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**Comité intergouvernemental  
de la protection du patrimoine mondial culturel et naturel  
Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection  
of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**

**Dix-septième session extraordinaire  
Seventeenth extraordinary session**

**12 décembre 2022 / 12 December 2022  
Paris, Siège de l'UNESCO / Paris, UNESCO Headquarters**

**Résumé des interventions de la 17<sup>e</sup> session extraordinaire (UNESCO, 2022)  
du Comité du patrimoine mondial**

**Summary Records of the 17th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2022)  
of the World Heritage Committee**

Le texte contenu dans le présent document est une transcription des débats de la 17<sup>e</sup> session extraordinaire du Comité du patrimoine mondial tenue au Siège de l'UNESCO, Paris, le 12 décembre 2022. Il doit donc être considéré comme un verbatim.

The text contained in the present document is a transcription of the debates of the 17th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee held on 12 December 2022 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. It is therefore to be considered as a verbatim.

**N.B:** *The languages used for the verbatim of the 17th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee are English and French.*

*Les langues utilisées pour le verbatim de la 17<sup>e</sup> session extraordinaire du Comité du patrimoine mondial sont l'anglais et le français.*

## **AGENDA OF THE 17TH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Suspension of Rule 2.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Heritage Committee

## **INTRODUCTION**

The session was chaired by H.H. Princess Haifa Al Mogrin, Chairperson of the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee.

The 21 Members of the World Heritage Committee were present: Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, Zambia.

Representatives of the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, namely the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) also attended the session.

The session was conducted in two languages: English and French - the two working languages of the Committee.

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre provided the Secretariat for the meeting.

## **ORDRE DU JOUR PROVISOIRE DE LA 17E SESSION EXTRAORDINAIRE DU COMITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL**

1. Ouverture de la session
2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour
3. Suspension de l'Article 2.1 du Règlement intérieur du Comité du patrimoine mondial

## **INTRODUCTION**

La session a été présidée par S.A. la Princesse Haifa Al Mogrin, Présidente de la 45<sup>e</sup> session du Comité du patrimoine mondial.

Les 21 membres du Comité du patrimoine mondial étaient présents : Afrique du Sud, Arabie Saoudite, Argentine, Belgique, Bulgarie, Égypte, Éthiopie, Fédération de Russie, Grèce, Inde, Italie, Japon, Mali, Mexique, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint-Vincent-et-les-Grenadines, Thaïlande, Zambie.

Des représentants des Organisations consultatives du Comité du patrimoine mondial, à savoir le Centre international d'études pour la conservation et la restauration des biens culturels (ICCROM), le Conseil international des monuments et des sites (ICOMOS) et l'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature (UICN), ont également assisté à la session.

La session s'est déroulée en deux langues : anglais et français - les deux langues de travail du Comité.

Le Centre du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO a assuré le secrétariat de la réunion.

The following 79 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, which are not members of the Committee, were represented as Observers:

Albania; Armenia; Australia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Barbados; Belarus; Benin; Bhutan; Burkina Faso; Cambodia; Canada; Chile; China; Chypre; Colombia; Côte d'Ivoire; Croatia; Czechia; Denmark; Dominican Republic; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Ecuador; El Salvador; Estonia; Finland; France; Gabon; Germany; Ghana; Guatemala; Guinée; Holy See; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Jamaica; Kazakhstan; Kuwait; Liban; Libya; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malaysia; Maroc; Monaco; Mongolia; Mozambique; Myanmar; New Zealand; Niger; Norway; Pakistan; Palau; Palestine; Pérou; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Korea; Serbia; Singapore; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sri Lanka; Suisse; Sweden; Togo; United Arab Emirates; Uganda; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Ukraine; Uruguay; United States of America; Uzbekistan; Viet Nam; Yemen.

Les 79 États parties à la Convention du patrimoine mondial suivants, qui ne sont pas membres du Comité, étaient représentés en tant qu'observateurs :

Albanie ; Allemagne ; Arménie ; Australie ; Autriche ; Azerbaïdjan ; Bahreïn ; Barbade ; Bélarus ; Bénin ; Bhoutan ; Burkina Faso ; Cambodge ; Canada ; Chili ; Chine ; Chypre ; Colombie ; Côte d'Ivoire ; Croatie ; Danemark ; El Salvador ; Équateur ; Espagne ; Estonie ; États-Unis d'Amérique ; Finlande ; France ; Gabon ; Ghana ; Guatemala ; Guinée ; Hongrie ; Irlande ; Islande ; Jamaïque ; Kazakhstan ; Koweït ; Liban ; Libye ; Lituanie ; Luxembourg ; Malaisie ; Maroc ; Monaco ; Mongolie ; Mozambique ; Myanmar ; Niger ; Norvège ; Ouganda ; Pakistan ; Palau ; Palestine ; Pérou ; Philippines ; Pologne ; Portugal ; République de Corée ; République dominicaine ; République populaire démocratique de Corée ; République tchèque ; Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord ; Saint-Siège ; Serbie ; Singapour ; Slovaquie ; Slovénie ; Sri Lanka ; Suisse ; Suède ; Togo ; Ukraine ; Uruguay ; Viet Nam ; Yémen.

## **1. OPENING OF THE SESSION / OUVERTURE DE LA SESSION**

### **Chairperson:**

Dear members of the Committee, dear colleagues, dear friends. I am very pleased to welcome you to this 17th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee. As you know, the sessions of the World Heritage Committee are also open to States Parties to the Convention that are not members of the Committee, as observers; and due to the capacity of the room we are in, the observer States Parties are participating online to this meeting. Speaking of the online participants, can you all please possibly put your mic on mute. As you have been informed, in conformity with Rule 15.2 of the Rules of Procedure, which states that, 'If the Chairperson ceases to represent the State member of the Committee or is for any reason unable to complete his term of office, he is replaced by a Vice-Chairperson, in the English alphabetical order of States members of the Bureau commencing with the country of the Chairperson for the remainder of the term of office'. I have been designated by my country to act as Chairperson of the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee. Please also note that Ms. Shikha Jain, our Rapporteur, was unfortunately unable to be present with us in this room today, but that she is attending the session online.

Dear colleagues, you will recall that a consultation of all Bureau members was launched in April 2022 to seek the agreement to postpone the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, originally scheduled from the 19th to the 30th of June. Following this consultation, and in accordance with Rule 4.1 of the Rules of Procedure, the 45th session was postponed on the 21st of April 2022 and all States Parties were duly informed. On 8th and 20th July last year, two meetings of the Bureau Committee were held, during which it was decided to continue the consultation concerning the 45th session. Considering that we are now in December 2022, it seems obvious that it will not be possible to hold our 45th session in 2022. In order not to contravene our Rules of Procedure, which require us to meet in an ordinary session at least once a year, it is therefore appropriate that we suspend Rule 2.1 of the Rules. I have convened today's extraordinary session with a view to suspend Rule 2.1 in response to the request of more than two-third of the members of the Committee originated by the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of South Africa to UNESCO, whom I sincerely thank for this initiative.

Before we start our discussion, I would like to give the floor to M. Eloundou-Assomo, Director of the World Heritage Centre, who will give us some logistic explanations for the conduct of the meeting. You have the floor.

