

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION  
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Nineteenth session

Berlin, Germany

4-9 December 1995

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: Reports on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage properties:

1. INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of the World Heritage Committee examined, at its December session, a number of state of conservation reports that had been prepared by the Secretariat and/or the advisory bodies. The Bureau's discussions and its recommendations are included in the report of the Bureau session (working document WHC-95/CONF.203/4).

This document includes all actions recommended to the Committee by the Bureau or the Secretariat/advisory bodies. In order to facilitate the examination of the state of conservation reports by the Committee the Secretariat recommends to group the reports in two categories as follows:

- A. The Committee takes note of the written information provided by the Secretariat/advisory body and adopts the action recommended by the Bureau or the Secretariat.

In these cases, the recommended action will be read to the Committee but no detailed oral presentation is foreseen. The Secretariat and the advisory bodies are available, however, to respond to any enquiry by the Committee members and to take note of any amendment that might be proposed to the recommended action.

- B. The Committee examines the information contained in the working document and the oral report provided by the Secretariat/advisory body, as well as the recommended action proposed by the Bureau or the Secretariat and decides on the action it wishes to take. **The texts concerning these reports are printed in bold.**

## 2. NATURAL HERITAGE

### 2.1. Natural Properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

#### Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)

The Bureau recommends the Committee to examine the information contained in the working document and the oral report provided by the Secretariat and the advisory body. The Bureau recommends the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee encouraged the Bulgarian authorities in their continuing efforts to restore the site, including increasing the water intake and the preparation of a management plan for the site. The Committee furthermore requested that a status report should be presented in three years time. Meanwhile, the Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

#### Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia)

The Bureau recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee commended the State Party for its special contribution and endorsed the management and planning meeting for the Park scheduled for Spring 1996. The Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger until the region stabilizes."

#### Sangay National Park (Ecuador)

The Bureau recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and the advisory body and to adopt the following:

"The Committee commended the State Party for the reports provided but, however, expressed its continuing concerns about the construction work causing negative environmental impacts. It requested the Centre to send a determined intervention to the Ecuadorian President for an environmental impact study and to urge the State Party to take steps to ensure much stricter environmental regulations. The Committee furthermore, requested the Centre to write to INEFAN commending them for their actions for modifications of the road, the tenure study and the initiative for an updated management plan. The Committee decided that the site should be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

However, the Bureau recommended to the Committee that, before taking any decision, the Delegate of Ecuador should be given the opportunity to provide further information on the situation at the site.

#### Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire)

The Bureau recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee commended the State Party for its efforts. However, given the uncertainties and the shortcomings in on-site management, the Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

#### Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

The Bureau recommends the Committee to examine the information contained in the working document and the oral report provided by the Secretariat/advisory body. The Bureau recommends the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee expressed its serious concern about the conditions of the site and questioned whether the World Heritage values were still present. The Committee also regretted the limited response from the State Party to its repeated enquiries. The Committee requested the Director-General of UNESCO to transmit its concerns to the Indian authorities in the strongest terms possible and to stress the urgent need for a substantive state of conservation report from the States Party. The Committee also requested the future Chairperson to consult with the Indian authorities and to offer the possibilities of assistance which could be provided. The Committee decided that in the absence of any precise information, uncertainties remain concerning the state of conservation of the site, and that the Manas be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

#### Aïr-et-Ténéré Reserve (Niger)

The Bureau recommends the Committee to examine the information contained in the working document and the oral report provided by the Secretariat/advisory body. The Bureau recommends the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee decided that the site should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger for another year and that the situation be reviewed at its twentieth session."

However, the Bureau recommended the Committee, before taking this decision, to give the Delegate of Niger the opportunity to provide new information on the situation at the site.

