



## Draft recommendations of the Open-ended Working Group in relation to Decision 45 COM 11

### [Germany, Czechia - Chapeau]

[Germany, Czechia] Recalling Decision 45 COM 11 adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023).

[Germany, Czechia] Having examined the Background document prepared by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (April 2024).

[Germany, Czechia] Noting that the Open-ended Working Group of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention has met five times to discuss the mandate.

[Germany, Czechia, Austria, USA] Reaffirming that the conservation of cultural and natural heritage is at the core of the Convention, and equal attention needs to be given to inscription, protection and conservation, and management.

[Germany, Czechia, USA] Also reaffirming the need to enhance representativity of the World Heritage List to include all the heritage in the world with Outstanding Universal Value and to support the aspirations of non-represented and under-represented States Parties on the World Heritage List.

The Open-ended Working Group recommends to the Committee at its 46th session to:

1. [Adopted in the room] Request the Advisory Bodies to undertake a review and an update of the 2004 Gap Analyses, including a consultative process, pending necessary financial support, to report about the progress including a roadmap to the 47th session and to submit the updated Gap Analyses, including an action plan for implementation to its 48th session.
2. [Adopted in the room] Request the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and C2Cs, to review existing and proposed new capacity building programmes and propose a mechanism to strengthen their funding and coordination including sustainability of results, focusing on Africa and SIDS, as well as under-represented and non-represented States Parties for the preparation of the Tentative Lists, nominations and long-term conservation, and ensure more awareness raising of stakeholders and decision makers on the processes and requirements of the Convention, and invite the States Parties to contribute financially to this end.
3. [Adopted in the room] Strongly encourage States Parties to regularly revise their Tentative Lists to include under-represented categories of sites and recalling paragraph 73 of the Operational Guidelines, also encourage State Party dialogue at regional, sub-regional and inter-regional level.

4. [\[Adopted in the room\]](#) Request the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in consultation with C2Cs, to present a proposal for the revision and simplification of the Nomination Format, and the corresponding revisions in the Operational Guidelines, also exploring options for developing an online platform for the submission of nomination dossiers, at the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee.
5. [\[Adopted in the room\]](#) Request the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies to update the Manual for Preparing Nominations pending necessary financial support and to submit it to its 48th session.
6. [\[Adopted in the room\]](#) Recalling the “Declaration of principles to promote international solidarity and cooperation to preserve World Heritage”, endorsed by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention in 2021, strongly encourage Committee Members to refrain from having nominations examined during their mandate.
7. [\[Adopted in the room\]](#) To explore the funding possibilities, including through the World Heritage Fund, to support the implementation of the above-mentioned programme and activities.
8. [\[Adopted in the room\]](#) Extend the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group until the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee.

[Recommendations submitted in the room but not discussed:](#)

[\[Switzerland: delete\]](#) [\[US, Brazil\]](#) (as revised by the author) Request the World Heritage Centre in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and Category 2 Centres to explore options for States Parties [\[Germany, Czechia\]](#) ~~to update statements of Outstanding Universal Value to reflect the narrative of indigenous people to include the narrative of Indigenous Peoples in the statements of Outstanding Universal Value without affecting the justification for inscription,~~ and present a proposal to its 47th session.

[\[Kuwait, France, Czechia, Austria, Belgium, Czechia, SVG, Germany, Grenada, USA: delete\]](#) [\[Brazil, South Africa\]](#) Request the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies to explore ways, taking into account [\[Czechia\]](#) discussions held at the OEWG, [\[Czechia: delete\]](#) [\[Switzerland\]](#) ~~for example the possibility of creation of a fast-track-for~~ [to prioritize](#) the evaluation of natural sites and other non-represented categories from under-represented States Parties.

//

[\[Czechia, SVG, Germany, Grenada, Switzerland: delete\]](#) [\[Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, South Africa, St. Kitts and Nevis, Uruguay, Venezuela, Belgium\]](#) Request the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to reflect on options to facilitate the prioritization of nominations of natural [\[France\] or mixed](#) sites identified in gap studies, and located in non-represented and under-represented countries, including possible synergies with the evaluation of sites already belonging to the UNESCO Global Geoparks and Biosphere Reserve networks, and to bring a report and proposals for consideration of the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee.

[Czechia, Germany, SVG: delete] [USA: postpone the discussions to after the Committee meeting during the extended OEWG] [Ukraine] (as revised by the author)  
Invite the World Heritage Centre in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies to analyze the situations related to the needs for the sites to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger caused by external threats to those sites.

