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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

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

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room IV
10-11 October 2005

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda: Elections to the World Heritage Committee

SUMMARY

This document consists of the following 4 Sections:

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| II. | Eligibility for candidates to the World Heritage Committee |
| III. | Procedures for the election of the World Heritage Committee (including one reserved seat) |
| IV. | Draft Resolution |

I. NUMBER OF SEATS TO BE ELECTED TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

1. Article 8 of the *World Heritage Convention* establishes the World Heritage Committee and determines that it is to be composed of 21 States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*. The members of the Committee are to be elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* which meets during the ordinary session of the UNESCO General Conference.

2. At present the World Heritage Committee is composed of the following 21 States Parties:

Argentina	Japan	Norway
Benin	Kuwait	Oman
Chile	Lebanon	Portugal
China	Lithuania	Russian Federation
Colombia	Netherlands	Saint Lucia
Egypt	New Zealand	South Africa
India	Nigeria	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

3. In accordance with Article 9 of the *Convention*, the terms of office of half of the members of the Committee will expire at the end of the 33rd session of the UNESCO General Conference (UNESCO, 03-21 October 2005).

4. Consequently, **12 seats of the World Heritage Committee are to be filled during the 15th session of the General Assembly.** The seats of the following 12 States Parties will be filled by the newly-elected members of the Committee:

Argentina	Lebanon	Russian Federation
China	Nigeria	Saint Lucia
Columbia	Oman	South Africa
Egypt	Portugal	United Kingdom

II. ELIGIBILITY FOR CANDIDATES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

5. In order for a State Party to be eligible to become a member of the World Heritage Committee the conditions set out in Article 16, paragraph 5 of the *Convention* have to be met. This Article states 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 [...].

6. The Statement of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund can be found in Document *WHC-05/15.GA/INF.6*.

7. Note should also be taken of Rule 13.3 of the General Assembly' Rules of Procedure which states that:

(...) This list of candidatures shall be finalised 48 hours before the beginning of the election. No other candidatures nor payments of compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund (for the purpose of presenting a candidature to the Committee) will be accepted after this time.

III. PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (INCLUDING ONE RESERVED SEAT)

8. The procedures for the election of the World Heritage Committee are set out in Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. The attention of the States Parties is drawn to Rule 14.1 which establishes that:

A certain number of seats may be reserved for States Parties who do not have sites on the World Heritage List, upon decision of the World Heritage Committee at the session that precedes the General Assembly. Such a ballot for reserved seats would precede the open ballot for the remaining seats to be filled. Unsuccessful candidates in the reserved ballot would be eligible to stand in the open ballot.

9. **At its 29th session (Durban, 2005) the World Heritage Committee decided (Decision 29 COM 6) to allocate one seat amongst the seats that have to be filled at the 15th General Assembly to a State Party which does not have any properties on the World Heritage List.**

10. The General Assembly, when electing the new members of the World Heritage Committee, might wish to take into consideration Article 8 paragraph 2 of the *Convention* which states that the "election of members of the Committee shall ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world", as well as its Resolution on the Equitable Representation of the World Heritage Committee (adopted by the 13th General Assembly) which invites, *inter alia*, the States Parties elected to the Committee to voluntarily reduce their term of office from six to four years (see Document WHC-05/15.GA/INF.3C).

IV. DRAFT RESOLUTION

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The General Assembly,

1. Elects * * * (State Party without properties on the World Heritage List) as member of the World Heritage Committee;
2. Elects the following eleven States Parties *** as members of the World Heritage Committee.