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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
Thirty first Session

Christchurch, New Zealand
23 June – 2 July 2007

Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda: Special Reports

12B: State of advancement of the Nomination of *Qhapaq Ñan* – Main Andean Road for inscription on the World Heritage List

SUMMARY

As requested by Decision **30 COM 11E** (Vilnius, 2006), this document presents a progress report on the proposed nomination of the '*Qhapaq Ñan* – Main Andean Road' for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List

Draft Decision: 31 COM 12B, see Point VI

I. Background

1. In April 2004, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru began, with the support of the World Heritage Centre, to put forward an ambitious nomination for the inscription of the Main Andean Road, or *Qhapaq Ñan (QN)*, the most complex and extensive pre-Hispanic communication network in the Americas, on the World Heritage List.
2. Since that time, the World Heritage Committee has received regular progress reports. At its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) the Committee requested a full report on the state of the advancement of the nomination for the *Qhapaq Ñan* (Decision **30.COM 11E**).

II. Conceptualization of the project: Results from the Project's Scientific Committee

A. First meeting of the Scientific Committee

3. A scientific committee composed of renowned scholars in Anthropology, Archaeology and Ethno-history, national experts selected by their respective countries and the World Heritage Centre was established in April 2005. The purpose of this Committee was to define the outstanding value of the Main Andean Road. The Scientific Committee held its first meeting in Quito, Ecuador in April 2005.
4. The Scientific Committee believes that the *Qhapaq Ñan* is one of the ancient world's greatest human achievements, and to this day, it serves as a link between ancestral and contemporary ways of living heritage in Andean America. This Main Andean Road connected a well-developed network of paths and infrastructure constructed over a period of more than 2000 years by pre-Inca Andean cultures. Many of these sites are already featured on the World Heritage List. This system of longitudinal and latitudinal routes, which spanned over 23,000 kilometres, connected various productive, administrative and ceremonial centres and provided links between the centres of power and the warm valley zones as well as the deserts and the jungles at the furthestmost points of the Empire. This road network provided a rich fabric for all kinds of relationships throughout the territory and was an integral part of the power system, which unified the Empire both physically and organically. This system of continental communication grew as a response to a political programme dating back to the 15th century. The Incas extended the routes to the far ends of the Empire in order to ensure the flow of ideas, power, goods and cosmologies to facilitate the smooth running of all areas of the vast Inca Empire – some four million square kilometres of land from the Pacific coastline to 5000 metres above sea level.

B. Second Meeting of the Scientific Committee

5. A second meeting of the Scientific Committee (Paris, 2006) sought to develop the basis of the **comparative study** for the nomination. Academic experts on the Ancient routes of communication in the Ancient Empires: international experts on Maya studies, Roman Empire main roads, the trade routes of the Tigris and Euphrates basin, the Silk route, Indus river communication trails and Greek maritime itineraries, all attended the meeting and reflected, with the Andean specialists, upon the categories of analysis to be fulfilled for a comprehensive comparative study.

III. Establishment of an Advisory Committee of the Qhapaq Ñan to develop the institutional and legal framework of the nomination.

6. The first Experts Meeting to discuss the Legal structure for the protection of the *Qhapaq Ñan* took place at UNESCO Headquarters from 11 to 12 October 2006.
7. Participants were requested to offer advice on the legal architecture that would be necessary for the protection of the *Qhapaq Ñan - Main Andean Road*.
8. The experts agreed that:
 - a) The inscription of the *Qhapaq Ñan* on the UNESCO World Heritage List would represent a significant example of the implementation of Article 7 of the *World Heritage Convention*: "a system of international co-operation and assistance designed to support States Parties to the Convention in their efforts to conserve and identify that heritage";
 - b) The nomination of the *Qhapaq Ñan* should therefore not only be elaborated in a way that is fully compatible with the standards of the *Convention* and its related instruments, and that a transnational serial property of this type should be conceived from an interdisciplinary perspective;
 - c) The elaboration of instruments as creative and effective guidelines for the legal protection of the *Qhapaq Ñan* needs to include adequate management and delimitation of the property. This is necessary to make the *Qhapaq Ñan* compatible with the different legal realities of the six candidate countries and to be consistent with the characterization of the *Qhapaq Ñan* as a cultural phenomenon which integrates Andean cultural diversity;
 - d) In view of this, regular interaction between the technical experts and the political authorities is essential. Participants therefore noted with particular satisfaction the presence of UNESCO Permanent Delegations at the meeting.
9. They thereby recommended:
 - a) That the countries that have not yet done so, consider the ratification, as soon as possible of the international legal instruments applicable to the *Qhapaq Ñan* – such as the Convention for the Safeguard of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003).
 - b) That communities and indigenous peoples participate in the process of the nomination of the *Qhapaq Ñan* and in the elaboration of the management plan in accordance with Annex III, point 12, of the *Operational Guidelines*.
 - c) That proposing countries should optimize, with a view to avoiding duplication or overlapping, the legal protection applicable to the *Qhapaq Ñan* with related properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List or on their respective tentative lists or.
 - d) In order to facilitate the elaboration of a suitable legal instrument for the *Qhapaq Ñan*, it was considered advisable to: principally
 - i) Elaborate a database, administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, to compile the normative instruments related to the *Qhapaq Ñan*.
 - ii) The development of a complementary framework which brings together the legal norms of the six countries concerned which would be applicable to the *Qhapaq Ñan* and above all to its management.

