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WHC-99/CONF.204/12Rev.

Paris, 11 June 1999

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
Twenty-third session

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room X
5 – 10 July 1999

Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda : Preparation of the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties

The World Heritage Committee, at its twenty-second session, inscribed this item on the provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the Bureau. This document presents progress made in the preparation for the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties to be held at UNESCO Headquarters on 28 and 29 October 1999.

Action requested: the Bureau must approve the documents that will be submitted to all the States Parties:

WHC-99/CONF.206/1	Provisional Agenda (Annex 1)
WHC-99/CONF.206/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents (Annex II)
WHC-99/CONF.206/5	Ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List (see in particular the draft resolution that will be examined by the General Assembly of States Parties) (Annex III)
WHC-99/CONF.206/6	Elections to the World Heritage Committee (Annex IV)

Background

1. The twelfth session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage will be held in Paris at UNESCO Headquarters, on 28 and 29 October 1999, during the thirtieth session of the General Conference. All the States Parties to the Convention will be invited to this meeting, as well as the representatives of the three advisory bodies for the World Heritage Convention (ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN), the Council of Europe, the non-governmental organizations maintaining relations with UNESCO, and the States that are not party to the Convention, as observers. According to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO will ensure the Secretariat of the Assembly.

2. According to Articles 3 and 13, the Assembly should elect a President, one or several Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur, and carry out elections of the members of the World Heritage Committee. Article 9, paragraph 1 of the World Heritage Convention stipulates *"The term of office of States members of the World Heritage Committee shall extend from the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference during which they are elected until the end of its third subsequent ordinary session."*

3. According to Article 16 of the Convention, the General Assembly must also decide *"the amount of the voluntary contributions the States Parties to this Convention undertake to pay regularly, every two years, to the World Heritage Fund, in the form of a uniform percentage applicable to all States"*.

4. The World Heritage Committee, during its twenty-second session held in Kyoto from 30 November to 5 December 1998, requested that the following item be inscribed on the agenda of the twelfth General Assembly: *"Ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List"*. It inscribed on the agenda of the twenty-third regular session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee the following item: *"Preparation of the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties"*.

Progress report on preparations for the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties

5. The following documents have been prepared and are submitted to the Bureau for approval:

WHC-99/CONF.206/1 Provisional Agenda (Annex 1)

WHC-99/CONF.206/INF.1 Provisional list of documents (Annex II)

WHC-99/CONF.206/5 Ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List (Annex III)

WHC-99/CONF.206/6 Elections to the World Heritage Committee (Annex IV)

WHC-99/CONF.206/2 Report of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage on its Activities (1997-1998) (General Conference Document 30C/REP/13).
This document will be examined by the twenty-third session of the Bureau under item 9 of the Provisional Agenda. It will be completed by an oral presentation by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee during the General Assembly of States Parties.

The following documents are being prepared and will be sent for translation before the end of July:

WHC-99/CONF.206/3 Financial statement of the World Heritage Fund
Responsibility: Bureau of the Comptroller

WHC-99/CONF.206/3a Accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the financial period
1996-
1997

WHC-99/CONF.206/3b Statement of mandatory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund

WHC-99/CONF.206/4 Determination of the amount of contributions to the World Heritage Fund
Responsibility: Bureau of the Comptroller

6. The frame of document WHC-99/CONF.206/5 is attached in Annex III. Its final version should take account of the debates and decisions of the twenty-third ordinary session of the Bureau under item 8 of its Agenda: *"Revision of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention"*, in particular the modifications to be made to Sections C and D, *"Criteria for the inclusion of cultural and natural properties in the World Heritage List"* of Chapter I: *"Establishment of the World Heritage List"*. Consequently, the final document will reflect the decisions of the Bureau.

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**WHC-99/CONF.206/1
Paris, 9 April 1999
Original : English/French**

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

**Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room II
28 - 29 October 1999**

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the General Assembly by the Director-General or his representative
2. Election of the Chairperson
3. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda
4. Election of the Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur
5. Report of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee
6. Examination of the statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund, including the situation of the States Parties' statement of contributions
7. Determination of the amount of the contributions to the World Heritage Fund in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of the Convention
8. Ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List
9. Elections to the World Heritage Committee
10. Other business

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WHC-99/CONF.206/INF.1

Paris, 9 April 1999

Original : French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room II
28 - 29 October 1999

PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WHC-99/CONF.206/1	Provisional Agenda
WHC-99/CONF.206/2	Report by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage on its activities (1997-1998) (General Conference document 30 C/REP/13)
WHC-99/CONF.206/3	Statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund WHC-99/CONF.206/3a Accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the financial period 1996-1997 WHC-99/CONF.206/3b Status of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund
WHC-99/CONF.206/4	Determination of the amount of the contributions to the World Heritage Fund
WHC-99/CONF.206/5	Ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List
WHC-99/CONF.206/6	Elections to the World Heritage Committee

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

WHC-99/CONF.206/INF.1	Provisional list of documents
WHC-99/CONF.206/INF.2	List of States Parties to the Convention
WHC-99/CONF.206/INF.3	Composition of the World Heritage Committee since 1976
WHC-99/CONF.206/INF.4	Summary record of the eleventh General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 27-28 October 1997)
WHC-99/CONF.206/INF.5	Reference documents on Global Strategy (1992-1999)
WHC-99/CONF.206/INF.6 I(a,b,c)	Number of nominations proposed and inscribed by category (1978-1998)
WHC-99/CONF.206/INF.6 II	Distribution of World Heritage properties in States Parties

