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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
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World Heritage

23 GA

WHC/21/23.GA/13
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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
24-26 November 2021

Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly
of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*
at its 23rd session (UNESCO, 2021)

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1A. Opening of the General Assembly

No Resolution.

1B. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the General Assembly

Resolution: 23 GA 1B

The General Assembly,

1. Elects **H.E. Mr Tebogo Seokolo (South Africa)** as Chairperson of the 23rd session of the General Assembly;
2. Elects **Mr Gytis Marcinkevičius (Lithuania)** as Rapporteur of the 23rd session of the General Assembly;
3. Elects **Germany, Honduras, Islamic Republic of Iran and Syrian Arab Republic** as Vice-Chairpersons of the 23rd session of the General Assembly.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OF THE TIMETABLE OF THE 23RD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2A. Adoption of the Agenda of the 23rd session of the General Assembly

Resolution: 23 GA 2A

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/23.GA/2A,
2. Adopts the Agenda of the 23rd session as amended.

2B. Adoption of the Timetable of the 23rd session of the General Assembly

Resolution: 23 GA 2B

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/23.GA/2B,
2. Adopts the timetable of the 23rd session, included in the above-mentioned Document.

3. REPORT OF THE RAPPOREUR OF THE 22ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNESCO, 2019)

Resolution: 23 GA 3

The General Assembly,

1. Takes note of the report of the Rapporteur of the 22nd session of the General Assembly (UNESCO, 2019).

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Resolution: 23 GA 4

The General Assembly,

1. Takes note of the report of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee on the activities of the World Heritage Committee.

5. ELECTIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Resolution: 23 GA 5

The General Assembly,

1. Elects the following 12 States Parties: **Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Zambia** as members of the World Heritage Committee.

6. EXAMINATION OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND, INCLUDING THE STATUS OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STATES PARTIES

Resolution: 23 GA 6

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/21/23.GA/6 and WHC/21/23.GA/INF.6,
2. Having also examined the accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the financial period ended 31 December 2019,
3. Approves the accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the financial period ended 31 December 2019;
4. Takes note of the financial statements relating to the World Heritage Fund for the period 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2021.

7. DETERMINATION OF THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 16 OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

Resolution: 23 GA 7

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/21/23.GA/7, WHC/21/23.GA/7.Corr and WHC/21/23.GA/INF.7,
 2. Recalling Article 16 of the *World Heritage Convention*,
 3. Decides to set the percentage for the calculation of the amount of the contributions to be paid to the World Heritage Fund by States Parties for the financial period 2022-2023 at 1% of their contributions to the regular budget of UNESCO;
 4. Emphasizing the urgency of securing adequate financial resources to achieve the objectives of the *World Heritage Convention* to identify and conserve the world's cultural and natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value, in particular in light of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the unprecedented threats such as climate change, natural disasters, and deliberate attacks on cultural heritage in territories affected by armed conflicts and terrorism,
 5. Notes the status of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund as presented in Document WHC/21/23.GA/INF.7;
 6. Recalls, in this regard, that the payment of assessed annual contributions to the World Heritage Fund is a legal obligation incumbent on all States Parties which have ratified the *Convention*;
 7. Reiterates the plea of the World Heritage Committee to States Parties to the *Convention* to pay their annual contributions by 31 January wherever possible in order to facilitate the timely implementation of the activities financed by the World Heritage Fund;
 8. Takes note of Decision **44 COM 14** of the World Heritage Committee on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund;
 9. Invites States Parties to provide supplementary voluntary contributions to the various sub-accounts of the World Heritage Fund.
- 8. POSSIBLE MEASURES CONCERNING ARREARS, INCLUDING WITH RESPECT TO THE EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE CONCERNED STATES PARTIES, WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO THE PROTECTION OF STATES THAT CANNOT PAY FOR CAUSES BEYOND THEIR CONTROL**

Resolution: 23 GA 8

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/23.GA/8,
2. Recalling Resolutions **20 GA 8** and **22 GA 7** adopted at its 20th (UNESCO, 2015) and 22nd (UNESCO, 2019) sessions respectively,
3. Noting with concern the financial difficulties that the World Heritage Fund is facing,
4. Recalls that the payment of annual contributions to the World Heritage Fund is a legal obligation incumbent on all States Parties which have ratified the *Convention*, as per Article 16 of the *World Heritage Convention*, and strongly urges all States Parties, which have not yet paid the totality of their assessed contributions, including voluntary

contributions in accordance with Article 16.2 of the *Convention*, to ensure that their contributions are paid as soon as possible;

5. Also recalls that the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund and overall funding for World Heritage are strategic issues and a shared responsibility which concern States Parties and all relevant partners, affecting the overall credibility of the *World Heritage Convention*, including effectiveness and efficiency of World Heritage protection;
6. Recommends States Parties, when putting forward World Heritage List nominations, to contribute to financially sustain the system of evaluation of nominations by the Advisory Bodies through the mechanism for making voluntary contributions to a dedicated sub-account of the World Heritage Fund established by Decision **43 COM 14**, with no prejudice to the payment of annual contributions;
7. Takes note of the possible measures concerning arrears contained in document WHC/21/23.GA/8 and the possible ways for their implementation, including their difficulties therein;
8. Requests the Secretariat to follow up under the appropriate items.

