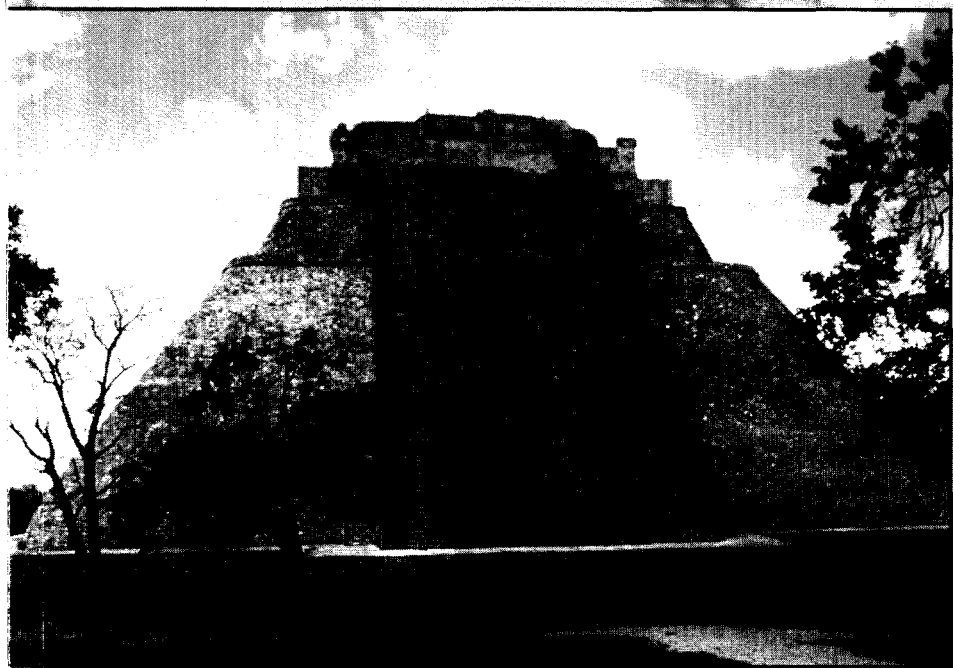


# WORLD HERITAGE

**Convention** CONCERNING  
THE PROTECTION OF THE  
**World Cultural AND Natural  
Heritage**



WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE  
TWENTIETH SESSION

**MERIDA, YUCATAN**

MEXICO - 2-7 DECEMBER 1996



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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twentieth session  
Merida, Mexico

2-7 December 1996

REPORT



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## I. OPENING SESSION

I.1 The twentieth ordinary session of the World Heritage Committee was held in Merida, Mexico, from 2 to 7 December 1996. It was attended by the following twenty members of the Committee: Australia, Benin, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Philippines, Spain and the United States of America.

I.2 The following States Parties to the Convention which are not members of the Committee were represented as observers: Argentina, Austria, Belize, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mauritania, The Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Uruguay and Vietnam.

I.3 Representatives of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of the Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and The World Conservation Union (IUCN) attended the meeting in an advisory capacity. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) and the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC). The complete list of participants is given in Annex I.

I.4 The outgoing Chairman of the Committee, Dr Horst Winkelmann (Germany), opened the twentieth session by thanking the Government of Mexico for its generous invitation to host this meeting. He then invited the Constitutional Governor of the State of Yucatan, Mr Victor Cervera Pacheco, to address the participants.

I.5 In his welcoming speech (Annex II.1), the Governor of the State of Yucatan underlined how proud the Yucatan people are of their past, which manifests itself through the many archaeological and other monuments inherited from their ancestors, and their love for the natural treasures of the region. The Yucatan people are aware that this heritage belongs to all of humanity and that they share responsibility for preserving it, together with other peoples of the world. They are convinced that the best way to preserve these treasures of the past and the natural resources is by strengthening the living culture, its people's identity and the relation they have with nature and other peoples.

I.6 Speaking on behalf of the Government of Mexico, the Minister of Education, Mr Limon Rojas, who is also President of the

Mexican National Commission for UNESCO, thanked the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Federico Mayor, for attending the opening ceremony and the World Heritage Committee for having accepted to hold its meeting in Yucatan, the birthplace of one of the most outstanding Mesoamerican civilizations. Having recalled Mexico's long tradition in cultural heritage conservation and preservation, and its people's pride for their rich cultural creativity, he regretted however the lack of sufficient resources that are needed for the preservation of the tens of thousands of sites and monuments of Mexico. This requires a firm commitment of the society and its government, and the conjugation of imagination and the will to preserve and defend Mexico's cultural heritage, its cultural identity and uniqueness.

**I.7** Having underlined also the uniqueness of Mexico's natural environment, Mr Limon Rojas stated that it is most likely that there is a direct link between the richness and variety of the ancient cultures that flourished in this region of the world and the extraordinary biodiversity which characterizes it. His Government, he said, was guided in its environmental programme by the concept of sustainable development in order to preserve biodiversity while promoting regional development. Recalling that Mexico adhered to the World Heritage Convention thirteen years ago, and that fourteen sites had so far been inscribed on the World Heritage List, he stated that the Government of President Zedillo is making intense efforts to safeguard the cultural and natural heritage, particularly through the education system which includes more than 27 million students and hundreds of thousands of teachers (speech annexed as Annex II.2).

**I.8** The Secretary of Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries, Ms Julia Carabias Lillo, focused in her address on the policies, strategies and programmes that her Government has adopted for the preservation of the natural heritage. She emphasized that Mexico fully accepts its responsibilities in this respect and that 11 million hectares - which constitutes 5% of the national territory - are now preserved under a National Protected Areas System for which the Federal Government has allocated major funding. The Government collaborates with universities and non-governmental organizations and has initiated a process of decentralization in order to establish a co-responsibility with the different levels of government and with the local population. Ms Carabias Lillo referred furthermore to the measures taken for the protection and management of the areas inscribed on the World Heritage List and expressed the wish of the Government of Mexico to contribute additional protected areas to the World Heritage List (Annex II.3).



I.9 The Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Federico Mayor, began his statement by thanking the Government of Mexico for hosting the Committee, and expressing his gratitude to Dr Horst Winkelmann for his highly competent and dedicated work during the past year as Chairman of the Committee. Mexico, he then underlined, is an excellent example of the dilemma faced in many countries between, on the one hand, the need to preserve the past and, on the other, the development needs of a society. Having reiterated UNESCO's principal mission which is the preservation of peace through international cooperation in the areas of education, science and culture, its role as a catalyst in favour of intellectual and ethical solidarity among nations, Mr Mayor emphasized that our primary concern beyond the protection of cultural and natural heritage should always be the protection of the human being and human life. Furthermore, the preservation of our common heritage is deeply linked to the recognition and preservation of cultural diversity, which in turn is essential for the culture of peace to become a reality.

I.10 Elaborating further UNESCO's commitment to preservation efforts, Mr Mayor stated that it is essential for decision-makers to have the capacity to foresee and to prevent destruction of the heritage which has to be transmitted to future generations. The World Heritage Convention as well as UNESCO's Constitution provide an excellent basis for this. He is therefore particularly determined to reinforce UNESCO's role in this regard through strengthening the capacities of the World Heritage Centre, notably by including eight additional posts of the Secretariat of the Centre in UNESCO's budget and by giving it additional financial resources. Finally, Mr Mayor underlined the importance of better spreading the knowledge about the world's cultural and natural heritage through schools so that young people in all parts of the world can be actively involved in preservation efforts. Just as important, he said, are the endeavours to train site managers and the work with the media, which can play an important role in raising the people's awareness in this area. He underlined the importance of the following agenda items: (i) promotional and educational activities; (ii) progress made concerning the training strategy. The speech of the Director-General is attached in Annex II.4.

## II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

II.1 The Chairperson opened the session and presented the documents relating to the adoption of the agenda (Working Documents WHC-96/CONF.201/2 and WHC-96/CONF.201/3). During discussions several States Parties expressed the wish to hold all debates in plenary sessions.

**II.2** Following the proposal of the Chairperson and in order to respond to the requirements of the agenda and those of the States Parties, the Committee approved the agenda with the following modifications:

- Monday, 2 December and Wednesday, 4 December, from 17.00 to 18.00: Examination of the World Heritage Fund and Budget (Item 13 of the Agenda)
- Tuesday, 3 December and Thursday 5 December, from 17.00 to 18.00: Implementation of the Convention in the light of 25 years' practice (Item 14 of the Agenda)
- Monday, 2 December at 18.00: Meeting of the new Bureau to examine requests for international assistance.

### **III. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON, RAPPORTEUR AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS**

**III.1** As proposed by the Delegate of Australia, and endorsed by the Delegates of Germany, Benin, Canada, China, Cuba, France, Japan, Lebanon and Niger, Ms Maria-Teresa Franco (Mexico) was elected by acclamation as Chairperson of the Committee. The following members of the Committee were elected as Vice-Chairpersons by acclamation: Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan and Morocco, and Mr Lambert Messan (Niger) as Rapporteur.

**III.2** The outgoing Chairperson, Dr Horst Winkelmann (Germany) took the floor to thank the members of the Committee for their support during his term, as well as the Secretariat for its support. He also expressed his vision of World Heritage and its future and the role of this heritage for humankind. Dr Winkelmann's speech is given in Annex II.5.

**III.3** The newly-elected Chairperson, Ms M.T. Franco, took her place and thanked the Committee for her election. She expressed her wish to work along the lines defined by the Director-General of UNESCO, as well as her predecessor, Dr H. Winkelmann. In her statement she placed emphasis on the pluricultural vocation of the Convention and respect for spirituality and nature. She also insisted upon the need to reinforce conservation and international cooperation policies and to develop training programmes and the promotion of natural and cultural heritage. Ms Franco continued by underlining the need for an improved application of the Convention, taking account of the different levels of socio-economic development of communities, trustees of the world's cultural and natural values,

and including a revival of the dialogue between the Committee and these communities. The Chairperson finished by voicing her wish for the development of planning at a regional and local level for training projects and to reinforce the role of the States Parties in the application of the Convention.

#### **IV. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT SINCE THE NINETEENTH SESSION**

**IV.1** Mr Bernd von Droste, Director of the World Heritage Centre, reported in his capacity as Secretary of the Committee on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the nineteenth session of the Committee. He referred to Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.5 and made an audiovisual presentation. In this presentation he highlighted the salient activities of the Secretariat.

**IV.2** The Director began his presentation by recalling that the Convention is one of the most universal ones worldwide with 147 States Parties, and that the number of sites inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List had already reached four hundred and sixty-nine sites (350 cultural sites, 102 natural sites and 17 mixed sites). He also recalled that in spite of the efforts of the Centre, the majority of the new proposals for inscription on the World Heritage List originate from the northern hemisphere. He also informed the Committee of the situation concerning the tentative lists (72 are in conformity with the specified format) and the submission of state of conservation reports on sites (54 have been submitted to the Committee: 31 on cultural sites, 22 on natural ones and 1 mixed site).

**IV.3** With regard to the activities undertaken by the Centre, the Director informed the Committee on the following: progress made within the Global Strategy, the situation with regard to international assistance, threatened World Heritage sites and World Heritage sites in Danger, certain regional activities, cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and other partners, training activities, including the glossary, the development of the documentation unit, information and education. Finally, he informed the Committee of the evolution of the situation of the World Heritage Centre and its proposals for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Convention.

**IV.4** With regard to activities undertaken in the Arab States, Mr von Droste drew the Committee's attention to the results of the Centre's, the Division of Cultural Heritage and national institutions' interventions concerning the Medina of Fez (Morocco) where, thanks to the cooperation of the Moroccan

authorities, the projects to construct a road through the Medina have been abandoned. Again, in Lebanon, thanks to a UNESCO mission carried out in November 1995, the Lebanese Government renounced the project to develop the area of the Old Port of Tyr. Furthermore, at the twentieth session of the World Heritage Bureau (24-29 June 1996), the Director-General of Antiquities of Lebanon recalled the urgent need to officially launch an International Campaign for the Safeguarding of Tyr.

**IV.5** In Africa, during a meeting on the Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Kampala, Uganda, April 1996) the creation of a Rwenzori Mountains Resource Centre at the University of Makerere (Kampala) was proposed. Moreover, a round table of donors was organized by the Guinean authorities for the protection and conservation of Mount Nimba. The creation of a «Mount Nimba Foundation» is under study. Finally, the site managers of Abomey, Djenné, Bandiagara and Timbuktu have received basic information on their sites which was not available in the country. A similar exercise is being prepared for 1997 for the managers of six Ethiopian sites.

**IV.6** In the Asia-Pacific region, the Secretariat's activities continued to focus on the problems related to the safeguarding of World Heritage properties located in cities. Among other projects, the Director specifically mentioned the project of technical cooperation between the City of Chinon in France and the World Heritage town of Luang Prabang in Laos, initiated by the Centre, which had made significant progress; common activities and financing from other sources are underway. Similar technical cooperation between the local authorities in other European and Asian countries is being developed in collaboration with the European Union. Cooperation involving universities and municipalities in Europe and in Asia in the preparation of urban preservation plans are also underway. Preparations are currently ongoing for a Conference for the Mayors of Historic Cities in Asia and Europe. Finally, an information meeting on the safeguarding and development needs of the World Heritage site of Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) was organized by the Archaeological Department of Nepal and the World Heritage Centre and was held on 9 October 1996, in Kathmandu. Other activities concerning promotion and training were also carried out.

**IV.7** In Central and Eastern Europe the Centre has continued to be involved in the rehabilitation programme of Vilnius Old Town in Lithuania. An international Donors and Investors Conference is scheduled for 24-25 February 1997 and the World Heritage Centre will assist the Lithuanian authorities in this undertaking with technical assistance provided by Denmark and

Norway. In St Petersburg, the World Heritage Centre collaborated with the World Bank in order to initiate a far-reaching rehabilitation programme. A joint World Bank/World Heritage Centre mission took place in June 1996. The degradation of the St Petersburg Historic City is severe and the World Heritage Centre continues to monitor the rehabilitation programme. Collaboration between the World Heritage Centre and the Ford Foundation has begun. An annual Ford Foundation Conservation Award for Europe was presented to four excellent projects in the field of environmental preservation and cultural heritage conservation. In June 1996, the second prize was awarded to the Valtice-Lednice (Czech Republic) conservation and restoration project, which is among the nominations proposed for inscription in the World Heritage List for 1996. Finally, contact has been established with the World Heritage Centre and Europa Nostra/International Institute of Historical Chateaux (IBI) in the field of information exchange.

**IV.8** As far as Latin America and the Caribbean are concerned, considerable attention was given to improved communication and information exchange with the States Parties and the UNESCO field offices in the region. Following the first Meeting of Directors of Cultural Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean (Cartagena, Colombia, 9-11 May 1995), a workshop was held for the Caribbean to examine the state of the implementation of the Convention and to identify fields for future actions and cooperation (13 and 14 March 1996), at St Kitts and Nevis, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and UNESCO. Finally, a great interest was expressed in the thematic meeting on fortifications in the Caribbean organized by Colombia, and in the Global Strategy meeting for the Caribbean that is scheduled for early 1998 at Fort de France, Martinique.