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WHC-99/CONF.206/5

Paris, 8 June 1999

Original : French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room II
28 - 29 October 1999

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda for the General Assembly: Ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List

DRAFT

I. Introduction to the Global Strategy for a representative World Heritage List

1.1 Since the adoption of the *World Heritage Convention* in 1972, innumerable discussions have been conducted as to the means of ensuring the representative nature of the World Heritage List. Since 1979 and progressively afterwards, disparities and imbalances have been underlined and notably the large number of inscriptions of cultural properties compared to the proportionally smaller number of natural properties, and a predominance of western European monumental architecture in comparison to non-monumental architectural heritage of other regions. The need to strengthen the protection of past and continuing interactions between humans and the environment has also been stressed. Since 1979, **the Committee** has evoked the need to improve the representative nature of the List. It has sought to strengthen the evaluation criteria for assessing the outstanding universal value by means of comparative studies of cultural heritage and has recommended to States Parties to establish tentative lists of cultural properties. At the same time, the List grew substantially and the imbalances previously referred to above have become more evident.

The advisory bodies participated in this discussion. In 1982, the **IUCN** World Commission for Protected Areas (WCPA) established a tentative inventory for natural properties of World Heritage value. Nine meetings were thus organised on the specific themes and regions up to 1987. From 1987 to 1993, **ICOMOS** in co-operation with the States Parties, contributed to the development of a Global Study which was based upon different comparative factors such as culture, themes, type, style, epoch, etc... This study, based on historic and aesthetic

classifications that have little relation to the diversity of cultural heritage or living cultures, was qualified as functional typology. The Committee considered it necessary to find other means to guarantee that the List reflect the cultural, intellectual, religious and sociological diversity of humankind at a time when the notion of heritage was itself undergoing a much wider interpretation.

Expert Meeting on the “Global Strategy” and thematic studies for a representative World Heritage List, 1994

1.2 In June 1994, the expert meeting organised by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, established a methodology to remedy the existing disparities of the List and to suggest new modifications to the criteria for *cultural* heritage. The expert group defined a non-typological approach, to be called Global Strategy, and proposed the adoption of a thematic methodology to redress the geographical, temporal, and spiritual imbalances of the List. The expert group also identified the following areas or themes whose investigation in their broad anthropological context would have high potential to complete gaps in the representivity of the List:

HUMAN CO-EXISTENCE WITH THE LAND

- Movement of peoples (nomadism, migrations)
- Settlements
- Modes of subsistence
- Technological evolution

HUMAN BEINGS IN SOCIETY

- Human interaction
- Cultural co-existence
- Spirituality and creative expression

The **Committee** adopted the report of the expert group at its eighteenth session in December 1994, as well as the recommendations in favour of new revisions of the criteria for inscription of cultural properties. It also extended the scope of the Global Strategy from cultural heritage to include natural and mixed properties.

1.3 The inclusion of cultural landscapes in the World Heritage List

Concurrent with the development of the Global Strategy, but also with a view to a less restrictive definition of heritage, the World Heritage **Committee** defined the notion of cultural landscapes. At its sixteenth session in 1992, it adopted three categories of World Heritage cultural landscapes and modified the cultural criteria justifying the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List, so as to ensure the recognition of “the combined works of nature and man” of “outstanding universal value” defined in Article 1 of the *Convention*. Cultural landscapes are inscribed on the List on the basis of cultural heritage criteria. Eight regional thematic meetings were organized between 1993 and 1999 concerning the application of the three categories in different regions and cultures of the world.

II. Implementation of the Global Strategy from 1994 to 1998

2.1 Definition and objectives

The Global Strategy is a framework and methodology for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. It relies on regional and thematic definitions of categories of heritage which have outstanding universal value, to ensure a more balanced and representative World Heritage List. It encourages countries to become States Parties to the *Convention*, to prepare tentative lists and to harmonise them, and to prepare nominations of properties from categories and regions currently under-represented on the World Heritage List.

2.2 Regional and thematic implementation of the Global Strategy

Every year since 1995, the **Committee** has approved the organization by the World Heritage Centre of regional and thematic Global Strategy meetings and studies. A list of background documents concerning these Global Strategy meetings can be found in Information Document **WHC-99/CONF.206/INF.5**. Most of the documents listed are available in English and French and may be consulted on the Centre's Web site: www.unesco.org/whc/. Copies of all the listed documents in Information Document WHC-99/CONF.206/INF.5 are also available at the Centre upon request.

2.3 Expert Meeting, La Vanoise National Park, 1996

An expert meeting on the evaluation of the general principles and criteria for nominations of *natural* World Heritage properties was held at the Parc National de la Vanoise in France, in March 1996. The group of experts noted the difficulties in defining “outstanding universal value” and emphasized the need to evaluate World Heritage value in a regional context. The group of experts recognized the relevance and usefulness of the Global Strategy approach to identify properties of World Heritage value and underlined the need to carry out a series of thematic studies on natural heritage. With regard to the balance of the List, the experts noted that it was not a question of numbers, but of the representivity of biogeographical regions or events in the history of evolution. The experts indicated that there is a nature-culture continuum and that the inclusion of cultural landscapes solely under the category of cultural heritage was not coherent with the reality of this continuum.

2.4 World Heritage Global Strategy Natural and Cultural Heritage Expert Meeting, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 24-28 March 1998

The **Committee** decided that there should be a more in-depth debate, and a “truly joint meeting of cultural and natural heritage experts” was organised in Amsterdam from 24 to 28 March 1998, to examine:

- (a) the application of the “conditions of integrity” versus the “test of authenticity”,
- (b) the question of a unified or harmonised set of criteria, and
- (c) the notion of outstanding universal value and its application in different regional and cultural contexts.