### Everglades National Park (United States of America)

The Bureau recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee concluded that the site remains seriously threatened and decided that it be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

### Virunga National Park (Zaire)

The Bureau recommends the Committee to examine the information contained in the working document and the oral report provided by the Secretariat/advisory body. The Bureau recommends the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee, taking into account the presence of thousands of refugees in and adjacent to Virunga, expresses its serious concerns about the continuing degradation of the Park and decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee requested the Centre to support the work of IGCP and other organizations and asked both the Centre and IUCN continue to liaise with various donors and agencies. It requested the Centre to consider organizing a mission to the site and asked that a report be provided to the twentieth session of the World Heritage Bureau."

## 2.2. Natural Properties on the World Heritage List

### Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia)

The Bureau recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee, taking note of the action by the States Party to strengthen the protection of the site and that negotiations are still underway, requested the Centre to contact the States Party to obtain a report on the situation as soon as possible."

### Canadian Rocky Mountains Parks (Canada)

The Committee is requested to examine the written and oral report presented by IUCN.

**Galapagos National Park (Ecuador)**

The Bureau recommended that the full report be presented to the Committee by the representatives of IUCN and IUCN's regional Office and - before taking any decision - to give the Delegate of Ecuador the opportunity to provide information on the situation at the site.

**Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)**

The Bureau recommended that the full report be presented to the Committee by the representatives of IUCN before taking any decision.

**Komodo National Park (Indonesia)**

As no specific action is required, the Committee is recommended to take note of the information provided in the working documents.

**Whale Sanctuary of El Viscaino (Mexico)**

As no specific action is required, the Committee is recommended to take note of the information provided in the working documents.

**Tongariro National Park (New Zealand)**

As no specific action is required, the Committee is recommended to take note of the information provided in the working documents.

**Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)**

As no specific action is required, the Committee is recommended to adopt the following:

"The Committee took note of the information provided in the working document and by the Secretariat that the 'Preliminary land-use and management plan (November 1995)' for the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary was sent to the Secretariat which transmitted it to the advisory body IUCN for examination. The Committee requested IUCN to present its findings to the next session of the Bureau."

**Huascarán National Park (Peru)**

The Committee is requested to examine the written and oral report presented by IUCN.

### Skocjan Caves (Slovenia)

The Committee is requested to examine the written and oral report presented by IUCN.

### Redwood National Park (United States of America)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee took note of information provided by the Secretariat that the proposed re-alignment of Highway 101 will imply only the removal of five redwoods instead of the 750 originally proposed. The Committee commended the State Party for this action which illustrates a success in protecting World Heritage values and the integrity of the site."

### Yellowstone National Park (United States of America)

The Bureau recommends the Committee to examine the information contained in the working document and the oral report provided by the Secretariat/advisory body. The Bureau recommends the Committee to adopt the following:

"On the basis of both ascertained dangers and potential dangers, the Committee recommends that Yellowstone National Park be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and that the Committee should request continuing reports on the results of the EIS and mitigating actions being taken to ensure in due course the removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger."

### Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

The Bureau recommended that the Committee adopt the following:

"The Committee took note of information provided by IUCN on developments within and in the vicinity of the site and requested the World Heritage Centre to contact the Vietnamese authorities for further information on the potential threats and the measures being taken to minimize them."

### 3. MIXED NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

#### Mixed Natural and Cultural Properties on the World Heritage List

##### Willandra Lakes Region (Australia)

The Bureau, having taken note of the fact that the new boundary will reduce the total area by about thirty percent, which would constitute a major change in relation to the original nomination, recommended that the Committee accept the revised boundaries, as they better define the area containing the World Heritage values and will considerably facilitate the management of the property.

It recommended the Committee to examine and approve the proposed revision of the boundaries of the property under agenda item 8 of its provisional agenda 'Examination of nominations of cultural and natural properties to the World Heritage List'.

