

# **47 COM**

### WHC/25/47.COM/5E

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

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

Forty-seventh session UNESCO, Paris 6-16 July 2025

# **Item 5E of the Provisional Agenda:**

Progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage-related activities for Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) including the Operational Strategy for the SIDS 2023-2029 in the context of World Heritage

### **SUMMARY**

By Decision **46 COM 14**, the World Heritage Committee requested the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the UNESCO SIDS Operational Strategy, notably its Accelerator Programme 3 and also in the context of World Heritage, in line with the Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029 and the Programme and Budget for 2022-2025 at the 47th session of the Committee in 2025. This document presents the report of the implementation of the World Heritage-related activities for SIDS.

**Draft Decision:** 47 COM 5E, see Point VI

#### I. BACKGROUND

- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have been recognized as a special case for both environment and development since the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). This recognition highlighted their unique vulnerabilities, including environmental fragility, economic instability, and cultural preservation. In response, UNESCO has developed and implemented specialized programmes and initiatives to support SIDS in areas such as climate change adaptation, biodiversity, education and heritage protection. These commitments have been reaffirmed through strategic frameworks, like the UNESCO SIDS Action Plan (2016-2021) and UNESCO SIDS Operational Strategy (2023-2029). To specifically address World Heritage-related concerns, the World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was adopted at the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee (Document WHC-05/29.COM/5) following the Mauritius International Meeting where UNESCO organized a Plenary Panel on "The Role of Culture in the Sustainable Development of SIDS".
- 2. Progress reports were subsequently presented, including at the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2009 (Document WHC-09/33.COM/5B), and under the "Report on the World Heritage Thematic Programmes" between 2010 and 2016, then under Item 5A "Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities". At the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee (New Delhi, 2024), following the request of the SIDS States Parties, the Committee requested the World Heritage Centre to regularly report on the implementation of the UNESCO SIDS Operational Strategy, notably its Accelerator Programme 3 and also in the context of World Heritage, in line with the Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029 and the Programme and Budget for 2022-2025.

# SIDS Accelerator Programme 3: Protecting and promoting culture for resilience and sustainable development in SIDS

- 3. In 2023, the UNESCO Operational Strategy for SIDS (2023-2029) was adopted by the General Conference (42 C/51) with six Accelerator Programmes. One of which, Accelerator Programme 3 aims to support SIDS to protect and promote culture in all its forms, to build resilience and advance sustainable development. Accelerator Programme 3 is also linked to Output 5.CLT1 "Member States' capacities strengthened to identify, protect and manage tangible heritage" of C/5, consists of the following two outputs:
  - a) Output 1: Creative entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods promoted in SIDS
  - b) Output 2: Culture leveraged for climate action and environmental resilience in SIDS In the context of the World Heritage, it aims to support sustainable socio-economic development in SIDS by: "Supporting local livelihoods and sustainable tourism around World Heritage sites, including through the promotion of sustainable management of World Heritage properties".
- 4. The progress in the implementation of the UNESCO Operational Strategy for SIDS including Accelerator Programme 3 has been reported to the Executive Boards (219 EX/4, 220 EX/4).
- 5. Furthermore, the activities of the World Heritage Programme on SIDS aligned with the adopted regional Framework Action Plans for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean following the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, and endorsed by the World Heritage Committee by Decisions **44 COM 10B** (Fuzhou/Online,

- 2021), **45 COM 10A** and **45 COM 10B** (Riyadh, 2023) respectively as well as Priority Africa: a Strategy for World Heritage (**45 COM 5C**).
- 6. This dedicated SIDS progress report provides an overview of the progress made in World Heritage-related activities across SIDS regions, by drawing on inputs from various regional Units of the World Heritage Centre, including Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, alongside relevant UNESCO Field Offices as well as Thematic Programmes.