At this World Heritage Global Strategy Natural and Cultural Expert Meeting organised by the World Heritage Centre, in association with the Dutch Government, the experts stressed that the *Convention* should be seen as a holistic document uniting cultural and natural heritage, and to this end, proposed a unified set of evaluation criteria with integrity and authenticity provisions for the inclusion of properties on the World Heritage List. The experts also strongly urged that the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* should ensure recognition and protection of outstanding interactions between people and the “natural” environment.

2.5 Contribution of the advisory bodies - Thematic studies on natural and cultural heritage

2.5.1 IUCN’s approach to the Global Strategy is the continuation on a phased basis and as funds are available, of an ongoing series of working papers covering all the earth’s biomes as well as key topical issues. These global thematic studies constitute a working tool for the identification of categories of properties not yet represented in the World Heritage List.

2.5.2 Since 1982, ICOMOS has used thematic and comparative studies to ensure a balanced and representative World Heritage List, and has classified these studies as *pre-emptive* and *reactive*. The *pre-emptive* studies are prepared in response to a perceived and anticipated demand. *Reactive* studies are those reports commissioned by ICOMOS when new nominations are received for which no comparative studies or in-depth analyses exist within the ICOMOS Bureau or its International Scientific Committees. Between 1994 and 1999, ICOMOS prepared twenty comparative studies.

III. Background to the present document

3.1 In 1998, the implementation of the Global Strategy for a balanced and representative World Heritage List (which was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its eighteenth session in 1994) was debated at the meeting of the Consultative Body to the World Heritage Committee, and at the twenty-second sessions of the Bureau and the World Heritage Committee.

3.2 The main focus of the discussion of the **Consultative Body**, encouraged by the progress achieved in the application of the Strategy in Africa and in the Pacific, was on the means of accelerating the implementation of the Global Strategy. Recommendations of the Consultative Body concerning a balanced List and the Global Strategy were discussed by the **Bureau**, and stressed:

(i) communication methods to the States Parties of the objectives and thematic and regional approach of the Global Strategy; (ii) objectives to be set with regard to the regions and the sub-themes currently under-represented in the World Heritage List, and (iii) the means to share and increase available resources to States Parties in order to ensure the long-term sustainable conservation of World Heritage properties.

The Bureau requested the World Heritage Centre:

“...to prepare, in close co-operation with the Advisory Bodies, a prioritised action plan for the future implementation of the Global Strategy for a representative and balanced World Heritage List, to be submitted for the approval of the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee.”

3.3 Document **WHC-98/CONF.203/12** “*Progress Report, Synthesis and Action Plan on the Global Strategy for a representative and credible World Heritage List*” which was presented to the twenty-second session of the World Heritage Committee in December 1998, included regional action plans for Africa, Asia, Pacific, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, prepared in the light of evaluations of activities undertaken in each of these regions from 1994 to 1998. The Committee approved a general action plan and activities by region for 1999. In its report the Committee took note of the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Global Strategy and in particular:

- “(i) *continuing imbalances of new categories defined in the Operational Guidelines and still under-represented on the List, such as Cultural Landscapes, Routes and Itineraries. It deplored the absence of natural sites in the Amazon Basin, the low representation of heritage of Arctic and Sub-arctic regions, as well as the lack of implementation of the natural part of the World Heritage Convention in the Arab States. On the other hand, it noted the continuing increase in the number of categories of sites already represented. It underlined that little consideration had been given to paragraph 6 (vii) of the Operational Guidelines which "invites States Parties to consider whether their cultural heritage is already well represented on the List, and if so to slow down voluntarily their rate of future nominations.*
- (ii) *constraints faced by many States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented on the List, and which have inadequate legal protection and management mechanisms, as well as insufficient human and financial resources for the preservation and conservation of their heritage. Many of these States Parties cannot present "Preparatory Assistance" requests because of their arrears to the World Heritage Fund. The Secretariat also voiced the concern expressed at African Regional and Sub-Regional Experts meetings regarding the level of "Preparatory Assistance" which is limited to US\$ 15.000 and is deemed insufficient for the preparation of nominations files.”*

3.4 Furthermore, in the framework of discussions on the “Follow up to the work of the Consultative Body of the World Heritage Committee”, **the Committee** was kept informed of the progress made in the reflection upon the following points: (a) the application of cultural criteria (i) and (vi); (b) the test of authenticity; (c) the imbalance of the World Heritage List; (d) the implementation of the Global Strategy. In its report,

“On the question of the balance of the List, the Committee emphasized that it was less useful to simply refer to the numbers of properties on the List than to assess the expressions of cultural and natural diversity and of cultural and natural themes from different regions represented on the List. Whilst some delegates noted that there are obstacles to achieving representation on the List in some regions and countries (for example, because of lack of awareness of the Convention or of technical and financial capacity etc.) others referred to the high numbers of nominations being presented to the World Heritage Committee each year. A number of delegates noted that the decision by the Committee concerning nominations are sometimes disconnected from the implementation of the Global Strategy as had been seen by the high number of European sites the Committee had inscribed on the World Heritage List at its twenty-second session. It was also noted that the interests of national authorities might differ from the objectives of the Global Strategy in relation to the inclusion of properties on the List. Currently the work of the Convention is highly respected in many countries, but the pressures on the entire system are substantive.