### **Director of World Heritage:**

Thank you, Chairperson, good morning to all. In order to ensure the smooth running of our meeting, both in presentia and online, I would like to remind you of a few organizational points: the online component of the meeting includes online participation for the Delegations of Observer States Parties; simultaneous interpretation is available both in English and French. You can then select the language channel of your choice by clicking on the 'interpretation' button at the bottom of your screen; if you have not already done so, please we ask you to kindly rename your screen name as follows: 'COM / followed by your country name' for Committee members and 'OBS / followed by your country name' for Observers; do not use the chat box please to ask to make comments, this is exclusively reserved for any necessary technical assistance; unless you are given the floor, please keep your microphones turned off throughout the meeting; given the limited time available and the fact that many States Parties may have questions, please keep your interventions concise. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

## **2. Adoption of the Agenda / Adoption de l'ordre du jour**

### **Chairperson:**

Thank you very much. Now, dear members of the Committee, dear colleagues, I would like to invite you to adopt the Agenda of the 17th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee, contained in Document WHC/22/17EXT.COM/2, which was transmitted to you on 6 December 2022. If there are no objections, I propose that we adopt it as presented in the Document. I see no objections. Then, I declare the Agenda of the 17th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee adopted in Decision **17 EXT.COM 2**.

## **3. Suspension of Rule 2.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Heritage Committee / Suspension de l'Article 2.1 du Règlement intérieur du Comité du patrimoine mondial**

### **Chairperson:**

Dear colleagues, as I already mentioned earlier, considering that we are now mid-December, it seems that, for obvious reasons, including logistical and technical ones, the conditions are no longer met to hold the 45th session in 2022. In order not to contravene our Rules of Procedure, which require us to meet in an ordinary session at least once a year, it is therefore appropriate that we suspend Rule 2.1 of our Rules which states that 'The Committee shall meet at least once per year in ordinary session', in order to allow the holding of the 45th session in 2023.

Dear colleagues, I now invite you to suspend Article 2.1 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure. Are there any objections to the suspension of this article? As all 21 members of the Committee unanimously agreed to the convening of this extraordinary session with a view to suspend Rule 2.1, I therefore declare Rule 2.1 suspended. Before proceeding to the adoption of the draft Decision **17 EXT.COM 3**, I would like to give the floor to the Secretariat who wishes to add some more comments. Monsieur le Directeur, you have the floor.

**Directeur du patrimoine mondial :**

Merci Madame la Présidente. Je souhaite éclaircir quelques points avant que le Comité n'adopte ce projet de décision. Si le Comité en est d'accord, il serait bon qu'il prenne note dans cette décision : que l'Article 15.2 du Règlement intérieur est appliqué depuis le 23 novembre 2022 et que Son Altesse Haifa Al Mogrin, a été désignée par l'Arabie Saoudite comme Présidente de la 45<sup>e</sup> session jusqu'à la fin de celle-ci ; finalement, il pourrait être suggéré, dans un paragraphe final, que le Comité décide de se réunir à nouveau en session extraordinaire dans le courant du mois de janvier 2023 pour convenir des modalités de sa 45<sup>e</sup> session. Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you for your clarification. I would like to ask the Secretariat to kindly put the text of the draft Decision on the screen. South Africa, I would like to give you the floor, but can we adopt Paragraph by paragraph, and then if you have an intervention towards one paragraph...? Thank you very much.

Can we start with the Decision as we see it on the screen? Can we adopt Paragraph 1? I see no objection; it is then adopted.

Can we adopt Paragraph 2? I see no objection; it is then adopted.

Can we adopt Paragraph 3? I see no objection; it is then adopted.

Can we adopt Paragraph 4? Argentina, you have the floor.

**Argentina:**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I want to add in Paragraph 4 'Decides to suspend Rule 2.1 for the 2022 ordinary session.'

**Chairperson:**

Can we please have it on the screen? Can we adopt the Paragraph 4 as amended? I see no objections, then it is adopted.

Can we adopt Paragraph 5? This is what has been suggested by M. Lazare. I will give you some time to read it so we can adopt it. Egypt, you have the floor.

**Egypt:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. After going through this paragraph, I believe we can move it to the preamble by recalling that 'Rule 15.2 of the Rules of Procedure has applied as from', and then we keep the rest of the paragraph, as well as the final Paragraph 'Has decides to meet again', but logically speaking, I believe this should be moved to the Preamble of the paragraph. This was a procedure which took place already. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much Egypt. So, you suggest moving it to number 2, for example?

**Egypt:**

To the preambular paragraphs, and it can be the last preambular Paragraph.

**Chairperson:**

So, as you see on the screen, after Paragraph 2, do you think this could work?

**Egypt:**

This can work, thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, Egypt. Greece you have the floor.

**Greece:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. As Egypt has mentioned, I think the background document at Paragraph 4 already includes this information. So, would the members of the Committee be satisfied with just the reference to Paragraph 4 of the background, or do we need it in the draft Decision? Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Chairperson:**

Oman, you have the floor.

**Oman:**

Thank you very much. I think since it is mentioned in background and not in the Decision, it is very important to put it as it is now. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, Excellency. So, we had two suggestions: one to move it up, as suggested by Egypt; and the other is either to keep it or to remove it as it was mentioned before. It is up to you. I give you the floor again, Greece.

**Greece:**

Thank you and forgive me for asking for the floor again. Maybe, a solution could be to just include it in the draft Decision and to delete it from Paragraph 4, so that we avoid duplication. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Chairperson:**

Zambia, you have the floor.

**Zambia:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to make a clarification, or to ask for a clarification. I thought that Egypt's decision was to move Paragraph 4 to the preamble section, in which case the Paragraph now will be deleted. That was my understanding, so I do not understand why we should have two similar statements. If we move it to the preamble, because that is not really the Committee's decision for it is part of the rules, then we need to delete number 4 from the Decision. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, your Excellency. I would like to see the screen: I have just been informed that the original number 4 was not deleted on the screen, but I will give you the floor to clarify, Egypt, thank you.

**Egypt:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Actually, what has been expressed by the Distinguished Zambian Delegation was exactly what I intended: to move it to the preambular part and to delete it from the operative part, because it makes no sense to have it in both parts.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you. Now, just to clarify things, you mean in the Background, not the Preamble, your Excellency Egypt? We have four paragraphs in the Background in the Decision.

**Egypt:**

Yes.

**Chairperson:**

Ok, now I understand. And, to delete it from the draft Decision, as Zambia shared the same opinion, so that we do not need to repeat it again in the Decision. Oman also had a different point of view on that, you have the floor, Excellency.

**Oman:**

Thank you very much again, your Highness. I think I can go with what we deleted from the background, beginning 'consequently', but then we need to put it in the draft Decision that is put now in number 2. It is a Decision of the Committee, you are nominated by your country, and now the Committee is confirming your nomination. We have to take it to the number 4, beginning from 'consequently'. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

So, now we have an opinion that was repeated already, and we also have an opinion that says, 'it has to be mentioned', and I also would like to get back to the Secretariat to ask them: do we have to take a decision on that, or not? I will leave it to you, but I will give the floor to Ethiopia and then come back to you. Ethiopia, you have the floor.

**Ethiopia:**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My question was the one that you raise now, thank you so much. I would like to get clarification from the Secretariat.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you. Would you please kindly explain: do we need a decision to be adopted in this regard, or not?

**Director of World Heritage:**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. What I suggested before the adoption of the draft Decision was of course that, if the Committee was in agreement, it could take note in the Decision the fact that Article 15.2 of the Rules of Procedure was already applied since 23 November, and that Her Highness was designated by Saudi Arabia as the Chairperson for the 45th session. It was a suggestion, because we felt it was important to reflect it in the Decision, that is the reason why I proposed it. Some of the Committee members supported it and proposed that, instead of it being in Paragraph 4, it comes a little bit up in Paragraph 2. I think that, for the Secretariat, it would be good to keep it in the Decision. Now, when it comes to the background information: the background information in a working document serves the purpose of informing the Committee members, and that is all. Now, it is up to the Committee members to use the background information, if it decides so, to reflect it in the Decision that it is going to take. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you for the clarification. I will give the floor to Ethiopia to be followed by Qatar. Ethiopia, you have the floor.

**Ethiopia:**

Thank you for the clarification. If so, the Background Document is a background, and it is a historical decision and it has to be part of our decision. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much, Ethiopia. Qatar, you have the floor.

