and culture (3 States Parties) or between tangible and intangible heritage (3 States Parties);
- 3 States Parties called for an expert-based decision-making;
- 2 States Parties considered that more than 3 challenges were a high priority;
- 1 State Party considered that the current monitoring mechanisms were not effective enough;
- 1 State Party insisted that States Parties should fulfill Articles 4 and 5 of the World Heritage Convention;
- 1 State Party stressed that balancing World Heritage and (sustainable) development should not lead to an interpretation which might compromise the Outstanding Universal Value of sites;
- 1 State Party believed it was hard to predict the most urgent needs;
- 1 State Party questioned the legitimacy of some resource manuals and of the Operational Guidelines;
- 1 State Party questioned the way Question (B1) was structured;
- 1 State Party noted that it would be important to reassess the strategic priorities and possibly reduce the activities which do not reflect them.

Question (B2): What are, in your view, key factors which will determine the success and relevance of the World Heritage Convention in the future?

	Factor of high importance	**Factor of relative importance**	**Factor of limited importance**
The quality of its expertise in its programme area	71,4%	27,0%	1,6%
Its positive influence (inspirational and advocacy role) on the work at national level	69,8%	25,4%	4,8%
Its impact on public policies and national legislations related to cultural or natural heritage	69,8%	27,0%	3,2%
Its potential for mobilizing international support	57,1%	41,3%	1,6%
Its high visibility	49,2%	42,9%	7,9%
Its potential for developing regional cooperation	39,7%	54,0%	6,3%
The quality and cost-efficient delivery of its activities	31,7%	63,5%	4,8%



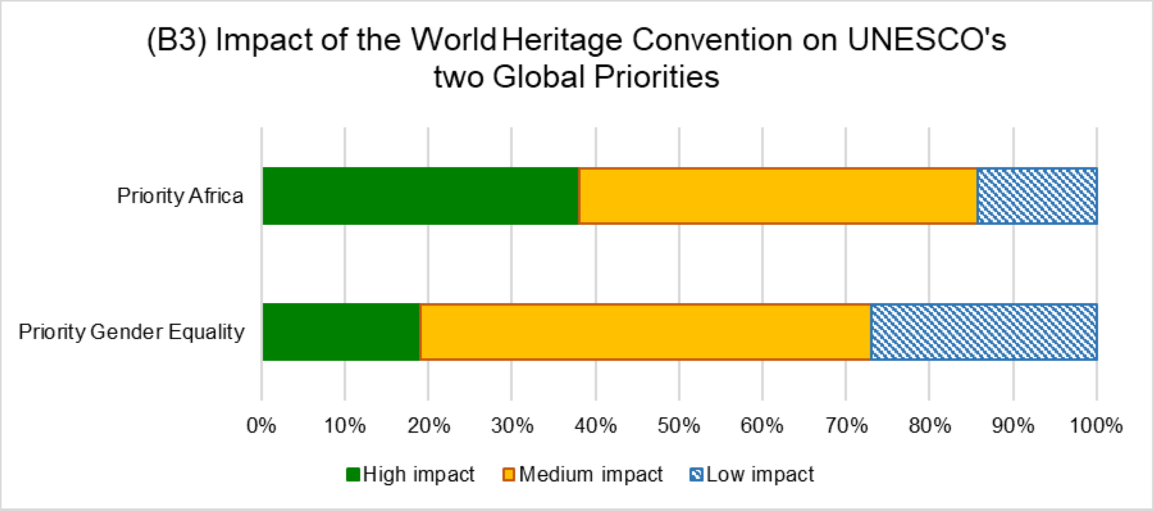
21 States Parties made additional comments. Among them:

- Some States Parties highlighted other factors, such as a balanced and credible World Heritage List (1 State Party), the good conservation of properties (1 State Party), the quality of sites inscribed (1 State Party), the credibility of Committee's decisions (1 State Party), the capacity to collaborate with Governments and private sectors (1 State Party);
- 2 States Parties noted the positive contribution of World Heritage to community livelihoods and for the socio-cultural development of territories;
- 2 States Parties called for more capacity building;
- 1 State Party considered that the key factors listed in question B.2 were interdependent, making a prioritization difficult;

- 1 State Party noted that visibility was counterproductive if not accompanied by clear messages on the goals and actions under the World Heritage Convention;
- 1 State Party called for more integration between Culture Conventions;
- 1 State Party considered that the increase of the number of sites inscribed was detrimental to the credibility of the World Heritage List;
- 1 State Party highlighted timing issues for proper assistance both at national level and at Advisory Bodies' level;
- 1 State Party considered that the Organization was short of experts for certain specializations, which may hinder its overall work;
- 1 State Party stressed that the expertise provided by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies should be deployed more strategically to make it more relevant.