In this context, the need was stressed to move from recommendations to action and to assess the issue from a political perspective, basically founded on two aspects: the urgency of meeting the legitimate expectations of a substantial number of countries to be assisted in presenting applications for their sites, and the need for some countries to self-contain their ambitions. The Delegate of France expressed concern about the useful discussions concerning the balance of the List and the decisions taken by the Committee, emphasizing that the credibility of the latter was at stake. He insisted upon the importance of avoiding the perpetration of this imbalance. The Delegate of Finland proposed a moratorium on inscriptions, in order for the Committee and the World Heritage Centre to focus more on preparing applications for countries that are underrepresented on the List.”

The **Committee** adopted the following decisions:

- “1) *The Committee thanked the Delegate of Italy (who had chaired the Consultative Body in 1998) and all the members of the Consultative Body for their productive work on the technical issues and paid tribute to the work of the Global Strategy Expert Meeting held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in March 1998.*
- 2) *The Committee stressed the urgent need to establish a representative World Heritage List and considered it imperative to ensure more participation of those States Parties whose heritage is currently underrepresented on the World Heritage List. The Committee requested the Centre and the advisory bodies to actively consult with these States Parties to encourage and support their active participation in the implementation of the Global Strategy for a credible and representative World Heritage List through the concrete regional actions described in the Global Strategy Action Plan adopted by the Committee at its twenty-second session.*
- 3) *Given the purposes of the World Heritage Convention, the policy of the Committee regarding nominations should have two parts (i) the Committee should value all nominations from all States Parties, and (ii) the Committee should strategically expend its resources to increase nomination of sites from parts of the world which are presently not represented or underrepresented.*
- 4) *The Committee asked that when the Bureau examines new nominations at its future sessions, it take into account the debate of the twenty-second session of the Committee on the establishment of a representative World Heritage List.*
- 5) *The Committee requested the Centre to work with the advisory bodies to further develop the revision of Section I of the Operational Guidelines and submit them to the twenty-third session of the Bureau. The Bureau should submit for adoption its recommendations to the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee.*
- 6) *The Committee urged the advisory bodies to pursue further work on breaking down the themes into sub-themes, taking into consideration the recommendations of relevant expert meetings. Particular attention should be given to secure the highest level of scientific and technical consensus. The advisory bodies are asked to report on progress made and suggest any concrete decisions to be taken by future sessions of the Committee.*

- 7) *The Committee requested that the Centre, in collaboration with the advisory bodies present a progress report on the implementation of the regional actions described in the Global Strategy Action Plan adopted by the Committee at its twenty-second session to the twenty-third session of the Committee.*
- 8) *The Committee requested that an agenda item on “Ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List” be presented to the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in 1999. The twenty-third session of the Bureau is asked to prepare the agenda item for the General Assembly.”*

IV. Increasing number of proposals for inscription

During the biennial meeting of the World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies in February 1999, ICOMOS and IUCN, alarmed by the high and increasing number of proposals for inscription to be examined during 1999 by the Bureau and the Committee, considered that this situation could only deteriorate and that it constituted a major challenge to the viability of the World Heritage Convention. They considered that the question should be tabled at the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties. IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM submitted their analyses of the situation and proposed corrective measures that could be integrated into a draft resolution.

They considered that the present rhythm of new nominations:

- i) constitutes a threat to the credibility of the World Heritage List. ICCROM, for its part, esteemed that this would be a real threat if the quality of the evaluations was not maintained;
- ii) requires that the advisory bodies be able to obtain additional financial and human resources;
- iii) implies, due to lack of time, a reduction in the activities that the advisory bodies devote to conservation reports, preparation of strategies and thematic studies, the evaluation of international assistance requests and the strengthening of existing capacities;
- iv) raises the problem of time management for Bureau and Committee sessions, unless the sessions are extended;

They also noted:

- i) the mediocre quality of the nomination dossiers;
- ii) the imbalance between the number of proposals of cultural and natural nominations;
- iii) that a certain number of countries already well-represented on the World Heritage List have submitted numerous proposals for 1999.

They recommended that the General Assembly request:

- i) the World Heritage Centre: to postpone until the following year all proposals for inscription which are not in conformity with the **Operational Guidelines**;
- ii) the World Heritage Committee: to identify, on the basis of the global and comparative studies, the categories of properties under-represented in the List, with regard to new inscriptions;
- iii) the States Parties: to take into account paragraph 6 (vii) of the **Guidelines**, according to which *“The Committee invites States Parties to consider whether their cultural heritage is already well-represented on the List, and if so, to slow down voluntarily their rate of submission of further nominations.”*
- iv) ICCROM recommended the establishment of a quota system on a regional basis with a pre-determined number of nominations to be examined each year.

At the request of the advisory bodies, the Centre has prepared *Table I*, which shows the number of nominations proposed and inscribed by category, since 1978. *Table II* indicates the distribution of World Heritage properties in States Parties. These tables which will be distributed to the General Assembly under reference WHC-99/CONF.206/INF.6 Ia, b, c, and II, are annexed to this document.

V. Opportunities and difficulties

In deciding to place this item on the agenda of the General Assembly, the Committee wished to inform as many States Parties as possible of the Global Strategy's implications, and the evolution of the issues during its twenty-second session in December 1998. It should be noted that a number of countries in 1999 (Belgium, France, Italy, Norway, Sweden and the United States of America) decided to provide funding to the Centre to support the nomination processes and to strengthen the capacities of the under-represented regions such as Africa.