**Qatar :**

Merci Votre Altesse, Madame la Présidente. Nous avons bien écouté le Secrétariat, et nous nous trouvons vraiment devant une décision qui doit être dans le corps de la Décision parce que c'est une vraie décision, c'est cela le plus important. Deuxièmement, je suis d'accord avec mes collègues, nous pourrions supprimer le préambule pour éviter la répétition du texte. Mais je suis pour que l'on mette cela dans le corps de la décision, car il s'agit d'une vraie décision que l'on est en train de prendre dans notre Comité. Merci.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, Qatar. Egypt, you have the floor.

**Egypt:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Hopefully, it is my last intervention, I do not want to complicate things. But, I believe, choosing you Highness as President or Chairperson has been done in direct application of the Rules of Procedure. The Rules of Procedure apply by themselves, by their own power, they do not need to be approved or endorsed by the Committee. So, by alphabetical order, you have followed the former President. This does not need any endorsement by the Committee, this is normal to happen. However, the decision here is only focused on suspending the application of a certain rule of the Rules of Procedure, but not to appoint, your Highness, as President of the Committee, which is done automatically by the Rules of Procedure and by the designation, of course, of your esteemed country. That is my own legal interpretation. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you. Well, to be honest, I have not expected us to have a discussion on this one, but I am still in your hands: how would like to go forward with this? I see an opening of saying that it is already be done by default, and I see some countries nodding in agreement with that, and I also see another point view saying that it has to be mentioned, since it is already recalling. Oman, you have the floor.

**Oman:**

If legally it is not harmful to put it in both ways, in the background and the decision, then let's put them in both places. I think, if there is no rule to avoid putting it in the background, let's put it, and then we will also put it in the decision, in both. I do not see it as a repetition since it is a background, it is not in the decision itself. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, Oman. I also want to hear from members I have not been hearing from yet. Ethiopia, you have the floor.

**Ethiopia:**

I do not know why we take so much time on this decision, but I would like the Legal Adviser to comment which one is the most visible, which one looks worthy: is it to put it in the background, or to put it as part of the draft Decision? I would like to listen from the Legal Adviser.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, Ethiopia. I will give the floor to the Legal Adviser after I give the floor to Japan. Japan, you have the floor.

**Japan:**

Thank you very much. Perhaps I have to listen to the Legal Adviser first, but my suggestion is very simple: I support what the Ambassador of Oman said. You are everybody's Chair in this room, so there is no harm in mentioning it. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, Japan. Legal Adviser?

**Legal Adviser:**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good morning to all. As the representative of Egypt said, Article 15.2 is an automatic procedure when the Chairperson ceases to represent the State Member. When this happens, he or she is replaced by a Vice-Chairperson in the English alphabetical order. It is an automatic procedure, and it does not require a Committee decision. Therefore, it would not be appropriate in my view to insert this reference to Article 15.2 in the decisional part of the draft Decision. The Committee could, of course, insert it in the Preambular part, because it will be just recalling a procedure which is automatic, and which has already taken place, but even this is not necessary. Having it in the background would be also sufficient. So, I would think the two options are possible, just leaving it in the background, or inserting it in the Preambular Paragraph. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you for the clarification. Can we live without the paragraph? Can we please remove the paragraph, now it is number 3. Can we move forward now? We have now adopted Paragraph 4 as amended by Argentina, and then we have Paragraph 5. Now, it is a suggestion towards another extraordinary session, so we can decide on the modalities of the extended 45th session. Russia, you have the floor.

**Fédération de Russie :**

Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente, et félicitation pour votre nomination. Je voudrais juste avoir quelques précisions sur ce que l'on entend sous les « modalités » de la session s'il vous plaît, merci.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you Russia. I will give the floor to Greece, and I will come back to your answer.

**Greece:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Maybe, since you mentioned it is an extended session, we could include it in Paragraph 5 to 'agree on the modalities of the 45th extended session'. Thank you.

**Chairperson.**

South Africa, I will give you the floor on this regard. I will come back to the question by Russia as well. South Africa, you have the floor.

**South Africa:**

Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you for proceeding with this 17th extraordinary session. Thank you also to the Secretariat for the hard preparatory work to host this meeting. South Africa supports that another extraordinary session be held in January to consider the date and the venue of the meeting. We would also like to propose that the outcome of the Open-ended Working Group on site of memory associated with recent conflicts also be considered in those modalities and in the Agenda for the next extraordinary session. We would all recall that the World Heritage Committee, during the 44th session held in July 2021, mandated the Open-ended Working Group to report for consideration by the States Parties during the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee. We are pleased that this Open-Working Group has concluded its work and is ready to submit its consensual outcome document to the Committee. So, considering that this outcome document, during the extraordinary session in January 2023 will allow the Centre, as well as the Expert Bodies, to process and evaluate the sites that were kept in abeyance until the discussions of the Open-ended Working Group had been concluded. So, I think we would just like to add something possibly either here in the paragraph, or in the following paragraph, that we consider the Open-ended Working Group support as well. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, South Africa. Argentina, I will give you the floor, but before that, we have a question from Russia, we have a need for clarification from Greece, and we will catch up on your proposal. I will then give the floor to Argentina and I will get back to the Secretariat. Argentina, you have the floor.

**Argentina:**

Thank you, Princess Haifa. We want to give our full support to the African Group.

**Chairperson.**

Thank you very much, Argentina. Now, Mexico, you have the floor.

**Mexico:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, we celebrate that you will assume your important responsibilities. It is good news for all of us. Mexico is in favor of the proposition of South Africa and backed by Argentina.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, Mexico. Now, we will go to your proposal, but I need to finish the discussion that we are having on the Paragraph 5. Sorry, I am short, I need to go all the way up to see the screen, so forgive me if I miss anything. I would like to give the floor to the Secretariat to answer with regards to the two questions: one, what do we mean by modalities; and do we need to clarify them; two, writing extended in the text. You have the floor.

**Directeur Général adjoint pour la Culture :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Non, pour répondre à la question des modalités. Comme vous le savez, lorsque l'on parle des modalités, on parle de la date, du lieu. Dans ce cas spécifiquement, puisqu'on est en train d'avoir la même expérience que l'on a eu pour la version 44<sup>e</sup> qui a été la version Fuzhou/Paris 2021, il y a une décision qui a été prise de le faire « *extended* », c'est-à-dire de prendre les deux cycles : 2020 et 2021. Mais cela est une décision que vous devez prendre, elle n'est pas encore prise. Informellement, tout le monde en parle, mais elle doit être prise. Donc, la prochaine réunion extraordinaire, qui est proposée dans ce point devrait ratifier cet élément de la version « *extended* », qui va aussi déterminer la durée, puisque, rappelez-vous que pour la dernière version, nous avons dû prendre deux jours de plus dû à l'Agenda. Et, comme vous le savez, et maintenant je réponds à la dernière question, c'est l'Agenda, l'Agenda prévu se maintient tel qu'il est. Si vous décidez de le faire « *extended* », comme cela serait apparemment le cas, deux points vont s'ajouter à l'Agenda qui aurait dû être vu en 2023. Maintenant, on arrive à la question, ici apparemment nous ne sommes pas en train de parler d'Agenda de la 45<sup>e</sup> réunion. Cependant, s'il y a un intérêt, l'Agenda doit être construit et proposé par la Directrice Générale, si je ne me trompe pas. Donc effectivement, c'est une discussion que vous pouvez avoir, mais l'Agenda doit être proposé, et il pourra être proposé pour la session extraordinaire de janvier si elle a lieu, car si je comprends bien, aujourd'hui nous ne sommes pas en train de proposer d'avoir un Agenda au-delà de la suspension de la règle pour laquelle a été convoquée cette réunion. Je regarde le *Legal Adviser*, qui confirme mes propos.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you for the clarification. I would like to, Mister ADG, if I can, summarise what you have just said; with regards to modalities as the place, or venue, and the date; with regard to the extended, it is not extended yet, it will be decided in January; with regard to additional Agenda item, I think you have heard the ADG's reply, but this is the clarification; Russia, with regard to the modalities, can we keep as it is or do you want us to specify the date and the venue.