Question (B3): UNESCO has defined in its current Strategy (37 C/4) two global priorities, Africa and Gender Equality. In your view, does the World Heritage Convention have an impact in these areas?

	High impact	**Medium impact**	**Low impact**
Priority Africa	38,1%	47,6%	14,3%
Priority Gender Equality	19,0%	54,0%	27,0%



17 States Parties made additional comments.

- 2 States Parties considered that the World Heritage Convention had no or little visible impact on both Priorities so far;
- 3 States Parties suggested other priorities, namely SIDS, youth and conflict areas (1 State Party for each priority).

Concerning Priority Africa,

- 2 States Parties considered that adding African sites on the World Heritage List had a visible impact on priority Africa;
- 1 State Party considered that Priority Africa had not yet resulted in a better representation of African sites on the World Heritage List;
- 1 State Party mentioned that the better representation of African States Parties in the World Heritage Committee had a visible impact on Priority Africa;
- 1 State Party considered that technical and financial support to Africa should be increased;

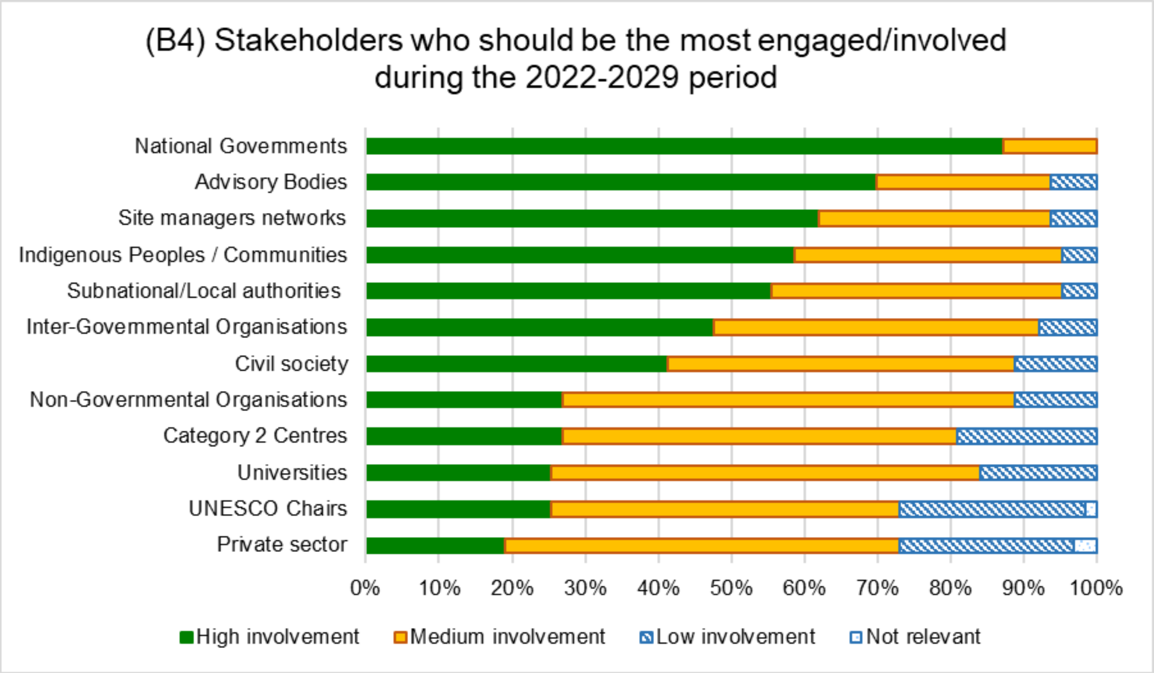
- 1 State Party suggested expanding Priority Africa to the entire continent.

Concerning Priority Gender Equality,

- 4 States Parties mentioned how the World Heritage Convention could/should impact the Priority Gender Equality, namely via the development of women's professional expertise (2 States Parties), the management of sites (1 State Party) or promotion (1 State Party);
- 2 States Parties noted that there was no systematic approach on gender in the programmatic work under the Convention;
- 2 States Parties considered that the World Heritage Convention was "gender neutral";
- 1 State Party believed that the World Heritage Convention could be "gender transformative";
- 1 State Party noted that gender equality in World Heritage management could be difficult to put in place in very remote places or tough environments.

