

**States Parties to the World Heritage
Convention****Culture Sector
World Heritage Centre**

Ref: CL/WHC-24/06

11 April 2024

**Subject: Second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of States
Parties to the World Heritage Convention in relation to Decision
45 COM 11**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in relation to Decision **45 COM 11**, chaired by Dr Mohammad Alaidaroos (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). As suggested by the Working Group, this meeting will be held over two days, on **25 and 26 April 2024 from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm (Paris time)**, both *in praesentia* at UNESCO Headquarters (Fontenoy, Room XI) and online (Zoom).

This second meeting will be the occasion for the Secretariat to present the Background Document prepared for the Open-ended Working Group (here attached in its English version – the French version will follow shortly) and to hear some general reflections by a geographically and gender-balanced group of invited recognized keynote speakers with relevant experience in the fields covered by the Open-ended Working Group, either in their regions or globally. Subsequently, States Parties will be invited to proceed with a ‘Questions and Answers’ session and to share their views and their expectations. For ease of reference, you will find the provisional Agenda of the meeting annexed to this letter.

States Parties representatives wishing to join the meeting online in an active manner (i.e., with the possibility to request the floor) will need to register beforehand at the following link:

<https://unesco-org.zoom.us/j/89048617375>
(Meeting ID: 890 4861 7375; passcode: 927212).

The deadline to register is **24 April 2024 by 6.00 pm (Paris time)**. Past this time, access to the meeting will not be guaranteed.

Once their participation is confirmed, active participants will receive information to access the meeting to the e-mail address they would have provided during their registration, and that will imperatively need to be used to join the meeting, to avoid connection issues. In case of connection issues before or during the meeting, please send an e-mail to c.varnet@unesco.org.

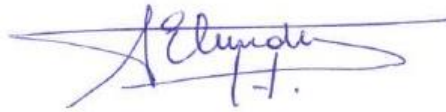
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Furthermore, I am pleased to inform you that all the documentation relevant for the work of this Open-ended Working Group, including the above-mentioned Background Document and its annexes, is made available on a dedicated webpage at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/1405/?p=oewg2024>.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Alessandro Balsamo (a.balsamo@unesco.org) or Ms. Frédérique Aubert (f.aubert@unesco.org) should you require any further information.

Thanking you for your continuous collaboration and support in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lazare Eloundou Assomo', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Lazare Eloundou Assomo
Director

cc: Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group in relation to Decision
45 COM 11
Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN)



**Open-ended Working Group
in relation to Decision 45 COM 11**

**25-26 April 2024
10.00 am to 1.00 pm and 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm
(*in praesentia* and online)**

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

25 April 2024 (Day 1):

10.00 am to 1.00 pm

- Opening of the meeting by the Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group
- Presentation of the Background Document by the Secretariat
- General reflection by invited keynote speakers:
 - Ms. Haifaa ABDULHALIM (Jordan)
 - Mr George ABUNGU (Kenya)
 - Mr Ray BONDIN (Malta)
 - Ms. Carolina CASTELLANOS (Mexico)
 - Ms. Nobuko INABA (Japan)
 - Ms. Špela SPANŽEL (Slovenia)
 - Mr Joe KING (ex-ICCROM – global perspective)
- Questions/Answers exchange
- Reflection by the members of the Open-ended Working Group

3.00 pm to 6.00 pm

- Reflection by the members of the Open-ended Working Group (cont'd)

26 April 2024 (Day 2):

10.00 am to 1.00 pm and 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm

- Summary of the first day emerging key themes to be addressed by the Open-ended Working Group
- Beginning of the thematic discussion
- Closure of the meeting