### II. RATIFICATIONS, TENTATIVE LISTS, AND INSCRIPTIONS

#### **Ratifications**

7. In the context of the World Heritage Convention, the list of SIDS referred to in this report comprises 39 self-governing Island States in the Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Caribbean regions. Half of SIDS have ratified the World Heritage Convention in the 2000s. Since the adoption of the World Heritage Programme for SIDS in 2005, 10 SIDS have ratified the Convention. In 2023 and 2024, Tuvalu and Nauru have ratified the Convention consecutively, which made all SIDS now ratified the World Heritage Convention. These two Pacific SIDS are at the frontlines of the global climate emergency. They joined an international community and committed to protecting cultural and natural sites of outstanding universal value, to preserve their sovereignty and safeguard the rights and heritage of affected populations.

### Tentative Lists

- 8. 30 SIDS have submitted and/or updated their Tentative List since July 2005 (all six States Parties from Africa, 11 from the Caribbean region, 11 from the Pacific, two from Asia). The Cook Islands and Tuvalu submitted their first Tentative Lists in 2024, while Cuba and Haiti updated their Tentative Lists in 2024. Out of 39 SIDS that have ratified the Convention, three States Parties neither have World Heritage sites inscribed nor have Tentative Lists submitted yet (Nauru, Niue and Timor-Leste).
- 9. Results from the Third Cycle of the World Heritage Periodic Reporting show that while national governments and UNESCO National Commissions are actively involved in Tentative List preparation in SIDS, the engagement of sub-national governments, Indigenous peoples, and other stakeholder groups is significantly lower up to 50% below the global average while the involvement of local authorities within or adjacent to the World Heritage properties is slightly higher than the global average, reflecting continued participation at the site level. These findings highlight the need to strengthen inclusive planning and local stakeholder participation in future heritage processes.

### **Inscriptions**

10. SIDS are home to 35 UNESCO World Heritage properties, showcasing a rich and diverse cultural and natural heritage. Since July 2005, 16 properties in SIDS have been added to the World Heritage List, marking the first inscriptions for 13 States Parties. Of these, seven are located in the Pacific. The categories of heritage represented by these inscriptions are diverse, including mixed properties, historic towns, cultural landscapes, archaeological sites and marine heritage.

### III. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE IN SIDS

11. There are two World Heritage properties in danger within SIDS, both located in the Pacific. Efforts have been made to support these properties to be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger. "Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia" in

the Federated States of Micronesia was inscribed to the World Heritage List and listed in danger at the same time in 2016. In November 2024, the technical supports were launched to elaborate the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) through an online consultation among the representatives from the State Party, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre. Following five online consultations as well as online mentoring and capacity building for the State Party, the finalized DSOCR and corrective measures were submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

Capacity-building/awareness-raising activities were organized in East Rennell (Solomon 12. Islands) during May 2024 and April 2025 to enhance livelihoods, food security and environmental resilience of the local communities, with support of the Netherlands and Japan Funds-in-Trusts and UNESCO Earth Network (funded by Italy). The property was inscribed to the World Heritage List in 1998 and listed in danger in 2013 due to a number of threats to its OUV posed by commercial logging, invasive alien species and overexploitation of marine resources among other factors. Building on the outcome of a scoping study and community consultation meetings organized in May-June 2024, joined by more than 155 people in total, three model farm workshops to promote sustainable farming practices were organized by Kastom Gaden Association in collaboration with the communities in East Rennell in December 2024 and April 2025. In addition, documentation of traditional knowledge and practices in East Rennell contributing to environmental resilience were undertaken in March-April 2025 in cooperation with local communities, the Solomon Islands National Commission for UNESCO and the experts. IUCN, through its Regional offices, is also supporting Belize in implementing the Green List Standard, and in the Solomon Islands partnering in the Kiwa initiative, which includes support for the improvement of livelihoods and food security as well as invasive species management in East Rennell. ICCROM is providing scholarships (funded by Ireland) for participants from SIDS in the World Heritage Leadership capacity-building activities.