### 4. CULTURAL HERITAGE

#### 4.1. Cultural Properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

##### Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee recommended that the Benin authorities prepare, as soon as possible, and in cooperation with CRATerre-EAG and ICCROM, a conservation management plan which could be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 21st session (December 1997), at the latest. The Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

##### Angkor (Cambodia)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee requested the Cambodian Government for an early adoption of the cultural property protection law. The Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

### Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee, having taken note of the difficulties which hindered the execution of the programme for which it had approved funds in 1994, requested the Secretariat to continue monitoring its implementation and to present a progress report to the Bureau at its twentieth session. The Committee decided to retain this property on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

### Timbuctu (Mali)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee supported the organization of a pilot project and congratulated the Mali Government for its commitment to define a coherent conservation policy adapted to the problems of each mosque, and to have provided national funds for emergency work. The Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

### Bahla Fort (Oman)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee thanked the Omani authorities for their active collaboration with UNESCO towards the preservation of Bahla fort. They particularly appreciated their desire to follow the advice of the experts, specialists in mud-brick architecture, who were sent to the site. This action seemed to be the only way to preserve the authenticity of the monument, to which continued importance is accorded. It thanked the authorities for their financial support towards the safeguarding of this heritage and requested that the outer mosque and the ancient residence of the Governor be also considered for restoration in accordance with the international recommendations for the preservation of authenticity.

The Committee suggested to the Omani authorities that a further mission of two experts be organized in 1996 under the same cost-sharing conditions, in order to evaluate the work and the state of conservation of the monument and to examine whether Bahla Fort may be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger in the future."



### **Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)**

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee decided to await the results of the assessment of the conservation policies and practices at the Chan Chan Archaeological Zone, to be undertaken in the context of the course on adobe conservation that will be held at Chan Chan, late 1996. The Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger."

### **Wieliczka Salt Mines (Poland)**

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee took note of information provided by the Secretariat that UNESCO had taken all the necessary measures for the implementation of the technical cooperation project that was approved by the World Heritage Committee at its eighteenth session but that it had not received to date the consent of the Polish authorities as to UNESCO's proposals regarding the purchase of the equipment. The Committee requested the Secretariat to take the necessary measures for the prompt implementation of the assistance and to keep the Committee informed of its results. The Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger until the results and a report of the impact of the equipment on the conditions of the site are known."

## **4.2. Cultural Properties on the World Heritage List**

### **Asia-Pacific Region**

#### **Borobudur (Indonesia)**

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee commended the Indonesian World Heritage Committee for the importance it has attached to the systematic monitoring exercise and rapid completion of the state of conservation report on the cultural properties. The Committee expressed their condolences for the demise of the four officials of the Indonesian World Heritage Committee whose dedication to the cause of World Heritage protection and preservation will strengthen the resolve of the Committee to uphold the spirit of the Convention."

**Meidan Emam of Isfahan (Iran)**

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Iranian authorities for using the systematic monitoring exercise as an opportunity for furthering international cooperation in the protection and preservation of World Heritage."

**Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)**

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee reiterated the request to His Majesty's Government of Nepal to provide a report on the progress in the implementation of the November 1993 UNESCO/ICOMOS recommendations."

**Taxila (Pakistan)**

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee commended the DOAM and other concerned bodies of the Government of Pakistan for their enthusiastic undertaking of the systematic monitoring exercise which enabled the joint DOAM-UNESCO teams to complete within 1995, the state of conservation draft reports on four of the five World Heritage cultural properties in Pakistan."

**Hue (VietNam)**

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee expressed its concern over the impact of road upgrading and rapid tourism development on the Hue World Heritage site and commended the Vietnamese Government for the integrated development approach it is adopting to address both the safeguarding and development concerns of the region."

## Africa

### Churches of Lalibela (Ethiopia)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee congratulated the Ethiopian authorities for their efforts which have led to a restoration and conservation project for the entire site, which takes account of its environmental dimension."

