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

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

Extended forty-fifth session

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

10 – 25 September 2023

Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports

**10D. Progress report on the implementation of the Action Plans for the
Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the other regions**

Summary

This document presents the progress on follow-up activities and implementation of regional Action Plans of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Asia and the Pacific (Section I), Latin America and the Caribbean (Section II) and Europe and North America (Section III). The reporting on regional activities with regards to Periodic Reporting since the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee is presented in a harmonized format.

Draft Decisions:

45 COM 10D.1, see Section I.C

45 COM 10D.2, see Section II.C

45 COM 10D.3, see Section III.D

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLANS FOR THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING IN ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION

A. Second Cycle Action Plans/Regional Programmes

- i. Pacific Action Plan and Suwon Action Plan for Asia and objectives
 1. In view of the region's cultural and geographical diversity as well as its physical scale, it was considered important to produce two distinct regional Action Plans to address the challenges and needs identified through Periodic Reporting. Sub-regional priorities were also identified within the regional Action Plans and led to the development of some sub-regional Action Plans.
 2. The Pacific Action Plan 2010-2015 was originally developed in 2009. Following the end of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, a revised and extended version was adopted during the final Regional Meeting for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Pacific, held in Apia (Samoa) in September 2011.
 3. In December 2015, the Pacific Action Plan was revised and extended for 2016-2020.
 4. The Suwon Action Plan for Asia was adopted at the final Regional Meeting for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia, held in Suwon (Republic of Korea) in December 2011 and remained valid until the beginning of the third cycle exercise in the region. It outlines priorities for the entire region of Asia and identifies 21 sub-regional issues that concern one or more sub-regions in Asia. Three issues of region-wide importance were identified:
 - Development, review, and implementation of management plans (including visitor management),
 - Disaster risk reduction and risk preparedness,
 - Better regional cooperation.
 5. In addition to the priority issues that are shared by all sub-regions, two others were considered priorities shared by most sub-regions in Asia:
 - Community involvement,
 - Regional Gap Analysis and thematic studies on Tentative Lists.
 6. Thus far, the implementation of the Suwon Action Plan has been progressing steadily, even though there has been no financial support from the Regular Programme and the World Heritage Fund. Many activities were successfully implemented via extra-budgetary projects derived directly from the outcomes of the Periodic Reporting exercise.

B. Follow-up activities according to the objectives of the Pacific Action Plan and the Suwon Action Plan for Asia

7. Almost 10 years after the end of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in Asia and the Pacific, a number of activities organized in the region still derive more or less directly from the priorities identified during the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting and can be found in Document WHC/23/45.COM/5A. The Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting has just been completed in the region of Asia and the Pacific, and the final report on the results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in Asia-Pacific is presented under Item 10A, together with the final Framework Action Plan.
8. The Pacific Regional World Heritage Action Plan Priorities (2021-2025) Review workshop was organized by the UNESCO Office in Apia in partnership with IUCN Oceania (10-11 November 2021, online), and the Asia-Pacific Unit of the World Heritage Centre also took part in the meeting. The workshop presented the findings of consultations at national and regional levels in the Pacific, including challenges,

strengths and opportunities, in order to provide a more in-depth analysis of the region's priorities and needs. The workshop discussed national and regional priorities for action for World Heritage, which could feed into the development of the Framework Regional Action Plan for Asia-Pacific developed as an outcome of the Periodic Reporting Exercise.