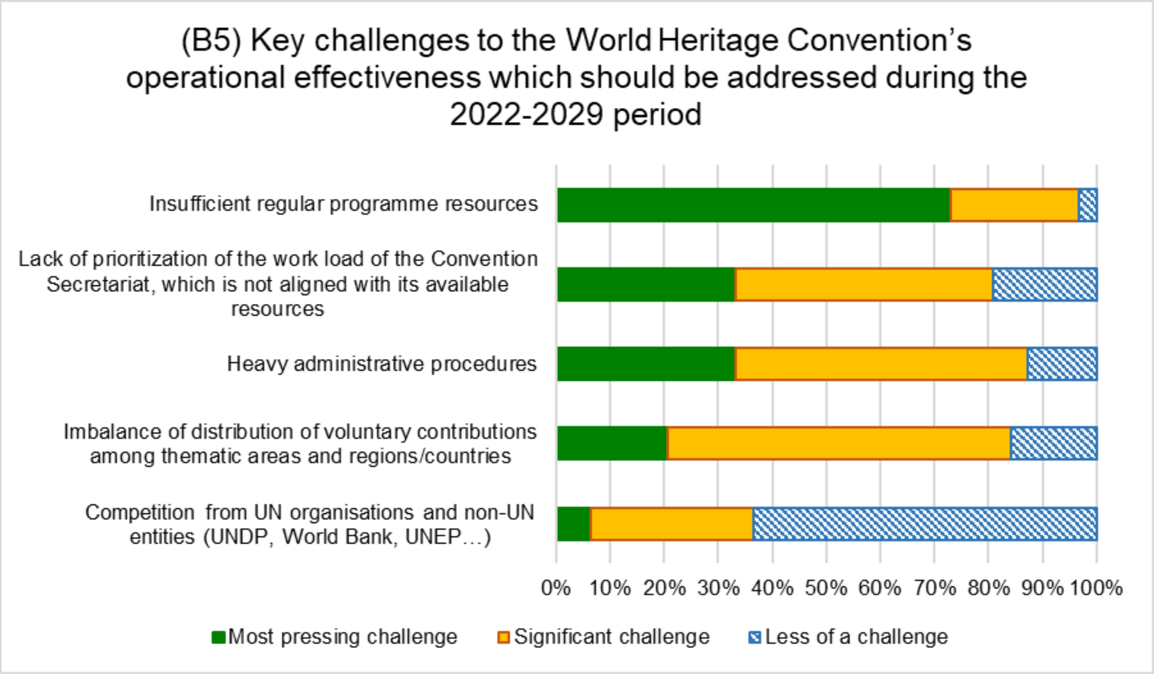
Question (B4): The World Heritage Convention relies on a variety of stakeholders for its implementation. In your opinion, which one(s) should be the most engaged/involved during the 2022-2029 period?

	High involvement	**Medium involvement**	**Low involvement**	**Not relevant**
National Governments	87,3%	12,7%	0,0%	0,0%
Advisory Bodies	69,8%	23,8%	6,4%	0,0%
Site managers networks	61,9%	31,7%	6,4%	0,0%
Indigenous Peoples / Communities	58,7%	36,5%	4,8%	0,0%
Subnational/Local authorities	55,5%	39,7%	4,8%	0,0%
Inter-Governmental Organisations	47,6%	44,4%	8%	0,0%
Civil society	41,3%	47,6%	11,1%	0,0%
Category 2 Centres	27,0%	54,0%	19,0%	0,0%
Non-Governmental Organisations	27,0%	61,9%	11,1%	0,0%
UNESCO Chairs	25,4%	47,6%	25,4%	1,6%
Universities	25,4%	58,7%	15,9%	0,0%
Private sector	19,0%	54,0%	23,8%	3,2%



Question (B5): What are the key challenges to the World Heritage Convention's operational effectiveness which should be addressed during the 2022-2029 period?

