

Distribution limited

WHC-95/CONF.201/8  
Paris, 12 April 1995  
Original : English

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Nineteenth session  
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room X (Fontenoy)

3-8 July 1995

**Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Improvement of Working Methods  
of the World Heritage Committee**

1. At its eighteenth session, held in Phuket, Thailand, in December 1994, the Committee requested the World Heritage Centre to prepare, in consultation with the advisory bodies, proposals for a possible improvement of the Committee's method of work in view of the increasing responsibilities.

2. Consequently, the representatives of the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre discussed on 6 February 1995 the ways in which the sessions of the Committee and the Bureau could be organized optimally. As a result, it was agreed to propose the following modifications to the Bureau:

- (a) that henceforth all new nominations would be presented to the Committee without prior discussion by the Bureau. The Bureau, at its summer session following the Committee meeting, would then discuss only the nominations which the Committee decided to defer, provided that additional information had been received in the meantime. The results of the Bureau's deliberations would then be submitted to the Committee at its next session;
- (b) that the state of conservation reports emanating from **reactive monitoring**, i.e., the reporting on sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, or on sites that are threatened, will be examined by the Bureau at its summer session. The Bureau decides which reports should be brought forward to the Committee. This applies particularly when the Bureau recommends the inscription or deletion of a site on/from the List of the World Heritage

in Danger, or when the Bureau recommends that the procedure for the deletion of a property from the World Heritage List should be initiated;

- (c) that the regional synthesis reports emanating from **systematic monitoring and reporting** will be examined by the Committee at its annual sessions. Regional synthesis reports will be prepared on a rotation basis with annual reports to the Committee on a specific region. The Committee will establish a work plan for the examination of regional synthesis reports.

3. In view of the above, the Bureau may wish to consider recommending the Committee to modify accordingly the Operational Guidelines. What follows is a possible modified timetable, to be integrated into the existing **Operational Guidelines**, which could be applied as of 1996 if adopted by the Committee.

#### PROPOSED REVISION OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

(66). The annual schedule set out below has been fixed for the receipt and processing of nominations to the World Heritage List. It should be emphasized, however, that the process of nominating properties to the World Heritage List is an ongoing one. Nominations to the List can be submitted at any time during the year. Those received by **1 July** of a given year will be considered during the following year. Those received after **1 July** of a given year can only be considered in the second subsequent year. Despite the inconvenience this may cause to certain States Parties, the Committee has decided to bring forward the deadline for submission of nominations in order to ensure that all working documents can be made available to the Committee no later than six weeks before the start of the sessions of the Bureau and the Committee, and to enable the Committee to know the number and nature of nominations to be examined at its next session the following year.

#### 1 July 1996

Deadline for receipt by the World Heritage Centre (further: **Secretariat**) of nominations to be considered by the Committee the following year.

#### July-August 1996

The Secretariat registers each nomination and thoroughly verifies its contents and accompanying documentation. In the case of incomplete nominations, the Secretariat must immediately request the missing information from the States Parties.

#### By 15 September 1996

The Secretariat transmits nominations, provided they are complete, to the appropriate international non-governmental organization (ICOMOS, IUCN or both), which then immediately

examines each nomination to ascertain those cases in which additional information is required, and takes the necessary steps, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to obtain the complementary data.

By 1 May 1997

The appropriate non-governmental organization (advisory body) undertakes a professional evaluation of each nomination according to the criteria adopted by the Committee, and submits to the Secretariat a preliminary evaluation for each nomination. If necessary, the Secretariat requests additional information from concerned States Parties. This should be received by the Secretariat at the latest by 1 July 1997. The Secretariat transmits this information immediately to the appropriate advisory body.

By 15 September 1997

The advisory bodies transmit their evaluations to the Secretariat under three categories:

- (a) properties which are recommended for inscription without reservation;
- (b) properties which are not recommended for inscription;
- (c) properties whose eligibility for inscription is not considered absolutely clear.

By October 1997 (not later than six weeks before the session of the Committee)

The Secretariat, having checked the evaluations received from the advisory bodies, transmits these as working documents to the States Parties members of the Committee.

December 1997

The Committee examines the nominations on the basis of the evaluations provided by the advisory bodies through the Secretariat, together with any additional information provided during the debate by the States Parties concerned and the comments made thereon by ICOMOS and IUCN.

It decides to classify each nominated property into one of the following three categories:

- (a) properties which the Committee inscribes on the World Heritage List;
- (b) properties which the Committee decides not to inscribe on the List;
- (c) properties whose consideration is deferred.

January 1998

The Secretariat forwards to all States Parties the report of the December session of the World Heritage Committee containing all the decisions of the Committee.

By 1 March 1998

The Secretariat receives additional information requested from the States Parties concerned regarding **referred** and **deferred** nominations, and transmits it immediately to the appropriate advisory body.

By 1 May 1998

The advisory bodies submit revised final evaluations to the Secretariat, which transmits them as working documents to the States Parties members of the Bureau.

June/July 1998

The Bureau examines the **referred** and **deferred** nominations in light of the additional information and evaluation, and formulates its recommendations to the Committee.

December 1998

The Committee examines the **referred** and **deferred** nominations in light of the Bureau's recommendations and decides on:

- (a) inscription
- (b) rejection
- (c) further deferral