**IV.9** Finally, to strengthen collaboration between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) have been jointly prepared with all three Advisory Bodies. The MOU between UNESCO and IUCN - The World Conservation Union - was signed by the Director of the World Heritage Centre and the Director General of IUCN at the World Conservation Congress in Montreal, Canada, on 17 October 1996.

**IV.10** Mr von Droste then presented the role of the Centre as the focal point for the dissemination of information and materials about World Heritage. The World Heritage web site on the Internet is being accessed by people all around the world and the Centre's electronic information capacities have been further upgraded with the purchase of computer equipment, thanks to a grant received from the Republic of Korea. The Centre is

currently making arrangements to transfer information about World Heritage sites and the Convention to the UNESCO Archives and the UNESCO Library, where researchers, students and the general public will be able to consult them. The database on World Heritage States Parties is regularly updated and has proved to be a useful tool in day-to-day work with States Parties and other partners.

**IV.11** Finally, the World Heritage Folder and Information Kit containing eight sheets on different World Heritage subjects, has been completed and printed in English and French. Another new product recently published is a World Heritage brochure in full colour with general information on World Heritage, also in English and French. Eleven editions of the World Heritage Newsletter have been published since 1992. This Newsletter has been modified as a new 4-page periodical, beginning with the October 1996 issue and which is also available on Internet. *The World Heritage Review* is a new quarterly magazine in English, French and Spanish, published jointly by UNESCO and INCAFO and was launched in April 1996 in Paris. Three special information brochures financed by extrabudgetary funds were produced in 1996: "China's World Heritage"; "Cities of Asia - Heritage for the Future" and "World Heritage : Ours Forever? - Treasures of Asia and the Pacific". The exhibition "Africa Revisited" was produced from information drawn from the first Global Strategy meeting in Harare in 1995 and the preparation of the meeting of Addis Ababa. The exhibition "Cities with World Heritage Sites" was shown in Hamburg, Germany; Dubrovnik, Croatia; and Halstatt and Linz in Austria. The photo exhibition "Threats to World Heritage" is currently being shown by the FNAC in Paris, France.

**IV.12** As a follow-up to last year's first World Heritage Youth Forum in Bergen, Norway, the Centre and the Associated Schools project (ASP) launched the project *Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion* in Europe and in English-speaking Africa. Two regional World Heritage Youth Fora were organized: Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 25 to 30 May 1996, and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 8 to 24 September 1996.

**IV.13** The Director concluded his presentation on the World Heritage Centre. At the request of the Committee, transmitted by the Chairperson, Dr H. Winkelmann, the Director-General has decided to absorb, as of January 1997, in the framework of the Regular Programme of the Organization the funding of the eight posts, which were funded in 1996 from the World Heritage Fund. He recalled that, thanks to the generosity of States Parties to the Convention, the Centre benefitted from specialized staff who greatly contributed to its work. Thus, Denmark, Sweden and Japan

each provided an associate expert, whilst Austria, Finland and the United States of America seconded respectively, a specialist in natural heritage (until August 1996), an architect (until July 1996) and a special advisor to the Director of the Centre for policy and planning.

**IV.14** Finally, the Director recalled that the World Heritage Centre had begun its preparatory work for the 25th anniversary of the Convention. A circular letter was sent and, as of 24 November 1996, 41 replies had been received by the Centre. These replies include in addition to analysis an array of suggestions for events and activities to mark the 25th anniversary.

**IV.15** The Director concluded his presentation on the 25th anniversary, a historic occasion to strengthen international cooperation for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention: it is a time to critically review achievements and failures and to chart the course of actions for the future.

## **V. REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE SESSIONS OF THE BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE HELD IN 1996**

**V.1** The Rapporteur of the Committee, Mr Lambert Messan (Niger) presented his reports on the sessions of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee held in 1996. He presented the report of the twentieth session of the Bureau, held in Paris from 24 to 29 June 1996, already distributed to members of the Committee (WHC-96/CONF.201/4); as well as the report of the twentieth extraordinary session of the Bureau of the Committee which was held in Merida, Mexico, on 29 and 30 November 1996 (WHC-96/CONF.201/5).

**V.2** With regard to the extraordinary session, Mr Messan informed the Committee that the Bureau had examined the reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and recalled that several of these reports referred to cases for which the States Parties had not responded to earlier recommendations or requests made by the Bureau or the Committee. In order to prepare the examination of the state of conservation reports by the Committee, the Bureau decided that it would (a) recommend the Committee to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger; (b) it would transmit the state of conservation report to the Committee for action; (c) it would transmit the state of conservation report and its observations/recommendations to the Committee for noting. In this context, Ecuador asked that in the section on the Galapagos National Park, the request from her Government "not to inscribe

the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger" be mentioned.

**V.3** The Rapporteur then informed the Committee that the Bureau had examined thirteen proposals for inscription of properties on the World Heritage List, seven cultural and six natural properties, and two changes of names of properties already inscribed on the List. The Bureau recommended the inscription of three natural properties and to defer the inscription of three others. It also recommended the inscription of seven cultural properties.

**V.4** With regard to requests for international assistance, the Rapporteur recalled that the Bureau had taken note that funds were still available for natural heritage under the 1996 budget. The Bureau therefore examined and approved five requests for technical cooperation and training for natural heritage and recommended the Committee to approve four others. As far as cultural heritage is concerned, the Bureau recommended the Committee to approve eight requests for technical cooperation and training from the 1997 budget.

**V.5** In conclusion, the Rapporteur recalled that the Bureau noted several requests for international assistance related to state of conservation reports on the same properties. Consequently, he suggested that the Committee consider studying them together. He also suggested that their presentation be harmonized for the next sessions so that the state of conservation reports and the international assistance requests may be examined at the same time. Finally, he requested the Centre to prepare for the next sessions a presentation of all the pending assistance requests.

## **VI. CONSTITUTION OF WORKING GROUPS TO EXAMINE SPECIFIC ITEMS ON THE COMMITTEE'S AGENDA**

**VI.1** The Chairperson informed the Committee that, in accordance with the wishes expressed by several States Parties, working groups would not be constituted during this session.



**VII. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

**A. REPORT AND DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES AND THE 29TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO**

**VII.1** The Secretariat introduced the working document (WHC-96/CONF.201/6A) on this agenda item, emphasizing that, following the discussions during the nineteenth session of the World Heritage Committee, the matter of monitoring and reporting should be brought to the attention of both the Eleventh General Assembly of States Parties and the 29th General Conference of UNESCO.

**VII.2** As to the Eleventh General Assembly, it was noted that the Committee at its nineteenth session had already prepared a draft resolution and that, as requested by the Committee, the Bureau prepared a report for examination by the World Heritage Committee at this session.

**VII.3** The Committee adopted this report which is reproduced in Annex III.1.

**VII.4** The Committee also examined a draft resolution for inclusion in the Committee's report to the 29th General Conference of UNESCO, which was prepared by the Bureau at its twentieth session. The Committee adopted the draft resolution which is reproduced in Annex III.2 of this report, with the understanding that it could be modified in the light of the decisions of the General Assembly.

**VII.5** The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare the working documents for the Eleventh General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, as well as the report of the World Heritage Committee to the 29th General Conference of UNESCO accordingly.

**B. REVISION OF THE NOMINATION FORM AND FORMAT FOR WORLD HERITAGE STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS**

**VII.6** The Secretariat informed the Committee that, as requested by the Committee at its nineteenth session, it had circulated the proposed revised nomination form and format for World Heritage state of conservation reports to all States Parties and that comments had been received from thirteen States Parties as well as from the Nordic World Heritage Office.

### Nomination form

VII.7 The Secretariat summarized the replies received from the States Parties and from ICOMOS and submitted a revised version of the proposed nomination form, which incorporated the observations expressed by them.

VII.8 Several of the Committee members, as well as representatives of the Advisory Bodies, proposed additional modifications to the nomination form, particularly:

- the reintroduction under item 2 of the comparative analysis as an option for the State Party;
- item 3.e to read: 'Policies and programmes related to the presentation and promotion of the property';
- the addition of mining activities as one of the possible 'factors affecting the site' under item 5;
- the deletion of the word 'inspection' from item 6;
- the revision of the last sentence of item 4.2. of the explanatory notes as follows: 'For example, it would be desirable to indicate who is responsible for ensuring that the nominated site is safeguarded, whether by traditional and/or statutory agencies, and whether adequate resources are available for this purpose.';
- the addition of the complete text of the 'Nara Document' as an annex to the explanatory notes.

VII.9 Considering that the revision of the nomination form is necessary in order to provide adequate baseline information at the time of inscription of properties on the World Heritage List and to enhance the evaluation and inscription process, and also considering that the nomination form could be revised independently from the introduction of the reporting on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties, the Committee:

- a) adopted the revised nomination form (attached as Annex IV of this report);
- b) decided to introduce the revised nomination form for all nominations which shall be examined from 1 July, 1998;

- c) requested the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies to widely distribute and announce the new nomination form and actively assist States Parties in its application.

#### Format for World Heritage state of conservation reports

VII.10 The Secretariat summarized the replies received from the States Parties and from ICOMOS, which were much more critical and fundamental than the ones regarding the nomination form.

VII.11 Therefore, considering that the matter of monitoring and reporting will be discussed at the Eleventh General Assembly of States Parties and the 29th General Conference of UNESCO, and considering the Committee's view that reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List may be submitted in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention, and therefore would be included in the reporting on the application of the Convention, and considering the substantive comments from States Parties on the draft format for the periodic World Heritage state of conservation report, the Committee decided to:

- a) defer its decision on the format for the periodic World Heritage state of conservation report awaiting the decisions of the Eleventh General Assembly and the 29th General Conference of UNESCO regarding the reporting procedures;
- b) request the Secretariat jointly with the Advisory Bodies to prepare, for consideration by the Committee at its twenty-first session in 1997, a draft format for reporting on the application of the World Heritage Convention, taking into account the comments made by States Parties as well as the principles of monitoring and reporting reflected in the Committee's report and draft resolutions to the Eleventh General Assembly of States Parties and the 29th General Conference of UNESCO.

VII.12 In connection with the discussions on the nomination form and the reference made to the Nara Document in the explanatory notes, the Delegate of Japan proposed that for the next session of the Committee, the Secretariat prepares a document on how the principles of the Nara Document could be applied in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The Representatives of ICCROM and ICOMOS offered their support in this respect.

**C. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES  
INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER**

**NATURAL HERITAGE**

**VII.13** Nine natural properties are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Reports on each of them were examined by the Bureau during its twentieth session in June 1996. Subsequently, the Bureau's recommendations and observations were transmitted to the States Parties concerned and updated reports were submitted to the World Heritage Committee for consideration.

**VII.14 Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)**

The Committee recalled that at its nineteenth session it examined a monitoring report prepared by the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention. This report indicated that the new water control structure allowed for an inflow of water on a small scale and that a colony of the Dalmatian Pelican had been re-established. The report concluded, however, that the integrity of the site had not yet been adequately restored.

As a result, the Committee decided at its nineteenth session to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger and requested the Bulgarian authorities to prepare a status report on their efforts to restore the site, to be presented in three years' time.

The Committee decided to retain this property on the List of World Heritage in Danger pending the threat mitigation status report which the Committee requested the Bulgarian authorities to submit in 1998.

**VII.15 Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia)**

The Committee took note of the results of a international rapid assessment mission organized by the Centre and the Croatian authorities from 5 to 9 May 1996. The mission made an interdisciplinary review of the state of conservation of the site and determined that the World Heritage values had not been adversely impacted by the armed conflict. To the contrary, the mission concluded the natural systems of the area were recovering from pre-war overdevelopment and over-use. The mission surveyed the war damage to Park commercial and administrative facilities and the neglected Park infrastructure and favourably reviewed the

newly strengthened legislative framework adopted by the State Party. Park management and administrative capability was evaluated and the socio-economic situation of the site was assessed with regard to post-war tourism potential. Summary recommendations were proposed and remedial actions are now being taken by the State Party. The Committee also took note of the specific recommendations made concerning the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Furthermore, the Centre informed the Committee that a report dated 26 November 1996 was received from Plitvice National Park on the situation of the Park. It indicated the use of the US\$ 30,000 emergency assistance for communication equipment, which was installed in September 1996. The report mentioned the number of 239,500 visitors from 1 January to 20 November 1996 and the reconstruction of a sightseeing system. Boats, vehicles and the sanitary facilities have been operating. Promotional leaflets have been produced and journalists have been received. The reconstruction of the Plitvice Hotel will be completed by the end of the year. There are a number of problems to be solved, including public roads, reconstruction of homes of displaced persons, sewage system and new drinking water supply. The report indicated that a new Managing Director of the Park was appointed and the need for international assistance to support a system of fire precaution measures.

The Committee (a) commended the Croatian authorities for their initial rehabilitation activities; (b) took note of the full mission report contained in Information Document WHC/CONF.201/INF.14; (c) decided to maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger because, although there was no longer threat or damage to World Heritage values by armed conflict, there are now post-war potential threats such as visitor impacts, damaged infrastructure and other conditions identified in the mission report; (d) favourably considered possible management planning assistance and training requests to strengthen the management and staff capabilities, and (e) requested the State Party to provide a state of conservation report on the area by 15 September 1997.

#### **VII.16 Sangay National Park (Ecuador)**

At its nineteenth session, the World Heritage Committee called for an Environmental Impact Assessment of road construction activities in the Park and requested information from INEFAN, the National Park administration, on road modifications, a land tenure study and steps for an updated management plan. INEFAN informed the Centre that with respect to the road construction a

meeting had been organized with the concerned political authorities and local communities. It was also noted that the road was declared of military interest. The Centre received a copy of the land tenure study which was concluded in March 1996 and the terms of reference for the elaboration of a new management plan were prepared during a workshop in December 1995.

Furthermore, the Secretariat informed the Committee that a report from INEFAN (Instituto Ecuatoriano Forestal y de Areas Naturales y Vida Silvestre) was received on 15 November 1996 on the situation in the Park, which indicated problems with the construction of the Guamote Macas Road, although an agreement was made with the construction firm. An update of the Management Plan is under preparation. The report concluded that the impacts of the road construction should be limited and that a monitoring mission by INEFAN, NGOs and UNESCO may be needed.

IUCN recalled the serious problems of the site, which led to its inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger, including road construction, poaching and colonization.

The Committee commended INEFAN on its actions and its report but at the same time reiterated the Committee's serious concerns about the road construction activities and its request for an Environmental Impact Assessment. The Committee requested the State Party to provide a report by 15 April 1997 for consideration by the Bureau at its twenty-first session.

#### **VII.17 Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire)**

The site was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992 because of negative impacts from a proposed iron-ore mining project and threats due to the arrival of a large number of refugees from neighbouring countries.

The Ministry for Energy and Environment, in collaboration with the "Mission Française de Cooperation et d'Action Culturelle", organized a Round Table on Mount Nimba which was held in Conakry, (Guinea), on 17 and 18 April 1996 with participation from the Secretariat. The Round Table included representatives of the following donor countries and organizations: France, Germany, Japan, Canada, the Wallonian Region of Belgium, The World Bank, UNDP, the European Union, and USAID. The recommendations included that UNESCO consider the establishment of a working group to create an "International Foundation for Mount Nimba". Preliminary discussions of a reflection group began, including legal aspects of such a foundation, which are to be considered by the Legal Advisor of UNESCO.