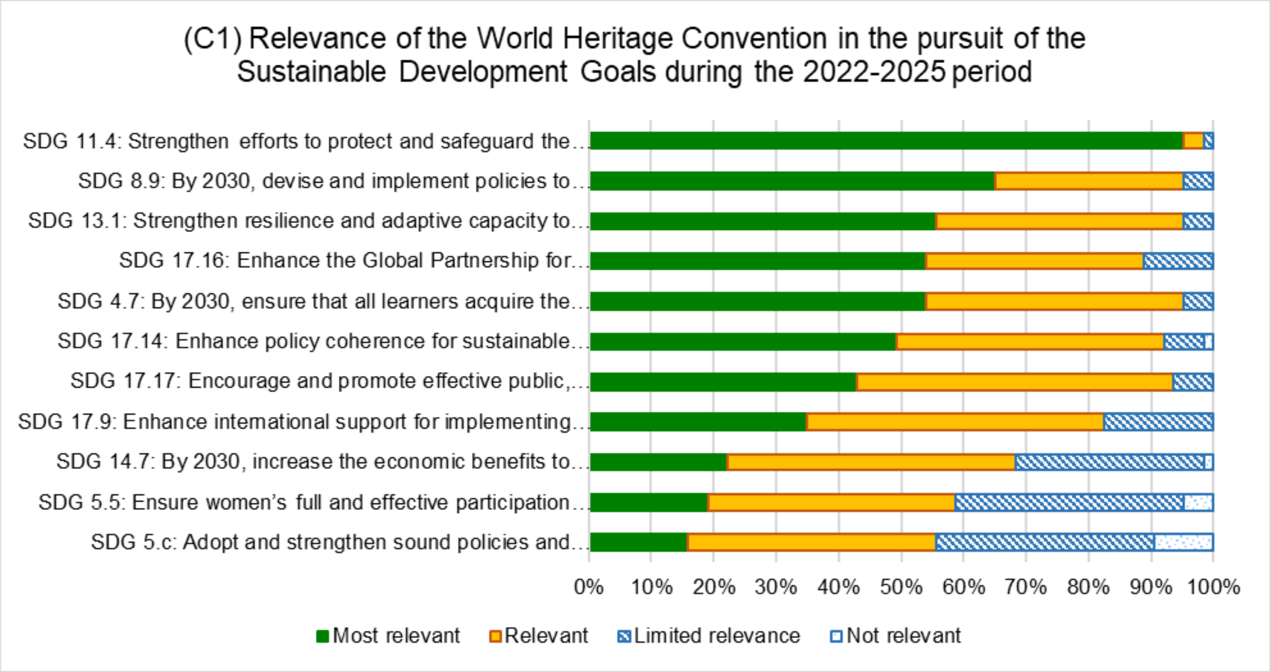
	Most pressing challenge	**Significant challenge**	**Less of a challenge**
Insufficient regular programme resources	73,0%	23,8%	3,2%
Heavy administrative procedures	33,3%	54,0%	12,7%
Lack of prioritization of the workload of the Convention Secretariat, which is not aligned with its available resources	33,3%	47,7%	19,0%
Imbalance of distribution of voluntary contributions among thematic areas and regions/countries	20,6%	63,5%	15,9%
Competition from UN organisations and non-UN entities (UNDP, World Bank, UNEP…)	6,3%	30,2%	63,5%


(B5) Key challenges to the World Heritage Convention's operational effectiveness which should be addressed during the 2022-2029 period
Insufficient regular programme resources
Lack of prioritization of the work load of the Convention Secretariat, which is not aligned with its available resources
Heavy administrative procedures
Imbalance of distribution of voluntary contributions among thematic areas and regions/countries
Competition from UN organisations and non-UN entities (UNDP, World Bank, UNEP…)
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
Most pressing challenge
Significant challenge
Less of a challenge

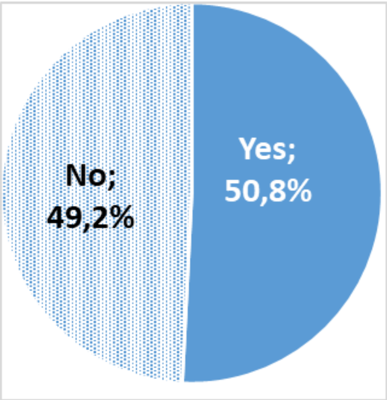
Future Programme and Budget 2022-2025 (41 C/5)

Question (C1): In your view, how would you assess the relevance of the World Heritage Convention in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals below during the 2022-2025 period? (NB. These goals are the ones identified in the current C/5 for the period 2017-2021)

	Most relevant	**Relevant**	**Limited relevance**	**Not relevant**
SDG 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	95,2%	3,2%	1,6%	0,0%
SDG 8.9: By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	65%	30,2%	4,8%	0,0%
SDG 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	55,5%	39,7%	4,8%	0,0%
SDG 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development	54,0%	41,2%	4,8%	0,0%
SDG 17.16: Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries	54,0%	34,9%	11,1%	0,0%
SDG 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	49,2%	42,9%	6,3%	1,6%
SDG 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships	42,9%	50,8%	6,3%	0,0%
SDG 17.9: Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation	34,9%	47,6%	17,5%	0,0%
SDG 14.7: By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism	22,2%	46,0%	30,2%	1,6%
SDG 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	19,0%	39,7%	36,5%	4,8%
SDG 5.c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels	15,9%	39,7%	34,9%	9,5%



Question (C2): Do you consider that the World Heritage Convention contributes also to the achievement of one or more SDGs which are not in the above list?