[France, China, Italy, India: delete] [Kuwait, Lebanon, SVG, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Czechia, USA: keep] Postpone to the following session the examination of a nomination whenever a State Party has three complete nominations entering the evaluation process in three consecutive cycles.

[SVG, Grenada] (as revised by the author) In line with the Resolution 12 GA 30-48 adopted by the 12th General Assembly of States Parties and Paragraph 59 of the Operational Guidelines, [Germany, USA] request strongly encourages the States Parties with successful World Heritage nominations, [Germany, Czechia] namely those with 20 or more properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, to [USA] explore opportunities to link each of their nominations, with one nomination presented by a State Party whose heritage is under or non-represented. This entails full support for the whole process of the preparation of the nomination file [Switzerland: delete], until the submission of both nominations [Germany, Czechia] preferably at the same cycle of evaluation.

//

[France] Encourage States Parties to develop genuine cooperation to reduce the imbalance of the List, by assisting a State that so requests in the process of preparing a nomination dossier.

#### Additional recommendations received:

[Czechia, Austria, Switzerland] Submit the recommendations to the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention at its 25th session for [Czechia, SVG, Germany, Grenada] adoption endorsement.

[Australia, Czechia, SVG, Germany, Grenada, Switzerland, USA, Brazil] Recognising the challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples when navigating the World Heritage system, request that the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and States Parties work together with Indigenous Peoples to identify opportunities to better reflect their [Australia] heritage values and enhance their participation under the Convention [Australia] and present a proposal to the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee.

**Moved to the Chapeau [Germany]** Reaffirming that the conservation of cultural and natural heritage is at the core of the Convention, and equal attention needs to be given to inscription, protection and conservation, and management;

~~**Moved to the Chapeau [Germany]** Also reaffirming the need to enhance representativity of the World Heritage List to include all the heritage in the world with Outstanding Universal Value and to support the aspirations of non-represented and under-represented States Parties on the World Heritage List~~

**[Germany, USA]** Call on the States Parties to explore possibilities for activities including mentoring, twinning and cooperation with educational institutions, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, **[Belgium] Advisory Bodies [Belgium, France] and Category 2 Centres**, to share knowledge related to nominations, conservation and management, in particular with under-represented and non-represented States Parties, and request the World Heritage Centre to provide **[Belgium] and regularly update a document section on the website** with good examples.

**[Belgium, Haiti, Morocco, Norway, Switzerland, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Viet Nam, Lebanon, Kenya, Gabon]** Request the World Heritage Centre and other relevant departments of UNESCO, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to explore and develop coordinated actions on World Heritage and related sectors (e.g. biodiversity), also with a view to mobilizing additional dedicated funding (e.g. GEF-funding and Natural Facility-funding) to support the inscription of prioritized natural [France] and mixed World Heritage proposals in line with target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework and with Decision 44 COM 7.2).

**[Belgium, Czechia, SVG, Germany, USA: delete] [India]** Request the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to define terminologies such as Well-represented, Under-represented and Over-represented **[France] heritage and/or State**, and also define benchmarks for achieving equitable/adequate representation in terms of themes, categories and geographic regions, and present its recommendations in the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee;

**[India]** Recalling Decision **43 COM 11A**, request the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to evaluate the impact of Decision **40 COM 11** at the Committee's 46th session in 2024;

**[Czechia, Germany, Switzerland: delete] [India]** Urge the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to review the evaluation process/procedures **[France] adopted-put in place** by the Advisory Bodies with a view to make them more transparent and consultative, and present its recommendations in the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee;

**[USA: postpone the discussions to after the Committee meeting during the extended OEWG] [India]** Strongly request the World Heritage Centre to explore means to

strengthen the three Advisory Bodies [\[Belgium\]](#), both looking at the World Heritage Fund and as well as ~~to find~~ innovative solutions to provide additional budget, [\[Germany\]](#) for capacity building activities and additional studies, and

~~[Switzerland: delete]~~ [\[Belgium\]](#) Also requests the World Heritage Centre to explore the possibility of involving Category 2 Centres as regional experts [\[Czechia, SVG, Germany: delete\]](#) to decentralise the evaluation process;

~~[Czechia, SVG, Germany, Switzerland: delete]~~ [\[Belgium\]](#), Recommends that [Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre](#) ~~and~~ engage additional service providers, if necessary, on need basis depending on the nature of nomination dossiers to be evaluated;

~~[Austria, Czechia, SVG, Grenada, Switzerland, USA: delete]~~ [\[India\]](#) Insist that Preliminary Assessment (PA) remains voluntary till issues related to the financial implications of this step are resolved, in order to prevent additional financial burden on States Parties [\[France\]](#) and [the Advisory Bodies](#), and to continue with the existing timeline, thus allowing more States Parties to submit their nomination dossiers.