### Ihla de Mozambique (Mozambique)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to examine the information contained in the working document and the oral report provided by the Secretariat. The Secretariat recommends the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee requested the World Heritage Centre to follow up with the Government of Mozambique on the results of the mission, and ensure that detailed architectural drawings are prepared in order to submit these to donor countries for small-scale restoration projects (funds are available for this action). The Committee also encouraged the Government of Mozambique to submit a technical cooperation request in order to prepare detailed projects with cost estimates for the restoration of each monument and the basic infrastructure of the Island."

## Europe and North America

### Vilnius Historic Centre (Lithuania)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to examine the information contained in the working document and the oral report provided by the Secretariat. The Secretariat recommends the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee took note of the report on the comprehensive rehabilitation programme for the City. It commended the Government of Lithuania and the municipal authorities of Vilnius for their timely and appropriate initiative and commended UNESCO, its World Heritage Centre and donor institutions for their support."

### Megalithic Temples (Malta)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to examine the information contained in the working document and the oral report

provided by the Secretariat. The Secretariat recommends the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee warmly thanked the Maltese Government and in particular the Minister for Culture, for the considerable financial support and manpower provided for the conservation of this World Heritage site, as well as the Museums Department for its continued commitment and for the quality and success of its work. The Committee, noting that a complete and coherent plan for the group of temples was under preparation and that these monuments will soon benefit from long-term conservation measures, congratulated the authorities. It requested them to keep the Centre informed by 1 April 1996, of progress accomplished."

#### Hal Saflieni Hypogeum (Malta)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to examine the information contained in the working document and the oral report provided by the Secretariat. The Secretariat recommends the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee warmly thanked the Government of Malta and in particular the Minister of Culture, for the considerable financial and human commitment undertaken for the preservation of this World Heritage site, as well as the Museums Department for its continued commitment and for the quality and success of its work. It congratulated the authorities on the complete and coherent management plan being undertaken and noted with satisfaction that the monument would soon be reopened to the public. It requested the Maltese authorities to keep the Centre informed of progress accomplished, by 1 April 1996."

#### Taos Pueblo (United States of America)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee took note of a letter from the National Congress of American Indians dated 15 November 1995 in which it asks "UNESCO to intervene through its Convention Agreement with the United States Department of the Interior in order to protect the rights of the Taos Pueblo and identify the appropriate level of Federal and international protection of the Taos Pueblo World Heritage site".

"The Committee recalled that the potential impact of the extension of the Taos Airport on the World Heritage site of Taos Pueblo was discussed at various Bureau and Committee meetings and that the Committee's concerns were transmitted to the United States authorities. The Secretariat informed the Committee that it had received preliminary monitoring

reports from the Taos Pueblo War Chief and the US National Park Service. Both reports indicated that the major issue was the size of the area determined to be affected by the proposed airport extension. It was reported that this area was defined by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) without consultations with the Taos Pueblo or the United States National Park Service (USNPS) and did include the Taos Pueblo Land Tracts immediately surrounding the proposed flight routes, whereas the Blue Lake Wilderness, a federally protected area for tribal religious activity, was excluded. Most of the Tribe's complaints about expected impacts related to this sensitive area."

"The Committee recommended to the authorities of the United States that an impartial professional review of the area defined by the Federal Aviation Administration for the impact study be carried out with the cooperation of ICOMOS, the Taos Pueblo, the United States National Park Service and the Federal Aviation Administration, and that a report be submitted to the twentieth session of the World Heritage Committee. The Committee also requested the State Party to consider the possible extension of the World Heritage site to include the culturally valuable areas related to the Taos Pueblo under the cultural landscape criteria."

#### Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)

The Secretariat requests the Committee to take note of the following correction to be made in document WHC-95/CONF.203/5. Add page 2.: the first of the four recommendations made by the German Council for Land Stewardship (Deutscher Rat für Landschaftspflege) should read as follows:

- to enlarge the site: especially the "Neuer Garten" and the "Babelsberger Park" should be extended, the connection "Russische Kolonie/Kapellenberg/Pfingstberg" should be integrated and the "Bornimer (Lennesche) Feldflur" should be added.