32 States Parties made additional comments. Among them:

27 of them mentioned at least one SDG or one Target as summarized below:

SDG / Target mentioned	**SDG 1 / Target 1.4**	**SDG 2 / Target 2.4**	**SDG 3 / Target 3.4**	**SDG 4 / Target 4.a**	**SDG 6**	**SDG 7**	**SDG 8 / Targets 8.3, 8.4**	**Target 9.1**	**SDG 10 / Target 10.2**
Number of States Parties mentioning one of them	8	3	4	4	1	1	5	2	5

SDG / Target mentioned	**SDG 11 / Targets 11.1, 11.3, 11.7, 11.a**	**SDG 12 / Targets 12.2, 12.3, 12.5,12.8, 12.b**	**SDG 13 / Targets 13.2, 13.b**	**SDG 14**	**SDG 15 / Targets 15.4, 15.5, 15.7, 15.a**	**SDG 16**	**SDG 17**
Number of States Parties mentioning one of them	6	7	6	5	**14**	4	1

7 States Parties mentioned one or more Targets which were to be reached by 2020 (namely Targets 6.6, 8.6, 11.b, 14.2, 14.5, 15.1, 15.2, 15.5 and 15.9).

In addition:

- 1 State Party considered that the 'Culture 2030 Indicators' publication showed the relevance of the Convention to SDGs other than the ones listed in question C.1;
- 1 State Party highlighted that SDGs/Targets marked with "limited relevance" have not been enough addressed yet under the World Heritage Convention and should be prioritized;
- 1 State Party considered that the links between the SDGs and the Convention should be assessed;
- 1 State Party considered that the SDGs should be considered in any future prioritization of activities to ensure alignment.

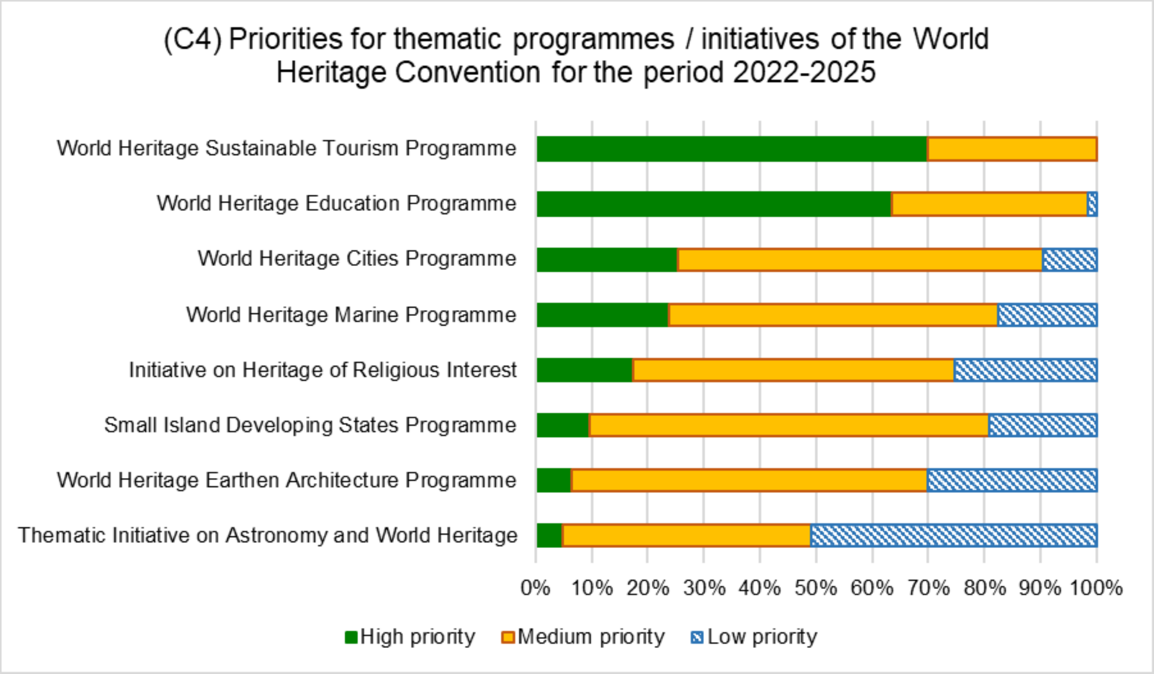
Question (C3): How can the work under the World Heritage Convention best contribute to support Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