~~[Belgium, Germany, Czechia: delete]~~ [\[India\]](#) ~~[Austria]~~ ~~Urge Invite~~ // [\[USA\]](#) Encourage the World Heritage Centre to [\[USA\]](#) ~~devise~~ ~~explore possible~~ solutions for utilizing the brand value of ~~the~~ World Heritage ~~[USA]~~ ~~tag for revenue maximization~~ ~~designation for conservation and education purposes~~ and present its recommendations in the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee.

~~[SVG, Grenada, USA, Czechia, Germany, Switzerland]~~ ~~[USA]~~ ~~Invite~~ Request the Director General to strengthen the ability and the ~~[Czechia, SVG, Germany, Grenada]~~ ~~independence~~ ~~autonomy~~ of the World Heritage Centre to fully conduct its work as secretariat, notably by [\[Belgium\]](#) ~~allocating more UNESCO-resources on a structural basis and by~~ enabling [\[Belgium\]](#) ~~#the World Heritage Centre~~ to undertake fundraising activities to increase voluntary funding from the private sector, civil society, multilateral funds and institutions ~~[Czechia, SVG, Germany, Grenada]~~, in line with UNESCO ~~financial rules and regulations~~.

~~[United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Austria, SVG, Grenada, USA]~~ Request the mandate for the Open-ended Working Group be extended to ensure that, building on the positive progress made in relation to the reflection on nominations, yet noting the significant increase in properties under reactive monitoring, equal reflection is undertaken on the core purpose of the Convention - the 'permanent protection' of cultural and natural properties that are of Outstanding Universal Value - recognising that we list in order to conserve and protect.

**[Kenya, Comoros, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Togo, Zambia, Austria, Belgium, USA]** Encourage an equal geographic representation of experts from all regions ~~within~~in the Advisory Bodies, including their inclusion in all stages of the evaluation and advisory processes, and ~~the~~an increased engagement of regional experts and Category 2 Centres for sustainable capacity building activities.

**[Switzerland: delete] [Kenya, Comoros, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Togo, Zambia]** Recommend the **[Germany, Czechia, SVG, Grenada]** World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to develop a Guidance document ~~development of a Declaration~~ on the criteria and authenticity of African cultural, natural, and intangible heritage **[Germany, Czechia, SVG, Grenada]** to enhance the understanding in the processes/procedures under/by the relevant culture conventions ~~for adoption by the relevant culture conventions.~~

//

**[Kenya, Comoros, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Togo, Zambia - revised]** Recommend ~~the development of a Declaration on the criteria and an in-depth reflection on heritage in Africa on understanding and application of~~ authenticity as inspired by the Nara Declaration and the 1965 Charter of Venice, to reinforce the implementation of the World Heritage Convention ~~of African cultural, natural, and intangible heritage for adoption by the relevant culture conventions.~~

**[Kenya, Comoros, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Togo, Zambia, USA]** Recommend the establishment of an AFRICA 2035 programme similar to the AFRICA 2009 programme, with strategic objectives, inter alia, to reinforce the achievements of the AFRICA 2009 Programme, train young Africans on the dynamics of the inscription of files on the World Heritage List, and to strengthen site management and conservation systems in the face of climate change.

**[Germany, Czechia, France: delete] [Kenya, Comoros, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Togo, Zambia - revised]** In view of the extended timelines ~~within~~of the Preliminary Assessment process, and recalling the Global Strategy to ~~enhance~~reduce the imbalance on the World Heritage List ~~and~~facilitatefor inscriptions by non-represented and under-represented States Parties, request the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to explore the possibility ~~of an affirmative action mechanism~~ ~~with~~into reduce the waiting period within the Preliminary Assessment ~~in favour of~~for potential nominations with a favourable outcome, from non-represented and under-represented States Parties, ~~notably for the Africa region and SIDS, with a reduced timeframe in all stages of the Preliminary Assessment to facilitate an early decision from the Advisory Bodies and subsequent submission of nominations by the concerned States Parties,~~ and to report to the World Heritage Committee on this possibility at its 47th session.