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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE  
Nineteenth session

Berlin, Germany

4-9 December 1995

**Item 15 of the Provisional Agenda: Improvement of the working  
methods of the World Heritage Committee**

1. The representatives of the advisory bodies and of the World Heritage Centre discussed on 6 February 1995 the ways in which the sessions of the Committee and the Bureau could be organized better in the future. The growing number of items on the agenda calls for a more rational use of time. In addition to this, several States Parties with observer status at the Committee's sessions have requested that at least a minimum of time be assured for their comments.

2. In view of the above, the Secretariat presented to the Bureau at its nineteenth session in July 1995 a proposal (Document WHC-95/CONF.201/8) based on the suggestions made by the advisory bodies. Its three main points were:

(a) That henceforth all **new nominations** would be presented to the Committee each December without prior discussion by the Bureau. The Bureau would discuss at its summer session following the Committee's decisions only those 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 for a re-examination of the nominations.

(b) The **state of conservation reports** emanating from reactive monitoring (i.e., reporting on sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, or sites that are threatened) would in turn be examined by the Bureau at each summer session. The Bureau would then decide which reports need to be brought to the Committee's attention. This would apply particularly when the Bureau recommends the inscription or deletion of a site on/from the List of World Heritage in Danger, or when the Bureau recommends the initiation of the procedure for the deletion of a property from the World Heritage List.

(c) The **regional synthesis reports** emanating from systematic monitoring and reporting would be examined annually by the Committee. The reports would be prepared on a rotating basis according to the work plan and calendar established by the Committee.

3. Following considerable discussion at the July session, (a detailed account is available in Chapter X of the Report of the Rapporteur, nineteenth session of the Bureau; Working Document WHC-95/CONF-203/3), the Bureau decided to submit these proposals to the Committee together with the detailed account of the comments and reservations expressed by the Bureau (see paragraph X.15).

4. The Committee may wish to take into account, when considering this item, the possibility of creating one or more "consultative bodies" for which provision is made by the Convention in Article 10, point 3, which stipulates: "The Committee may create such consultative bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions".

5. In the case of an affirmative reply, the Committee would have to give clear instructions to the Secretariat regarding the constitution of any such consultative body, its tasks and delegation of authority.