**Fédération de Russie :**

Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente. J'aurais préféré spécifier la date et le lieu, et comme ça dans les dates, cela inclura si la session est élargie ou pas, et c'est très agréable d'entendre que les modalités sont la date et le lieu. Merci beaucoup.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, Russia. Can we add it as amended, 'with regard to the modalities to agree on the date and the venue', but keep 'modalities' strikethrough until the members agree? South Africa, I will come back to you once we have decided on this paragraph, and then if you have any amendment to add to this, because I think it is better to adopt this Paragraph as a whole and then add the rest. Now I see 'decides to meet again in an extraordinary session in the course of January 2023 to agree on the date and the venue'. I see here the word 'notably', that was not there before, and I see 'extended session'. We cannot have 'extended session' because it will be decided in January, and I see Greece was not in agreement with that. I see that Zambia wanted to take the floor, but I will give you the floor now, I still see 'notably', I would like to hear from Russia about this change, and Zambia, you have the floor. Your Excellency.

**Zambia:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I was going to actually ask for the deletion of 'extended', but since you eloquently actually observed that, that is why I put down my country sign, but I would also suggest that we delete 'notably'.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much, your Excellency. Russia, I will come back to you, you have the floor.

**Fédération de Russie :**

Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente. Il faudrait peut-être ajouter « et l'Agenda », « notamment l'Agenda de la session », comme cela, on mettrait tout de ce que devrait discuter la session extraordinaire, donc la date, le lieu et l'Agenda provisoire de la 45<sup>e</sup> session. Merci beaucoup.

**Chairperson:**

So, as I get the clarification that it is possible to add the 'agree on the date, the venue and the Provisional Agenda', and just remove the word 'modalities' which still exists, 'of its 45th session'. As it reads right now, 'decides to meet again in an extraordinary session in the course of January 2023 to agree on the date, venue and the Provisional Agenda of its 45th session'. Can you adopt it as amended? Oman, you have the floor.

**Oman:**

I am not on the draft but can we have a date in January, because since we are all going on leave and holiday, can we put a provisional date for the meeting in January? Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

M. Lazare, you have the floor.

**Director of World Heritage:**

Thank you, Chairperson. The reason why we wanted to keep 'in the course of January' is because we are still to fix everything, but just for you to know that we are foreseeing it to happen on 26 and 27 January. So, it is more at the end of January. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, India, you have the floor Excellency.

**India:**

Excellency, good morning. I want to ask you two things: number one is India would like to issue a statement, when would that opportunity be presented to us? Second point, after what I heard from M. Lazare, 26 January is the date when the largest Democracy of the world became a Republic. It is a national holiday, and I would request that we also take it in consideration, and the extraordinary session in agreement with all the members hopefully, is not held on 26 January because that is the day we celebrate becoming a Republic. Other than 26 January, we are at your hand, Excellency. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much, your Excellency. It is more of a reason to celebrate, actually, we can have two celebrations in one, but nonetheless I think your point is well-taken and I think it will be discussed among the members to decide on the date on this regard, but thank you for raising this point. Your Excellency, with regard to Paragraph 5, and I would like to ask everyone, South Africa can we adopt this one and move to another one, I would like to give you the floor, please.

**South Africa:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Since we are already discussing the Agenda, why don't we add an extra phrase regarding a request for the Outcome Document? Instead of adding another whole paragraph. Perhaps at the end of 'the Provisional Agenda of its 45th session, including the Outcome Document of the Open-ended Working Group of sites of memory associated with recent conflicts.' Instead of us adding another whole paragraph, it is up to you to decide, thanks Madam Chair.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much, South Africa. Now we have an addition, an additional sentence to number 5. I want to give the floor to the Legal Adviser to explain on this, but before that, the first part of the paragraph, is everyone in agreement with it? That is great, then we'll move to the other part, and then I would like to give the floor to the Legal Adviser, you have the floor.

**Legal Adviser:**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would just like to recall the procedure for preparing the Provisional Agenda and adopting the Agenda. Article 9.2 of the Rules of Procedure indicates that 'The Provisional Agenda of an ordinary session of the Committee shall include: a) all questions, the inclusion of which has been decided by the Committee at previous sessions; b) all questions proposed by members of the Committee; c) all questions proposed by States Parties to the Convention not members of the Committee; d) all questions proposed by the Director General.'

Once this Provisional Agenda is established, the Director General notifies the States members of the Committee of the date, place and Provisional Agenda of each session, not less than 60 days in advance in the case of an ordinary session. So, when reading and then, afterwards, when the Committee convenes a session, it adopts its Agenda. The Rules of Procedure do not foresee anywhere that the Committee adopts a Provisional Agenda. What the Committee can do and what is contained in the Provisional Agenda are items that are decided by the Committee at previous sessions. However, the Provisional Agenda also contains the possibility for Member States, members of the Committee and States Parties to the Convention to add other points on the Agenda. So, here, I think it would not be exactly adopting the Provisional Agenda. What the Committee could do in an extraordinary session is to decide on the questions, the inclusion of which it would like to see at the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, in accordance with the 9.2.a. of the Rules of Procedure. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much. I actually asked you about the second part, but you gave an explanation on the first part and maybe we will come back to that. Now, we have two dimensions: one dimension is with regard to the adoption of the Agenda, which has been now clarified with the Legal Adviser; another one which I wanted to ask you about is with regard to the addition of the sites of memory associated with recent conflicts. If we can adopt this, if we can adopt that, then we can adopt it but we have to come back to the issue of agreeing on the Provisional Agenda. Now, Russia, since you have proposed 'agreement on the Provisional Agenda', I want to hear from you, what do you think about the explanation that was given by the esteemed Legal Adviser. You have the floor.

**Fédération de Russie :**

Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente, et je remercie le Conseiller juridique pour cette explication très pertinente. Je ne vois aucune contradiction entre ce qui a été dit et ce qui est dit dans le paragraphe parce que là, nous n'adoptons pas l'Agenda, nous décidons des questions qui vont être incluses ou proposées pour l'Agenda provisoire de la session. Donc, je crois que ce qui a été dit par le Conseiller juridique appui bel et bien que l'on peut discuter l'Agenda provisoire de la session pendant la session extraordinaire, ce qui a été d'ailleurs déjà fait auparavant, et ce qu'il faudrait faire pour avoir la session élargie, et je salue la proposition de l'Afrique du Sud pour juste ajouter 'y compris le document résultant du Groupe de travail ouvert sur les sites de mémoire associés aux conflits récents'. Donc, je crois que le paragraphe tel qu'il est maintenant peut-être proposé à l'attention des membres du Comité et adopté si tout le monde est d'accord. Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much, Russia. Now, the paragraph, as it reads right now, as it was amended, can we adopt it? Argentina, you have the floor.

**Argentina:**

Thank you, Princess. I think that we can change, when it says 'decides to meet again in an extraordinary session in the course of January 2023 to agree on the date, the venue, the Provisional Agenda' you take out 'and' 'of the 45th session' instead of including, to say 'and the Outcome Document of the Open-ended Working Group', and so on.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, Argentina. So, I think it is almost a grammatical correction, I understand what you are saying 'to meet again to agree on the date, the venue, the Provisional Agenda and the outcomes of the document'. I have Belgium, I have Ethiopia, I have Oman. So, Belgium you have the floor.