# IV. PROGRESS MADE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR SIDS

### In Africa

- 13. The implementation of the Priority Africa initiative for World Heritage remains essential, especially for SIDS in Africa (also see Document <a href="WHC/25/47.COM/5C">WHC/25/47.COM/5C</a>). Countries like Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, and Sao Tome and Principe, which currently do not have any World Heritage-listed properties, have benefited from capacity-building support. Through funds such as Japan Funds-in-Trust (FiT) and the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and France, these States Parties have made significant progress, with Guinea-Bissau submitting its first nomination dossier in January 2024, which will be examined at the present session of the Committee, while Comoros and Sao Tome and Principe have submitted theirs for the 2025 cycle, for a possible examination by the Committee at its 48th session. These efforts are helping to enhance local capacities, raise awareness about the importance of preserving cultural and natural heritage, and ensure sustainable management of heritage sites in these nations.
- 14. In addition to these nomination efforts, specialized training programmes have been conducted to further enhance the skills of heritage professionals. A notable example is the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) workshop held in Mauritius in November 2023, which trained 30 experts from Eastern Africa, half of whom were from Mauritius. This workshop focused on equipping professionals with the knowledge necessary to assess and manage the impacts of development and tourism on heritage sites. Furthermore, national site managers in Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, and Guinea-Bissau have

- also received training on effective World Heritage management, ensuring that they have the expertise to safeguard their cultural and natural assets in the future. These training initiatives are essential for building long-term capacity in heritage conservation across the region.
- 15. A capacity-building activity in the World Heritage management took place between July and December 2023 for heritage professionals from Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde in two phases (theoretical and practical) funded by the UNESCO Dakar Office. This activity was also part of UNESCO's support for the implementation of the cultural cooperation agreement signed between these two countries.
- 16. At the same time, other countries in Africa have been making strides in integrating conservation with sustainable development. Seychelles, in collaboration with UNESCO with the financial support of the Netherlands FiT, has successfully implemented a project in Vallée de Mai that combines citizen science and sustainable tourism. Carried out in 2022 and 2023, this project not only contributed to the conservation of the site but also to the promotion of community engagement in its management.
- 17. Similarly, Cabo Verde, with support from Japan FiT (2023-2025), has initiated activities to enhance its conservation efforts and tourism development in Cidade Velha, promoting local business engagement and creating income-generating opportunities for the community, while also developing a digital tool to enhance the promotion of its heritage. The installation of new tourist signage in Cidade Velha is also being installed, funded by the World Heritage Fund and coordinated by the UNESCO Dakar Office, to enhance the visitor experience by developing information and communication materials. Furthermore, in the framework of the ongoing initiative between Felissimo Corporation (Japan) and the World Heritage Centre, local artisans are empowered to preserve and promote traditional craft practices, with the aim of creating a dynamic space for visitors and artisans to interact. These initiatives demonstrate the potential for World Heritage sites to contribute to both cultural preservation and local economic development, ensuring that heritage is preserved while benefiting communities and fostering sustainable tourism practices.

# In Asia and the Pacific

- 18. UNESCO organized the "Regional Workshop on World Heritage in Pacific Island Countries" held from 1 to 3 November 2023 (Nadi, Fiji), which brought together 46 people from all 14 representatives of the Pacific Member States as well as regional institutions (IUCN Oceania, SPC, SPTO) in partnership with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) of the Australian government. The workshop strengthened the capacities of cultural and natural heritage professionals to develop quality nomination dossiers; and discussed challenges, opportunities and initiatives for World Heritage across the Pacific region drawing on the Regional Action Plan for World Heritage for the Pacific (2021-2025) and the Regional Framework Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific (2023-2030); and proposed short- to mid-term actions at national level through working sessions. The regional workshop was also an opportunity to exchange knowledge and share experiences and networking.
- 19. Immediately after Nauru ratified the World Heritage Convention, the World Heritage Centre provided technical support to Nauru in the implementation of the Convention. Consequently, Nauru has submitted the first International Assistance request under the World Heritage Fund on "Nauru Assessment and Capacity-Building on the World Heritage Convention", which was approved in February 2025 and will be implemented in June-December 2025.
- 20. UNESCO has undertaken a structured effort to build government capacity in understanding the requirements for World Heritage inscription for Timor Leste. In August 2024, three national focal persons participated in a Southeast Asian capacity-building

- workshop in Bangkok on improving Tentative Lists. They will also be invited to another workshop on "Preparing Quality Nominations", tentatively scheduled mid-2025 in Manila. Additionally, the government team has been receiving capacity-building support on developing the World Heritage Tentative List with guidance from an expert mentor. The first workshop was held from 1 to 6 December 2024. 23 participants from six relevant government institutions received a basic introduction to the Convention.
- 21. In June 2025, IUCN published its new publication *Natural World Heritage in Oceania: progress and prospects* through funding from the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme, an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) financed by the European Union's 11th European Development Fund. The report outlines recommendations towards contributing to the more effective implementation of natural World Heritage in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories in Oceania, developed through consultations with a wide range of key stakeholders including representatives of the States Parties to the Convention in the study area.