9. In support of the main actions 'Capacity development at all levels', 'Development of in-country heritage expertise', 'Dialogue between communities, agencies and organizations', and 'Supporting the development and implementation of effective policies and legislation for heritage', a number of Reactive Monitoring missions have been organised, notably to Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic, April 2022), Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal, March 2022), Komodo National Park (Indonesia, March 2022) and Great Barrier Reef (Australia, March 2022). These contributed to the review of the existing management tools and further actions have been engaged by the Asia-Pacific States Parties to update and improve the management and governance mechanism. A number of review processes, including for risk preparedness, are ongoing across the region, notably in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.
10. A new International Advisory Committee for World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan was officially created in September 2021, based on the successful models of the International Coordinating Committee for Angkor (Cambodia) and Lumbini (Nepal). A dozen of international experts were nominated to support the preservation and governance of Uzbek properties in a variety of fields.
11. Several sub-regional and national workshops were organized in 2021 to strengthen the capacities of heritage experts in designing and conducting necessary Impacts Assessments, in Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Laos, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Thailand.
12. Several operational projects also contribute to these main actions, in particular:
 - Six successive phases (2001-2023) of the assistance to Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) under the Japanese Funds-in-Trust (FiT) have continuously contributed to strengthen national capacities in conservation practice and reinforce the community involvement in the implementation of the management tool.
 - Five successive phases of the Japanese FiT project for Safeguarding of Bayon Temple of Angkor Thom (Cambodia) aims to contribute to the protection, enhancement, and sustainable development of the Bayon Temple of Angkor World Heritage property. The current Phase V project (2018-2023) focused on landscape improvement of the East Façade (Northern section), the conservation of the outer and inner gallery bas-reliefs, and the structural stability of the Central Tower.
 - Four successive phases (2010-2024) of the assistance to Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) under the Japanese FiT have continuously contributed to strengthen national capacities in conservation practice and reinforce the community involvement in the implementation of the management tool. This Kick-Off Meeting for launching the UNESCO Japanese FiT Project "Strengthening the Conservation and Management of Lumbini, the Birthplace of Lord Buddha, World Heritage Property" (Phase IV) and the 2022 Lumbini International Steering Committee (ISC) Meeting, co-organised by World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Kathmandu Office and the Lumbini Development Trust (Nepal) were held in Lumbini, Nepal, from 23 to 25 March 2022. The meetings brought together national authorities, donors and international and national experts in archaeology, conservation, urban planning, environment, tourism and heritage management as well as the representatives from the Buddhist community that served as a platform

to discuss and highlight common interests to protect and promote the importance of Lumbini and the Greater Lumbini Area in Nepal. The Kick-Off and the 2022 Lumbini ISC meetings highlighted the importance of conservation, archaeology and overall planning of the three related sites - Lumbini, Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, with a focus on Tilaurakot. Following on the recommendations of the 2022 ISC meeting, this phase IV of the project will provide technical assistance to the national and local authorities to gain more understanding of Lumbini, Tilaurakot and Ramagrama as well as trainings on proactive protection and management of these ancient sites.

- A new Japanese FiT project (2021-2023) focusing on the communities' livelihoods increase in the Post-COVID-19 situation, is benefitting Viet Nam (especially Trang An) by jointly implementing digital initiatives for new business models and networking, with other World Heritage properties in Africa, Arab States and Latin America.
13. In support of the priority area 'Better regional cooperation', several activities were organized in Asia to support the serial transnational World Heritage nomination process for the Silk Roads:
- Financed by the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT project "Support for the Asian Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination(s) (Phase II)", "The South Asian Silk Roads Transboundary Serial Nomination and Cultural Landscape Initiative Workshop" held in Kathmandu (Nepal), on 6 and 7 December 2021, brought together delegates from China and Nepal, ICOMOS, experts and observers, both national and international, the UNESCO Offices in Beijing, Kathmandu and New Delhi, and the World Heritage Centre. The international experts from the University College London Institute of Archaeology (UK), the Department of Urban Planning of the Harbin Institute of Technology (Shenzhen, China) and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), shared the scientific documentation efforts that have been ongoing for the South Asian Silk Roads heritage corridors and surrounding cultural landscapes. In cooperation with the activities of the ICOMOS International Conservation Centre (IICC)-Xi'an, which acts as the Secretariat of the Silk Roads Serial Transnational World Heritage Nomination Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee, this event provided an invaluable opportunity for States Parties to collaborate institutionally, thus promoting international solidarity and harmonious cooperation for a better understanding and safeguarding of heritage corridors and cultural landscapes of this sub-region. Participants and experts unanimously agreed to engage with communities and local stakeholders at all stages, in support of achieving the sustainable conservation and management of the sites along the corridors and its broader settings.
 - The "Kyrgyzstan Uzgen Capacity-building workshop - Silk Roads: Ferghana-Syrdarya Corridor serial transnational World Heritage nomination and the role of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in managing risks for its components" was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 2 February 2022, in hybrid format. The workshop brought together more than 30 participants, including the Deputy Minister of Culture, Information, Sport and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic, the relevant stakeholders of the Silk Roads Ferghana-Syrdarya Corridor serial transnational World Heritage nomination, particularly in Osh Region and Uzgen District in the Kyrgyz Republic, international and regional experts, together with experts from UNESCO (World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Office in Almaty). The HIA for the proposed sewerage networks in the Uzgen city in the wider setting of Uzgen medieval site, a component site of the serial transnational nomination "Silk Road: Ferghana-Syrdarya corridor", in the Osh region, Kyrgyzstan, is under preparation since January 2022. The final Kyrgyz Uzgen HIA online panel review meeting was