The Committee discussed the threats to the site (mining proposal, refugees, lack of management) as well as the question of training of staff.

The Committee commended the States Parties for their efforts. However, given the uncertainties concerning the adequate management of the site, and the shortcomings with regard to the on-site management, the Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

#### **VII.18 Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)**

The Committee recalled that the site was included in the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992. At the nineteenth session of the Committee, the Observer of India indicated that her Government was ready to welcome a mission by members of the World Heritage Committee and the Director of the Centre to New Delhi, Assam and Manas. In her recent letters, the Ambassador of India to UNESCO reiterated this information and advised that an updated state of conservation report would be available in due course; the latter has not been received to date. The Director of the World Heritage Centre met with the Ambassador to plan, schedule and prepare arrangements for the New Delhi, Assam and Manas mission and to provide related training at the Government of India's request. Subsequently, the Centre was advised that the mission would be welcomed at the end of November 1996. As this conflicted with the twentieth session of the World Heritage Committee and the preceding extraordinary session of the Bureau, alternative scheduling was necessary. Alternate arrangements to receive and review the Manas state of conservation report, together with other reports on the state of conservation of natural World Heritage sites in India and from the region, in the context of implementing the Natural Heritage Training Strategy, are being planned by the Government of India for early in 1997.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that a letter was received from the Government of India on 2 December 1996 indicating its agreement with scheduling the mission to Manas for the end of January 1997.

The Committee, having examined the information provided by the Secretariat: (a) asked the State Party for detailed information concerning the state of conservation of the site and (b) encouraged the State Party to further develop its consideration of hosting a regional World Heritage site managers training workshop in India in support of implementing the World Heritage natural heritage training strategy. In lieu of updated

information on the state of conservation of the site, the Committee decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

#### **VII.19 Air-et-Ténéré Reserve (Niger)**

The Committee recalled that the site was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992 at the request of Niger as it was affected by civil disturbances. The Committee recalled that a peace agreement was signed on 20 April 1995 and that it had encouraged the authorities to strengthen their efforts to safeguard the site. In 1995 the dialogue established between the Parties, allowed for a detailed evaluation of the state of conservation of the site as well as the development of an action programme for the recovery of the site.

The Committee took note of additional information provided by IUCN, that an IUCN/WWF project, which had already implemented US\$ 6 million over the past ten years, continues at a reduced level to assist in re-establishing the management regime. This IUCN/WWF project will resume with funding from DANIDA and the Swiss Cooperation, when the security situation allows. A mission to the site by project staff is planned in February 1997.

The Secretariat informed the Committee of a meeting in Niger in October 1996, during which an encounter was arranged with the Minister of Environment and the Advisor to the President on the Air et Ténéré region. At this meeting information was provided that the itinerary of the Rally Paris-Dakar (January-February 1997) would cross through the World Heritage site. Upon return, the organizer of the rally was contacted and an alternative route was proposed in coordination with the Permanent Delegation of Niger to UNESCO. A meeting was organized in the World Heritage Centre on 8 November 1996 and as a result, a new itinerary was agreed upon which does not enter the World Heritage site.

The Committee commended Niger and the Secretariat for this success to avert threats from the Rally to the area. The Delegate of Niger reiterated the request that a mission be organized to the Air et Ténéré Region in February 1997 to evaluate the situation of the site inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. He also indicated that the situation in the Air et Ténéré Region has improved since the peace agreement was signed.

The Committee decided to retain for the time being the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.



**VII.20 Everglades National Park (United States of America)**

The Committee recalled that the site was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1993 and that at its last session, it examined the detailed monitoring report presented by the State Party, which outlined the precedent-setting long-term experimental restoration work necessary to restore the balance of the Everglades ecosystem. The State Party presented an interim monitoring report dated May 1996 outlining the Federal and State of Florida government's US\$2 billion partnership efforts with the private sector to protect the World Heritage values of the site and that Everglades now has the largest science staff of any unit in the U.S. National Park System.

The Delegate of the United States of America informed the Committee that the President signed the Water Resources Development Act on 12 October 1996, which contains most of the components of the Everglades Restoration Plan. This includes the completion of a comprehensive plan to restore, preserve, and protect the South Florida ecosystem, a re-study of the water management system, an authority to design and construct projects that will accelerate the restoration effort, implementation of critical projects with funding of a total of US\$ 75 million, strengthened partnership with the State of Florida and cost sharing of projects, establishment of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, full consultation of the public in the work of the Task Force, approval of US\$ 12 million for the land acquisition, US\$ 8 million for ecosystem research and US\$ 2.8 million for the Shark River Slough restoration.

Despite significant progress made (acquisition of additional land, improved ecological indicators), the Park remains in danger.

Due to the long-term nature of the rehabilitation activities, the Committee (a) commended the State Party and the State of Florida and private sector partners for their extraordinary efforts to protect the World Heritage values of this site; (b) encouraged the State Party to consider sharing the knowledge and experience gained through this restorative effort in the rehabilitation of aquatic ecosystems with other State Parties with internationally significant wetlands, and (c) decided to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger until further rehabilitation progress is demonstrated.

**VII.21 Yellowstone National Park (United States of America)**

The Committee recalled that at its nineteenth session it decided that, on the basis of both ascertained dangers and potential

threats outlined by the State Party, Yellowstone National Park be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and that the State Party was invited by the Committee to provide information on the results of its required Environmental Impact Statement as related to proposed mining activity adjacent to the Park boundary and mitigating actions. In May 1996, the State Party advised the Centre about the remedial actions taken. These included long-term programmes to mitigate the impact of the non-native lake trout in Yellowstone Lake and to safeguard the Park's bison herds; initiation of public meetings to analyze and improve visitor management; selectively increase elements of the Park budget to correct deficiencies; minimize road repair and realignment impacts; and the continued preparation of the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the proposed Crown Butte/New World Mine. With respect to the latter, in September 1996, the President of the United States publicly announced his efforts to achieve a satisfactory resolution of the mining issue with a mutually to be agreed upon trade of land valued at US\$ 65 million to fully remove this potential threat from Yellowstone.

The Delegate of the United States of America informed the Committee that substantial progress had been made since last year including the Interim Bison Management Plan and the creation of a State/Federal Interagency Committee, the "Greater Yellowstone Brucellosis Committee", in making significant progress in research and constitution of alternative management, as well as research on the lake trout.

The Committee (a) commended the State Party on the President's recent intervention and resolution initiative of the Crown Butte mining issue and for actions taken to mitigate other threats to Yellowstone, and (b) requested the State Party, by 15 September 1997, to outline the steps and schedule for threat mitigation which could be followed so that the site may be considered for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## **VII.22 Virunga National Park (Zaire)**

The Committee recalled that Virunga National Park was included on the List of World Heritage in Danger in December 1994, due to the tragic events in Rwanda and the subsequent massive influx of refugees from that country. Virunga National Park, situated on the border between Rwanda and Uganda, has been destabilized by the uncontrolled arrival of refugees, causing illegal extraction of wood and poaching at the site.

The Centre wrote to the authorities requesting that the World Heritage Committee be informed about any action to be undertaken

to stop illegal operations within the site and to improve control in the Park. The Centre and IUCN are in contact with several NGOs working in the area and a mission was organized together with WWF to the site in order to evaluate its state of conservation and to strengthen cooperation between the different international assistance agencies working to protect the site. The mission was carried out from 15 to 30 April 1996 and the results were reported to the twentieth session of the Bureau, including priorities for granting international assistance.

The Secretariat informed the Committee on the current situation which has deteriorated due to the influx of refugees into the Park. Different UN and relief agencies present in the region were contacted by the Centre and a meeting with GTZ representatives was organized on 2 December 1996 in UNESCO Headquarters. Discussions were also held with the Canadian authorities on including a conservation specialist in the Canadian-led forces and UNHCR teams.

The Committee had considerable discussion on this human tragedy and recalled the opening speech by the Director-General in which he emphasized that while protecting natural and cultural sites, one should never lose sight of protecting human life, which is the top priority. The Committee underlined the special situation in Zaire and called upon the international community to help resolve this tragic situation.

Taking into account the presence of thousands of refugees, the Committee expressed its deep concern about the continuing degradation of the Park and the human tragedy and encouraged the Centre to work with the authorities for the coordination of international assistance and to retain the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## **CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**VII.23** Nine cultural properties are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Reports on three of them were examined by the Bureau during its twentieth session in June 1996. Subsequently, the Bureau's recommendations and observations were transmitted to the States Parties concerned. Reports on five cultural properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger were examined by the Committee.

### **VII.24 Angkor (Cambodia)**

The Committee was informed of the Secretariat's report to the Bureau on the progress made by the Government of Cambodia in

meeting the obligations made to the Committee at the time of the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee was informed that it continues to assist the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia to prepare the decrees necessary for the enforcement of the Law for the Protection of National Cultural Heritage which was promulgated on 25 January 1996.

The Authority for the Protection of the Site and Management of the Region of Angkor (APSARA), which was created in fulfilment of one of the obligations, was provided with human and financial resources necessary for its functioning. All economic development projects, including tourism, are now being examined by this authority.

The Government of Cambodia has, furthermore insisted on the sacred character of the temples of Angkor which exclude, de facto, all activity or undertakings which do not respect the religious traditions of the area.

The Director of the Cultural Heritage Division of UNESCO's Culture Sector reported to the Committee that assurances have been given by the Government that APSARA will vigorously screen all development projects and ensure that the zoning regulations are strictly adhered to. He also provided an update on the projects being carried out by the international teams, notably the Japanese team from Waseda University and the French team, from the Ecole Francaise d'Extreme Orient. He also expressed his hope that the much appreciated training programme at the Fine Arts University in Phnom Penh which is funded under the Japan Trust Fund could be continued for the next academic year to ensure the development of a new generation of national experts. In the field of promotional activities he reported on the progress in the preparation of a major exhibition on Angkor being organized by UNESCO and the French 'Réunion des Musées Nationaux' in Paris in 1998 as well as in the production of the CD-Rom on the exhibition. He informed the Committee that this exhibition will also be held in Washington D.C. He furthermore reported that the second edition of the successful publication '100 Disappeared Objects' is being updated with ICOM. The Committee commended the work of UNESCO in supporting the efforts of the Cambodian Government.

The Delegate of Japan added that Japan continues its support for the safeguarding of Angkor and emphasized the importance of training in this respect.

The Committee took note of the report presented by the Secretariat and commended the Government of Cambodia for its

actions to implement the obligations set forth by the Committee at the time of inscription of Angkor on the World Heritage List. The Committee requested the Government of Cambodia to keep it informed of the progress made in its efforts to ensure the preservation of Angkor, especially concerning tourism control and promotion, and with regard to sustainable development, in harmony with the socio-cultural character of the region. Recognizing the still-prevailing exceptional conditions at the site, the Committee decided to retain Angkor on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

#### **VII.25 Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia)**

On September 5, 1996, the area of Dubrovnik was hit by an earthquake. In response to a request from the Croatian authorities, a fact-finding mission was sent to Dubrovnik late November to survey the effects of the earthquake. The expert mission reported that the earthquake caused minimum damage in Dubrovnik. Only some cracks dating back to the earthquake of 1979 had deteriorated.

Very serious damage, however, was caused to the historical town of Ston, which is on the Croatian Tentative List. Inside the city walls nearly all buildings were damaged and several of them had collapsed. The Committee expressed its concern about the state of conservation of the town of Ston.

As to Dubrovnik, the Committee requested the State Party to submit, by 15 September 1997, an overall state of conservation report, in order for the Committee to consider at its twenty-first session whether Dubrovnik could be deleted from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

#### **VII.26 Bahla Fort (Oman)**

The Bureau at its twentieth session was informed that an expert mission would visit the site. This mission was undertaken in September 1996 and several recommendations were made regarding conservation techniques, project management etc. All of these were accepted by the Omani Government.

After having examined the report of the Secretariat on the expert mission to Bahla Fort, the Committee thanked the Omani authorities for their efforts towards safeguarding the site and the satisfactory use of traditional materials, and to have adopted the recommendations of the mission concerning, in particular:

- the adoption of a restoration policy supported by precise scientific documentation and avoiding all reconstruction;
- the establishment of a site commission, the competence of which should also include the environment;
- the implementation of emergency safeguarding and consolidation work, especially at the citadel, at Bait el Hadith and in the two outer mosques, as well as the establishment of a preventive conservation team;
- the compilation of exhaustive scientific, historical and architectural documentation, indispensable for the restoration of the site in accordance with international standards.

The Committee encouraged the Omani authorities to implement this programme as rapidly as possible, as they have indicated their will to do so. The Committee requested them to keep it informed on a regular basis of the progress achieved in the implementation of these measures.

#### **VII.27 Archaeological zone of Chan Chan (Peru)**

It was recalled that an extensive report on the state of conservation of Chan Chan was submitted to the Committee at its seventeenth session in Cartagena in 1993 which concluded that the issue of encroachment and land occupation needed to be addressed in order to reclaim and secure the site. In 1996, the Government of Peru initiated this process. Long-term protection of the site is now a concern for the site managers and several alternatives of securing the site are presently under study.

Furthermore, a Pan-american Course on the Conservation and Management of Earthen Architectural and Archaeological Heritage was held in Chan Chan in late 1996. This course was organized by ICCROM in cooperation with several other partners and received financial support from the World Heritage Fund.

The Committee was informed that the Peruvian authorities had submitted a request for technical cooperation to strengthen the management of the site.

The Committee commended the Government of Peru for its efforts to secure the site. It also requested the Peruvian authorities to submit, by 15 September 1997, a full report on the state of conservation of Chan Chan, including proposals regarding the

future conservation and management of the site in order to enable the Committee, at its twenty-first session, in consultation with the State Party, to decide if additional measures are required to conserve the property. Awaiting the state of conservation report, the Committee decided to retain the Archaeological Zone of Chan Chan on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

#### **VII.28 Wieliczka Salt Mines (Poland)**

At its eighteenth session in 1994, the Committee approved an amount of US\$ 100,000 to purchase the dehumidifying equipment required for the preservation of the salt sculptures of this World Heritage site in Danger.

A contract to this effect was negotiated and signed between the Culture Sector of UNESCO and the Polish Permanent Delegation. The project is to be completed before the end of 1997.

The Committee commended the Polish authorities and the Marie Curie Foundation for their efforts in order to preserve the precious salt sculptures at Wieliczka, and requested to be kept informed about the outcome and results of the preservation project.

#### **D. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

**VII.29** The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session examined reports on the state of conservation of thirteen natural, two mixed and twenty-six cultural properties. The Committee examined twenty of them (eight natural, one mixed and eleven cultural properties) and noted the decisions of the twentieth extraordinary session of the Bureau on twenty-one state of conservation reports (five natural, one mixed and fifteen natural properties).

