

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

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

**Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
22-23 November 2023**

**Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda:
Elections to the World Heritage Committee**

SUMMARY

This document consists of the following 4 sections:

- I. Number of seats to be filled to the World Heritage Committee
- II. Eligibility of candidates to the World Heritage Committee
- III. Procedures for the election of the members of the World Heritage Committee
- IV. Draft Resolution

I. NUMBER OF SEATS TO BE FILLED TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

1. Article 8 of the World Heritage Convention establishes the World Heritage Committee and determines that it is to be composed of 21 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention. The members of the Committee are to be elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, which meets during the ordinary sessions of the UNESCO General Conference.

2. At present, the World Heritage Committee is composed of the following 21 States Parties:

- Argentina
- Egypt
- India
- Mali
- Oman
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- Belgium
- Ethiopia
- Italy
- Mexico
- Qatar
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Thailand
- Bulgaria
- Greece
- Japan
- Nigeria
- Russian Federation
- Saudi Arabia
- Zambia

3. The terms of office of 9 of the members of the Committee will expire at the end of the 42nd session of the UNESCO General Conference (7-22 November 2023). Consequently, the seats of the **9 outgoing members** of the World Heritage Committee below are to be filled during the 24th session of the General Assembly:

- Egypt
- Nigeria
- Saudi Arabia
- Ethiopia
- Oman
- South Africa
- Mali
- Russian Federation
- Thailand

4. More specific information related to the seats to be filled during the 24th session of the General Assembly can be found at the following web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/24ga/>.

II. ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

5. In order for a State Party to be eligible to become a member of the World Heritage Committee, the conditions set out in Article 16 paragraph 5 of the *Convention* have to be met.

Article 16, paragraph 5: Any State Party to the Convention which is in arrears with the payment of its compulsory or voluntary contribution for the current year and the calendar year immediately preceding it shall not be eligible as a Member of the World Heritage Committee [...].

6. The candidates should be up to date with the payment of their compulsory and voluntary contributions. The statement of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund can be found in Document WHC/23/24.GA/INF.7.

7. Note should also be taken of Rule 13.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly which states that:

Rule 13.4: This list of candidatures shall be finalized 48 hours before the opening of the General Assembly. No other candidatures nor payments of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund (for the purpose of presenting a candidature to the Committee) will be accepted in the 48-hour period prior to the opening of the General Assembly.

8. Furthermore, as per Rule 13.2: *Members of the World Heritage Committee may stand again for election after a gap of 6 years after the expiry of their mandate.*

III. PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

9. The procedures for the election of the World Heritage Committee are set out in Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.
10. The General Assembly, when electing the new members of the World Heritage Committee, might wish to take into consideration Article 8 paragraph 2 of the Convention which states that the "*election of members of the Committee shall ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world*", as well as its Resolution on the Equitable Representation of the World Heritage Committee (adopted by the General Assembly at its 13th session) which invites, inter alia, the States Parties elected to the Committee to voluntarily reduce their term of office from six to four years.

IV. DRAFT RESOLUTION

Draft Resolution: 24 GA 5

The General Assembly,

1. Elects the following 9 States Parties:, as members of the World Heritage Committee.