held on 6 April 2022, with the participation of Kyrgyz stakeholders, international and regional experts, together with experts from the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Office in Almaty. The outcomes of this Kyrgyz Uzgen HIA panel review meeting provided the technical assistance to Kyrgyzstan for finalisation of the HIAs carried out for potential major projects in Uzgen.

- Also thanks to financial support via this same project, ICOMOS has released an Interim Progress Report for the “Scoping Study on Further Work to Define the Scope and Extent of the Main Silk Roads Routes for the Serial and Transnational World Heritage nomination process and case study Eastern Asia” in November 2021, in close consultation and collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and with the appointed national focal points from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
 - The UNESCO/Japanese FiT project “Support Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination(s) process (Phase III)” was approved in December 2021 (3-year activities schedule, from December 2021 to December 2024). The project focuses on enhancing and reinforcing the capacity of participating States Parties’ authorities (Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan), institutions and experts in the identification, documentation, preservation, management and interpretation of the Silk Road Volga-Caspian corridor, will contribute to achieving the targets of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11.4 for the protection of the world’s cultural heritage and SDG 8.9 for the promotion of sustainable tourism, which creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.
 - This Kick-Off Expert Online Meeting for the launch of the UNESCO/Japanese FiT project “Support Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination(s) process” (Phase III), co-organised by the World Heritage Centre and the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS) was held Online on 23 February 2022. The meeting gathered representatives of UNESCO, IICAS and 2 experts from each participating State Party (Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan), together with international and Japanese resource experts. During the meeting, UNESCO representatives and international resource experts presented an overview of the Silk Roads Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination and achievements; the Background and planned activities of UNESCO Japanese FiT Project “Support Silk Roads World Heritage Nomination(s) process” (Phase III); Reviewing the UNESCO Japanese FiT Silk Roads Project Phase I and Phase II achievements and the Silk Road: an ICOMOS Thematic Study. The participating Central, Western Asia and Transcaspian countries (Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan) presented their national efforts for the initial identification, protection, conservation, presentation and management of heritage sites linking to the Silk Road Volga-Caspian heritage corridor. At the end of the Meeting, the participants have shaped a strategy development, vision and planning for the 2022 Annual Workplan for the Silk Road Volga-Caspian heritage corridor nomination process.
14. In support of the main action ‘Partnerships (between communities, heritage agencies, regional organizations, educational institutions and NGOs)’:
- An international Seminar on Protecting Prehistoric and Historic Sites and Heritage Impact Assessment (11-15 October 2021) was organized by the Department of National Heritage of Malaysia in cooperation with UNESCO Jakarta Office, with participation of the World Heritage Centre.
 - An Economic Planning Webinar on Conservation and Development of Archaeological Sites in the Northern Region of Malaysia was organized by the

Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia, with participation of the World Heritage Centre on 7 December 2021.