Regarding Question (C3), **58** States Parties made comments on how the work under the World Heritage Convention could best contribute to support Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably by:

- Sharing best practices/examples of successful conservation practices in relation to sustainable development (16 States Parties);
- Increasing capacity-building in relation to SDGs (11 States Parties);
- Encouraging the work on SDGs at national level (7 States Parties);
- Strengthening international cooperation (5 States Parties);
- Promoting the links between nature and culture (4 States Parties);
- Increasing financial support (4 States Parties).
- Involving more local communities (2 States Parties);
- Promoting the sustainable use of natural resources (2 States Parties);
- Addressing climate change issues (2 States Parties);
- Promoting sustainable tourism approaches (2 States Parties);
- Using the Convention's reporting mechanisms to monitor the SDGs in States Parties (2 States Parties).

Question (C4): Which priority should be given to the thematic programmes / initiatives of the World Heritage Convention for the period 2022-2025?

	High priority	**Medium priority**	**Low priority**
World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme	69,8%	30,2%	0,0%
World Heritage Education Programme	63,5%	34,9%	1,6%
World Heritage Cities Programme	25,4%	65,1%	9,5%
World Heritage Marine Programme	23,8%	58,7%	17,5%
Initiative on Heritage of Religious Interest	17,5%	57,1%	25,4%
Small Island Developing States Programme	9,5%	71,5%	19,0%
World Heritage Earthen Architecture Programme	6,3%	63,5%	30,2%
Thematic Initiative on Astronomy and World Heritage	4,8%	44,4%	50,8%



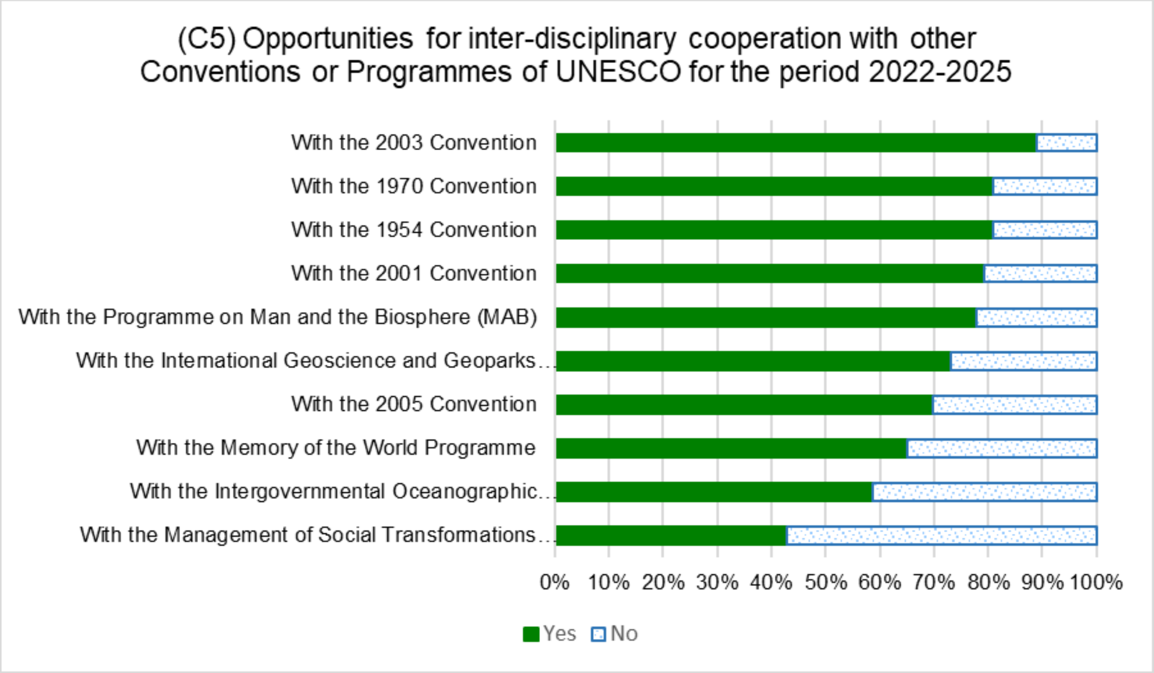
23 States Parties made additional comments. Among them:

