



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
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la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF
CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT**

Sixth Meeting
Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII
14 – 16 December 2011

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda:
Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee

1. The experience of the five ordinary and one extraordinary meetings of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict held to date has revealed a need for amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee in the following aspects:
 - submission of items to the provisional agenda of the meeting;
 - formalization of the practice of organizing meetings of the Bureau of the Committee in-between Committee meetings;
 - number of working languages of the Committee; and
 - modalities of the dispatch of working documents.
2. For this reason, the following amendments are proposed to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee (the relevant changes are underlined).

I. Submission of items to the provisional agenda of the meeting

Rule 12 – Provisional agenda

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12.2 The provisional agenda of an ordinary session of the Committee shall include:

- all questions, the inclusion of which has been decided by the Committee at previous sessions;
- all questions proposed by members of the Committee;
- all questions proposed by the Bureau of the Committee;
- all questions proposed by States Parties to the Second Protocol not members of the Committee;
- all recommendations made under Article 11, paragraph 3, of the Second Protocol by the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS), and other international nongovernmental organizations with relevant expertise, for the inclusion of specific cultural property in the List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection;
- all questions proposed by the Director-General.

Explanatory note: The proposed amendment will provide the Bureau with the possibility of proposing item(s) for the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the Committee meetings, thus formalizing its role in the preparation of the Committee meetings.

II. Formalization of the practice of organizing meetings of the Bureau of the Committee in-between Committee meetings

Rule 15 – Bureau

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- 15.2** The Bureau shall meet during the sessions of the Committee as frequently as deemed necessary. It may meet also in-between sessions of the Committee at the request of more than half of its Members.

Explanatory note: This proposal aims at formalizing the already established practice of informal meetings of the Bureau which has been tacitly approved by the Committee (to date, the Bureau has held nine such meetings in-between the Committee meetings).

III. Number of the working languages of the Committee

Rule 33 – Working languages

- 33.1** The working languages of the Committee shall be ~~Arabic, Chinese, English and French, Russian and Spanish~~. Every effort should be made, including through extra-budgetary funding, to facilitate the use of the other working languages of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO as additional working languages.
- 33.2** Speeches made at a meeting of the Committee in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.
- ...
- 33.4** The documents of the Committee shall be issued in ~~Arabic, Chinese, English and French, Russian and Spanish~~.

Explanatory note: Rule 33(1) of the Rules of Procedure provides for six working languages of the Committee. However, this Rule has been applied by the Committee with flexibility, in some instances by not interpreting the Committee's deliberations into and from Chinese, and/or by not preparing working documents in Chinese, as China is not yet party to the Second Protocol. In addition, the Committee has tacitly approved the sole use of the two working languages of the Secretariat for voluminous documents, such as the document on requests for the granting of enhanced protection, and the consideration of national reports on the implementation of the Second Protocol. This was done because of the huge difference in costs of the translation into French on one hand and the translation into Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish on the other hand. Furthermore, the work of the Committee, the Bureau of the Committee and the Secretariat may be substantially hindered and may jeopardize the conducting of business if, for example, the Secretariat receives a request for provisional enhanced protection and is obliged to have all the relevant documents translated into four or five working languages within a short period of time.

Thus it is proposed to replace six working languages with two, namely English and French. Documents would also be provided in English and French. There is nonetheless the intent to provide for the use of other languages if resources allow.

This proposal would follow the already established practice of the World Heritage Committee (cf. Rule 44(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the World Heritage Committee) and that of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee (cf. Rule 41.1 of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee). Its main advantages are threefold: more rapid transmission of information, cost efficiency and predictability in the conducting of business.

IV. Modalities of the dispatch of working documents

Rule 34 – Deadline for distribution of documents

The documents relating to the items on the provisional agenda of each session of the Committee shall be distributed in electronic format at the latest six weeks before the beginning of the session in the working languages to the members of the Committee, and to the organizations attending the meetings in an advisory capacity, as well as to States Parties not members of the Committee and to all other observers. ~~They shall also be made available to States parties non members of the Committee and to all other observers in electronic format.~~

Explanatory note: It is proposed to make the transmission of information more efficient by following the practice of the World Heritage Committee to only disseminate working documents for the Committee meetings by sending them via e-mail and making them available on-line. Paper distribution will be curtailed.

3. In view of the above, the Committee may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

DRAFT DECISION 6.COM 5

The Committee:

1. *Thanking* the Bureau and the Secretariat for preparing document CLT-11/CONF/211/5;
2. *Considering* this document;
3. *Amends* the Rules of Procedure in the following way:

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- all questions proposed by the Bureau of the Committee;
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