- A Seminar on Three Decades of Ayutthaya World Heritage: Values, Challenges and Holistic Management (see <https://bit.ly/3wnTqZx>) was organized by UNESCO Office in Bangkok, the Thai Fine Arts Department and SEAMEO-SPAFA on 21-22 December 2021.
15. In support of the main action 'Dialogue between communities, agencies and organizations':
- As the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise for the Asia and the Pacific region has been launched since October 2020, a summary of the on-going activities organised in this framework can be found in Document WHC/23/45.COM/10A.

C. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 45 COM 10D.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/10D,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 10A.1** and **44 COM 10C.3**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online 2021) session respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region of Asia and the Pacific;*
4. *Thanks the Governments of China, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea as well as the European Union for their contributions towards supporting follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region of Asia and the Pacific;*
5. *Takes note of the progress made on the Silk Roads nomination process, initiated by the Asian States Parties in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, and commends the fruitful international cooperation between the national institutions of various States Parties in the region;*
6. *Welcomes the progress made in finalizing Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value in Asia and the Pacific and reminds States Parties that have not yet done so to submit Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2024**, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2023** at the latest, for review by the Advisory Bodies and consideration at the upcoming sessions of the Committee.*

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLANS FOR THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING IN THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION

A. Second Cycle Action Plan/Regional Programmes

1. The Regional Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2014-2024 (PARALC 2014-2024) is structured around five objectives directly linked to the Strategic Objectives (5C's) of the Convention:
 - Strengthen the credibility of the World Heritage List,
 - Ensure the effective conservation of World Heritage properties,
 - Promote the development of effective capacity building in the State Parties,

- Increase public awareness, involvement and support to World Heritage through communication,
 - Enhance the role of communities in the identification and management of World Heritage.
2. Following Decision **38 COM 10B.4**, by which the World Heritage Committee adopted the Regional Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean and encouraged “*States Parties to continue working, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies and the Region’s Category 2 Centres, to implement sub-regional action plans, based on the PARALC 2014-2024 and to take into consideration and building upon the achievements of the previous plan with a focus on the specific needs of each sub-region*”, three sub-regional action plans were established as follows:
- Sub-Regional Action Plan for the Caribbean (adopted in Havana, Cuba, November 2014),
 - Sub-Regional Action Plan for South America (adopted in Cusco, Peru, May 2015),
 - Sub-Regional Action Plan for Mexico and Central America (adopted in Zacatecas, Mexico, April 2018).

B. Follow-up activities according to the objectives of the Implementation of the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean

3. A number of activities involving several States Parties have been implemented in line with the priorities and objectives of the PARALC 2014-2024, including those outlined below. A detailed list of the activities can be found in the report of the World Heritage Centre on the activities implemented in the period concerned (see Document WHC/23/45.COM/5A).
4. The UNESCO/Japanese FiT project “SIDS Capacity-Building: Safeguarding Heritage in the Caribbean through Developing Sustainable Tourism Strategies” launched in September 2019 was implemented during the period concerned, in cooperation with the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme and the UNESCO Office in Kingston. This project included a “Sub-regional Capacity Building workshop on Sustainable Tourism for the Caribbean” financed by the Japanese FiT (online, 23 and 30 November 2021) organized by the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Offices in Kingston and Havana in cooperation with the University of the West Indies and the Barbados National Commission for UNESCO.
5. This initiative consolidated the results of the seminar of October 2020, on the case study “The Industrial Heritage of Barbados: The Story of Sugar and Rum” and strengthened the capacities of the World Heritage site managers and other key stakeholders, such as tourism management authorities, also in view of the future preparation for a nomination proposal to be considered for inclusion on the World Heritage List.
6. A multi-session ‘training of trainers’ online course; “Personas, Naturaleza, Cultura”, on human-focused approaches for the conservation of culture and nature, took place in February 2022 and in April 2023 with the participations of experts, managers and national focal points for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean region. This course was organized in Spanish language in form of interactive sessions to provided technical training on community and human-based conservation and management principles and practices. It should be noted that this activity was organized within in the framework of the ICCROM’s World Heritage Leadership Programme and in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and thanks to the support of Norway and the Republic of Korea.
7. A Sandwatch Capacity Building Workshop for UNESCO’s Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) and national coordinators in the Small Island Developing States in the

Caribbean was organized in January 2022 by the National Commissions for UNESCO of Saint Lucia, Curaçao and Sint Maarten. This workshop promotes a participatory approach to monitor and conserve the coastal and marine environment of the Caribbean SIDS.