- 8 States Parties suggested the creation of one or more other thematic programmes, namely “Indigenous people and local communities” (2 States Parties), “Contribution to SDGs/Agenda 2030” (2 States Parties), “Risk preparedness” (2 States Parties), “Modern heritage” (1 State Party), “Cultural routes” (1 State Party), “Spiritual and symbolic properties and memorials” (1 State Party), “Universities” (1 State Party), “Policies” (1 State Party), “Biodiversity-related programme” (1 State Party);
- 3 States Parties considered that all Thematic Programmes/Initiatives were important;
- 3 States Parties insisted on reinforcing the Education Programme;
- 3 States Parties considered that priority should be given to programmes with an intersectoral component or concerning the highest number of countries / sites;
- 2 States Parties considered that the priority should rather be given to the core mission of the Convention;

- 2 States Parties considered that no cost-effective programmes or programmes with insufficient results should be phased out;
- 1 State Party suggested the closure of a thematic programme;
- 1 State Party considered that the programmatic priorities should be developed in parallel with a renewed resource mobilization and partnership strategy.

Question (C5): In your view, what would be the opportunities for inter-disciplinary cooperation with other Conventions or Programmes of UNESCO for the period 2022-2025?

	Yes	**No**
Cooperation with the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)	88,9%	11,1%
Cooperation with the Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict (1954)	81%	19,0%
Cooperation with the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970)	81%	19,0%
Cooperation with the Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	79,4%	20,6%
Cooperation with the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB)	77,8%	22,2%
Cooperation with the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP)	73%	27,0%
Cooperation with the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)	69,8%	30,2%
Cooperation with the Memory of the World Programme	65,1%	34,9%
Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)	58,7%	41,3%
Cooperation with the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST)	42,9%	57,1%


(C5) Opportunities for inter-disciplinary cooperation with other Conventions or Programmes of UNESCO for the period 2022-2025

55 States Parties made additional comments. Among them:

- 11 States Parties stressed that cooperation between Conventions would generate an integrated system of heritage protection;
- 6 States Parties considered that a cooperation between Conventions would create synergies between experts;
- 1 State Party recalled that the cooperation with CITES would be helpful in controlling trade of endangered species that are part of the Outstanding Universal Value of natural sites.

A few concrete examples of Inter-disciplinary cooperation were given:

With the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003):

- developing joint mechanisms for the integral management of tangible and intangible heritage, as some of the expressions/cultural traditions are strongly related to their cultural and/or natural environment (6 States Parties);
- developing programmes focused on traditional knowledge, arts and crafts and their application in tangible heritage conservation (2 States Parties);
- promoting World Heritage sites which have a strong intangible heritage component (2 States Parties);
- putting an emphasis on criterion (vi) to connect the 1972 and 2003 Conventions (1 State Party).

With the Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict (1954):

- developing strategies and tools to strengthen the protection / recovery of cultural heritage in crisis and conflict situations (3 States Parties);
- inscribing World Heritage Sites on the List of "High protection" and “Enhanced protection” established by the 1954 Hague Convention (3 States Parties).

With the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970):

- developing strategies and tools (including with Interpol) to strengthen the protection of cultural goods at heritage sites, especially in conflict situations (5 States Parties);

With the Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001):

- identification of cultural/natural underwater sites to be inscribed or protected (2 States Parties);
- promoting World heritage sites with underwater cultural heritage as a part of their Outstanding Universal Value (1 State Party)

With the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB):

- developing synergies between environmental issues and cultural practices (2 States Parties);
- exchanging good practices (2 States Parties);
- enhancing sustainable development at World Heritage sites in inhabited areas of special natural or landscape values (1 State Party).

With the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP):

- exchanging good practices (1 State Party).

With the Memory of the World Programme:

- Sharing best practices in digitization and related methodological assistance (1 State Party);
- Starting a global reflection on memory and memory sites (1 State Party).

With the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005):

- Devising and implementing policies for an enhanced participation of Indigenous peoples in World Heritage nominations and management to support the diversity of cultural expressions (1 State Party);
- Devising and implementing policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products (1 State Party).

With the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC):