#### **NATURAL HERITAGE**

##### **a) Reports on the state of conservation of natural properties examined by the Committee**

#### **VII.30 Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Canada)**

The Committee recalled discussions held at its nineteenth session on the infrastructural developments in the "Bow Corridor" and

their impact on the integrity of the site. The Canadian authorities had set up the Bow Valley Task Force, in order to prepare a study on these issues. The Canadian authorities provided a full report in October 1996.

In addition, IUCN provided information about the resolution at the World Conservation Congress held in Montreal, Canada in October 1996, endorsing the study's findings.

The Committee commended the Canadian authorities for providing a detailed report of the Bow Valley Task Force and for taking actions on problems being faced in this small but significant portion of the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage site. The Task Force Report, if implemented, would significantly shift the future management of the area in a more preservation direction. The Committee encouraged wider distribution of the lessons learnt from the Bow Valley Task Force Report.

#### **VII.31 Galapagos National Park (Ecuador)**

The Committee recalled extensive discussions at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions, on the issues and threats facing the site and that the Bureau at its twentieth session considered the report of the mission led by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee (1-11 June 1996) to examine the situation of the Galapagos Islands. The Bureau, while recognizing the considerable efforts made, concluded that serious problems existed, such that immediate remedial actions were essential to safeguard the values of the World Heritage site and the surrounding marine areas.

As a follow-up to the Bureau's recommendations, letters were written by the Director-General of UNESCO and by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee to the President of Ecuador concerning the protection of the Galapagos and more specifically on the proposed "special legislation" for the Galapagos. This legislation was not adopted and further action would be required.

The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session took note of the report submitted by the authorities of Ecuador on 22 November 1996 (contained in Information Documents WHC-96/CONF.203/INF.2 and WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.23). The report provided an update on the situation of the Galapagos and steps to be taken by the Government of Ecuador. The report also addressed issues such as the restriction of immigration, the institutional strengthening, issues concerning the marine reserve, the preparation of a biodiversity management plan, as well as assistance from the Interamerican Development Bank.



The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session also considered the comments made by IUCN concerning the serious threats to the site which require long-term action and that placing the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger would support the efforts made by Ecuador and would mobilize additional international cooperation.

Several members of the Bureau stated that the requirements for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger stipulated in Paragraph 79 of the Operational Guidelines were met and concluded that the Bureau should recommend the Committee to inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. It was also said that this List should not to be considered as a "black list", but as a signal to take emergency actions for safeguarding and protection.

The Observer of Ecuador reiterated at the Bureau session the commitment of the Government of Ecuador to the preservation of the Galapagos Islands and recalled the great number of actions that had been taken by her Government. She informed the Bureau that the Delegate of Ecuador to the Committee would provide additional information at the twentieth session of the Committee. She indicated that her Government did not wish to see the site be included on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Bureau decided to transmit the above information to the Committee for action and to recommend the Committee to inscribe Galapagos National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Committee at its twentieth session discussed the issue at length. The Delegate of Germany reiterated the discussions held and the number of threats facing the site outlined in the mission report contained in Working Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.13. Several delegates recalled paragraphs 77 to 81 of the Operational Guidelines and Article 11 of the Convention and emphasized that the Committee had already waited for one year for actions to be taken.

The Delegate of Ecuador thanked the Committee members for their interest and support in the preservation of the Galapagos Islands and explained the actions that the new Government was taking in order to implement the recommendations made by the Committee. He emphasized that the President had set up a working group to prepare the 'Special Galapagos Legislation' and that his Government had established a Ministry for the Environment to coordinate and advance the policies related to the preservation of the islands. He requested the Committee not to include the Galapagos National Park in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

After a lengthy debate considering different options, including inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger or giving more time to the Government to implement actions, the Delegate of Germany proposed the following text, which was adopted by consensus:

"The Committee decided to include the Galapagos National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger effective 15 November 1997, unless a substantive written reply by Ecuador is received by 1 May 1997 and the Bureau, at its twenty-first session, determines that effective actions have been taken".

The Delegate of France asked the Committee to put on record that this decision was taken on an exceptional basis, as such a decision would normally be beyond the prerogative of the Bureau.

### **VII.32 Simen National Park (Ethiopia)**

The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session recalled discussions held at its twentieth session concerning reports received by the University of Berne (Switzerland) on the deterioration of the Walia ibex population and other large mammals (such as bushbuck, Simen fox and bushpig) which have become extremely rare. At the twentieth session of the Bureau additional information on the state of conservation of the site was provided by IUCN (loss of biodiversity, encroachment at the borders of the site, impacts of the road construction) and a report by the University of Berne was made available to the Bureau members. The Bureau endorsed recommendations made in this report, including a planning and coordination meeting at the regional level, a technical mission to the site and the preparation of a technical assistance request.

As a follow-up to the recommendations by the Bureau, a technical mission to the site took place from 2 to 9 November 1996 which included review meetings with the Ethiopian Wildlife authority, the Wildlife Programme Steering Committee, UNDP, UNCDF, as well as meetings with regional governments' representatives in Bahr Dar on the possibilities for sustainable coexistence of wildlife and natural resources with human land users. As a result of the mission an international assistance request was received and information to the Bureau accompanied by a summary report including draft recommendations. (Information Document WHC-96/CONF.203/INF.2) and the Committee (Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.23).

The recommendations included the co-sponsoring of a workshop with stakeholders scheduled for April 1997 and a co-ordination of donor involvement, as well as a recommendation to include the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

IUCN provided additional information on the state of conservation of the site. It was recalled that considerations have been given to placing this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger since 1987 and that all requirements for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger stipulated in Paragraph 79 of the Operational Guidelines were met.

The Committee, considering the information provided and the recommendations of the mission contained in Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.23 decided to inscribe Simen National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **VII.33 Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)**

The Committee recalled that at its nineteenth session it took note of a monitoring report prepared by IUCN. This report noted the threats to the site, including agricultural intrusion and the implementation of land reform programmes. A number of follow-up actions, including the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, were recommended. Following the Committee session, the Centre requested the Honduran authorities to inform the Committee about the actions taken to protect the site. The Centre received a state of conservation report dated 30 April 1996 from the Honduran Minister for the Environment which indicated the actions taken by the Government and various NGOs, as well as a project submitted for technical assistance, which was approved by the Bureau at its twentieth session. On the basis of additional information provided by IUCN's regional office, the Bureau at its twentieth session recommended the Committee to inscribe this property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Bureau furthermore recalled that IUCN's report provided eleven points of corrective actions and that the Minister of Environment had endorsed this report, including the recommendation that the site be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Having taken note of this information, the Committee decided to inscribe the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger and encouraged the State Party to implement the eleven points of corrective actions recommended in the IUCN conservation status report. The Committee requested the authorities of Honduras to keep it informed on a regular basis of actions taken to safeguard this property.

**VII.34 Whale Sanctuary of El Viscaïno (Mexico)**

The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session recalled discussions held at its nineteenth session, concerning a report on a project for industrial salt production at the site and its potential threats to the whale population. At its twentieth extraordinary session, the Bureau was informed by the Delegate of Mexico that the National Institute of Ecology (INE) created a Committee comprising national and foreign experts, which held a first meeting in March 1996, participated in a public conference attended by nearly 300 persons and presented 42 documents to define aspects to be included in the new environmental impact study. The Minister of the Environment, Natural Resources and Fish indicated, through the INE, that the proposal could only be authorized on the understanding that it respects the legislation and the ecological standards in force.

IUCN informed the Bureau about a recent report which indicated that private development was proceeding without fully following the Mexican Environmental Impact Assessment standards. The Bureau invited the State Party to inform the Committee by 15 April 1997 about the industrial salt production project and the status of the environmental impact study and to ensure the integrity of the site.

At the twentieth session of the Committee the Delegate of Mexico and the Director of the Whale Sanctuary of El Viscaïno provided additional information that : (a) industrial salt production has not been authorized, and (b) a Scientific Committee to review the situation has been established by the Ministry of Environment. The Committee took note of this report.

**VII.35 Skocjan Caves (Slovenia)**

The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session recalled that the World Heritage Committee, at its nineteenth session, had requested the Centre to contact the Slovenian authorities to provide a map of the revised boundaries of the site and to encourage the State Party to finalize new legislation and to prepare a management plan. In its letter of 8 August 1996, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning informed the Centre about preparations of the adoption of the "Law on the Protection of Skocjan Caves Regional Park", which was in the last phase of parliamentary procedure and was expected to be adopted in October 1996. In addition, the authorities provided a map indicating the buffer zone of the site, which was transmitted to IUCN for review.

The Bureau thanked the authorities of Slovenia for their efforts and encouraged them to continue their efforts for the adoption of the management plan. It requested however clarification on the boundaries of the site and values added to it.

The Observer of Slovenia informed the Committee that the "Skocjan Caves Regional Park Act" had entered into force and that the new management of the Park was established on 27 November 1996. She indicated that a new map will be provided in due course. The Committee took note of this information.

#### **VII.36 Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)**

The Committee recalled that the site was included on the World Heritage List in 1980 and took note of the report presented by IUCN on threats to the site which was prepared in cooperation with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. The report confirmed that the construction of dams had a devastating impact on the wetland values of Ichkeul National Park. The significant adverse environmental impact of the construction of two dams limiting the freshwater flow to the area was also described in a recent report by the Tunisian Ministry of the Environment. It also confirmed that the Park no longer supports the large migrating bird populations that it used to and the salinity of the lake and marshes has dramatically increased. In addition, structural problems remain, as the Park lacks sufficient infrastructure, budget and management.

The Committee was informed that the Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session recalled debates held concerning inclusion of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger beginning in 1985 and considered the possibility of an eventual deletion of this property from the World Heritage List. The Bureau discussed if a rehabilitation of the site is at all possible and requested the Secretariat to write immediately to the Tunisian authorities to (a) inform them about the Bureau's concerns, (b) to inform them about the Bureau's recommendation to include the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and (c) to inform them of the possible deletion of Lake Ichkeul from the World Heritage List if the integrity of the site is lost.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Tunisian authorities responded to the Secretariat's letter by fax of 3 December 1996 from the Minister for the Environment. He indicated that the situation had evolved since 1994 and that in 1995/96 rainfall has been high and that the salinity of the Lake was around 30grams/litre. He concluded that the Ichkeul ecosystem is

not irreversibly lost and that the Committee should not consider a declassification of the site. The Committee took note of the information provided by the State Party.

The Committee decided to: (a) inscribe Ichkeul National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger; (b) request the authorities to provide a programme of anticipated corrective measures to reverse the degradation of the site, and (c) inform the authorities of the possibilities of the deletion of the property from the World Heritage List if rehabilitation of the site would not be possible.

#### **VII.37 Garamba National Park (Zaire)**

The Committee recalled that due to the success of the safeguarding action of the northern white rhino population by the World Heritage Committee, IUCN, WWF, the Frankfurt Zoological Society and the Zaire authorities, the site was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992. In April 1996, the Centre and IUCN received information on the poaching of two white rhinos.

The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session took note of additional information provided by IUCN on the loss of three rangers killed at the site and information based on a detailed report provided by WWF and the IUCN Species Survival Commission. The Bureau recalled that it discussed at its twentieth session inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger given the gravity of the situation. The Bureau took note that no commitment of the Zaire authorities for such listing had been obtained and no plan for corrective measures in conformity with the Operational Guidelines had been submitted. The Bureau also considered the serious situation in Zaire and the situation of the protected areas in Africa in general, which has to be related to sustainable development and international collaboration.

The Committee emphasized the difficult situation in Zaire and requested the Chairperson to write a letter of condolence to the families of the rangers who were killed.

The Committee decided to inscribe the Garamba National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and urged the State Party to collaborate with WWF, IUCN, and the Centre to prepare a plan for corrective measures in conformity with the Operational Guidelines and encouraged international partners to collaborate to safeguard the northern white rhino and other wildlife populations in the Park.

b) Reports on the state of conservation of natural properties noted by the Committee

**VII.38 Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area (China)**

The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session took note of a progress report which was prepared by IUCN's Commission on National Parks during a visit to the site in August 1996. The Bureau recalled that the Committee in 1992 had made recommendations on human impacts at the site and its possible extension. It noted substantial progress in dealing with the growing human impact in the area, and the possibility of twinning the site with another World Heritage site in Europe. On the other hand, the Committee's recommendation concerning an extension of the site to make it contiguous with Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area had not been acted upon.

The Bureau welcomed the prospects of twinning and commended the Chinese authorities for addressing some of the human impact issues. The Bureau however, reiterated the Committee's previous recommendation encouraging the possibility of extending the site.

**VII.39 Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)**

The Bureau recalled that at its nineteenth session it took note of a progress report, dated March 1996, on the ongoing planning activities for the site and a schedule of activities. IUCN had noted several recent developments in the Sanctuary that are of concern: (1) poaching of thirteen Oryx, and (2) the construction of a reverse osmosis plant which has resulted in significant damage to the desert habitat. The Bureau had requested the Centre to contact the Omani authorities encouraging them to provide the definition of the final boundaries of the site and expressing concern over the poaching and construction activities.

The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session recalled discussions held at the time of the inscription of the site and raised concern that no reply had been received from the Omani authorities since its last session. IUCN informed the Bureau of delays being experienced by the management authority in completing the management plan and defining boundaries in the context of other pressures. Proposals for IUCN to cooperate in an expert workshop to review the plan and boundaries were, however, encouraging.

The Bureau therefore : (a) invited the State Party to keep the Committee informed about the state of conservation of the site and progress on the planning and boundary definition project; (b) reiterated the clarification requested about the definition of the final boundaries of the site by 15 April 1997; (c) requested clarification of the situation with respect to reported oryx poaching and the reverse osmosis plant, and (d) commended the proposal for an international workshop to be held in Oman in 1997 to review the draft management plan, including the definition of boundaries of the site, involving representatives of IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Omani authorities.

#### **VII.40 Huascarán National Park (Peru)**

The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session recalled that the Committee, at its nineteenth session recommended to the Peruvian authorities that a cultural resources inventory of the site be carried out and asked for clarification on the road developments which may threaten the integrity of the site. The Bureau noted that no reply had been received to a letter addressed to the State Party.

The Bureau reiterated the request by the World Heritage Committee that : (a) a cultural resources inventory of the site be carried out; (b) ICOMOS be kept informed about this inventory, and (c) clarifications be provided on the road developments which may threaten the integrity of the site. The Bureau requested that this information be provided by 15 April 1997.

#### **VII.41 Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)**

The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session recalled that the Committee, at its nineteenth session, noted the potential threats to the integrity of this site, due to the proposed development of a new port, and the proposal to issue a license for the establishment of a large floating hotel at the site. Furthermore, the Committee at its nineteenth session learnt that Japanese aid agencies were considering supporting the project up to an amount of US\$ 100 million and noted that Japan was still studying the project. The Committee recalled Article 6.3 of the Convention which commits States Parties to the Convention "not to undertake any deliberate measures which might damage directly or indirectly the cultural and natural heritage ... situated on the territory of other States Parties to the Convention."