# In the Caribbean

- 22. Urban, development and tourism pressures are an important and common theme across the Caribbean. In 2024, a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission assessed the impact of development projects on the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) and the Antigua Naval Dockyard (Antigua and Barbuda), providing recommendations on impact assessments and for conservation and management. In Saint Lucia, International Assistance addressed tourism needs and supported activities for awareness-raising and tourism-generated revenue for the Pitons Management Area in 2024.
- 23. Pursuant to a request for an Upstream process from Saint Kitts and Nevis concerning an update of the State Party's Tentative List, ICOMOS and IUCN, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, have successfully implemented capacity building on developing and revising Tentative Lists.
- 24. Pursuant to a joint request for an Upstream process from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada concerning a possible mixed transboundary nomination for the Grenadines Island Group, ICOMOS and IUCN were engaged from 2023 to 2024 in feasibility analysis, analysis of information and expert mission to provide technical guidance at an early stage of the nomination process under the World Heritage Fund. The activity strengthened collaboration among UNESCO, the Advisory Bodies, the States Parties and local authorities, and is exploring areas for capacity-building with the two States Parties to continue support to the nomination process in 2025. In response to a request from Jamaica for an Upstream Process regarding the update of its Tentative List, IUCN and ICOMOS, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, are engaging with the State Party to initiate capacity-building activity for the development and revision of their Tentative List.
- 25. In Haiti, the capacity building and operational support project for the National Heritage Preservation (ISPAN) advanced the finalization of the Management Plan for the National Historical Park Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers as well as the digitization of the archives of the ISPAN between 2023 and 2024 with the financial support of France. South-South cooperation between Haiti and Cuba was facilitated by UNESCO offices in Port-au-Prince and Havana by organizing a field mission to exchange the development of archaeological remains and research on coffee plantations. As a result, Haiti has submitted *Parc National Historique des Matheux Chemin du café, de l'esclavage et de la liberté* to the Tentative List in May 2024.
- 26. Cuba completed a youth-focused heritage training programme in 2024, educating over 30 young experts on World Heritage conservation. The EU-funded Transcultura

programme also contributed to the rehabilitation of the Santa Clara Convent in Old Havana. In Suriname, archaeological excavations at the Jodensavanne World Heritage site uncovered remnants of historic Jewish settlements, enhancing educational opportunities for students and tourists.