9. FUTURE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION, INCLUDING FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2012-2022 AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION IN 2022

Resolution: 23 GA 9

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/23.GA/9,
2. Recalling Resolutions **17 GA 9**, **18 GA 11**, **19 GA 10**, **20 GA 12**, **21 GA 9** and **22 GA 9** adopted during the 17th (UNESCO, 2009), 18th (UNESCO, 2011), 19th (UNESCO, 2013), 20th (UNESCO, 2015), 21st (UNESCO, 2017) and 22nd (UNESCO, 2019) sessions of the General Assembly of States Parties respectively, concerning the adoption of the Strategic Action Plan and Vision and the monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan,
3. Recalling Decision **44 COM 14** adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
4. Welcomes with satisfaction the continuous progress in the performance of the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan;
5. Takes note of the reflection undertaken on the Global Strategy using the opportunity of the 50th Anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention* in 2022;
6. Takes note of the status of preparation of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention* and invites States Parties to mark this anniversary in collaboration with UNESCO and use this opportunity to enhance the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and the protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage recognizing its enduring and irreplaceable value for furthering sustainable development and for biological and cultural diversity worldwide;
7. Acknowledges with thanks the invitation of the government of Italy and the City of Florence to host a celebration for the 50th Anniversary in November 2022 in partnership with UNESCO;
8. Recognizes the importance of undertaking a reflection on how to strengthen the involvement and contribution of local communities and NGOs, taking into consideration the diversity of the expertise views, transparency and dialogue with the Advisory Bodies, to ensure an appropriate and equitable balance between conservation, sustainability and

development in line with the Policy Document on Sustainable Development adopted in 2015, and encourages all stakeholders to undertake a reflection on these points;

9. Concludes that the Strategic Action Plan has led to positive outcomes and encourages the World Heritage Centre, with the support of the States Parties and the Advisory Bodies, to continue, within the available resources, activities that were launched as a result of the Strategic Action Plan.

10. ELABORATION OF A CODE OF CONDUCT, OR A STATEMENT OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES OR EQUIVALENT TEXT – FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION 22 GA 10

Resolution: 23 GA 10

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/23.GA/10 and WHC/21/23.GA/INF.10,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 12A** and **43 COM 12** adopted respectively at the 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions of the World Heritage Committee, as well as Resolution **22 GA 10** adopted by the General Assembly at its 22nd session (UNESCO, 2019),
3. Also recalling that the “Declaration of principles to promote international solidarity and cooperation to preserve World Heritage” is not legally binding, but that stakeholders are called upon to honour its contents,
4. Thanks the States Parties of Austria, Azerbaijan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for their generous financial support to the Open-ended Working Group of States Parties to the *Convention*;
5. Further thanks the Chairperson, **H.E. Mr Ghazi Gherairi (Tunisia)**, the Vice-Chairperson **H.E. Mr Christian Ter Stepanian (Armenia)** and the Rapporteur **Mr Ole Sør Eriksen (Norway)**, for their able leadership, as well as the World Heritage Centre;
6. Expresses its appreciation to the Open-ended Working Group of States Parties to the *Convention* for its work and takes note of the discussions held during its meetings;
7. Endorses the “Declaration of principles to promote international solidarity and cooperation to preserve World Heritage” contained in Document WHC/21/23.GA/INF.10.

11. POLICY DOCUMENT ON CLIMATE ACTION FOR WORLD HERITAGE

Resolution: 23 GA 11

The General Assembly,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/21/23.GA/11 and WHC/21/23.GA/INF.11,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7**, **41 COM 7**, **42 COM 7**, **43 COM 7.2** and **44 COM 7C**, adopted respectively at the 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions of the World Heritage Committee,
3. Thanking the State Party of the Netherlands for having funded the project to update the 2007 Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties, and expressing its gratitude to all stakeholders of the *World Heritage Convention* who contributed to this process,

4. Noting the debate on this item that took place during the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee (Fuzhou/online, 2021), as well as the comments expressed by the Committee members on this draft through a written consultation process,
5. Noting that the World Heritage Committee has endorsed the draft "Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage", as presented in Annex 1 of Document WHC/21/44.COM/7C, at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021), and recommended its review in line with the principles mentioned in paragraph 7 of Decision **44 COM 7C**,
6. Takes note of the "Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage", as endorsed by the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee, and decides to establish an open-ended working group assisted by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, with the mandate to review and develop its final version taking into account Decision **44 COM 7C**, as well as proposals for its effective implementation, for consideration by the 24th session of the General Assembly of States Parties;
7. Recommends that the panel of experts as agreed in Decision **44 COM 7C**, be convened before March 2022, with a mandate to:
 - a) consider revisions to the Policy Document and its unresolved policy matters, and
 - b) report to the open-ended working group established in paragraph 6, to inform its consideration of the Policy Document and proposals to implement it;
8. Encourages States Parties to provide extra-budgetary funding for the open-ended working group.

12. Other Business

No Resolution

13. Closure of the session

No Resolution.