The Bureau took note that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is planning to draft an environmental management programme for Ha Long Bay. In addition, the Delegation of Japan informed the Bureau that JICA has completed its "project formulation study", which was conducted in order to clarify the contents and background of the request by the Vietnamese Government to gather some other relevant information.

The Bureau requested the Centre to contact both the Japanese and the Vietnamese authorities to obtain further information on environmental impacts on the site.

#### **VII.42 Durmitor National Park (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro))**

The Bureau at its extraordinary twentieth session took note of the World Heritage Centre's mission to the site, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980. The mission reviewed the state of conservation of the site and damage at the Park Headquarters building in Zabljak caused by a fire in 1995, which destroyed library and reference collections. The building had since been reconstructed, almost wholly refurbished and is operational.

The mission noted the rapid unplanned and uncontrolled expansion of the village of Zabljak and adjacent development and that international assistance had been received to mitigate the mine tailing threat to the Tara River Canyon portion of the World Heritage site by earthen containment structures within the earthquake prone flood plain. The Bureau considered the situation at the site and decided the following:

The Bureau (a) commended the authorities for their efforts to restore the Park Headquarters facility to operational level and to contain the Tara River Canyon mine tailings ; however, (b) expressed its concerns over the rapid town development within the site and lack of investment in the Park infrastructure; (c) requested clarification of possible boundary adjustments under consideration; (d) considered a possible engineering evaluation of the mine tailing containment efforts, and (e) invited the State Party to encourage the Director of the Park to participate in network and training efforts with other World Heritage site managers in the region.

#### **VII.43 Australia**

IUCN provided additional information on the situation of World Heritage sites in Australia. The Bureau at its twentieth

extraordinary session recalled that Australia is a leading State Party in the protection and enhancement of World Heritage. It took note of information provided by IUCN on potential threats at a number of World Heritage sites in Australia, including salt mining at Shark Bay, logging in adjacent areas of the Tasmanian Wilderness, uranium mining at Kakadu National Park, and the opening of nature reserves at the Great Barrier Reef to fishing and development. IUCN stated that - due to lack of sufficient resources - it was not possible to prepare detailed reports on any of these sites. However, resolutions on two of the sites passed at the World Conservation Congress held in Montreal, Canada, in October 1996 were tabled.

The Delegate of Australia regretted that these reports were not available. Australian authorities report regularly on all their World Heritage areas. She provided information that the Federal Agencies had been restructured and that Australian World Heritage would be strengthened as a result. The Delegate of Australia informed the Committee that the reports received by IUCN were in some cases inaccurate or incomplete and that Australia has taken a number of steps and actions to mitigate the described threats to World Heritage Areas. She underlined that Australia had no essential problems with resolutions concerning Australian World Heritage sites passed by the World Conservation Congress held in Montreal, Canada, in October 1996 since most of the proposed actions were already undertaken.

#### **VII.44 Japan**

The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session recalled that at the time of the inscription of Shirakami-Sanchi and Yakushima the Committee requested a follow-up mission to review progress in 1996. IUCN informed the Bureau that it was invited by the Japanese authorities, but was not able to conduct a review in 1996 due to budgetary constraints. The Bureau noted that this mission had been re-scheduled for 1997.

#### **MIXED (NATURAL AND CULTURAL) PROPERTIES**

##### **a) Reports on the state of conservation of mixed (natural and cultural) properties examined by the Committee**

#### **VII.45 Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)**

The Secretariat recalled the suggestion of the Bureau at its twentieth session that alternative means of access to Machu

Picchu should be studied in the context of integral planning for the whole of the area of the Sanctuary and that an assessment of the impact of a possible cable car system be undertaken, and the Bureau's request that the authorities of Peru inform the Committee on the progress made in the development of an integral management mechanism as well as on the plans for the access to the ruins of Machu Picchu. No response was received by the Secretariat since then, however, it was informed that tenders had been invited for the cable car system.

The Committee considered that the implementation of the cable car system could have a serious impact on the World Heritage site and that no action should be undertaken until a proper management plan is in force. Therefore, the Committee urged the Peruvian authorities to develop integral management mechanisms for the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu and suggested that alternative means of access to Machu Picchu be studied in the context of integral planning for the whole of the area of the Sanctuary and that an assessment of its impact be undertaken. The Committee requested the Peruvian authorities to provide a full report on the state of conservation and the management mechanisms of Machu Picchu by 15 April 1997 for examination by the Bureau at its twenty-first session.

b) Reports on the state of conservation of mixed (natural and cultural) properties noted by the Committee

VII.46 Mount Huangshan (People's Republic of China)

The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session recalled that an international seminar was held at the site in 1991 by the National Environmental Protection Agency of China and UNEP, which indicated growing negative impacts of unregulated tourism development. It also noted that a training workshop for Chinese protected area managers was organized at Huangshan in October-November 1993. Recommendations of the workshop included the construction of a visitor centre, improving the disposal of the large amount of waste generated by tourists, and introducing ecological safeguards and criteria in identification of sites for constructing visitor facilities. The Bureau was pleased to note that the Chinese authorities had given serious consideration to these recommendations and that the management of waste disposal had improved and the site's natural and aesthetic values were maintained in an exemplary way. Site management authorities were also considering plans for establishing a visitor centre and limiting further construction of visitor facilities within the site.

The Bureau commended the Chinese authorities for the positive steps they had taken in improving tourism management in the site and encouraged them to proceed with additional measures, such as the construction of a visitor centre to manage the large numbers of visitors annually entering the site.

#### CULTURAL HERITAGE

##### a) Reports on the state of conservation of cultural properties examined by the Committee

#### VII.47 Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian (People's Republic of China)

A UNESCO mission, undertaken in September 1996, revealed a number of major problems, including the complete halt of site excavations, lack of adequate maintenance of the site and the lack of a new generation of researchers.

The Committee took note of the report provided by the Director of the UNESCO Division for Cultural Heritage who attended the first international Technical Committee on the Peking Man Site from 25 to 27 November 1996. The Technical Committee recommended enhancement in the protection of the site, especially the Upper Cave, improvement of the site museum and research facilities as well as to further scientific research.

#### VII.48 Potala Palace in Lhasa (People's Republic of China)

The Secretariat reported that pressures of urban development and growth in tourism-related activities are resulting in many construction activities in the historic sector of Lhasa with a negative impact on historic structures and their authenticity.

Furthermore, in Shol, the former administrative area of Potala Palace, which is part of the World Heritage protected area, the works undertaken on the historic buildings and the widening of the streets risk causing irreversible changes to the historic character of this area.

The mural paintings of Potala are threatened by humidity, the application of lacquer varnish in the 1960s and 70s, alteration of the original appearance due to excessive "retouching", and smoke from yak butter lamps. It was noted that, under the China-Norway-UNESCO cooperative project for the preservation of Tibetan cultural properties, a training course on mural painting

restoration techniques has been proposed and is now pending approval by the Chinese authorities.

The Committee was informed that the Delegate of China to the Committee, attending the twentieth extraordinary session of the Bureau as observer, indicated that the preservation of Tibetan cultural heritage has been one of the highest priorities of China. He expressed his Government's appreciation for the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's technical assistance and the mobilization of international cooperation to support the Government's preservation efforts. He indicated that the Chinese authorities were in favour of the extension of the Potala Palace World Heritage Site to include Jokhang Temple and the surrounding historic area, as recommended by the Committee. He also informed the Bureau that the proposed China-Norway-UNESCO cooperative project, in which a mural painting restoration training course is planned, is being carefully examined by the Chinese authorities.

The Representative of ICCROM and a number of Bureau members offered their expertise and interest in participating in mural painting conservation activities.

The Committee took note of the report of the Secretariat, and:

- (a) encouraged the Chinese authorities to strengthen cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's Programme for the Safeguarding and Development of Historic Cities of Asia, notably in the re-evaluation of the Lhasa Urban Master Plan to integrate the preservation of the historic urban fabric as part of the overall urban development plan, and to develop technical guidelines on conservation practice of historic buildings;
- (b) encouraged the Chinese authorities to strengthen international cooperation in mural painting conservation activities and in other fields in the preservation of Tibetan cultural heritage within the framework of the World Heritage Convention;
- (c) encouraged the Chinese authorities to consider the extension of the World Heritage protected area to cover Jokhang Temple and the historic centre of Barkor, as recommended by the Committee at its eighteenth session in December 1994.

#### **VII.49 Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia)**

The Secretariat underlined the complementarity of the projects implemented by the Division of Cultural Heritage and the Centre. It reported that fields requiring particular attention are:

1. the restoration of the site: particularly the protection of the roofs and the drainage systems ;
2. the management of the site and the harmonization of current projects. Presently, the main difficulty encountered by the national authorities seems to be the harmonization of the different projects and coordination between the partners. Several precise recommendations are made in the state of conservation report regarding scientific research, the role of the Centre for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage of Ethiopia as the coordinator of the restoration projects including development projects in and around the site of Lalibela.

The Committee felt that it is especially important to ensure coordination of the work between all the national and international partners engaged in the activities of conservation and preservation of this World Heritage site. It considered that the Centre for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (CRCCH) should assume this coordination and ensure that, in accordance with the principles of the Global Strategy, the activities on the site are not limited to interventions on the monuments. It therefore appeared indispensable to take into consideration the aspects of the living culture by associating the entire ecclesiastic hierarchy in the efforts made to preserve and enhance this site. It requested the Ethiopian authorities to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the actions that will be taken to this effect before 15 September 1997 so that this information can be examined by the Committee at its twenty-first session.

#### **VII.50 Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany)**

It was recalled that the Committee during its nineteenth session invited 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, as well as information on possible extensions of the site and/or buffer zones adjacent to the site.

Furthermore, during its twentieth session in June 1996, the Bureau expressed its serious concern about urban development plans in Potsdam, particularly the "Potsdam Centre" project, that could directly or indirectly affect the values of the World Heritage site.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that on 22 November 1996, a substantive report was received from the Minister for Science, Research and Cultural Affairs of Land Brandenburg, on the state of conservation of the World Heritage site of the Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin. The report was made available to the Committee members as Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.23.

The Representative of ICOMOS informed the Committee that an ICOMOS mission was undertaken from 4 to 8 November 1996 and expressed its concern about the state of conservation of this World Heritage site and offered its continuous support.

Having examined the state of conservation report on the World Heritage Site "The Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin" the Committee commended the German authorities and the "Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation Berlin-Brandenburg" for their conservation and reconstruction efforts, notably with regard to the very specific situation of the World Heritage site in the years following the reunification of Germany.

The Committee noted with satisfaction that with the adoption of the "Statute for Protection of the Operative Area of the Monument of Berlin-Potsdam Cultural Landscape, in accordance with its inscription on the World Heritage List on 1 January 1991, Potsdam Area", steps for a comprehensive legal protection of the World Heritage Site and its immediate surroundings had been taken.

Nevertheless, the Committee welcomed the fact that the State Party had taken up the Committee's previous proposal for an extension of the World Heritage site, which is to include the following:

- Pfingstberg, Alexandrovka Colony, the «Städtchen» between the Pfingstberg and the New Garden, Lindstedt Palace and Park, all of which were not part of the original application to the Committee for political and/or administrative reasons;
- Wooden areas («Jagen»), mainly in the Sacrow region, which were not fully included in the initial inscription due to legal uncertainties;
- Areas historically and geographically linked to the World Heritage site, which include in particular parts of the entrance to Sanssouci Park (for example the avenue leading to Sanssouci and the adjacent buildings), the extension to the main axis of the Park (i.e. the Lindenallee with an appropriate strip of land on both sides), the unused field north of the Orangery in the Sanssouci Park up to the Teufelsgraben, remnants of the old village of Bornstedt

royal domain as well as the Voltaireweg and its extension, the historical link between Sanssouci and the New Garden.

The Committee encouraged the State Party to make a concrete application to that end in accordance with the Convention and the Operational Guidelines in the near future.

The Committee expressed its concern that, although different planning concepts on various levels exist, an overarching master plan for the development of the City of Potsdam which would reflect an overall approach towards the values of the Potsdam Cultural Landscape was still missing. Furthermore, coordination between the different planning concepts on the one hand and between the builders, authorities and experts on the other should be considerably strengthened in order to avoid that developments like the construction project on the «Glienicke Horn» which already led to serious damage to the Potsdam urban and cultural landscape, will not be repeated in the future. According to information available to the Committee, other critical uncoordinated projects pose potential threats to the Potsdam urban and cultural landscape, including:

- the new theatre at the Zimmerstrasse;
- "city villas" at the Katharinenholzstrasse;
- the so-called «Lennéstadt»/Bornstedter Feld;
- new buildings at the Heiliger See;
- new buildings at Babelsberg: «Potsdam Fenster», Gewoba-building and film studio Alt-Nowawes;
- housing and business buildings at the Ribbeckstrasse, Bornstedt.

The Committee took note of the information provided by the State Party on the so-called "Potsdam Centre" and on the "German Unity Transport Project No.17".

As regards the «Potsdam Centre» the Committee asked the State Party to ensure that the special competition, which will be organized for a large part of the planned overall project, with the participation of independent experts, will lead to a harmonious integration of the project into the Historic City of Potsdam and the cultural landscape. The Committee welcomed that the «Alter Markt» will be included in that competition. In addition, as regards the parts of the project which will apparently not be subject to such competitions (The Hotel Project and the Railway Station), the Committee urged the German authorities to undertake every effort to ensure that the planning of those buildings be substantially changed.



As regards the "German Unity Transport Project No.17" the Committee specifically took note of the understanding between the German authorities and the Foundation that the World Heritage site must not be adversely affected by that Project. The Committee was of the opinion that no alteration should be made to the Glienicker Bridge, that only one shipping lane should be foreseen from the Glienicker Lake towards the Teltow Channel and that no dredging work should be carried out within Babelsberg Park.

The Committee appealed to the German authorities to ensure that the World Heritage site, which constitutes an integral part of the City of Potsdam and the Potsdam Cultural Landscape, will not be affected by these specific projects mentioned in the state of conservation report.

The Committee concluded that:

- its concerns were not diminished by the state of conservation report, submitted by the Land Brandenburg;
- in its opinion, the report demonstrated that the World Heritage site continues to be seriously threatened by various urban development projects;
- the Potsdam World Heritage site is in danger. Therefore, it would have liked to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. However, the German authorities have urged the Committee not to do so. The Committee was convinced by the explanations given by the German Delegation that high ranking German authorities are and will be undertaking all efforts to reduce the threats mainly deriving from the planned "Potsdam Centre" and the "German Unity Transport Project No. 17".

The Committee asked the State Party to provide a full state of conservation report by 15 April 1997 in time for the twenty-first session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee. If, at the time of the twenty-first session of the World Heritage Committee the threats to the World Heritage site as mentioned above still persist, the Committee will consider the inscription of the World Heritage Site of Potsdam on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

#### **VII.51 The Town of Luang Prabang (Laos)**

The Committee was informed of the Secretariat's report to the Bureau that a surge of overseas public and private investments,

and of tourism is being witnessed in this World Heritage town. Building renovations and new constructions are taking place throughout the town, including the rehabilitation of many temples without sufficient consideration for authenticity. Numerous violations of building regulations are occurring.