Although the objectives of the Global Strategy have been endorsed by the World Heritage Committee, a certain number of countries, endowed with important conservation capacities and well-represented on the List, still continue to submit each year new proposals for inscription without taking into account the Global Strategy (see *Table II*).

Conclusion

The Secretariat has prepared the annexed draft resolution which does not take into account the eventual revisions of the **Operational Guidelines** (which will be examined by the twenty-third session of the Bureau under item 8 of the Agenda) and which will be submitted to the Bureau for examination prior to the finalisation of the document to be submitted to the General Assembly under item 8 of the Provisional Agenda.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The General Assembly,

1. **Noting** that the representative nature of the World Heritage List has been the subject of numerous debates by the World Heritage Committee since 1979, and
2. **Considering** that, since the adoption of the Global Strategy by the World Heritage Committee at its eighteenth session in December 1994 with a view to improving the representivity of the List, this objective has not been attained,
3. **Reaffirms** the will expressed by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session in December 1998 "to move from recommendations to action";
4. **Stresses** the interest of all the States Parties and the advisory bodies in preserving the authority of the 1972 Convention, by improving, through appropriate means, the representivity of the World Heritage List which must reflect the diversity of all cultures, and
5. **Takes into account** the objectives of the Global Strategy and **reaffirms** the sovereign rights of the States Parties and the sovereign role of the General Assembly,

A. **Recommends to all the States Parties:**

- i) to take note of the methodology developed and regional and thematic definitions of the categories of heritage having outstanding universal value, to improve the balance and representivity of the World Heritage List as soon as possible, in order to preserve the authority conferred to the 1972 Convention, and therefore,
- ii) to give priority to the submission of nominations which have been the subject of regional concertations in the categories that highlight the interaction between human beings and their environment (cultural landscapes, routes and itineraries) and express the diversity of living cultures.

B. **Recommends to the States Parties which already have an important number of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List:**

- i) to go along with paragraph 6 (vii) of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, and to limit voluntarily the rate of submission of future proposals for inscription, in respect of the objectives of the Global Strategy;
- ii) should the case arise, to consider the possibility of adopting, on a voluntary basis, a moratorium of a pre-determined duration on the submission of new nominations;

- iii) to incite and encourage bilateral co-operation so that proposals for inscriptions within under-represented categories of properties on the List can be prepared and presented as quickly as possible;
- iv) to encourage the States Parties to give highest priority to the preparation of periodic reports, rather than the preparation of nominations.

C. Recommends to the States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented on the List:

- i) to give highest priority to the *"adoption of a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes"*, according to Article 5 of the 1972 Convention;
- ii) to seek bilateral and multilateral co-operation so as to increase their technical capacities for the protection, safeguard and management of their heritage;
- iii) to seek amongst themselves, at regional level, partnerships based on the exchange of technical expertise;
- iv) to give priority to the preparation of new nominations, committing themselves to ensure the rigorous monitoring of their state of conservation.

D. Recommends to the advisory bodies:

- i) to pursue their programmes of thematic studies and the work of dividing the themes into sub-themes, taking into account the tentative lists prepared by States Parties and the recommendations of the regional experts meetings, and identify the categories of properties under-represented on the List, with regard to new inscriptions;
- ii) to observe the greatest scientific rigour during the evaluation of the proposals for inscription, so that the decisions of the Committee can reflect more systematically the positive results of the implementation of the Global Strategy;
- iii) to develop mechanisms that would give experts of the regions not represented on the World Heritage List the necessary training to prepare and evaluate nominations.

E. Recommends to the World Heritage Committee:

- i) to extend its strategic resources to increase the number of nominations of sites of regions of the world that are currently not represented or under-represented, in particular:
 - by allocating greater financial resources to these regions (international assistance, bilateral co-operation);
 - by making sure that the Secretariat of the Convention gives the highest priority to support for the preparation of nominations in those regions of the world that are currently not represented or under-represented;

- by making sure that the World Heritage Centre staff responsible for regions not represented or under-represented is coherent with the objectives of the Global Strategy and its workload;
- ii) to continue to evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Global Strategy, with the participation of the States concerned; and in view of the difficulties, to propose and define measures aimed at improving the representivity of the World Heritage List.

