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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

**TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room II

28 - 29 October 1999

Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda: Elections to the World Heritage Committee

1. Article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage stipulates:

"1. The term of office of States Members of the World Heritage Committee shall extend from the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference during which they are elected until the end of its third subsequent ordinary session."

2. Since the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference, the World Heritage Committee is composed of the following twenty-one States Parties:

Australia	Japan
Benin	Lebanon
Brazil	Malta
Canada	Mexico
Cuba	Morocco
Ecuador	Niger
Finland	Republic of Korea
France	Thailand
Greece	United States of America
Hungary	Zimbabwe
Italy	

3. The above twenty-one members of the Committee were elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention at its ninth, tenth and eleventh sessions held respectively on 29 and 30 October 1993, 2 and 3 November 1995, and 27 and 29 October 1997.

According to the terms of Article 9, paragraph 1, of the World Heritage Convention, the terms of office of the members listed below extend as follows:

- i) until the end of the thirtieth session of the General Conference (1999): Brazil, France, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Niger, United States of America;
- ii) until the end of the thirty-first session of the General Conference (2001): Australia, Benin, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, Malta, Morocco;
- iii) until the end of the thirty-second session of the General Conference (2003): Finland, Greece, Hungary, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Zimbabwe.

4. The present General Assembly is called to elect seven members of the World Heritage Committee in replacement of the seven members mentioned under point (i) of the above paragraph 3.

5. It should be recalled that paragraph 5 of Article 16 of the Convention stipulates that *'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(...). The terms of office of any such State which is already a member of the Committee shall terminate at the time of the elections provided for in Article 8, paragraph 1, of this Convention.'* The statement of compulsory and voluntary contributions of the States Parties appears in working document WHC-99/CONF.206/3b. This document thus indicates, as at the date of its preparation, which States Parties have the right to participate in the elections. All compulsory or voluntary contributions received after that date should be reported orally to the General Assembly.

6. The Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention were adopted by the Second General Assembly of States Parties in 1978 and amended by the tenth General Assembly of States Parties in 1995. At this date, Articles 13.6 and 13.7 concerning the ballots had not been harmonised with Article 13.4 which had been amended to read: **"Each delegation shall cast its vote by encircling the names of the States for which it desires to vote."**

To facilitate the vote tallying, the Bureau at its twenty-third session authorized the harmonisation of the wording of Articles 13.6 and 13.7 with Article 13.4, and the replacement of the existing texts:

13.6 The voting papers on which all the names have been crossed out shall be considered to be abstentions.

13.7 The voting papers on which there are more names remaining than there are seats to be filled shall be considered invalid.

by the following texts:

13.6 The voting papers on which all the names **of States have been encircled** are counted as abstentions.

13.7 The voting papers on which there are **more names of States encircled** than seats to be filled, shall be considered invalid.