To strengthen the national capacity, a Heritage House (Maison du patrimoine) was established within the provincial administration under the Luang Prabang-Chinon (France)-UNESCO World Heritage Centre cooperation project to prepare recommendations on building design and conservation methods for all building permit requests in the World Heritage protected area and the buffer/support zones, as well as to prepare the Safeguarding and Development Plan of the town.

The Committee was informed that the strengthening of the legal protection of movable and immovable cultural properties, including archaeological sites and historic human settlements, is urgently required. The enactment by the National Assembly of a cultural properties protection law prepared with the assistance of the cooperation project, in order to strengthen the existing ministerial decrees is under consideration.

The Committee was informed that the Representative of ICOMOS reminded the Bureau that it had recommended deferral of the inscription of Luang Prabang until there was firm proof of the effectiveness of the management plan, stating that this case shows the necessity of deferring inscription decision. The Committee was also informed, however, that a number of Bureau members commented on the usefulness of World Heritage inscription to strengthen protection and expressed satisfaction for the achievements made within such a short time.

The Mayor of Chinon, at the invitation of the Chairperson, clarified to the Committee that the cooperation project was for national capacity building and that the Heritage House was a technical service within the provincial administration. He stated that the City of Chinon foresees long-term cooperation with Luang Prabang for the transfer and sharing of knowledge. The Committee thanked the Mayor for his commitment.

The Committee took note of the Secretariat's report and congratulated the Government of Laos for the establishment of the Heritage House within the Department of Culture of the provincial administration, the Provincial Committee for the Protection and Development of Luang Prabang and the National Inter-ministerial Committee for the Protection of Cultural Properties, all within one year of inscription.

The Committee furthermore:

- (a) recalled the commitment made by the Government of Laos, by letter of November 1995 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Director-General of UNESCO, for the early enactment of the Cultural Properties Protection Law by the National Assembly;
- (b) requested the Government of Laos to organize an information meeting to present the Safeguarding and Development Plan of Luang Prabang for donors, financial institutions and investors, to ensure that the numerous construction and infrastructural development projects do not undermine the World Heritage value of the town.

#### **VII.52 Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)**

The World Heritage Committee at its seventeenth session in 1993, expressed deep concern over the state of conservation of the Kathmandu Valley and considered the possibility of placing this site on the List of World Heritage in Danger following discussions on the findings of the November 1993 Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Review Mission.

Since then, the Government has given priority to responding to the sixteen points of concern raised by the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission.

To emphasize the increased importance being placed on the preservation of the World Heritage site as a whole, rather than on individual monuments, an information meeting was held in October 1996 on the safeguarding and development needs of the site. During this meeting some nineteen project proposals were presented for national and international funding support.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the State of Conservation Report prepared by the Department of Archaeology of His Majesty's Government of Nepal, with the assistance of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, was received and would be made available to the Committee members.

The Committee took note of the Secretariat's report and expressed its appreciation for the progress made by His Majesty's Government of Nepal towards the fulfilment of the sixteen-point recommendations of the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission of November 1993, which was endorsed by the Committee at its eighteenth session. It expressed hope that efforts will be continued to strengthen the institutional capacities of the Department of Archaeology and the

concerned municipal authorities to protect and develop the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage site by officially adopting and publicizing regulations on building control and conservation practice. The Committee noted the efforts made by the Government in convening the information meeting held in Kathmandu in October 1996 to solicit donors to finance the projects developed by the local authorities with the support of the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Division and the World Heritage Centre.

#### **VII.53 City of Cusco (Peru)**

At its twentieth session in June 1996, the Bureau took note of information provided by the Secretariat regarding projects in the historical City of Cusco that could have a negative impact on the World Heritage values of the site. It invited the authorities to establish appropriate planning mechanisms for the historical City of Cusco.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that no substantive reply had been received to the concerns expressed by the Bureau. However, the Peruvian authorities had submitted a request for technical cooperation. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the request provided information on the deficient management arrangements in Cusco and the lack of a master plan for the City. The assistance would provide advice on the creation of a Commission for the Historical City of Cusco, which would oversee the urban development planning and construction and restoration projects, as well as advise on the preparation of a master plan. The Committee urged again the authorities to establish appropriate planning mechanisms for the historical City of Cusco. It decided that the request for technical cooperation submitted by the Government of Peru will be approved upon receipt, by 15 April 1997, of a state of conservation report as requested by the Bureau at its twentieth session.

#### **VII.54 Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland)**

At its twentieth session, the Bureau commended the Government of Poland on halting the construction works in the immediate vicinity of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. It urged the authorities to devise a plan for the preservation of the site and its immediate surroundings, and keep the Committee informed on this matter.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that since then, and although additional assurance had been given by the Polish authorities that construction works had stopped, it had received

information that a cigarette company had announced its intention to go ahead with the construction of a cigarette factory adjacent to the site.

The Secretariat immediately informed the Polish Permanent Delegation of this event, and asked the Polish authorities "to take all the necessary action in order to ensure that the integrity of Auschwitz-Birkenau is respected".

After having taken note of the concern of the Bureau regarding projects of the Phillip Morris Company, the Committee listened to an intervention by the Observer of Poland, who indicated that the project was not a new construction but the transfer of ownership of a tobacco factory which has been functioning for eighty years, under State monopoly, and situated 300 metres from the former camp. He furthermore indicated that a report on this subject would be provided by the Polish authorities before the next Bureau session.

The Committee expressed its strong concern with regard to this new threat which, immediately following the building project of a supermarket, threatens once again the symbolic character of this property, inscribed under cultural criterion (vi).

#### **VII.55 Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic)**

The Secretariat recalled that a mission of five experts visited the city of Damascus late 1995 and that their reports emphasized the tremendous investment on the part of the Syrian authorities for the conservation of the Mosque of the Omeyyades, but also expressed severe concern and reservations about the conservation and restoration approach and techniques.

In January 1996, UNESCO requested the Syrian authorities to stop the work immediately and to continue it only when in-depth studies would be carried out, and in accordance with international standards for the respect of authenticity. The same request was made by the Bureau during its twentieth session.

The Permanent Delegation of Syria informed the Secretariat that the work had indeed been suspended.

After being informed of the conclusions of UNESCO's expert mission fielded at the request of the Syrian authorities in November-December 1995 to the Mosque of the Omeyyades of Damascus, as well as the Report of the President of the Restoration Committee, the World Heritage Committee thanked the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic for interrupting the work

which it felt did not conform to the international standards for restoration and conservation.

It strongly advised that one or two international experts, proposed by the World Heritage Centre, be invited for a consultation to help evaluate the situation, decide on measures to be taken, and, should the need arise, determine the most appropriate manner in which to pursue further work which might be necessary. It recommended also that training of national specialists and technicians be considered in cooperation with ICCROM.

In this case, the Committee would of course be willing to contribute to financing the participation of these experts.

#### **VII.56 Taos Pueblo (United States of America)**

The Bureau, at its twentieth session, was informed that a preliminary monitoring report from the United States National Park Service indicated that no agreement had been reached as yet between the Federal Aviation Administration, the Taos Pueblo and the National Park Service on the definition of the geographic area of potential impacts and on the contents of the Environmental Impact Statement. As to the recommendations made by the Committee at its nineteenth session regarding the involvement of ICOMOS and IUCN in the definition of the Impact Statement area, as well as a possible extension of the site, the report indicated that these will have to move forward in full consultation with the Pueblo, which is self-governing.

The Committee noted that no further information had been received from the Government of the United States regarding the Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed airport extension and the possible extension of the World Heritage site.

The Delegate of the United States informed the Committee that it regretted the delay in this matter. She visited the site only recently at the invitation of the Governor of the Pueblo and the War Chief who detailed the potential and existing aeroplane flight patterns over the Pueblo lands. The major concern of the Pueblo is that the future overflights might infringe upon the privacy and sanctimony of their religious ceremonies which are an integral part of their culture. Furthermore, she informed the Committee that she toured the airport and met with the airport manager who informed her that a cross runway is essential to air safety. In addition, because there is no airport tower and therefore no communication with incoming pilots, the airport cannot advise incoming flights of routes that do not cross Pueblo

lands. The Department of the Interior had raised and will continue to raise the issue with the Federal Aviation Authority. At present there are no funds available to build the cross runway.

In a related matter, the Delegate informed that in November 1996 the President of the United States had signed into law a bill that transfers from federal ownership to the Taos Pueblo a piece of land they consider sacred land. The Committee took note of this information.

#### **VII.57 Khami (Zimbabwe)**

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe had reported that a Strategic Action Plan for the conservation and management of Khami is being formulated. However, resources for maintenance work and surveillance are inadequate.

The Committee noted the information provided by the National Museums and Monuments concerning the threats of the development project in the vicinity which are leading to increased negative pressure on the site. It encouraged the Zimbabwe authorities to pursue their efforts for better conservation of this site by allocating adequate resources, and transferring the expertise acquired at the site of Great Zimbabwe.

#### **b) Reports on the state of conservation of cultural properties noted by the Committee**

#### **VII.58 Butrinti (Albania)**

At the twentieth extraordinary session of the Bureau, the Secretariat reported that major studies were being undertaken for tourism development of the World Heritage site of Butrinti and that Albania had made a request for technical cooperation for monitoring these activities, which, in the meantime, was approved by the Chairperson of the Committee. The assistance, however, could not be implemented due to the non-payment of the contributions to the World Heritage Fund.

The Bureau commended the Albanian authorities for their efforts at Butrinti, and recommended that the Director of the World Heritage Centre explore with the Albanian authorities a way of solving the current difficulties so that a monitoring mission may be enacted in the near future. The Bureau requested that the Committee be kept informed about the on-going activities.

**VII.59 Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria)**

In July 1996, the Permanent Delegation of Algeria transmitted a progress report for the project entitled "Safeguarding Plan for the Kasbah of Algiers", and informed the Centre that the training in Paris, financed by the World Heritage Fund, of three architects in charge of drawing up the plan had been satisfactory.

The Bureau, at its twentieth extraordinary session, took note of the information provided and warmly thanked the Algerian authorities for having informed it of their strong interest in the preservation of the Kasbah of Algiers and the continuing measures taken for its safeguard, and requested them to continue to devote their efforts to the conservation of this World Heritage site.

**VII.60 City of Potosi (Bolivia)**

The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session noted with satisfaction that, in response to a request from the Committee at its nineteenth session and the Bureau at its twentieth session, the Bolivian Mining Corporation had included the preservation of the form, the topography and the natural environment of the Cerro Rico as one of the objectives for future exploitation of the Cerro Rico mountain. The Bureau commended the Bolivian authorities for this action and requested them to keep the Committee informed on further developments in this respect.

**VII.61 The Mountain Resort and its Outlying Temples, Chengde (People's Republic of China)**

The Secretariat informed the Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session that a UNESCO mission visited the Mountain Resort and its Outlying Temples, in Chengde and noted remarkable achievements in the restoration of several of its buildings and of the landscape.

Major issues for the future are to bring development plans for the town of Chengde in line with World Heritage conservation needs, the improvement of buffer zone protection and the reduction of air pollution.

The Representative of ICOMOS stated that even at the time of the inscription of this site, the Chinese authorities had expressed concern over the development of the town of Chengde and how to control its impact on the site.



The Bureau took note of the report provided by the Secretariat and requested the authorities of China to inform the Committee of the management and conservation and restoration programme for this site, particularly regarding the development of the town of Chengde.

#### **VII.62 Aksum (Ethiopia)**

The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session took note of the report provided by the Secretariat that the site management should be strengthened by providing and collecting scientific documentation at the site level as the basis for management and conservation planning, particularly in view of the master plan that is being prepared.

The Bureau warmly thanked the Ethiopian authorities for all their efforts and the measures already taken to ensure the preservation and enhancement of this site. It asked the Centre for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (CRCCH) to continue its efforts and to ensure that the scientific documentation at the site be made available to the site manager. It reiterated that the compilation of this documentation is a prerequisite for the preparation of the management and conservation plans, and that UNESCO is always ready to provide, where necessary, assistance in obtaining documents that are not available in Ethiopia.

#### **VII.63 Lower Valley of the Awash (Ethiopia)**

The Secretariat reported that in spite of its difficult access, it appeared that the site is subject to the uncontrolled visits of individual tourists seeking souvenir fossils. To provide better protection and in order to further enhance this site, several measures were recommended, including the:

- designation of a guide by the CRCCH;
- construction of a museum;
- eventual extension of the zone inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The Bureau took note of the Secretariat's report and encouraged the Centre for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (CRCCH) to implement the above-mentioned proposals, and to keep the World Heritage Committee informed of all progress accomplished.

**VII.64 Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia)**

The Secretariat reported that erosion endangers the site by erasing the markers which had been planted during the last scientific missions of 1974 and 1976 on the major sites, especially those that had revealed hominid fossils.

Due to the suspension of the international missions since 1976, it was recommended that a survey should be carried out on the present state of the deposits to record the changes brought about by erosion, to seek out the markers still in place, and position each locality by means of a GPS (Global Positioning System).

The Bureau took note of the report provided by the Secretariat and encouraged the Centre for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (CRCCH) to undertake a survey and implement the above-mentioned proposals, and requested the Ethiopian authorities to keep it informed of the progress achieved.

**VII.65 Fasil Ghebbi (Gondar, Ethiopia)**

Gondar was the political capital of Christian Ethiopia from 1632 to the middle of the 19th century. The Secretariat reported that an extensive and high quality three-year restoration programme is being undertaken to transform the main palace into a museum of Gondarian Civilization.

The Committee warmly thanked the Directorate of the Centre for Research and Conservation of the Ethiopian Cultural Heritage (CRCCH) for the financial and human efforts made towards the preservation of this World Heritage site, as well as the site manager for his commitment and the quality of his work. It considered the conservation project underway to be highly satisfactory and exemplary, and hoped that other World Heritage sites will benefit from the competence and expertise of the team in charge of the work. It would also be advisable that the documentation concerning the history of the site and its restoration be collected and deposited at Gondar and thus made easily accessible to those working at the site.

**VII.66 Tiya (Ethiopia)**

The city of Tiya is representative of the numerous archaeological sites of the Megalithic period which bear witness to extinct cultures.

The Secretariat reported that the preservation of the site is effective, but that it could be further improved by a series of measures, including:

- developing the surrounding area,
- installing a signposting system,
- numbering the stelae, and
- improving the maintenance of the grassy surface of the site and the drainage system to avoid flooding during the rainy season.

However, for it to be truly enhanced, the site should be linked to its cultural environment, i.e., with all the Megalithic sites of the Soddo region. It would therefore be advisable to extend the site inscribed to a significant regional cultural ensemble.

The Bureau encouraged the Centre for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage (CRCCH) to implement the above-mentioned proposals which aim to improve the presentation of the site, and to envisage its extension. It requested the Ethiopian authorities to keep it informed of the progress achieved.

#### **VII.67 Roman Monuments in Trier (Germany)**

It was recalled that the Secretariat presented to the Bureau at its twentieth session a report on a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission to Trier in reference to the construction of urban villas and a proposed urban development scheme in the immediate vicinity of the Roman amphitheatre. The Bureau requested that a full report of the mission, as well as on the progress made in undertaking the architectural competition for the area north of the amphitheatre, be presented to its session in November 1996.