F. Requests the Secretariat of the Convention:

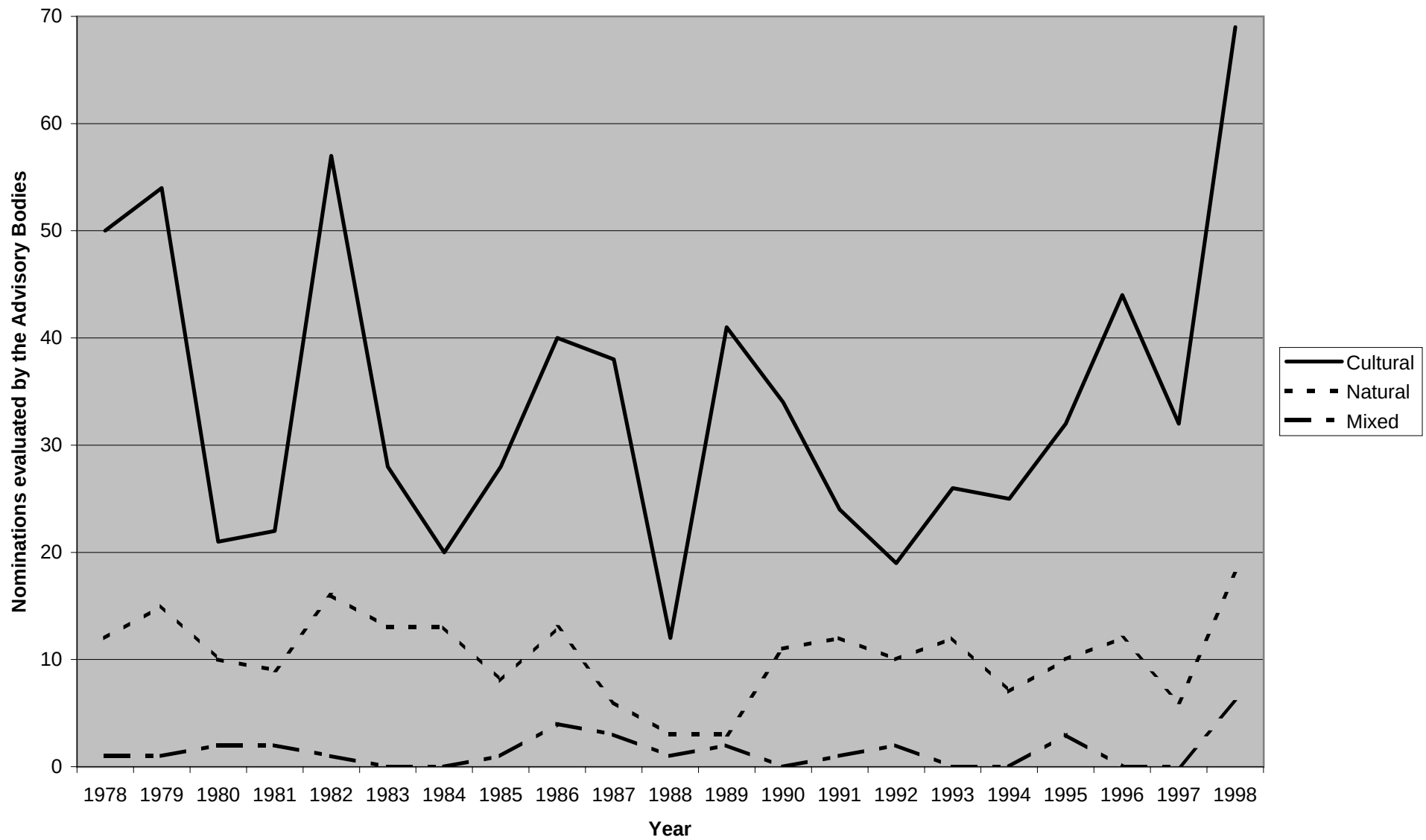
- i) to support the efforts of the States Parties concerned to present nominations aimed at improving the representivity of the World Heritage List;
- ii) to report to the thirteenth session of the General Assembly of States Parties on the actions that will have been undertaken by the advisory bodies, the Committee and the World Heritage Centre, and the results that will have been achieved.

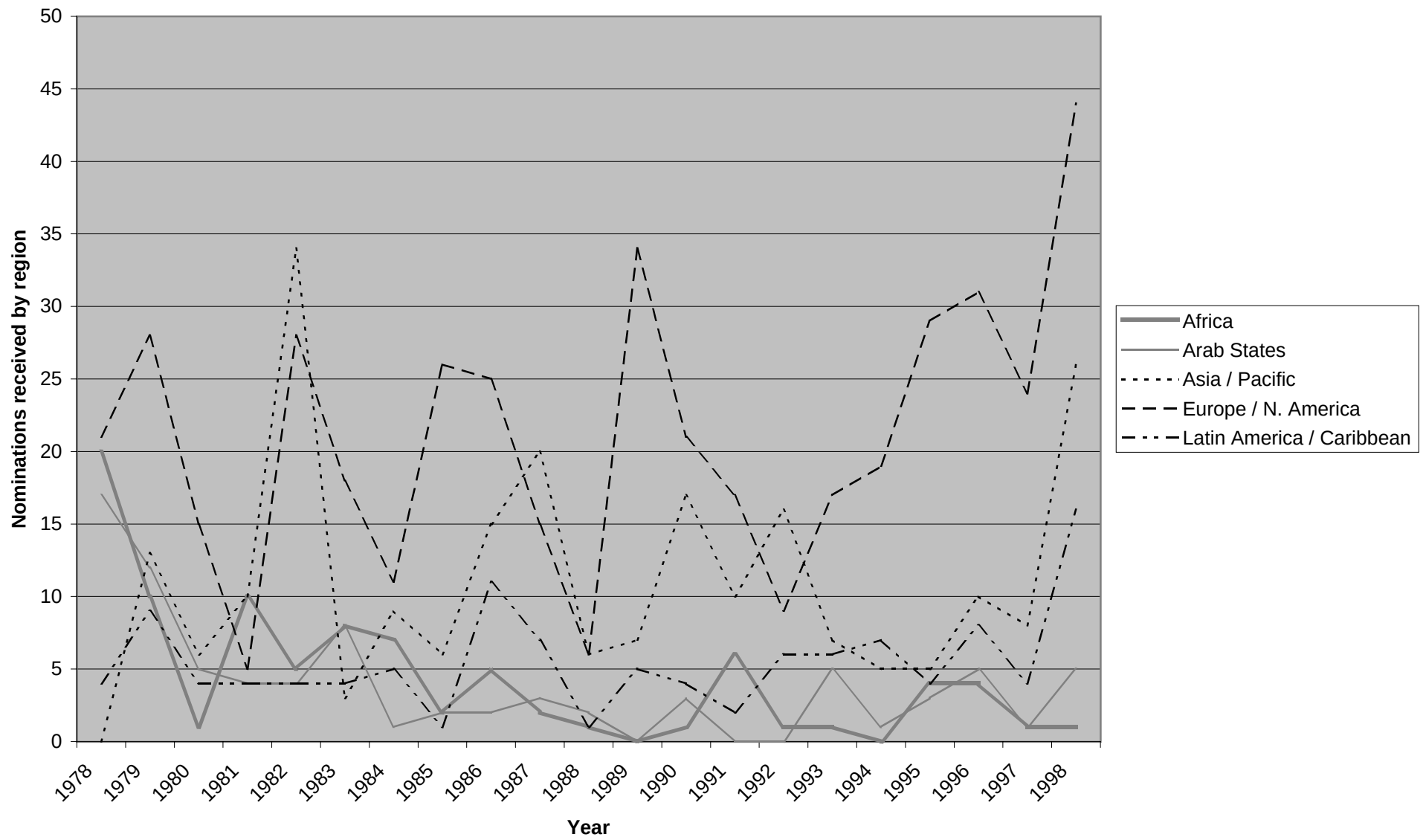
Number of Nominations Proposed and Inscribed, 1978-1998

