1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/8,

2. Recalling Decisions 35 COM 9A, 40 COM 11, 42 COM 5A, 42 COM 8, 42 COM 8B.24, 42 COM 12A, 43 COM 8 and 43 COM 12 adopted at its 35th (UNESCO Headquarters, 2011), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO Headquarters, 2016), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively, as well as Resolutions 18 GA 8 and 22 GA 9 adopted by the General Assembly at its 18th (UNESCO, 2011) and 22nd (UNESCO, 2019) sessions respectively;

3. Expresses its appreciation for the work requested by the Committee at the 42nd session, including an Expert Meeting with representatives from all regions (Paris, 4-6 December 2019), ICOMOS Discussion Paper (2020), and an independent expert analysis (Beazley/Cameron 2020); as well as the experts’ and Inter—Ministerial Meeting hosted by South Africa in April 2021;

4. Recognising some consultations have occurred between States Parties to the Convention on this issue, taking note of the information session held in January 2021 for all States Parties and the debates held at the 44th extended session of the World Heritage Committee, and acknowledging diverging views expressed by States Parties in these forums;

5. Encouraging State Parties to engage in further dialogue and for regional perspectives for a better understanding of the issues by wider groups of actors;

6. Recognizes that the evaluation previously undertaken by ICOMOS for sites falling under this category was subjected to divergent assessments by the members of the Committee;

7. Acknowledging that the question of whether and how “sites associated with recent conflicts” relate to the purpose and scope of the World Heritage Convention, have not yet been resolved which requires further consideration, and:

   a. Requests the Committee to establish a geographically and gender balanced open-ended working group of States Parties to the Convention, with the mandate of advising on this question, and requests this group provide a progress report to the 45th session of the Committee;

   b. Recommends the World Heritage Centre to include an item to initiate discussion on the reflection on sites associated with recent conflicts and other negative and divisive
memories in the agenda of the forthcoming 23rd Session of the General Assembly of States Parties

c. **Suggests** the 23rd Session of the General Assembly of States Parties give consideration to create uniform modalities for facilitating regional consultations on this question, whose findings will inform the progress report of the Committee at its 45th session;

8. **Encourages** States Parties to support the Working Group including through voluntary contributions;

9. **Recommends** that the report of the Committee at the 45th session, together with the report of the regional consultations is considered at the 24th Session of the General Assembly of States Parties.