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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Bureau of the World Heritage Committee

Thirteenth Session

Paris, 27-30 June 1989
Room VI

Item 10 of the provisional agenda : means of ensuring an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world (Article 8.2 of the Convention).

As regards rotation of States Parties within the Committee, the Secretariat presented to the Committee at its twelfth session a new paragraph 13.2 to be inserted in the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties, which would read as follows :

"Before the election, the Chairman, in the interest of rotation of membership, calls on all those States completing their term of office on the Committee to consider waiting two years before standing for re-election for a further six year term."

Considering that this proposal was "acceptable", the Committee thought, however, that "some flexibility might be required, especially to take into account the preferences of States Parties within the same region." Furthermore, it has been stressed that "the principle of rotation was not a mechanical exercise and that it should be applied taking into account the varied technical qualifications that representatives of States Parties from all regions could bring to the Committee, which was an essentially technical body" and that "States parties

seeking a seat on the Committee should approach this matter with a sense of this responsibility."

In response to the need for flexibility in the means of ensuring the rotation of the States within the Committee, the Secretariat suggests that the General Assembly, better than amending its Rules of Procedure, adopt a Resolution which would be part of the Summary Records and read as follows :

" The General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,

Recalling the necessity of ensuring an equitable rotation of the States Parties within the Committee;

Noting that the World Heritage Committee considered that the principle of rotation was not a mechanical exercise and should be applied with some flexibility, taking into account the varied technical qualifications that representatives of States Parties from all regions could bring to the Committee, which is an essentially technical body;

Invites the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention completing their term of office on the Committee to consider waiting two years before standing for re-election for a six-year term ;

Requests the President, before the election, to call on States Parties to take into account the present Resolution."