8. The long-term World Bank-financed project entitled “Préservation du patrimoine et appui au secteur touristique” was finalized during the period concerned, with activities on conservation and management of World Heritage including earthquake evaluation, support for the interpretation of site and support for the preparation of the management plan for the World Heritage property of National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers.
9. A workshop in the framework of the project supported by the Government of Flanders (Belgium) “Jardines de la Reina National Park” (Cuba): Technical support to strengthen the management and possible future preparation of a World Heritage nomination file”, was implemented by the UNESCO Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean, providing orientation in view of a future nomination.
10. In the framework of the implementation of the programme “Transcultura: integrating Cuba, the Caribbean and the European Union through Culture and Creativity”, launched in 2020 and planned to end in 2023, support was provided through the period concerned to the World Heritage property of Old Havana and its Fortification System.
11. In the framework of the project “Post-COVID-19 World Heritage Site Management”, financed by the Japanese cooperation, a project to support a participatory approach for the development of the management plan and capacity-building on disaster risk management and sustainable tourism concerning the property of Maya Site of Copan (Honduras) was launched in February 2022 and implemented throughout the period concerned.
12. A workshop on the definition of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) was organized by World Heritage Centre and IUCN in February 2022, with the participation of all relevant Mexican governmental and non-governmental institutions, partners and stakeholders, resulting into a preliminary draft DSOCR for the property, which has been inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2019.
13. The project entitled “Young Leaders of the Diquis” elaborated by the World Heritage Centre and financed by the German cooperation, was implemented throughout 2021 by the UNESCO Cluster Office in San José. The project sensitized and trained the youth of the communities concerned in the protection of the site.
14. The project entitled “Technical support in view of the inscription of Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (Colombia) on the World Heritage List” was developed and finalized during the period concerned with the financial assistance by the Netherlands FiT, in view of the future development of a nomination file for the Tayrona and Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta National Parks and their Archaeological Sites, through a community-based participatory process with indigenous people and local communities also strongly committed in the preservation of their intangible heritage.
15. From 19-20 July 2022, a two-day workshop on “Sustainable Tourism Strategy for World Heritage properties in Suriname” was organized which brought together representatives of government institutions, World Heritage site managers, and representatives of local communities to identify current challenges and opportunities for the development of sustainable tourism at UNESCO-designated sites. The workshop was made possible through the financial support of the Japanese Government, through the Japanese-Fund-in-Trust within the framework of “SIDS Capacity Building Project: Safeguarding Heritage in the Caribbean through Developing Sustainable Tourism Strategies” project.

16. On 19 January 2022, global marine protected area practitioners met online with World Heritage managers from the Seychelles and Belize, and experts from The Nature Conservancy, who shared first-hand insights about how blue bonds and debt-for-nature swaps work, the conditions necessary to arrange them, and the building blocks to successfully provide long-term financing for conservation.
17. On 22 November 2022, an international Online Workshop on Disaster Risk Management at World Heritage Sites was organized by the Regional Heritage Management Training Centre "Lucio Costa" to train and strengthen the technical capacity of institutions and professionals responsible for the administration and management of World Heritage sites in South America and Portuguese-speaking Africa in disaster risk management.
18. The first International Congress on Cultural Heritage took place at the Palacio de Convenciones de La Habana, Cuba, on 3-5 May 2023. The main topic of this meeting was "Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development". Specific sessions were dedicated to Legislation for the protection of Cultural Heritage, Cultural Heritage Management Policies, Heritage education from museums and in the community, and climate change.
19. A number of meetings and awareness raising initiatives were implemented in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in the framework of 50th anniversary of the *Convention*. Outreach images, videos and audio supports were produced and shared to generate interest among diverse audiences.

C. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 45 COM 10D.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/10D,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 10C.4**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Latin America and the Caribbean,*
4. *Thanks the Governments of Flanders (Belgium), Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Norway as well as the World Bank and European Union for their contributions towards supporting follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.*

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLANS FOR THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA REGION

A. Second Cycle Action Plan/Regional Programmes

1. At its 38th session in 2014, the World Heritage Committee adopted the Second Cycle Periodic Report for North America and subsequently, at its 39th session in 2015, the Second Cycle Periodic Report for Europe. Two distinct Action Plans were developed for each sub-region and endorsed by the Committee in 2015.

B. Follow-up activities according to the objectives of the Action Plan for North America

2. Following the adoption of the Periodic Report for North America, and in accordance with Decision **38 COM 10A**, the States Parties of Canada and the United States of America submitted the Second Cycle Action Plan for the sub-region of North America in 2015. The Action Plan was prepared by the national focal points for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention of Canada and the United States of America, the two States Parties in the North America sub-region. The World Heritage Committee acknowledged and endorsed the Second Cycle Action Plan for the sub-region of North America and its five Result Areas in its Decision **39 COM 10A.2** and requested the States Parties of North America to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan.
3. The Action Plan for North America identifies activities that build on the well-established foundation of cooperation in the sub-region and its current activities. It speaks to the Strategic Objectives for the implementation of the Convention and is structured around five Result Areas with an implementation timeframe of five years. These areas of issues and opportunities for enhanced sub-regional cooperation include:
 - Future Tentative Lists,
 - Strategies for public information and outreach about World Heritage,
 - Development of strategies to increase communication and cooperation between World Heritage site managers through the whole North American sub-region,
 - International assistance to World Heritage properties outside North America,
 - Integration into existing areas of sub-regional cooperation.
4. Recognizing the strong ties between the two States Parties and their respective parks agencies, the Action Plan was intended to support continued efforts taken for the protection and promotion of World Heritage in the sub-region.
5. As acknowledged in Decision **43 COM 10A.5**, in the North America region, the process for all Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) has been finalized in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.
6. Following the submission of the first progress report on the implementation of the Second Cycle Action Plan for the sub-region of North America in 2016, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **39 COM 10A.2**, no further progress reports requested by the Committee in its Decisions **40 COM 10B.5**, **41 COM 10B.5** and **43 COM 10A.5** have been submitted by the States Parties of North America at the time of preparing this document. The World Heritage Centre last addressed a letter to the concerned States Parties in May 2021, reminding them to submit the joint progress report.

C. Follow-up activities according to the objectives of the Action Plan for Europe

7. Following the adoption of the Periodic Report for Europe and in accordance with Decision **38 COM 10A.2**, the Second Cycle Framework Action Plan for Europe ('Helsinki Action Plan') was produced. The Helsinki Action Plan was prepared through joint efforts by the national focal points of Europe, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre. The World Heritage Committee acknowledged and endorsed this Second Cycle Framework Action Plan for the sub-region of Europe and its core objectives in its Decision **39 COM 10A.1**.
8. The Helsinki Action Plan was conceived as a Framework Action Plan with regional quantitative targets, aiming at facilitating its appropriation and integration into national, sub-regional and regional strategies. The three core objectives of the Action Plan include:
 - a) Identification and protection of OUV,