Year	Proposed 1978-1998				Inscribed 1978-1998			
	Cultural	Natural	Mixed	Total	Cultural	Natural	Mixed	Total
1978	50	12	1	63	8	4	0	12
1979	54	15	1	70	34	9	2	45
1980	21	10	2	33	22	5	0	27
1981	22	9	2	33	16	9	2	27
1982	57	16	1	74	17	5	2	24
1983	28	13	0	41	18	9	1	28
1984	20	13	0	33	16	7	0	23
1985	28	8	1	37	25	4	1	30
1986	40	13	4	57	23	6	0	29
1987	38	6	3	47	32	7	2	41
1988	12	3	1	16	19	5	3	27
1989	41	3	2	46	4	2	1	7
1990	34	11	0	45	11	2	3	16
1991	24	12	1	37	16	6	0	22
1992	19	10	2	31	16	4	0	20
1993	26	12	0	38	29	4	0	33
1994	25	7	0	32	21	8	0	29
1995	32	10	3	45	23	6	0	29
1996	44	12	0	56	30	5	2	37
1997	32	6	0	38	38	7	1	46
1998	69	18	6	93	27	3	0	30
	716	219	30	965	445	117	20	582
By Region								
Africa	33	47	1	81	16	29	1	46
Arab States	82	8	1	91	47	3	1	51
Asia / Pacific	161	58	15	234	82	31	10	123
Europe / North America	361	74	8	443	246	37	5	288
Latin America / Caribbean	79	32	5	116	54	17	3	74
Totals	716	219	30	965	445	117	20	582

Because of the changing timetable of the nomination process (12 months in 1978; 18 months in 1998), Nomination and inscription figures are not strictly comparable. While all nominations received in 1978 were reviewed by the Committee in 1978, all nominations received in 1998 will be reviewed by the Committee in 1999.

A cause du changement de calendrier de procédure de soumission des propositions d'inscription (12 mois en 1978; 18 mois en 1998), les chiffres des propositions d'inscription et des inscriptions ne sont pas strictement comparables. Alors que toutes les propositions d'inscription reçues en 1978 ont été examinées par le Comité en 1978, toutes les propositions d'inscription reçues en 1998 ne seront examinées par le Comité qu'en 1999.





Distribution of World Heritage Properties in States Parties

* States Parties with properties being examined in 1999

‡ For the purpose of this list, the 9 transboundary sites have been counted twice.

42 States Parties with No World Heritage Properties (26.9 % of States Parties)

Africa	Arab States	Asia/Pacific	Europe/North America	Latin America/ Caribbean
Angola	Bahrain	Afghanistan	Andorra	Antigua & Barbuda
Botswana	Qatar	Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	Azerbaijan	Grenada
Burkina Faso	Saudi Arabia	Fiji	Bosnia & Herzegovina*	Guyana
Burundi	Sudan	Kazakhstan	Iceland	Jamaica
Cape Verde		Kyrgyzstan	Monaco	Nicaragua
Congo		Malaysia	San Marino	St. Kitts & Nevis*
Gabon		Maldives		St. Lucia
Gambia		Mongolia*		Suriname*
Mauritius		Myanmar		
Nigeria*		Papua New Guinea		
South Africa*		Tajikistan		
Togo		Turkmenistan*		
States Parties: 12 (37.5%)	4 (25.0%)	12 (38.7%)	6 (12.5%)	8 (27.5%)

64 States Parties with 1-3 World Heritage Properties (41% of States Parties)

Group total: 120 properties (20.3 % of the WH List)

Africa	Arab States	Asia/Pacific	Europe/North America	Latin America/ Caribbean
Benin	Iraq	Bangladesh	Albania	Argentina*
Cameroon	Jordan	Cambodia	Armenia	Belize
Central African Republic	Mauritania	Iran	Belarus*	Chile
Côte d'Ivoire	Oman	Iraq	Belgium*	Costa Rica*
Ghana	Yemen	Lao People's Dem Rep.	Cyprus	Cuba*
Guinea		New Zealand	Denmark	Dominica
Kenya		Philippines*	Estonia	Dominican Republic
Madagascar		Solomon Islands	Georgia	Ecuador*
Malawi		Uzbekistan*	Holy See	El Salvador
Mali		Viet Nam*	Ireland	Guatemala
Mozambique			Latvia	Haiti
Niger			Lithuania	Honduras