### Thematic Activities

- 27. Marine Programme: Efforts to involve local communities in managing UNESCO World Heritage marine sites in SIDS continue through the Resilient Reefs Initiative. The Resilient Reefs Initiative supports the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon in Palau to implement its "Bounce Back Better" Resilience Strategy, launched in November 2023. Ongoing actions include fisheries management, cultural preservation, sustainable financing, and adaptive management. The initiative funds a government staff position to oversee these efforts. The Fisheries Monitoring project, completed in May 2024 in partnership with the Palau International Coral Reef Centre, led to the launch of the Co-Developing Climate-Smart Adaptive Management Actions for Palauan Coral Reefs project.
- 28. In December 2024, UNESCO's World Heritage Marine Programme hosted an online meeting on the theme of 'Sustainable Tourism in UNESCO World Heritage marine sites' for the management teams of the 51 marine sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The meeting included a presentation highlighting sustainable tourism practices at Palau's Rock Islands Southern Lagoon World Heritage property from a Palauan government representative.
- 29. Sustainable Tourism Programme: In 2024, UNESCO supported sustainable visitor management and heritage safeguarding in Trinidad y Valle de los Ingenios (Cuba) and the Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), in the framework of the project "Latin America and the Caribbean: Strengthening capacities for resilient communities through Sustainable Tourism and Heritage Safequarding" supported by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Site management representatives participated in the UNESCO workshop on 'World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism: Enhancing visitor management and community engagement' in Oaxaca, Mexico (17-18 June 2024). The sites received training on the Visitor Management Assessment Strategy Tool and completed the selfassessment as part of the process, enabling them to set a benchmark and identify ways to improve management to protect the heritage values of the sites and contribute to local sustainable development objectives. SIDS are increasingly recognizing the role of World Heritage in advancing key dimensions of sustainable development. Results from the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting show that SIDS report contributions above comparable to the global average in areas such as promoting tourism and entrepreneurship, involving Indigenous peoples and local communities, and strengthening capacity-building, innovation and local entrepreneurship. These reflect strong linkages between heritage protection and local development priorities in SIDS contexts.
- 30. Youth involvement: UNESCO supports an educational activity "Digital content for grade 4 social studies curriculum" in Saint Lucia, coordinated by the UNESCO Kingston Office. This project aims to integrate information about the Pitons Management Area World Heritage property and the World Heritage Convention into the Social Studies curriculum for Grade 4 students in the Soufriere Region and raise the awareness of students about the need to protect and conserve the World Heritage.
- 31. <u>Gender equality:</u> Priority to gender-balanced participation remains an emerging area of progress across heritage processes in SIDS. Results from the Third Cycle of World Heritage Periodic Reporting indicate that while 57.9% of SIDS reported having considered and implemented gender-balanced participation in the preparation of recent nomination dossiers, on par with the global average, there are still notable disparities in earlier stages of the process. In Tentative List preparation, the share of SIDS reporting

- effective implementation of gender balance was 26.3%, slightly above the global average of 23.2%, while fewer SIDS indicated limited or no consideration of gender compared to other regions. These findings reflect encouraging momentum and highlight the opportunity for SIDS to lead by example in integrating gender equality as a core principle of inclusive and sustainable heritage governance.
- 32. <u>Sustainable Development:</u> SIDS are increasingly recognizing the role of World Heritage in advancing key dimensions of sustainable development. Results from the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting show that SIDS report contributions above comparable to the global average in areas such as promoting tourism and entrepreneurship, involving Indigenous peoples and local communities, and strengthening capacity-building, innovation and local entrepreneurship. These reflect strong linkages between heritage protection and local development priorities in SIDS contexts. While lower ratings were observed in areas such as conflict prevention and post-conflict recover, the results overall signal meaningful progress in aligning World Heritage with the 2030 Agenda.
- 33. <u>Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management:</u> This will require a stepping up of efforts to build the capacities of SIDS countries and communities to prepare for and recover from climate-change-related impacts and disasters. Urgent support is needed to assist countries in monitoring the impact of climate change on cultural heritage and advancing mitigation and adaptation strategies through culture.
- 34. SIDS and its heritage sites face multiple disaster risks, including hurricanes and cyclones, storm surges, rising sea levels and coastal erosion, earthquakes and volcanic activity. Disasters are often linked to extreme weather events caused by climate change. In recent years, Category 5 Hurricane Beryl hit the Caribbean (June-July 2024) and affected several countries including Windward Islands (which are the sites on the Tentative List of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines). UNESCO provide supports "Post-hurricane emergency assistance for the World Heritage property 'Viñales Valley' for the urgent rehabilitation of the 'House of Culture' in Cuba and "Post-Disaster Needs Assessment for Culture Sector following the Hurricane Lisa" in Belize have been supported through Heritage Emergency fund.<sup>1</sup>
- 35. The 7.3 magnitude earthquake caused significant damage to the World Heritage property of Chief Roi Mata's Domain in Vanuatu in December 2024. A project to conduct "A Geotechnical Study and Risk Assessment of Fels Cave, Chief Roi Mata's Domain", supported by the World Heritage Fund, was completed just before the earthquake. The data collected in a timely manner will serve as essential information source for the recovery of the property, and UNESCO supported Vanuatu in preparing a project proposal to conduct the damage and needs assessment of the property, through the support of Heritage Emergency Fund.<sup>2</sup>

### **Collaborative Activities**

36. At the 4th International Conference on SIDS (SIDS4), held in Antigua and Barbuda (27-30 May 2024), UNESCO made significant contributions across several domains to support the sustainable development of SIDS. A side event "Importance of UNESCO-designated sites (World Heritage sites and biosphere reserves) for diversified and sustainable economic development in SIDS" demonstrated how having the status of protected areas contributes to inclusive and resilient green and blue development, livelihoods promotion, nature conservation and culture preservation as well the

 $<sup>^{1,2}</sup>$  Cross reference to Documents WHC/25/47.COM/5D and WHC/25/47.COM/7 where this topic is further elaborated.