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee took note of the report provided by the Secretariat and requested the German authorities to provide a full state of conservation report on the site, including statements concerning legal protection, current planning and development of Potsdam, review of possible extension of the site and the future development of guiding principles to protect the Potsdam World Heritage site and its surrounding cultural landscape."

## Latin America

### City of Potosi (Bolivia)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee took note of information provided by the Secretariat on the potential degradation of the Cerro Rico by continued mining operations. Considering that the Cerro Rico forms an integral part of the World Heritage site, the Committee requested the Bolivian authorities to inform the Secretariat of the measures it has taken for its preservation and management."

## Arab States

### Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to take note of the written information provided by the Secretariat and to adopt the following:

"The Committee warmly thanked the authorities of Algeria for informing them of their firm intention to preserve the Kasbah of Algiers as well as for the measures which have been taken continuously for its preservation. The Committee requested them to continue to devote their efforts towards the conservation of this World Heritage property."

### Islamic Cairo (Egypt)

The Bureau recommends the Committee to examine the information contained in the working document and the oral report provided by the Secretariat. The Bureau recommends the Committee to adopt the following:

"The World Heritage Committee was informed to its great satisfaction of the successful efforts of the Egyptian authorities in ensuring the long-term safeguarding of the Pyramid fields from Giza to Dahshur as well as the quality of the restoration work undertaken for the al-Sinnari House and warmly congratulates them. However, the Committee regarded the renovation and reconstruction works which have destroyed the authenticity of the three Fatimid mosques of Al Aqmar, Al-Guyushi and Lu-lu-a, situated within the World Heritage site of Islamic Cairo, with grave concern. It drew the attention of the Egyptian authorities to Articles 4 and 5 of the World Heritage Convention by which States Parties should endeavour to ensure the protection and conservation of their heritage, and that this conservation

should be carried out in accordance with international standards, such as the Charter of Venice, in order to ensure respect of authenticity. It also recalled Article 24(b) of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention regarding the respect of authenticity of inscribed properties, and requested that, in the future, the authorities should conform to Article 58, inviting "States Parties to inform the Committee, through the UNESCO Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention, major restorations or new constructions".

"It finally reminded the Egyptian authorities that UNESCO is always willing to provide, whenever necessary, international expert advice prior to any restoration work and those who are sent on a regular basis to the site, are at their entire disposal to provide advice whenever necessary."

#### Memphis and its Necropolis -- the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to examine the information contained in the working document and the oral report provided by the Secretariat. The Secretariat recommends the Committee to adopt the following:

"After having noted the results of the mission of the UNESCO experts invited by the Government of Egypt, from 1 to 6 April 1995, to assist in identifying measures to ensure the conservation of the World Heritage site of the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur, the Committee congratulated and warmly thanked the Egyptian authorities for the decisions taken to date and action already undertaken:

- 1) the choice of a new route passing north of the World Heritage site for the highway link to the ring-road, which will follow, once the necessary detailed studies are achieved, either the Mariouteyya Canal, the Mansoureyya Canal, or both of them;
- 2) work already undertaken to improve one of the rubbish dumps and work foreseen to abolish the second;
- 3) actions to halt all further housing construction at Kafr-el-Gabal and to eliminate, in the coming years, the unauthorized buildings and roads encroaching on the buffer zone of the World Heritage site.

"It requested them to examine carefully, with the authorities concerned, the relocation of the different military camps and army factories which encroach upon the site and its buffer zone.

"It thanked the Egyptian authorities represented at the Joint Committee meeting for their excellent cooperation with the mission, their comprehension and high level of expertise made available, which contributed towards a successful outcome.