**Belgium:**

Thank you, Madam Chair, let me start by congratulating you on your nomination as a Chairperson, we look forward to working together with you. We were wondering, while we would have no opposition as such to debate next time South Africa's proposal, backed by Argentina, we were wondering if we need to go in detail through the Agenda of the extraordinary session right now, since normally this is included in the convocation and adopted at the beginning of the next meeting, we would not like to exclude or include, loose ourselves in an endless debate over the '*ordre du jour*'. That would be also maybe a legal question for the legal counsellor, if we can leave this more or less open, we can agree on the first part of the paragraph that we indeed will meet again in January, but so we were wondering if we could leave the Agenda from now open and from a legal perspective. Thank you very much.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, Belgium. I will come back to your question and ask the Legal Adviser, but I have a lot of countries requesting the floor. Ethiopia, you have the floor.

**Ethiopia:**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Sometimes, legal clarifications will lead you for farther confusions. This is my personal view. If we decide to put it as it is, I really support the amendment made by South Africa and supported by Argentina. My question: do we meet in January 'to agree' or 'to decide'? Which one is the right term? Agreement and decision are quite different issues, but we have to meet to decide. Which one is the appropriate wording? This is a question of English.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much. I think it is actually a legal question that we will propose now. So, we have two questions for the Legal Adviser with regard to the Agenda: can we specify an item, or can it automatically go to the Agenda of another extraordinary session? This is a question that needs to be answered; and with regard to 'decide' and 'agree', with that I would like to give to the floor to Zambia, and then we have Japan. Zambia, you have the floor.

**Zambia:**

Oman was before me, so I would gladly give him the floor before I speak.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much, your Excellency. Oman, your Excellency, you have the floor.

**Oman:**

That is very kind of you, Excellency, thank you very much. I would like to go back a little bit to this here. We have postponed this Committee for a whole year, that is because we are sticking to rules and regulations and the legal framework. Therefore, we do not want to break it now by asking the Secretariat to present the Agenda. Again, we have to stick with the rules and regulations; if the rules and regulations say it is not supposed to be presented now, there are time frameworks, we have to stick on that. If we want to request an outline for information, that might be, but my country is asking me to stick to the rules and regulations of the Convention. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, your Excellency. Just listening to you now, Your Excellency, I think we have two types of interventions here: one is about agreeing on the Provisional Agenda, which is in the first part, and then the other one is with regard to adding the Agenda item to the next extraordinary session. So please, from now on, I would like to hear from these two things from everyone who intervenes. For that, I would like to give the floor to back to you, Your Excellency Zambia, you have the floor.

**Zambia:**

Thank you, Madam President. Listening to the Legal Representative's intervention, and I think one of the other important things, which Oman has eluded was Paragraph 9.1, which says that 'the Provisional Agenda would be prepared by the Director General'. If we put in Paragraph 5 that we will consider or decide on the date and venue the Provisional Agenda, are we supposing or presupposing that this Provisional Agenda would have been prepared by the Director General by the time we are having our extraordinary session? If not, maybe I would suggest that we put decide or agree on the inclusion, on the Provisional Agenda of its 45th session, the outcome document of the Open-ended Working Group. So that we could decide, because the Committee is given the mandate to decide, add or delete from the Provisional Agenda, so long as there are a two-third majority. So, if we could discuss this maybe at the next extraordinary meeting, we could make a decision whether to include the outcome document of the Open-ended Working Group which, to Africa, is extremely important to discuss at the 45th session. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Just to clarify if I understood your intervention. So, you believe that in the next extraordinary session, we can decide on discussing the outcome of the Working Group in the 45th session, not to discuss them in the next extraordinary session. To make that later, is that right?

**Zambia:**

What I was suggesting was we could decide for that to be included on the ordinary session, the 45th ordinary session. So, we could make that decision at the extraordinary meeting just for the Director General to include that request on the Provisional Agenda.

**Chairperson:**

Just to clarify, Your Excellency, it is already included in the 45th session, because by default, by the Decision of the Working Group was to discuss this in the 45th session if I'm not mistaken. Now I would like to give the floor to Japan and go back to South Africa and then Mexico. Japan, you have the floor.

**Japan:**

Thank you very much. I'm usually very weak in the morning so my intervention may not be that articulated. But I just wanted to clarify one thing: do we need to decide on the items to be agreed or decided in the extraordinary session in January because as Belgium said earlier, we are not really ready to agree on the Agenda items in the extraordinary session in January. I have no instructions at this moment in time so we should leave some flexibility on that one. Having said that, the current language seems to suggest that no other things will be possible after this meeting, as an Agenda item in the extraordinary session in January, so maybe we need to have something which shows some flexibility. Although I have no problems with the sites of memory, we had a very fruitful discussion in the Working Group with the excellent Chair, so we have no problems with the sites of memory. Having said that, we need some flexibility in terms of the items to be discussed in January so maybe we should have something; "notably" was perhaps the kind of flexibility that the Secretariat may wish to insert, so we need some flexibility language there, something like "among other things" or "including", something like that. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I just want to remind everyone that the original time for the meeting has been utilized. So, we are moving on right now but I would like to ask you all to be as brief as possible. I would like to give the floor to South Africa again, and then to Mexico. You have the floor.

**South Africa:**

Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you for all of the interventions by States Parties. We would like to support the proposal by Argentina that we add the word “and”, we don’t want confusion here that the Open-ended Working Group’s outcome document should be considered only in the 45th session. I think we all understand how long that Open-ended Working Group took to come to a consensual Outcome Document and that the work of the World Heritage Centre and the expert bodies has been delayed now in evaluating those sites that were supposed to be considered in the 45th session. So, I don’t think that we can afford to wait until the 45th session to consider that report of the Open-ended Working Group. We also need to give the Chair opportunity to finalize her oral report as well as the report to the Committee so that it can be considered in January, to give the Centre and the expert bodies the time to do their evaluation so that these dossiers are presented in the June session. Thank you very much, Chair.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much, South Africa. So, just to summarize, it is to keep the additional sentence. Mexico, you have the floor.

**Mexico:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like Mexico, my country, to be included in the list that supports South Africa and Argentina initiative.

**Chairperson:**

Noted. Thank you, Your Excellency. Now, I would like to go back to the Legal Advisers. There are two specific questions that I want an answer for, I’ve been asked by the floor. One, with regards to “decide” and/or “agree”, the question by the distinguished representative of Ethiopia. The other question was raised by Belgium, which is: do we have the freedom to add more items in the next extraordinary session or do we have to specify it now? You have the floor.

**Legal Adviser:**

Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson. Regarding the question of inserting items in an extraordinary session, the Rules of Procedure foresee that the Provisional Agenda of an extraordinary session shall include only those questions, for the consideration of which the session has been convened. Therefore, the Committee, either by correspondence or during this extraordinary session needs to decide exactly what the Agenda, what the Provisional Agenda of the next session will include. The Committee can decide now, or, if it not possible to decide clearly what items will be included in the Provisional Agenda; the Secretariat could also go through the correspondence procedure as it is done in the past. But it has to be, the Provisional Agenda has to be decided prior to the extraordinary session given that the extraordinary session is convened only for the questions for the consideration of which the session has been convened. So, if you wish to decide today that the extraordinary session in January will be convened for the purposes of deciding the dates, the place, the Provisional Agenda as well as on the document on the sites of memory, this is a decision that should be taken as soon as possible in order to convene the session in January.