- development of ecological and cultural tourism. As such they have substantially contributed to sustainable socio-economic development and prosperity of surrounding communities and the country as a whole and can be considered as an ideal model for socio-economic, cultural and ecological development.
- 37. The side event also marked the launch of UNESCO's report *Mapping Cultural Policies* in *Small Islands Developing States*, which presents an overview of priority areas for policy investment and related challenges and adaptation at national and regional levels for the future.

### V. THE WAY FORWARD

## Climate Change

38. Advocacy for the inclusion of culture in international climate action policies, discourse, and actions needs to be strengthened. Cultural and natural heritage must be recognized as an invaluable non-renewable resource to mitigate, avert, and respond to climate change. With the support of the Republic of Korea, a project to strengthen the Heritage Disaster and Climate Resilience of SIDS in the Pacific region (USD 500,000) is in its inception stage and foreseen to be implemented 2025-2028.

### Resource mobilization

39. UNESCO supports SIDS through existing funding mechanisms such as International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund recognizing SIDS as a priority. Since 2023, 11 requests from all SIDS regions were approved, accounting for nearly 20% of the total approved requests. The World Heritage Centre also mobilizes resources for capacity building and technical assistance in the SIDS through specific projects. While thanking the generous support of partners who have contributed to the initiatives to benefit the SIDS, the World Heritage Committee may wish to call upon all States Parties and other partners to contribute to the World Heritage Fund to provide preparatory, conservation, and emergency assistance specifically to SIDS States Parties.

### A World Heritage Strategy for the SIDS

40. In response to the persistent and low representation of the SIDS States Parties on the World Heritage List, together with the growing threats of frequent and severe climate change impacts on the SIDS, as well as in alignment with UNESCO priority for SIDS and the Accelerator Programme, the World Heritage Centre has launched the development of a Strategy for SIDS with respect to the World Heritage Convention, with a view to establishing goals in a new, interregional framework of sustainable development and climate action. Consultations and preparations are ongoing thanks to the financial support of the Governments of Germany and Ireland. The Strategy will be developed through an inclusive consultation process with a view also to enhance more effective South-South cooperation, implement actions for international cooperation, sharing knowledge experience, and good practices, as well as resource mobilization. Following consultations with all the regions including of the draft report, the final draft of the Strategy is expected to be examined at the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee.

### VI. DRAFT DECISION

**Draft Decision: 47 COM 5E** 

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/5E,
- 2. Recalling Decision 46 COM 14, adopted at the 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
- 3. <u>Expresses its appreciation</u> for the activities of the World Heritage Centre with UNESCO Field Offices, Advisory Bodies, and other partners in building capacities, providing technical assistance, and advancing sustainable development and resilience, in and around World Heritage properties in the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS);
- Thanks the governments of Australia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and the Sultanate of Oman for their financial support in implementing activities in and around World Heritage properties in the SIDS;
- 5. <u>Encourages</u> States Parties and other partners to continue supporting the World Heritage Programme for SIDS and the implementation of the World Heritage activities in SIDS by providing financial support and/or reinforcing the human resources of the institutions involved;
- 6. Requests the World Heritage Centre, together with the Advisory Bodies, to continue pursuing, within the available resources, the development of activities for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention at national and sub-regional levels including advancing sustainable development and climate resilience in line with the Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective in World Heritage Processes (2015) and the Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage (2023);
- 7. <u>Welcomes</u> the development of the World Heritage Strategy for the SIDS and <u>requests</u> the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage-related activities for SIDS, including the World Heritage Strategy for the SIDS, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.