ICOMOS reported that the mission had been successful. ICOMOS was involved in the drawing up of the terms of reference for the architectural competition. It will also participate in the evaluation of the designs. The urban villas which are already under construction could be limited in their height so that they would not be seen from the inside of the arena.

The German Delegate gave further information concerning the terms of reference of the competition. He stressed that the main issue is to analyse the possibility of re-opening the northern gate of the amphitheatre which has been closed for centuries and to create a way of communication from this northern gate to the other Roman monuments of the town.

The Bureau requested that the German authorities provide a full report concerning the entire area surrounding the amphitheatre by 15 April 1997 for examination by the next session of the Bureau.

**VII.68 Vilnius Old Town (Lithuania)**

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the rehabilitation programme of Vilnius Old Town is progressing well. In September 1996, the Danish/Scottish/Lithuanian consultant team submitted their final report on the Revitalization Strategy and steps are being taken to implement the consultants' recommendations, notably the establishment of a management structure for the rehabilitation programme. Furthermore a computer-assisted information system for the rehabilitation of the historic centre is in preparation. The President of the Republic of Lithuania and the Director-General of UNESCO have signed an agreement pledging to organize jointly, in the first half of 1997, an International Donors and Investors Conference for financing the rehabilitation programme. The World Bank maintains its collaboration with the World Heritage Centre in this endeavour.

ICCROM informed the Secretariat that it was also focusing its attention on urban conservation in particular in the Baltic Region and is planning to develop a training programme involving this Region and expressed its wish to join forces with the rehabilitation programme for Vilnius.

The Investors and Donors Conferences organized in both Nepal and Lithuania, to obtain funds for their World Heritage sites, were welcomed and it was requested that the experiences in these two countries be published to serve as an example for other States Parties and World Heritage sites.

The Bureau thanked the Danish Government, the World Bank and the City of Edinburgh for their continuing support, welcomed the agreement between Lithuania and UNESCO to organize the International Donors and Investors Conference in 1997, pledged its own support to this endeavour, commended the Lithuanian authorities for their efforts, and encouraged them to pursue this promising rehabilitation programme of Vilnius Old Town.

**VII.69 Archaeological sites of Bat, Al-Khutun and Al-Ayn  
(Oman)**

On the occasion of a mission sent to Oman from 14 to 21 September 1996, UNESCO experts noted that several structures of the site of Bat are now protected by wire fence enclosures, but that several repairs and preventive measures should be taken.

Having noted the Secretariat report on the state of conservation of the archaeological site of Bat, the Bureau thanked the Omani authorities for preserving the structures of the site and

encouraged them to implement as quickly as possible the additional measures already foreseen:

- repair of the fenced enclosures;
- diversion of the course of the neighbouring *Wadi* which threatens the protection of the site;
- discreet marking in-situ, by appropriate methods, of the position of the stones still in place in the walls;
- reinforcement of the security guards to avoid the theft of the blocks of stone.

#### VII.70 The Monuments of Hue (Vietnam)

The inscription on the World Heritage List encouraged donations and international patronage, in addition to substantial financial allocation by the Vietnamese Government for conservation activities. At present this support contributes to the restoration of the monuments, the treatment of the wood against termites, and to setting up a geographical information data system.

The Secretariat reported that considerable urban and regional development for the area of Hue - Da Nang is being planned and major infrastructural works are being considered with a possible negative impact on the World Heritage site of Hue. The Centre maintains contact with the Institute for Development and Strategy of Hanoi (DSI) and the French Delegation for Territorial and Regional Development (DATAR), as well as with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which are all involved in the development of the metropolitan area of the Hue - Danang region, to ensure that the development plan takes into consideration the conservation of Hue.

To ensure both conservation and development of this living historic city, landuse and building regulations need to be urgently re-evaluated and improved, especially with regard to the height and volume of the buildings, the width and development of the streets, as well as the commercial and residential landuse in the buffer zones (Zones 2 and 3) surrounding the monument zone (Zone 1).

The Representative of ICOMOS expressed concern over the plan to upgrade the road cutting across the World Heritage protected area of Hue into a highway. The Secretariat stated that the Vietnamese authorities have repeatedly assured UNESCO, through the Hue-UNESCO Working Group on the International Safeguarding Campaign, that the planned highway will not cut through the site, nor have a negative impact on the World Heritage value of Hue. The

Secretariat, however, expressed concern over the difficulty in keeping up-to-date on the numerous major infrastructural development projects in Vietnam of importance to the entire region.

The Bureau noted the Secretariat's report and requested UNESCO to support the Vietnamese authorities to re-evaluate the landuse and building regulations concerning the World Heritage protected area and the buffer zones (Zones 2 and 3) as well as to participate in the reflection on the various road construction/upgrading projects currently under consideration. The Bureau also suggested that the Vietnamese Government strengthen its interministerial coordination to ensure that the much-needed infrastructural development projects do not undermine the World Heritage value of the site, and to continue their on-going collaboration with the Governments of France and Japan to reflect on the safeguarding needs of the World Heritage Site of Hue within the context of the regional development scheme.

#### **VII.71 Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen)**

The World Heritage Bureau during its twentieth session was informed that renovations which were seriously threatening the authenticity and integrity of the Great Mosque of Zabid had been undertaken by the local authorities.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session that, since then, it had received the report of its expert stressing that the work is presently being carried out in a manner more in keeping with the traditional techniques; however, a water conveyance project planned by the National Water and Sewerage Authority of Yemen and the German Ministry for Cooperation (BMZ) and financed by a German agency (KfW), could be a major hazard for the preservation of the monuments of the city. Following consultations with the Yemeni and German authorities the Secretariat received confirmation from the German Delegation that an agreement had been reached with the Yemeni authorities that the water project will integrate sewage provisions.

The Bureau thanked the Yemeni authorities for having adopted traditional methods more in conformity with the respect of authenticity for the work of the Great Mosque of Zabid and recommended that they consult as often as necessary the expert designated by UNESCO. It also congratulated the Yemeni and German authorities, the National Water and Sewerage Authority of Yemen, the German Ministry of Cooperation (BMZ) and the KfW for having decided last August to simultaneously implement the water supply

and sanitation systems in Zabid and other historic cities in order to avoid any deterioration of their cultural monuments.

#### **VII.72 Great Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe)**

Considerable progress was reported in the preservation programme for this site managed by National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe (NMMZ). A site management plan is in place. As a result of a special Donors Conference held in 1992, the site has also secured surveying equipment. A total survey has been undertaken. The Bureau commended the Zimbabwe authorities for their efforts of conservation and the professional expertise which is available *in situ*. It recommended that the World Heritage Committee be kept informed of on-going activities.

#### **VIII. INFORMATION ON TENTATIVE LISTS AND EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS ON CULTURAL AND NATURAL PROPERTIES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER**

**VIII.1** The Secretariat informed the Committee that all the cultural sites proposed for inscription were listed on the tentative lists of the respective countries. Furthermore, the Committee noted that, by November 1996, of the 147 States Parties, 72 had submitted tentative lists corresponding to the criteria laid down in the Operational Guidelines. The full list of States Parties having submitted tentative lists as well as the individual lists of each State Party have been provided to the Committee members (Document WHC-96/CONF.201/8).

##### **A. NATURAL HERITAGE**

**VIII.2** The Bureau, at its twentieth session, examined eleven new natural nominations received for review by IUCN. IUCN had informed the Bureau that due to climatic conditions field missions could not be carried out for all of these sites in time for the June meeting of the Bureau. The Bureau also examined one extension to a World Heritage site and two previously deferred nominations.

**VIII.3** At its twentieth extraordinary session the Bureau reviewed six properties which were referred back. It deferred three sites and recommended three sites for inscription. In addition, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that one site,

which was deferred in 1994, was withdrawn by the State Party prior to the session.

#### A.1. Properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

**VII.4** The Committee at its twentieth session examined the state of conservation reports contained in Working Document WHC-96/CONF.201/7B, and additional information provided in Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.23 and decided to include the following properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

Simen National Park (Ethiopia)

Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)

Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)

Garamba National Park (Zaire)

#### A.2. Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

Name of property	Identi- fication	State Party having submitted the nomination (in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention)	Criteria
Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System	764	Belize	N(ii) (iii) (iv)

The Committee inscribed the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System under natural criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv) as the largest barrier reef in the Northern hemisphere, as a serial nomination consisting of seven sites. The Reef illustrates a classic example of reefs through fringing, barrier and atoll reef types. It commended the Belize authorities for having responded to the Bureau's request concerning the clarification on the boundaries of the nominated property, confirmation of the legal status of the different parts of the nomination and statements on the concerns on oil exploitation at the reef. The Committee took note of the request by the State Party to change the name for the nominated property to "Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System".





Paragraph 62, which stipulates that representatives of a State Party "shall not speak to advocate the inclusion in the List of a property nominated by that State".

A considerable debate followed, including the question of the protection of the transfrontier ensemble of the three National Parks (Benin, Burkina-Faso, Niger), the assessment of associative cultural values for the region and the integrity of the site. Several delegates expressed their difficulties in making any decision being confronted with two contradictory statements, one by IUCN indicating that the W National Park of Niger does not meet any of the natural criteria and one by the experts of the sub-regional training seminar at La Tapoa recommending inscription of the site under natural criteria (ii) and (iv) and the possibility to associate cultural criterion (vi) in the future.

A vote took place on whether to inscribe the Niger National Park on the World Heritage List or not, in conformity with Article 13.8 of the World Heritage Convention. Nineteen delegations were present, twelve voted in favour of the inscription under natural criteria (ii) and (iv) (Benin, Brazil, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, France, Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, Philippines, Morocco and Niger), three abstained (China, Japan and Malta) and four (Australia, Canada, Germany and the United States of America) voted against the inscription of the Niger National Park. The statutory required majority of two-thirds was reached and the W National Park of Niger was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of the natural criteria (ii) and (iv) of the nomination.

<b>Okapi Wildlife Reserve</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>Zaire</b>	<b>N(iv)</b>
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The Committee inscribed the property as one of the most important sites for conservation, including the rare Okapi and rich floral diversity, under natural criterion (iv). The Committee expressed its hope that the activities outlined in the new management plan would ensure the integrity of the site. Considering the civil unrest in the country, the question of the long-term security of the site was raised.

Several delegates mentioned the importance of the pygmy population living at the site and the interaction between traditional people and nature. The Committee encouraged the State Party to review the cultural values of the site and to consider nomination also under cultural criteria in the future.

**A.3. Change in the name of an inscribed site on the World Heritage List**

**Cape Girolata, Cape Porto, 258 France  
Scandola Nature Reserve,  
and the Piana Calanches  
in Corsica**

The Committee took note of the letter dated 30 July 1996, in which the French authorities informed the Centre that they wish to change the name of the site "Cape Girolata, Cape Porto and Scandola Nature Reserve in Corsica" (France) and to add "The Piana Calanches". The Committee adopted the following name: "Cape Girolata, Cape Porto, Scandola Nature Reserve, and the Piana Calanches in Corsica".

**B. MIXED (CULTURAL AND NATURAL) PROPERTIES**

**B.1 Properties which the Committee inscribed on the World Heritage List**

Name of Property	Identi- fication number	State Party having submitted the nomination (in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention)	Criteria
Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area	779	China	C(iv) (vi) N(iv)

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property under cultural criteria (iv) and (vi) considering the area of Mt. Emei is of exceptional cultural significance, since it is the place where Buddhism first became established on Chinese territory and from where it spread widely throughout the east. It is also an area of natural beauty into which the human element has been integrated, and natural criterion (iv) for its high plant species diversity with a large number of endemic species.

It also underlined the importance of the link between the tangible and intangible, the natural and the cultural.

The Delegate of China informed the Committee of the improvements in tourism management and underlined that the Division for Religious Affairs is responsible for the monasteries.

The Committee furthermore recommended that the Chinese authorities carefully control tourism development at the site and encourage involvement of the Buddhist monasteries in conservation activities on the mountain.

<b>The Laponian Area</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>Sweden</b>	<b>C(iii) (v)</b> <b>N(i) (ii) (iii)</b>
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The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of natural criteria (i), (ii) and (iii) and cultural criteria (iii) and (v). The Committee considered that the site is of outstanding universal value as it contains examples of ongoing geological, biological and ecological processes, a great variety of natural phenomena of exceptional beauty and significant biological diversity including a population of brown bear and alpine flora. It was noted that the site meets all conditions of integrity. The site has been occupied continuously by the Saami people since prehistoric times, is one of the last and unquestionably largest and best preserved examples of an area of transhumance, involving summer grazing by large reindeer herds, a practice that was widespread at one time and which dates back to an early stage in human economic and social development.

The Committee underlined the importance of the interaction between people and the natural environment. Furthermore, it recommended that the Swedish authorities continue to work with local Saami people, extend the inventories on species, consolidate the management plan for this site and would welcome the consideration of a transboundary site with Norway.

The name of the property has been changed to "**The Laponian Area**".

## C. CULTURAL PROPERTIES

C.1 Properties which the Committee inscribed on the World Heritage List

Name of Property	Identi- fication number	State Party having submitted the nomination (in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention)	Criteria
The Monastery of Haghpat	777	Armenia	C(ii) (iv)

The Committee decided to inscribe the Monastery of Haghpat on the basis of cultural criteria (ii) and (iv) considering that it is of outstanding universal value and an exceptional example of ecclesiastical architecture that developed in Armenia in the 10th to 13th centuries which is unique by virtue of its blending of elements of both Byzantine church architecture and the traditional vernacular building style of this region.

The State Party was invited to consider the possible extension of the site to include the Sanahin Monastery when restoration works will be completed and a decision taken regarding the ownership of this site, to also include the Sanahin Bridge (Alaverdi) and the Kayanberd Fortress.

The Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg	784	Austria	C(ii) (iv) (vi)
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The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi) and considered that the site is of outstanding universal value being an important example of a European ecclesiastical city-state which preserves to a remarkable degree its dramatic townscape, its historically significant urban fabric and a large number of outstanding ecclesiastical and secular buildings from several centuries. It is also noteworthy for its associations with the arts, and in particular with music in the person of its famous son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

**The Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn**                      786                      Austria                      C(i) (iv)

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property as an ensemble on the basis of cultural criteria (i) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being an especially well preserved example of the Baroque princely residential ensemble, which constitutes an outstanding example of a *Gesamtkunstwerk*. The Palace and Gardens are exceptional by virtue of the evidence that they preserve of modifications over several centuries that vividly illustrate the tastes, interests and aspirations of successive Habsburg monarchs.

It also congratulated Austria on their first inscription of two properties on the World Heritage List.

**Lushan National Park**                      778                      China                      C(ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

The Committee decided to inscribe this property on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi) as a cultural landscape of outstanding aesthetic value and its powerful associations with Chinese spiritual and cultural life.

**The Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape**                      763                      Czech Republic                      C(i) (ii) (iv)

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (ii) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being a cultural landscape which is an exceptional example of the designed landscape that evolved in the Enlightenment and afterwards under the care of a single family. It succeeds in bringing together in harmony cultural monuments from successive periods and both indigenous and exotic natural elements to create an outstanding work of human creativity.