I would also like to highlight that here again, the Committee would be deciding on the questions regarding the Provisional Agenda for the 45th session, on the questions the inclusion of which has been decided by the Committee. This would not prevent at a later date, members of the Committee to propose the inclusion of new questions as well as States Parties to the Convention to propose the inclusion of new questions, as foreseen in Rule 9.2 of the Rules of Procedure. Finally, regarding the Sites of Memory, a decision had already been taken at the 44th session, it’s Decision **44 COM 8**, that the document was to be presented for the consideration by the 45th session. So, in the absence of a decision of the extraordinary session, either today or in January, this item will automatically be included in the 45th session. This, of course, does not prevent the Committee from deciding that it prefers to review this document prior to the 45th session, for example at the next extraordinary session. And finally, but not least, I think that given that it is a decision of the Committee, the use of the term “decide” rather than “agree” would be more appropriate. Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much. I’ll give you the floor Belgium, but Rwanda wanted the floor also before Belgium. But before I give you the floor Rwanda, I just want to summarize if what we understood is right. Now, it will be better as Ethiopia said, to say “decide” instead of “agree”. This is the first part, now if we can change it, strikethrough, keep the word just strike it through, and add the word “decide” in the second line. Ok “decide”. Can we just strikethrough “agree”, before? Okay, sorry, it is my vision. Okay so this is number 1. Number 2, with regard to the Provisional Agenda of the 45th session; the language here as is, is it acceptable? Is it within the Rules of Procedure? Of course, again, as you said, countries can add, there can be consultations, the DG can add, and all of this. The language here, because I had a question by Oman, is it within the Rules of Procedure? This is number 2 that I want your answer. And then to touch upon the third item, which is with regard to the sites of memory. Indeed, what you have said that it is better, we have, it has to be added; but it can be added in consultation afterwards, but it is the sooner the better we have to decide on adding it. So, it has to be mentioned. Now this is the summary of what I have understood from you, but I want a final answer, a final reply from you with regard to the language that we have here about the Provisional Agenda. Thank you.

**Legal Adviser:**

Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson. I understand from the Secretariat that at the end of every ordinary session of the Committee, the Committee adopts its Provisional Agenda. So, this has been a practice. From a legal..., legally speaking, we wouldn't have of course an objection to continuing this practice. But what the Committee would actually be deciding upon is the questions that are foreseen in 9.2a. And this is within the remit of the Committee. This is the questions that the Committee decides to include in the Agenda of the next ordinary session. Therefore, because of, in light of the practice and the understanding that the Provisional Agenda, once adopted by the Committee could evolve in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, because Member States, States Parties of the Convention, members of the Committee would be able to add other points on the Agenda. Then of course we could go ahead with the term "Provisional Agenda". Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you. So, to answer Oman it is within the Procedure, and it can still be edited and added, it still will be a Provisional Agenda.

**Oman:**

That's the flexibility asked by Japan. I will agree.

**Chairperson:**

Okay thank you very much. Now we have Rwanda and then Belgium. Rwanda, you have the floor.

**Rwanda:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. We would like to first congratulate you for the presidency of this Committee and we also wanted to convey that Rwanda supports and aligns with the proposition submitted by South Africa and Argentina. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you Rwanda. I'll give the floor now to Belgium.

**Belgium:**

Thank you, Your Highness. And thank you to the Legal Counsellor for guiding us today. I'll be very brief. With refer to the flexibility that was mentioned by the Ambassador of Japan we might want to suggest to add at the end of Paragraph 5: "as well as any other urgent matter" so which might allow us to deal with urgent matters, as the wording says. Thank you so much.

**Chairperson:**

Just to clarify, Belgium. As per the Legal Advisor, it should be decided beforehand, so it can be by correspondence. But definitely before the session starts, just to clarify to everyone. So, if you are happy with this "as well as any other urgent matter", but just to clarify to everyone, it has to be decided before the meeting, by correspondence. So, it can still be there but it will follow the procedures. I would like to give the floor to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, you have the floor.

**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election, and you can count on our full cooperation in your task. I would like to support the proposal made by South Africa and Argentina. It is a huge work done and maybe it's time to discuss this issue at the next session. And for urgent matters, I mean it is really vague for me, but it could be consulted later, but we do prefer to keep something very clear in the decision as the proposal of South Africa and Argentina. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you. Now if you can add here, and I have Mali to be followed by Italy. Mali you have the floor.

**Mali :**

Merci bien, Son Altesse. Je voudrais me réjouir du fait que les contributions des uns et des autres ont permis d'avoir des éclairages, notamment celles qui viennent de nous être fournies par notre Conseiller juridique. Mais si l'on essaie d'intégrer tout ça dans le point 5, on se rend compte qu'il y a lieu, peut-être, en tout cas en mon sens, de rendre un peu plus digeste le paragraphe. Et déjà pour y contribuer, je dirais qu'il s'agit pour le Comité de décider éventuellement mais on peut peut-être éviter des répétitions, car on commence par dire « Décide de se réunir à nouveau en session extraordinaire dans le courant du mois de janvier 2023 » ; on peut peut-être éviter la répétition à ce niveau puisqu'on décide, on pourrait mettre ici « fixer » donc « pour fixer la date, le lieu » et le Conseiller juridique nous a précisé que l'Agenda devrait être précisé en amont, donc il s'agira si j'ai bien compris, d'examiner en ce moment l'Agenda. Donc, on pourrait mettre « examiner l'Agenda ». Mais à partir de ce moment-là, je me demande si on doit examiner le document, car on termine par indiquer le document dans le paragraphe. Est-ce que dans ce moment-là, on a juste à examiner le document, auquel cas cela résout le problème en mon sens. Ce sont ces différentes contradictions que je voudrais faire à ce niveau. Je vous remercie.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, Your Excellency. I'm just looking now at the amendment in English. So, you're here breaking it down, so you have the decision on the date and the venue, and then to "consider" the Provisional Agenda instead of "decide" on the Provisional Agenda. If this is what I understood from your amendment. Italy you have the floor, but I also want to hear from you about the amendments that you are seeing on the screen. You have the floor, Your Excellency.

**Italie :**

Merci beaucoup, Madame la Présidente. Tout d'abord félicitations pour votre présidence, et comme d'autres délégations l'ont souligné, comme les collègues du Japon, de l'Oman et de la Belgique, nous sommes aussi pour cette ligne de flexibilité donc, pour nous, nous soutenons la proposition qui avait été faite pour la Belgique. Pour l'autre chose, c'est bien. Merci Madame.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much Italy. Greece you have the floor.

**Greece:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. We also support Belgium/Italian amendment. I'm wondering if we have to keep "urgent" matter. Because as the Legal Adviser mentioned, any Member State in the current time and before the next extraordinary session could add an Agenda item to be examined. So, is it only urgent, or any other matter of interest of the States Parties? Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

So, Greece you are suggesting that we remove "urgent" and keep "any other matter". This is an amendment by Greece, and I will give the floor to the Legal Adviser to answer you in this regard.

**Greece:**

And if I can add, maybe we could, instead of "as well as any other matter" add "mainly to consider" what we mentioned, the issues, and delete "any other urgent matter". Both options, whatever the Legal Adviser suggests. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you. Now, I will give you the floor, legal Adviser. But I need to clarify something here. Again, the Agenda Items have to be agreed in advance, whether here in this meeting, or by correspondence. Now, when we add such a blanket word to say "as any other urgent matter" or "mainly to do", which is great, and I think "mainly" may solve actually the issue here. But we need to be very clear, and I think we need to have it here in the text, that we don't overcome, or we don't jump over the Operational Guidelines. So, we have to be clear about this in our language. Please, you have the floor.

**Legal Adviser:**

Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson and sorry for taking the floor again. I do feel that there's some, and it's true that the Rules of Procedure have different clauses on this, there is maybe a confusion between the Provisional Agenda of the Ordinary session, and the Provisional Agenda of the extraordinary session. And these are two separate rules and two separate procedures.

So, for the ordinary session, which is going to take place at the 45th session, the Provisional Agenda will include all questions that the Committee have decided to include in the 45th session. So, it could be decisions that were adopted at the 44th session, decisions that are going to be decided at the extraordinary session. All these points will be included at the 45th session. It will also include all questions by Members of the Committee, all questions by States Parties, and all questions proposed by the DG. So, this is the procedure for the Provisional Agenda of the ordinary session.