- iii) This Committee, which will act in coordination with the previously constituted Technical Committees, will work mainly by electronic correspondence, under the coordination of the World Heritage Centre.

C. Impacts of the eventual Listing of the Main Andean Road

10. The Scientific Committees are aware of the repercussions of the *Qhapaq Ñan*'s nomination on properties which are already on the World Heritage List. They are looking to identify methodologies to promote the conservation and good management of the sites, whilst at the same time ensuring a holistic commitment to protect this collection of sites of exceptional universal value. The specialist committees, national and international experts and the World Heritage Centre are examining the effects of a new listing of this scale and the effect it may have on:
 - a) The content of national tentative lists on sub-regional harmonization processes.
 - b) The periodic reporting exercise, since the sites under discussion connect a great number of heritage sites and categories, justifying the outstanding universal value as a whole, whilst coexisting with other Andean sites of exceptional value, which are listed individually.
 - c) The development of management plans for complementary sites, currently at different stages of consideration for listing, with the aim of guaranteeing the preservation of the whole group, which would then form a mega-unit of outstanding universal value.

IV. The Seventh Experts' Meeting

11. The World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the University of Nariño and the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History (ICAH) organized the seventh experts' meeting in Nariño, Colombia from 7 to 12 November 2006 in order to:
 - a) Submit the results of the three bi-national international assistance requests and to extract the lessons learnt of this process;
 - b) Set up the calendar of pending activities until the plenary session of the WH Committee and to discuss the format, structure and contents of this presentation to the Committee;
 - c) Revise the content and format of the registration forms: archaeological data, ethnographical register, environmental resources and orality;
 - d) Discuss the task and composition of the international team charged with the harmonization of the national cartographical material and databases to build up a common body of information.

As a result:

- e) Each country has been requested to submit the completed archaeological registration of their related roads to the World Heritage Centre by 30 April 2007;
- f) Each country will submit a map of actors to facilitate the participatory consultation process for the development of the management plan;
- g) The Committee will receive a draft map of the nomination in a scale of 1:250.000;
- h) The state of the advancement of the ethnographical work directly related to the selected sections of the road that will continue in 2007;
- i) The results obtained at national and bi-national level are being included in the project's documental repository.

V. The electronic Document Repository

12. The *Qhapaq Ñan* repository was created especially for this nomination process, to secure data management, improve communication between partners and to enable the development of the thematic coherence of the nomination. Individuals involved in the nomination are given access to the repository and are able to make use of document and data exchange mechanisms, a messaging service and an interactive calendar for related deadlines and thematic meetings. This service has proved of great value for the actors involved in the process, enabling groups to be consolidated on a secure server which is accessible from anywhere in the world, thus providing a flexible common reference point for all involved parties.

VI. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 31 COM 12B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/12B,*
2. *Congratulates the States Parties and Scientific and Juridical Committees for the results obtained thus far;*
3. *Encourages the World Heritage Centre to continue to coordinate the project;*
4. *Also encourages the further consolidation of this work;*
5. *Requests the State Parties involved in the Qhapaq Ñan – Main Andean Road to develop a Management plan, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, to ensure:*
 - a) *The elaboration of a Conservation and Preservation Plan for the Qhapaq Ñan*
 - b) *The elaboration of a Public Use Plan which takes into account the trans-national specificity of the nomination*
 - c) *The participation of the local community (indigenous or otherwise) in the elaboration of the management plan*