

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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

First Session

Nairobi, 26 November 1976

Fund for the Protection of the World Cultural and  
Natural Heritage

Introduction

1. The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage provides for the establishment of a Fund, called "The World Heritage Fund" and sets out a number of general principles relating to the management of this Fund (Section IV, Articles 15 to 18 of the Convention). However, certain matters of a practical nature remain on which a decision has to be taken. These include:
  - (a) the amount of the contributions to be made to the Fund by the States Parties to the Convention which have not made the declaration foreseen in Article 16(2) of the Convention;
  - (b) the method and procedure for the payment of these contributions;  
and
  - (c) special Financial Regulations for the administration of the World Heritage Fund.
2. According to the terms of the Convention, it is the General Assembly of States Parties which determines the amount of the contributions to be made by States Parties; the present document provides some background information to assist States Parties in taking this decision. As to the method and procedure for the payment of contributions, the present document contains a number of suggestions which are submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration. Finally, with respect to the administration of the Fund, the Convention stipulates that this should be carried out in conformity with the Financial Regulations of Unesco (Article 15(2)). Accordingly, the Secretariat has prepared draft special financial regulations for the Fund which are attached as Annex I to the present document. The Director-General would welcome any comments the General Assembly might wish to make on these draft regulations on which, in accordance with Regulation 6.7 of Unesco's Financial Regulations, the Director-General will report to the Executive Board.
- I. Amount of the contributions to be made by States Parties
3. It may be useful to recall briefly the main provisions of the Convention on this subject (Article 16):

- (a) the amount of the contributions to be made by States Parties is determined, every two years, by the General Assembly, meeting during sessions of Unesco's General Conference: the first General Assembly, therefore, is called upon to determine the amount of the contributions for the biennium 1977-1978 (Article 16(1));
- (b) the amount of the contributions is expressed as a uniform percentage of the contribution of States Parties to Unesco's Regular Budget (Article 16(1));
- (c) the maximum amount that may be determined by the General Assembly for any one period is 1% of the contribution of States to Unesco's Regular Budget (Article 16(1));
- (d) any State Party to the Convention may declare at the time it deposits its instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession that it shall not be bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 16; in this case, the contribution should not be less than the contribution it should have paid if it had been bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 16.

It would appear from the terms of Article 16(1) of the Convention that it is the General Assembly as a whole which determines the amount of the contributions. However, this decision, in order to be valid and operative in connexion with the obligation taken by those States Parties which have not made the declaration referred to in Article 16(2) of the Convention shall also have received the concurrent votes of a majority of these States Parties present and voting. It would therefore seem necessary for the voting on this decision to be effected by roll-call.

5. The General Assembly will be informed of the probable scale of assessments for the contributions of all States Parties to the Regular Budget for the Organization for 1977-1978, together with an indication of the amount represented by 1% of this contribution. This will provide to the General Assembly some indication of the resources resulting from the contributions of States Parties that would be at the disposal of the World Heritage Committee for 1977-1978 if States Parties made compulsory and voluntary contributions of the order of 1% of their contribution to the Regular Budget of Unesco.

6. For the information of the General Assembly the list of those States Parties that have made the declaration foreseen in Article 16(2) of the Convention is given below:

Bulgaria  
France  
Federal Republic of Germany  
United States of America

## II. Method and procedure for the payment of contributions from States Parties

7. In order to enable the World Heritage Committee to plan effectively its activities, the General Assembly may wish to adopt the following method and procedure for the payment of contributions from States Parties:

- (i) States which become Parties to the Convention in the course of the first year of the financial period - which, according to Article 2.1 of the draft financial regulations for the Fund shall be the two consecutive calendar years coinciding with the financial period of the Regular Budget of Unesco -

and have not made the declaration foreseen in paragraph 2 of Article 16 of the Convention shall be required to make the full contribution for the financial period, as determined by the General Assembly of States Parties. Those States which become Parties during the second year of the financial period as defined above, and have not made the above-mentioned declaration shall be required to pay half of the contribution for the financial period;

- (ii) after the General Assembly has determined the amount of the contributions of States which have not made the declaration foreseen in paragraph 2 of Article 16 of the Convention, the Director-General shall inform all States Parties of the decision taken by the General Assembly. At the same time he shall ask those States which have not made the said declaration to remit one half of their contribution and those States that have made the said declaration to indicate the amount of their contributions for the two-year financial period and to remit one half of this contribution;
- (iii) at the end of the first calendar year of the two-year financial period, the Director-General shall inform States Parties that their contributions for the second year of the financial period are due;
- (iv) States Parties shall be requested to make their contributions as soon as possible after receipt of the communications from the Director-General referred to in paragraphs (ii) and (iii) above. As of 1 January of the year following that to which contributions relate, the unpaid balance of such contributions shall be considered to be one year in arrears, for the purpose of paragraph 5 of Article 16 of the Convention;
- (v) contributions to the Fund shall be assessed in dollars of the United States of America;
- (vi) the currency of contributions shall be determined in accordance with the practice adopted with respect to the currency of contributions to the budget of the Organization.

### III. Special Financial Regulations for the World Heritage Fund

8. In accordance with Article 6 of Unesco's Financial Regulations, the Director-General has prepared draft special financial regulations to govern the operations of the World Heritage Fund. These special financial regulations, which are submitted to the General Assembly for its information and comments, are to be found in Annex I to the present document. In accordance with Regulation 6.7 of Unesco's Financial Regulations, the Director-General will report to the Executive Board on these special Financial Regulations, which may be amended by him in the light of the comments made by the General Assembly.

9. The General Assembly may wish to adopt the following resolutions:

A. "The General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,

Considering Article 16(1) of the said Convention,

Decides that, for the States Parties to this Convention, which have not made the declaration referred to in Article 16(2) of the Convention, the amount of their contributions to the World Heritage Fund established under the terms of the Convention shall, for the biennium 1977-1978 be ...% of their contribution to the Regular Budget of Unesco.

- B. "The General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,

Considering Articles 15 and 16 of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,

Having examined the proposals contained in document SHC-76/CONF.014/COL.3 relating to the Fund for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,

Adopts the method and procedure for the payment of the compulsory and voluntary contributions of States Parties to the Convention, as set out in paragraph 7 of document SHC-76/CONF.014/COL.3,

Draws the attention of the Director-General to the following comments on the draft special Financial Regulations which is to govern the operations of the said Fund."