For the extraordinary session, it is a slightly different procedure, and it is very more restrictive, because the extraordinary session is supposed to be maybe shorter, and much more focused, and to respond to certain emergent or urgent situations. So, for the extraordinary session, the Provisional Agenda of an extraordinary session shall include only those questions for the consideration of which the session has been convened. Now, in this case, sessions are convened pursuant to a request of at least two thirds of the Members of the Committee. In the present case, the session is convened by more than two thirds because it is a Committee Decision at this extraordinary session that is going to convene the next extraordinary session. And it will be very important then for the Committee itself to decide which points it wants to include at the next extraordinary session. The inclusion of the points for the next extraordinary session are not going to follow the procedure for the inclusion of points on an ordinary session Provisional Agenda. It would be for the Committee to decide which points are included in the next Provisional Agenda of the extraordinary session. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Greece, I hope this clarified the answer for you. So here we say, I know Oman I will give you the floor, but we say here now, looking at the Paragraph as a whole. We have removed "agree" and put "decide on". Mali has a suggestion to have "set the date and the venue" and then "consider the Provisional Agenda", that's another dimension to it. Also, with regards to the outcome of the Open-ended Working Group on sites of memory, we saw a lot of support in this regard. And then, we have an addition "as well as any other matter" or "urgent matter". And we had the clarification from the Legal Adviser, but I want to come back to you before I give the floor to Oman. Is this language here, when we say "as well as any other matter", does it give it the spirit of the Agenda, of the regular session. Because here it gives it, you can see it is like an open-ended thing. Do we need to clarify this? Legal Adviser?

**Legal Adviser:**

You will need to clarify it at one point or another. Because you are going to convene this session, or this session is going to be convened and the points included in the extraordinary session specifically for a certain purpose. So, having any urgent question is very wide, you wouldn't be able to prepare a Provisional Agenda with dates, place, document on the sites of memory and urgent matter. You would need to decide on any other matter that you want to include in the Provisional Agenda prior to convening the extraordinary session; because you would have to convene the extraordinary session for the purposes of dealing with these questions that will be under consideration. Now, if the Committee in this session today cannot decide on all the matters to be included in the Provisional Agenda of the next extraordinary session, you would have to find a way, deciding it in a different manner. And apart from undertaking consultations, written consultations, I do not see how you would be able to decide this. Unless of course you want to have another extraordinary session to decide on the Agenda of the following extraordinary session. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you. I want to give the floor to Oman and South Africa but coming back to Belgium. So, the floor is still open to add any other item by consultation. This is a given. Again I'm a bit confused why do we need to add it here since it's already given, if it's going to be by consultation, but it's up to the Members. But I got confused now with the request. Oman, you have the floor Your Excellency.

**Oman:**

Thank you very much and I would like to thank the Legal Adviser. Actually, we ask for the Rules and Regulation clarification, I was asking about the Provisional Agenda for the Commission, for the 45. I mean from the beginning, we have given the support for the South African suggestion for the memory, because that is taking a long time and we need to discuss it in the extraordinary. I do not know why we are adding all these things, it is a lot of confusion. I mean, the extraordinary is supposed to discuss certain urgent, pressed point. Otherwise, we are going to have another Committee session in January. Therefore, I think we need to limit the discussion and therefore we are talking about the Provisional Agenda, I don't know why we diverted the discussion to January, we are talking about only the Provisional Agenda for the Committee, which is not supposed to be approved or we can say "for information". That was the discussion. And the clarification from the legal adviser is very clear. We are not supposed to enlarge the list of the discussion in January. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I would like to give the floor to South Africa, you have the floor.

**South Africa:**

Thank you, Excellency. I know that my capable colleagues have thanked you for convening this meeting and steering these deliberations, but I believe all of us were looking forward to, in fact, if we can run this session smoothly, it would be an early Christmas, for those you are Christians. And let's make it that. Let's make it an early Christmas. And so, my dear brother from Oman summed it up very well. This is an extraordinary session, we can decide as this Committee, and we have to because it is extraordinary; we have to be specific, exactly as to what we want to discuss. And by January is a few weeks from now, it's not any other time. And we all know that in the next ten days or five days, many of us will be going on holidays, and some will be coming in January. So, let's make the best use of our time so that we can move forward. Excellencies, we have a lot of work to do in the ordinary session. I think the expectation, Madam Chair if you allow me, from the heritage community is huge. They are looking forward to us showing the urgency that we all have been yearning for. So, I really don't think that we really have to disagree about the very substance of the issue. Because if we can spend more time disagreeing now, we are sending a negative message already to the depressed community. So, my recommendation is that, let's keep it simple and specific. Date and venue. We have motivated why we think, why in our so humble opinion, the sites of memory is urgent. The urgency has been motivated. If there is any other item, be frank with us, because as you know we have to consult. Let's be frank to each other, what is there that you want us to add, that is urgent, that you think by January we should elaborate? I think we can reach, resolve many of the issues by consensus. And I want to appeal to you all, let us try and resolve all these issues by consensus, not always to prolong the discussions when it is absolutely not necessary. So, as I said, my brother from Oman has summed it up, let's stick to these ones: date and venue, and sites of memory. If there is any urgent matter, let's hear what it is now. Because if we

cannot agree now, I don't see any agreement outside this meeting. We are going to have another extraordinary to discuss extraordinary. I submit, Madam Chair.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much, our Excellency. I would like to hear from India and then I will give you my reflection how we can proceed in the paragraph. India, you have the floor, Your Excellency.

**India:**

Excellency, I had asked for the floor to issue a statement, but I think given the views of my brother from South Africa that we have an early Christmas, let me finish what I had to say now, so I'm done with. India would like to commend South Africa for having raised this very important issue. We commend the support that South Africa has received, and from across the world, you see the South Africa, Argentina Ethiopia, Latin American countries, Caribbean countries, the Arab world, Oman, and the whole world is here. So, India would also like to add our name after Oman's. So, with your permission, please do that. Excellency, I would also like to take this opportunity and is to congratulate and complement the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for taking up the Chair of the extraordinary session and the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee to be held next year in your beautiful and wonderful country. Being a responsible Member of the World Heritage Committee, India assures full cooperation and support to our brothers and sisters in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Excellency, this is the second instance in the recent times that the Committee meeting could not be held due to unprecedented circumstances. Therefore, it is important and even more crucial now that the Committee has decided to move forward to kick start the World Heritage processes once again under your able and astute leadership. Madam Chair, India would like to work with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and reiterate its commitment towards a more balanced and credible World Heritage List, work towards transparent approach to the Nomination of World Heritage properties, and to streamline the funding mechanism of the World Heritage Centre. Madam Chair, India once again congratulates you for taking up this role at such a crucial time of the World Heritage Committee. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, and thank you for your support, although the decision is not finalised yet, but we're counting on your support and thank you very much for your kind words. Now, we have added India's name to the co-sponsors, if we can say, to this amendment. And now, let's divide our Paragraph in two different segments so we can move forward. In the first paragraph, from the word "decide" until before the South African amendment. So, we have some variation here, either "decide on" or "set the date". So, two things here: either "set the date, the venue, and consider the Provisional Agenda" or "decide on the date, the venue and the Provisional Agenda". So, with this, I have Mali's amendment, and I would like to hear from you. Which part are you leaning on, so we can adopt at least the first part and move forward? Maybe if I go back to Your Excellency Ambassador of Mali, if we can go back to the original amended part, which is "decide to meet again in an extraordinary session in January to decide on the date, venue, etcetera". I will give you the floor, Your Excellency.

**Mali :**

Merci, Madame la Présidente. L'avantage, à mon sens, de notre suggestion c'est qu'on va éviter d'abord une répétition qui va alléger le paragraphe : « décide ensuite de fixer » sinon décider c'est déjà fixer, donc ça à l'avantage d'être beaucoup plus clair, donc beaucoup plus digeste.

