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

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

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Thirtieth Session**

**Vilnius, Lithuania**

**8 – 16 July 2006**

**Item 18 of the Provisional Agenda: Other matters**

**18A. Amendment of Rule 21 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the World Heritage Committee**

**Draft Decision: 30 COM 18A, see Item II.**

## **I. Context of the decision**

1. In accordance with Article 10.3 of the *World Heritage Convention* and Rule 20 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the World Heritage Committee, **consultative bodies** can be created by the Committee, as it deems necessary, for the performance of its functions. As to the composition of these organs, Rule 20.2 stipulates that “[t]he composition and the terms of reference (including mandate and duration of office) of such consultative bodies shall be defined by the Committee at the time of their creation. These bodies can include States non members of the Committee.” Therefore, the composition of consultative bodies may include any entities (i.e., individuals, NGOs, etc.) decided by the Committee.
2. Concerning **subsidiary bodies** of the Committee, the *Convention* does not provide for any specific rules. However, in accordance with Rule 21 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the World Heritage Committee, subsidiary bodies can be established by the Committee, as it deems necessary, for the conduct of its work. With regard to these organs, Rule 21.2 provides that “[t]he composition and the terms of reference (including mandate and duration of office) of such subsidiary bodies shall be defined by the Committee at the time of their creation. These bodies can only be constituted from amongst States members of the Committee.”
3. The terms of reference of the consultative and subsidiary bodies (including mandate and duration of office) are determined by the Committee.
4. At its 29th session (Durban, 2005), the World Heritage Committee decided that its subsidiary bodies should submit their recommendations to it in the form of draft decisions and also decided to place on the agenda of its 30th session a proposal to amend the *Rules of Procedure* to that effect by adding a new Rule 21.6.
5. This is in conformity with Rule 51 of the *Rules of Procedures* of the World Heritage Committee, which states that “[t]he Committee may amend these Rules of Procedure (...), provided the proposal has been included in the agenda of the session in accordance with Rules 9 and 10.”

## **II. Draft Decision**

### **Draft Decision: 30 COM 18 A**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/18A,*
2. *Having carefully noted that this item appears on the Agenda of its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), in accordance with Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,*
3. *Recalling Decisions 7 EXT.COM 4B.1 and 29 COM 18C, adopted respectively at its 7th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004) and its 29th ordinary session (Durban, 2005),*

4. *Decides to add a paragraph 21.6 to Rule 21 of its Rules of Procedure concerning the subsidiary bodies, to read as follows:*  
  
“21.6 Subsidiary bodies’ Recommendations to the World Heritage Committee should be made in the form of draft decisions.”
5. *Also decides that paragraph 21.6 of the Rules of Procedure will take effect immediately;*
6. *Requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to inform the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention of this decision immediately following its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).*