"It extended thanks to President Hosni Mubarak, the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Federico Mayor, and the Minister of Culture of Egypt, Mr. Farouk Hosni, for their instrumental role in seeking and reaching a satisfactory solution to the problems caused by the branch of the motorway, as well as to Dr. Abdel Halim Nur el Din, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, for his personal commitment to the site, the manner in which he organized the work of the mission and chaired the meetings. It requested the Egyptian authorities to keep the World Heritage Committee informed, through its Secretariat, of the progress made in the implementation of the safeguarding measures already undertaken or foreseen, and in particular the question concerning the encroachment of military camps on the World Heritage site and its buffer zone".

#### Petra (Jordan)

The Secretariat recommends the Committee to examine the information contained in the working document and the oral report provided by the Secretariat. The Secretariat recommends the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee warmly thanked the Jordanian authorities and in particular the Minister of Antiquities and Tourism, for all their efforts and the measures undertaken to ensure the long-term preservation of Petra. It gave them its full approval of proceeding as quickly as possible with the establishment of zoning regulations and construction guidelines in order to avoid the proliferation of hotels and buildings, as well as the setting up of an independent local protection and management body endowed with the necessary authority. It requested them to devote all their efforts towards the active implementation of the UNESCO experts' Petra Management Plan and to the extension of this World Heritage site, whilst ensuring its preservation. It requested the national authorities to keep the Committee informed by April next, through its Secretariat, of progress accomplished."

#### Tyr (Lebanon)

The Bureau recommends the Committee to examine the information contained in the working document and the oral report provided by the Secretariat/advisory body. The Bureau recommends the Committee to adopt the following:



"The World Heritage Committee noted with satisfaction the letter dated 20 November 1995 from Mr. Michel Edde, Minister of Culture and Higher Education, stating the commitment of the Lebanese Government for the preservation of the site of Tyr. The Committee expressed, however, grave concern to the Lebanese authorities with regard to the land fill project in a part of the bay alongside the old port north of Tyr, in the immediate vicinity of the World Heritage site of Tyr, for the construction of a tourist complex. This project would irremediably destroy the underwater archaeological heritage of this area and would be a major threat to the adjacent World Heritage site.

It reminded the Lebanese authorities of Article 58 of the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention stipulating that: 'The World Heritage Committee invites the States Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, to inform the Committee, through the UNESCO Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention, major restorations or new constructions which may affect the World Heritage value of the property. Notice should be given as soon as possible (for instance, before drafting basic documents for specific projects) and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the world heritage value of the site is fully preserved.'

"It therefore requested the national authorities to halt this project until technical advice be provided by UNESCO following the expert mission which was undertaken in December 1995, as well as in the framework of the Campaign for the Safeguarding of Tyr, with regard to the impacts on the preservation of the world heritage values of the site inscribed on the List."

#### Medina of Fez (Morocco)

The Bureau recommends the Committee to examine the information contained in the working document and the oral report provided by the Secretariat/advisory body. The Bureau recommends the Committee to adopt the following:

"The Committee expressed its grave concern to the national authorities of Morocco concerning the road construction projects within the World Heritage site of the Medina of Fez, which still appear to be ongoing, as well as on the demolition which has already taken place at Aïn Azliten. It reminds them of the content of the Declaration of Fez, adopted by the Executive Board of UNESCO at the end of its 146th session held in Fez on 3 and 4 June 1995, which emphasize that too many examples throughout the world have unfortunately shown that the brutal intrusion of the

automobile has had an irremediably destructive effect on the social and urban fabric of historic cities. It underlined that the pursuance of this type of brutal urban intervention constituted grave threats to the preservation of the characteristics for which the site had been inscribed on the World Heritage List. It requested them to immediately halt all further demolition and to prepare, if necessary with the assistance of international experts, an integrated project taking into consideration the different architectural, cultural, sociological, technical and financial aspects for the urban rehabilitation, and measuring the potential impacts on the multiple aspects of world heritage values in the Medina. Finally, it requested the national authorities to keep them informed, through its Secretariat, before 1 April 1996, of the situation and the measures undertaken to ensure the long-term preservation of the cultural heritage in all its dimensions in the Medina of Fez."