**Chairperson:**

I understand, Your Excellency and if we can go with the amendment by Mali, so if we can start striking through "decides to meet again in an extraordinary session in the course of January 2023 to set the date"; just strike this one through "set the date, the venue and consider the Provisional Agenda"; if we can strike through the word "to", thank you. So, "consider the Provisional Agenda of its 45th session" and then we are going to move forward about the outcome. But the first part as it reads, and as amended by Mali, can we adopt the first part? Great. Zambia, you have the floor, Your Excellency.

**Zambia:**

I wouldn't want to delay the consideration of this decision, but I don't know, I pose the question to the Legal Representative. When we said to "consider the Provisional Agenda of its 45th session", are we going to have that Agenda before us at this extraordinary? Because, once what we've heard is that only the Director General can set the Provisional Agenda, that Provisional Agenda will be shared 60 days before the 45th ordinary session. So, I have great difficulties to agree on the last part on considering the Provisional Agenda of the 45th ordinary session.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. Legal Adviser, would you please like to give an answer to that?

**Legal Advisor:**

Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson. Regarding the Provisional Agenda, I understand and maybe the Secretariat could confirm, that the Committee at the 44th session already considered the Provisional Agenda for the 45th session. Now, from what I understand, given that you might decide on an extended session, this Provisional Agenda might be modified. In any event, if you are to consider the extraordinary session is to consider the Provisional Agenda in

January, the Provisional Agenda of the 45th session, this would be provisional in many ways. It could be provisional because it has not yet been adopted by the Committee in ordinary session at the 45th session. It is provisional also because in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, Members of the Committee and States Parties to the Convention and the Director General, may add to this Provisional Agenda, prior to sending it within the 60 days before the Committee's session, might add other questions to. And then, it would be up to the Committee at its 45th session to adopt the Agenda. Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you for this clarification. Zambia, can we adopt the first part? Yes, okay. So, the first part until the word "45th session". I see Argentina, you have the floor.

**Argentina:**

We prefer when we speak. Thank you so much. We prefer when we speak on the outcome documents to put "decide the outcome documents". It expresses what we need.

**Chairperson:**

Your Excellency, we are not there yet. I'm talking about the first part of the paragraph.

**Argentina:**

About, sorry?

**Chairperson:**

The first part of the paragraph.

**Argentina:**

Yes, the first part, if not, we can say "decide on the date, the venue and the Outcome Document of the Open..." up to "conflicts" and then "and consider" and the next part. It's better there.

**Chairperson:**

Okay, clear, clear, I understand. So, then if we can move "consider the Provisional Agenda of its 45th session" to the end. So, it will be "and consider", so is this your amendment, Argentina? Is this how it looks? Argentina, can you please confirm that this is your amendment as it reads?

**Argentina:**

Yes, I'm sorry, but you strike out "decide" so it's "decide" not "set the Outcome Document" here it would be "set the Outcome Document".

**Chairperson:**

Thank you Argentina. I think Mali, we are coming back to you now, there is still some many points of view that say we have to go back to the word "decide" instead "to set the date", to "decide on the date, the venue, etcetera". As I understood from Argentina. Now, Your Excellency, can we live with "decide" twice in the paragraph? Mali, you have the floor.

**Mali :**

Nous allons nous montrer flexibles en fait, mais je tiens simplement à expliquer le fait que quand on est d'accord que « décider » c'est « fixer » une chose, il me paraît plus opportun d'éviter la répétition.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much for your flexibility, Your Excellency. And then if we look at the Paragraph now "Decide to meet again in an extraordinary session in the course of January 2023 to decide on the date" can you please strikethrough "to decide on the date, the venue and the outcome document of the Open-ended Working Group on sites of memory associated with recent conflicts as well any other matter and consider the Provisional Agenda of its 45th session". Can we have a clean copy, a clean paragraph? Greece, you have the floor.

**Greece:**

Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I think, as the Legal Adviser explained to us, any extraordinary session before an ordinary session has a duty to examine the Provisional Agenda already agreed at the previous ordinary session, and to include whatever, you know, new Agenda items Member States wish to add. So, I don't see what the usefulness is of adding the examination of the Provisional Agenda. It is, as usual, as usual, it is the ritual, it is the rule. That is why we meet at this extraordinary session; Thank you very much.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency. I understand very well what you are saying but for the sake of consensus now, we have two things that are given but we are still adding them. One is the discussion on the Agenda, the other is "any other item". They are given, we can still do them. But Member States feel more comfortable when they add

them. So, can we adopt? Greece, Your Excellency? Okay. So, you can see a clean Paragraph 5 at the bottom of the screen. Can we adopt it? India, you have the floor.

**India:**

Excellency, only for the matter of being grammatically correct, "as well as any other matter" ought to come at the end, if at all in the wisdom of the house they want to add that phrase then usually any other matter or any other business comes right at the end. Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you, Your Excellency. Can we have it moved at the end? Okay, so "and consider the Provisional Agenda of its 45th session as well as any other matter". The way it reads now, can we adopt? I see no objection. And then Paragraph 5 is adopted as amended. Okay, so, if we go back to the Decision as a whole, can we adopt the Decision? Okay, so, can we adopt the Decision as a whole? Can you please scroll up. I see Mali, you have the floor, Your Excellency.

**Mali :**

Sauf erreur de ma part, je pense que nous devons nous réunir sur le paragraphe parce qu'en indiquant « décide de se réunir à nouveau en session extraordinaire dans le courant du mois de janvier 2023 pour décider de la date, du lieu », ça va. Mais là, on met une virgule et ensuite on dit « et sur le document, décider » vous voyez ? Ça coince à ce niveau-là. Et « décider sur le document » ça ne passe pas. On peut décider du lieu, on peut décider de la date, mais quand on veut parler du document, il y a lieu à ce moment-là de raccorder. « Décider » ne passe pas avec directement la suite. Donc, soit on examine le document, et on peut décider du lieu et de la date, mais décider sur le document, en tout cas en français, ça ne passe pas. Est-ce que je me fais comprendre ?

**Chairperson:**

Your Excellency, I will get back to you with regard to the French version, but here the decisions on the outcome of the document, not on the document, maybe in the French it is not translated in such manner. Can we fix it? So, we decide on the outcome of the document, not on the document. Okay, I have Belgium and Argentina. Belgium you have the floor.

**Belgique :**

Juste une suggestion pour répondre aux soucis de l'Ambassadeur du Mali. On pourrait dire dans la version française « décide de se réunir à nouveau en session extraordinaire dans le courant du mois de janvier 2023 pour prendre une décision sur le lieu, la date et le document » pour faciliter la fluidité du paragraphe. Merci.

**Chairperson:**

Now, since we have adopted the Paragraph already, I'm not inclined to go back and change anything in the text. But I'm here fixing the differences between the French and English language. So, I'm not inclined to open the discussion on this one again since it's adopted. Argentina, you have the floor.

**Argentina:**

Thank you, Princess. I was just to ask you if it was already adopted because I heard the hammer, I'm sorry.

**Chairperson:**

Thank you very much. I hope this clarifies the French version for Your Excellency, Mali? Can we adopt the Decision as a whole? Okay, so if we go up, and if we adopt the Decision as a whole. I see there is an agreement in the room. We can adopt the Decision as a whole.

Thank you very much. Now this concludes the work of the 17th extraordinary session of the Committee. I take this opportunity to remind you that we will meet again for another extraordinary session in January 2023. The date and time will be confirmed to you by the Secretariat shortly.

I wish to thank you all and have a good day and have a great celebration by the end of the year, and all the holidays celebration that you are celebrating. Enjoy going back to your family, being human and getting together and enjoying your health and life and friends. I think it's an optimistic way to end the year, looking forward to meeting you all next year, and thank you all for your cooperation.

Thank you very much.