Senegal
Seychelles
Uganda
Zambia

Luxembourg
Macedonia, FYR
Malta*
Slovenia
Switzerland*
Ukraine
Yugoslavia

Paraguay
Uruguay
Venezuela

States Parties: 16 (50%)	5 (31.5%)	9 (29%)	19 (39.6%)	15 (51.7%)
Number of properties in region: ‡				
27 properties	11 properties	20 properties	36 properties	26 properties

30 States Parties with 4-8 World Heritage Properties (19.2 %)

Group total: 155 properties (26.2% of the WH List)

Africa	Arab States	Asia/Pacific	Europe/North America	Latin America/ Caribbean
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	Algeria	Indonesia*	Austria*	Bolivia
Ethiopia	Egypt	Nepal	Croatia	Colombia
United Rep. of Tanzania	Lebanon	Pakistan	Czech Republic*	Panama
Zimbabwe	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Rep. of Korea	Finland*	
	Morocco	Sri Lanka	Hungary*	
	Syrian Arab Republic	Thailand	Netherlands*	
	Tunisia		Norway	
			Poland*	
			Romania*	
			Slovakia*	
States Parties: 4 (12.5%)	7 (43.75%)	6 (19.3%)	10 (20.8%)	3 (10.3%)
Number of properties in region: ‡				
21 properties	40 properties	31 properties	50 properties	13 properties

11 States Parties with 9-14 World Heritage Properties (7 %)**Group total: 114 properties (19.2% of the WH List)**

Africa	Arab States	Asia/Pacific	Europe/North America	Latin America/ Caribbean
		Australia* Japan*	Bulgaria Canada* Greece* Portugal* Russian Federation* Sweden* Turkey	Brazil* Peru*
States Parties: 0	0	2 (6.4%)	7 (14.5%)	2 (6.8%)
Number of properties in region: ‡ 0 properties	0 properties	22 properties	74 properties	18 properties

9 States Parties with over 15 World Heritage Properties (5.7%)**Group total: 203 properties (34.3% of the WH List)**

Africa	Arab States	Asia/Pacific	Europe/North America	Latin America/ Caribbean
		China* India*	France* Germany* Italy* Spain* United Kingdom* United States of America	Mexico*
States Parties: 0	0	2 (6.4%)	6 (12.5%)	1 (3.4%)
Number of properties in region: ‡ 0	0	42 properties (36.8%)	142 properties	19 properties
Total number of States Parties in each region: 32	16	31	48	29
Total Number of properties in each region: ‡ 48 properties	51 properties	114 properties	302 properties	76 properties
Average number of properties per State Party ‡ 1.5 properties	3.2 properties	3.7 properties	6.3 properties	2.6 properties

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room II
28 - 29 October 1999

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Elections to the World Heritage Committee

1. Article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage stipulates:

"1. The term of office of States Members of the World Heritage Committee shall extend from the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference during which they are elected until the end of its third subsequent ordinary session."

2. Since the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference, the World Heritage Committee is composed of the following twenty-one States Parties:

Australia
Benin
Brazil
Canada
Cuba
Ecuador
Finland
France
Greece
Hungary
Italy

Japan
Lebanon
Malta
Mexico
Morocco
Niger
Republic of Korea
Thailand
United States of America
Zimbabwe

3. The above twenty-one members of the Committee were elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention at its ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions held respectively on 29 and 30 October 1993, 2 and 3 November 1995, and 27 and 29 October 1997.

According to the terms of Article 9, paragraph 1, of the World Heritage Convention, the terms of office of the members listed below extend as follows:

- i) until the end of the thirtieth session of the General Conference (1999): Brazil, France, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Niger, United States of America;
- ii) until the end of the thirty-first session of the General Conference (2001): Australia, Benin, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, Malta, Morocco;
- iii) until the end of the thirty-second session of the General Conference (2003): Finland, Greece, Hungary, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Zimbabwe.

4. The present General Assembly is called to elect seven members of the World Heritage Committee in replacement of the seven members mentioned under point (i) of the above paragraph 3.

5. It should be recalled that paragraph 5 of Article 16 of the Convention stipulates 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(...). The terms of office of any such State which is already a member of the Committee shall terminate at the time of the elections provided for in Article 8, paragraph 1, of this Convention.*" The statement of compulsory and voluntary contributions of the States Parties appears in working document WHC-99/CONF.206/3b. This document thus indicates, as at the date of its preparation, which States Parties have the right to participate in the elections. All compulsory or voluntary contributions received after that date should be reported orally to the General Assembly.

6. The Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention were adopted by the Second General Assembly of States Parties in 1978 and amended by the tenth General Assembly of States Parties in 1995. At this date, Articles 13.6 and 13.7 concerning the ballots had not been harmonised with Article 13.4 which had been amended to read: **"Each delegation shall cast its vote by encircling the names of the States for which it desires to vote."**

To facilitate the vote tallying, the General Assembly might wish to harmonise the wording of Articles 13.6 and 13.7 with Article 13.4, and to replace the existing texts:

13.6 The voting papers on which all the names have been crossed out shall be considered to be abstentions.

13.7 The voting papers on which there are more names remaining than there are seats to be filled shall be considered invalid.

by the following texts:

13.6 The voting papers on which all the names **of States have been encircled** are counted as abstentions.

13.7 The voting papers on which there are **more names of States encircled** than seats to be filled, shall be considered invalid.