- b) Effective management of World Heritage properties,
 - c) Increased awareness of the *Convention*.
9. These overarching core objectives include priority areas corresponding to specific objectives, which are further subdivided into 34 specific actions. Focal points and national authorities are invited to decide which of these actions are most relevant in their respective countries and to take ownership of the Plan.
10. Various activities and initiatives relevant for the implementation of the Helsinki Action Plan have been implemented by the World Heritage Centre. Highlights of some activities since the previous session of the Committee in July 2021 by core objectives of the Helsinki Action Plan are outlined below (see also Document WHC/23/45.COM/5A for further detail):
- a) Identification and protection of OUV:
 - In the framework of the “Convention France-UNESCO” and with the support of the French Ministry for Ecological Transition, the World Heritage Centre published a study on World Heritage and wind energy planning (See <https://whc.unesco.org/en/wind-energy-planning/>), featuring four case studies in Europe and aiming to preserve the integrity and avoid or mitigate any impact on the OUV of World Heritage properties during the energy transition.
 - The State Party of Norway requested technical comments from the Advisory Bodies on proposed measures to counter threats identified during the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting at one of the Norwegian World Heritage properties. ICOMOS International provided a Technical Review and a joint online consultation meeting was held between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS International to provide assistance in the implementation of the recommendations provided by ICOMOS.
 - b) Effective management:
 - International Assistance has been provided for the effective management and monitoring of World Heritage properties in Albania, North Macedonia and Ukraine.
 - UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, implemented a pilot World Heritage Interpretive Planning Training Course in Europe which saw the participation of 28 professionals working for World Heritage properties across South-Eastern Europe, to advance their knowledge and competencies in interpretive planning.
 - In the framework of the UNESCO/Netherlands FiT, the World Heritage Centre developed an online guidance tool to support States Parties, site managers and national authorities in protecting World Heritage properties during the time of transition to renewable sources of energy, while providing the wind energy sector an overarching overview on World Heritage concepts, protection and management requirements. The [Guidance for Wind Energy Projects in a World Heritage Context](#), which was held in March 2023, focuses on wind energy deployment with specific reference to the Europe and North America region.
 - The German World Heritage Foundation financially supports the ongoing pilot-project ‘Management of World Heritage properties of Religious Interest in Armenia’, combined with the International Assistance Request ‘Management of the World Heritage Sites in Armenia’. The pilot-project aims to establish an operational synergy between the 1954 Hague Convention (including its two 1954 and 1999 Protocols) and the 1972 *World Heritage Convention*, as well as to develop Management Plans for the three Armenian World Heritage properties.

- The World Heritage Online Map Platform, a web-based geographic information system (GIS) to improve the monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties was launched. More details are available in Document WHC/23/45.COM/5A.
- c) Increased awareness of the *Convention*:
- The Award Ceremony for the UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes took place on 22 November 2021 during the 41st session of the UNESCO General Conference. The Prize rewards outstanding action to safeguard and enhance the world's major cultural landscapes and raises awareness to the general public on the importance of safeguarding cultural landscapes. Preparations for the 2023 edition of the prize, which will be awarded in the margins of the 42nd session of the UNESCO General Conference, are underway.
11. Within the Helsinki Action Plan States Parties, progress was made in developing management plans for their World Heritage properties with a view to enhancing their effective management as one of the core objectives of the Action Plan. Nevertheless, there are still many properties in the region which have no management plan or management system.
 12. Further progress has been made in finalizing the Retrospective Statements of OUV in the Europe region, in line with Action 11 of the Helsinki Action Plan and encouraged by Decision **44 COM 10C.5**. In the Europe region, 5% of Retrospective Statements of OUV are still pending finalization. At the time of preparing this document, six Retrospective Statements of OUV will be presented for adoption at the 45th session.

D. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 45 COM 10D.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/10D,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 10A.5** and **44 COM 10C.5**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,
3. Notes that further progress has been made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Europe and North America, and encourages the States Parties of the region to continue their efforts to address the priority actions identified during the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, while keeping informed the World Heritage Centre on significant advances and/or challenges;
4. Recalls further that the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting has considerable resource and workload implications for both States Parties and the World Heritage Centre and therefore, encourages States Parties to both financially support follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Europe and North America region within their countries and to consider making voluntary contributions to the sub-account of the World Heritage Fund dedicated to enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat or seconding experts;
5. Also notes the lack of financial support from States Parties to follow up on the 2016 Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring survey and to assess the results of the 2015 sub-regional Action Plan for North America;

6. *Welcomes the progress made in finalizing Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value in Europe and reminds the States Parties of the region which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2024** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2023** at the latest;*
7. *Invites the World Heritage Centre to include in the Regional Report to be submitted to its 46th session an assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the respective Action Plans based on the information shared by the States Parties in the framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise between 2022 and 2023.*