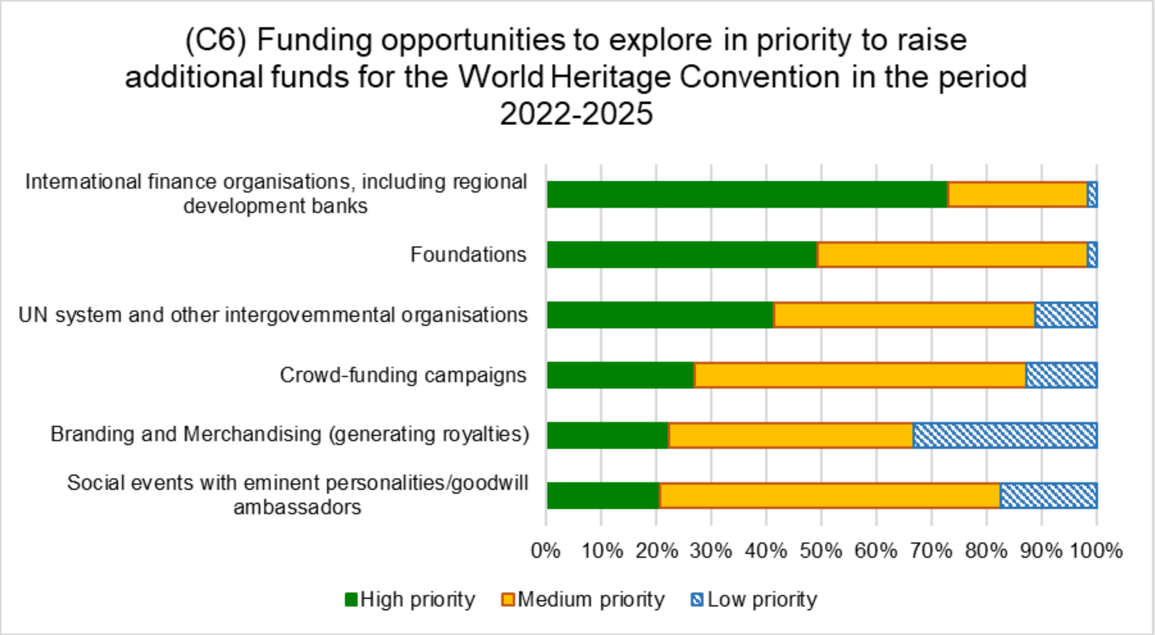
- Working on climate change and rising sea level issues (1 State Party);
- Working on marine World Heritage sites (1 State Party).

With the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST):

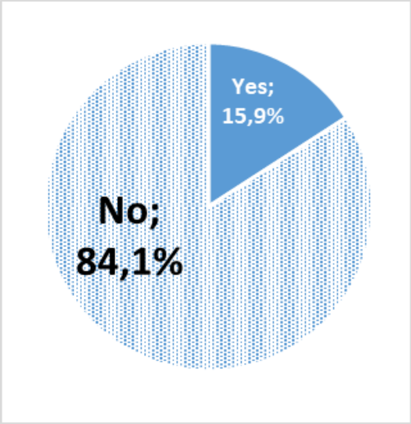
- Using knowledge focused on cultural and natural needs to promote evidence-informed decision-making (1 State Party);
- Educating local communities in uses of potential benefits offered by World Heritage status and adjusting their economic models (1 State Party).

Question (C6): Which funding opportunities, beyond States Parties and EU, should be explored in priority to raise additional funds for the World Heritage Convention in the period 2022-2025?

	High priority	**Medium priority**	**Low priority**
International finance organisations, including regional development banks	73,0%	25,4%	1,6%
Foundations	49,2%	49,2%	1,6%
UN system and other intergovernmental organisations	41,3%	47,6%	11,1%
Crowd-funding campaigns	27,0%	60,3%	12,7%
Branding and Merchandising (generating royalties)	22,2%	44,5%	33,3%
Social events with eminent personalities/goodwill ambassadors	20,6%	61,9%	17,5%



Question (C7): Do you have any other comments regarding the programmatic orientations of UNESCO future Programme and Budget 2022-2025 in relation to the World Heritage Convention?



10 States Parties made additional comments. Among them:

- 2 States Parties stressed the need to reduce the politicization of decisions made by the World Heritage Committee;
- 2 States Parties suggested focusing more on conservation and promotion of best practices and less on nominations;
- 1 State Party noted that the cultural, social and economic sustainability of a great number of World Heritage sites were being threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- 1 State Party called for a more ambitious approach to gender equality;
- 1 State Party called for a prioritization of activities;
- 1 State Party recalled the need the integrate the Historical Urban Landscape approach in future activities;
- 1 State Party recommended that there is more understanding of the context and background of heritage sites;
- 1 State Party underlined the importance of making use of the expertise found within the civil society and academia;
- 1 State Party insisted that the interpretation of heritage was a crucial part of conservation and that it might be envisaged to include it in the nomination process;
- 1 State Party gave a list of programmatic orientations for the period 2022-2025, mostly related to conservation and management;
- 1 State Party recommended to strengthen resources dedicated to capacity building;
- 1 State Party noted that since States Parties were not increasing their contributions to the World Heritage Fund, other mechanisms had to be found to ensure that the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies can function at optimal levels and implement the Convention;
- 1 State Party mentioned that other UN organisations and non-UN entities should be considered as potential partners and not competitors.