The Committee decided to include criterion (i) to the proposed criteria since the ensemble is an outstanding example of human creativity.

**Verla Groundwood and Board Mill**                      751                      Finland                      C(iv)

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criterion (iv) considering that the Groundwood

and Board Mill and its associated habitation is an outstanding and remarkably well preserved example of the small-scale rural industrial settlement associated with pulp, paper, and board production that flourished in northern Europe and North America in the 19th and early 20th centuries, of which only a handful survives to the present day.

The Committee congratulated Finland on the inscription of this site which is the most representative example of this type of industrial heritage.

**Le Canal du Midi**                      770                      **France**                      **C(i) (ii) (iv) (vi)**

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (ii), (iv) and (vi) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being one of the greatest engineering achievements of the Modern Age, providing the model for the flowering of technology that led directly to the Industrial Revolution and the modern technological age. Additionally, it combines with its technological innovation a concern for high aesthetic architectural and landscape design that has few parallels.

The Committee endorsed the inscription of this property as the Canal du Midi clearly is an exceptional example of a designed landscape.

**Upper Svaneti**                      709                      **Georgia**                      **C(iv) (v)**

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (iv) and (v), considering that the region of Upper Svaneti is of outstanding universal value being an exceptional landscape that has preserved to a remarkable degree its original medieval appearance, notable for the distribution, form, and architecture of its human settlements.

**Cologne Cathedral**                      292Rev.                      **Germany**                      **C(i) (ii) (iv)**

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (ii) and (iv) considering that the monument is of outstanding universal value being an exceptional work of human creative genius, constructed over more than six centuries and a powerful testimony to the strength and persistence of Christian belief in medieval and modern Europe.

The Committee suggested that protective legislation should be set up which would ensure that new constructions around the property would be in conformity with the architectural significance of the Cathedral.

The French Delegation emphasized the importance of the inscription of Cologne Cathedral which is justified not only for its medieval architecture but also for the restoration and completion of the work begun early in the 19th century. This recognition reflects the significance of present-day research on historicism.

<b>The Bauhaus and its sites in Weimar and Dessau</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>C(ii) (iv) (vi)</b>
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The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value since these buildings are the seminal works of the Bauhaus architectural school, the foundation of the Modern Movement which was to revolutionize artistic and architectural thinking and practice in the twentieth century.

The Committee also noted that this type of inscription testifies a better recognition of the 20th century heritage.

<b>The Luther Memorials in Eisleben and Wittenberg</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>C(iv) (vi)</b>
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The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of criteria (iv) and (vi), considering that it is of outstanding universal value bearing unique testimony to the Protestant Reformation, which was one of the most significant events in the religious and political history of the world and constitutes outstanding examples of 19th century historicism.

The Committee congratulated the German authorities on this nomination and considered that its symbolic value clearly justifies inscription under cultural criterion (vi).



**The Archaeological Site of Vergina**                      780                      Greece                      C(i) (iii)

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (i) and (iii) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value representing an exceptional testimony to a significant development in European civilization, at the transition from classical city-state to the imperial structure of the Hellenistic and Roman periods. This is vividly demonstrated in particular by the remarkable series of royal tombs and their rich contents.

The Committee decided to add to the proposed criteria cultural criterion (i), since the paintings found at Vergina are of extraordinarily high quality and historical importance.

**The Millenary Benedictine Monastery of Pannonhalma and its Natural Environment**                      758                      Hungary                      C(iv) (vi)

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (iv) and (vi) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value illustrating in an exceptional manner the structure and setting of an early Christian Monastery that has evolved over a thousand years of continuous use. Its location and the early date of its foundation bear unique witness to the propagation and continuity of Christianity in Central Europe.

This nomination called the attention to the importance of the Benedictine Monks who had been working towards peace among countries and among its people and therefore clearly reflects the spirit of UNESCO's Constitution.

**Sangiran Early Man Site**                      593                      Indonesia                      C(iii) (vi)

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated site under cultural criteria (iii) and (vi) as one of the key sites for the understanding of human evolution that admirably illustrates the development of *Homo sapiens sapiens* from the Lower Pleistocene to the present through the outstanding fossil and artefactual material that it has produced.

**Skellig Michael**                      757                      Ireland                      C(iii)(iv)

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (iii) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being an exceptional, and in many respects unique example of an early religious settlement deliberately sited on a pyramidal rock in the ocean, preserved because of a remarkable environment. It illustrates, as no other site can, the extremes of a Christian monasticism characterizing much of North Africa, the Near East and Europe.

**Castel del Monte**                      398Rev.                      Italy                      C(i)(ii)(iii)

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (ii) and (iii) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value in its formal perfection and its harmonious blending of cultural elements from northern Europe, the Muslim world, and classical antiquity. Castel del Monte is a unique masterpiece of medieval military architecture, reflecting the humanism of its founder, Frederick II of Hohenstaufen.

The Delegation of Mexico emphasized the importance of the Castle as a reference point in the landscape and the need to preserve it.

**The Trulli of Alberobello**                      787                      Italy                      C(iii)(iv)(v)

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (iii), (iv) and (v) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being an exceptional example of a form of building construction deriving from prehistoric construction techniques that have survived intact and functioning into the modern world.

The name of this property has been changed to "**The Trulli of Alberobello**".

**The Early Christian Monuments of Ravenna**                      788                      Italy                      C(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) considering

that the site is of outstanding universal value being of remarkable significance by virtue of the supreme artistry of the mosaic art that the monuments contain, and also because of the crucial evidence that they provide of artistic and religious relationships and contacts at an important period of European cultural history.

The original name of the nominated property has been changed to **"The Early Christian Monuments of Ravenna"**.

<b>The Historic Centre of the City of Pienza</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>C (i) (ii) (iv)</b>
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The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (ii) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as it represents the first application of the Renaissance Humanist concept of urban design, and as such occupies a seminal position in the development of the concept of the planned "ideal town" which was to play a significant role in subsequent urban development in Italy and beyond. The application of this principle in Pienza, and in particular in the group of buildings around the central square, resulted in a masterpiece of human creative genius.

The Committee also congratulated Italy for having chosen rather than a selective lecture of the Convention, a global and diversified approach reflected by nominations illustrating all heritage categories and bearing witness to the link and interaction of cultures over a long period.

<b>Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome)</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>C (vi)</b>
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The Delegation of China expressed reservations on the approval of this nomination in a statement prior to the Committee taking its decision. The text of China's statement is reproduced in Annex V.

The Committee decided to inscribe the Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) on the World Heritage List, exceptionally on the basis of cultural criterion (vi).

The Delegate of the United States of America made a statement dissociating his Delegation from the Committee's decision. This text is reproduced in Annex V.

**Itsukushima Shinto Shrine**      776                      **Japan**              **C(i) (ii) (iv) (vi)**

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (ii), (iv) and (vi) as the supreme example of this form of religious centre, setting traditional architecture of great artistic and technical merit against a dramatic natural background and thereby creating a work of art of incomparable physical beauty. The Delegate of Germany suggested that the authorities may consider cultural landscape criteria for a possible extension.

**The Ancient ksour of Ouadane, Chinguetti, Tichitt, Oualata**      750                      **Mauritania**              **C(iii) (iv) (v)**

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the World Heritage List on the basis of cultural criteria (iii), (iv) and (v) considering that these four ancient cities constitute exceptional examples of settlements built to serve the important trade routes of the Sahara Desert, and which were witness to cultural, social and economic contacts for many centuries.

Several delegations emphasized the importance of this inscription, following a long safeguarding campaign, which adds to the richness of the World Heritage List. It introduces the notion of halting places, necessary landmarks of itineraries and trade routes. This new category of space was identified thanks to the Global Strategy.

The Observer of Mauritania then thanked the members of the Committee and underlined the commitment of his authorities for the rehabilitation of these cities in the framework of integrated development approach. He expressed his gratitude for the efforts of the international community at bilateral and multilateral levels.

**The Prehispanic Town of Uxmal**      791                      **Mexico**              **C(i) (ii) (iii)**

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (ii) and (iii) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value. The ruins of the ceremonial structures at Uxmal represent the pinnacle of late

Mayan art and architecture in their design, layout and ornamentation, and the complex of Uxmal and its three related towns of Kabáh, Labná and Sayil admirably demonstrate the social and economic structure of late Mayan society.

The Committee also commended Mexico on the inscription of Uxmal which is one of the most exceptional examples of Mayan architecture in Mesoamerica.

<b>The Historic Monuments Zone of Querétaro</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>Mexico</b>	<b>C(ii) (iv)</b>
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The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (ii) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value and an exceptional example of a colonial town whose layout symbolizes its multi-ethnic population. It is also endowed with a wealth of outstanding buildings, notably from the 17th and 18th centuries.

<b>The Historic City of Meknes</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>Morocco</b>	<b>C(iv)</b>
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The Committee decided to inscribe the Historic City of Meknes under cultural criterion (iv) because it represents in an exceptionally complete and well preserved way the urban fabric and monumental buildings of a 17th century Maghreb capital city which combines elements of Islamic and European design and planning in a harmonious fashion.

Furthermore, the Committee congratulated Morocco on the presentation of Meknes, and welcomed its inscription Moulay'a Ismail capital on the World Heritage List. Meknes strengthens the coherence of the series of medinas of the Maghreb which remain under-represented on the List.

<b>The Defence Line of Amsterdam</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>C(ii) (iv) (v)</b>
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The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iv) and (v) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as it is an exceptional example of an extensive integrated defence system of the modern period which has survived intact and well conserved since it was created in the later 19th century. It is also

notable for the unique way in which the Dutch genius for hydraulic engineering has been incorporated into the defences of the nation's capital city.

**The Historic Centre of Oporto**                      755                      **Portugal**                      **C(iv)**

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criterion (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as the urban fabric and its many historic buildings bear remarkable testimony to the development over the past thousand years of a European city that looks outward to the west for its cultural and commercial links.

**The Historic Walled Town of Cuenca**                      781                      **Spain**                      **C(ii) (v)**

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (ii) and (v) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as it is an exceptional example of the medieval fortress town that has preserved its original townscape remarkably intact along with many excellent examples of religious and secular architecture from the 12th to the 18th centuries. It is also exceptional because the walled town blends into and enhances the fine rural and natural landscape within which it is situated.

**La Lonja de la Seda de Valencia**                      782                      **Spain**                      **C(i) (iv)**

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (i) and (iv), considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as it is a wholly exceptional example of a secular building in late Gothic style, which dramatically illustrates the power and wealth of one of the great Mediterranean mercantile cities.

**The Church Village of Gammelstad, Lulea**                      762                      **Sweden**                      **C(ii) (iv) (v)**

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iv) and (v), considering that the site is of outstanding universal value as it is a remarkable example of the traditional church town of northern Scandinavia,

and admirably illustrates the adaptation of conventional urban design to the special geographical and climatic conditions of a hostile natural environment.

## **C.2 Extension of a World Heritage site**

<b>The City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto</b>	<b>712bis</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>C(i)(ii)</b>
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The Committee decided to approve the extension of the site inscribed in 1995.

The Committee expressed its satisfaction that the protection of this property was extended to incorporate 22 Palladian villas.

The name of the property was changed to "The City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto."

## **IX. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE GLOBAL STRATEGY AND THE THEMATIC AND COMPARATIVE STUDIES**

### **A. GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE**

#### **A.1 Follow up to the Harare Meeting (1995)**

**IX.1** The proceedings of the First Global Strategy meeting held in Harare (Zimbabwe) from 11 to 13 October 1995, were published as an illustrated document disseminated in Africa through UNESCO Offices and National Commissions for UNESCO. As a result of this meeting and thanks to preparatory assistance, Zimbabwe organized another sub-regional meeting in November 1996, to harmonize the tentative lists, and which was attended by ten countries. The experts who had already participated in the 1995 meeting, undertook to finalize their tentative lists and to send them to the World Heritage Centre at the beginning of 1997.

#### **A.2 Second Global Strategy Meeting (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 29 July-1 August 1996)**

**IX.2** This meeting, decided by the World Heritage Committee during its nineteenth session, was prepared by the Centre and ICOMOS. Its goal was to improve the representativity of the

World Heritage List. It was preceded by a meeting, on 6 May 1996, of an international Scientific Committee.

**IX.3** The Addis Ababa meeting was attended by representatives from seven countries (Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Niger and Uganda). It was organized around four themes:

- The Convention, the notion of cultural heritage today and African heritage
- Archaeological heritage
- Historical heritage, human settlements and living cultures
- Religious places, places of technical production, cultural itineraries and trade routes.

**IX.4** The African experts presented a report on major cultural heritage in their countries, emphasizing important sites. They confirmed and illustrated the extraordinary wealth and diversity of cultural heritage of this regional of Africa. Through the examples presented significant groupings became evident. Three of these types of cultural sites requiring specific approaches were identified during discussions:

- archaeological and historical heritage
- traditional architecture and material traces of living non-monumental cultures, including technical heritage and unbuilt sacred places
- routes, itineraries, vast natural zones where traditional populations live.

**IX.5** At the end of this meeting, the participants concluded that it was unnecessary presently to modify the cultural criteria in their actual form, but that in the application of the Convention account should be taken of: i) the total interaction of the nature-culture continuum in African societies; ii) the spiritual and sacred heritage and its physical supports; iii) the specificities of cultural landscapes and exchange routes in Africa. They thanked the Committee for their assistance in the organization of the meeting which allowed them to become more familiar with the Convention and provide a basis for reflection concerning the specificities of African cultural heritage.

**IX.6** Publication of the proceedings of the meeting in the form of a bilingual scientific publication, in collaboration with the African Research Centre of the University of Paris I is under preparation. The synthetic report of the Addis Abeba meeting was distributed as Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.7.



## B. THEMATIC STUDIES

### B.1 Regional Thematic Study Meeting: European Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value (Vienna, Austria, 21 April 1996)

IX.7 The Committee recalled that following the Action Plan for Cultural Landscapes as adopted by the seventeenth session of the World Heritage Committee held in Cartagena in December 1993, a series of regional thematic study meetings were organized in 1994 and 1995. In 1996 a regional thematic study meeting on European Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value was organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the advisory bodies and the Austrian National Commission for UNESCO in cooperation with Austria Nostra in Vienna (Austria) on 21 April 1996. The Committee noted that the experts reaffirmed the three cultural landscape categories for the European Region and addressed the identification, assessment and evaluation of European cultural landscapes in close cooperation with the Council of Europe and its proposed European Landscape Convention.

## C. GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR NATURAL HERITAGE

### C.1 Expert Meeting on Evaluation of general principles and criteria for nominations of natural World Heritage sites (Parc national de la Vanoise, France, 22 to 24 March 1996)

IX.8 The Committee commended the French authorities for hosting the expert meeting on "Evaluation of general principles and criteria for nominations of natural World Heritage sites" from 22 to 24 March 1996 at the Parc National de la Vanoise (France) and took note of the full report of the meeting presented in Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.8 in English and French.

IX.9 The Australian Delegation endorsed the results of the La Vanoise meeting and indicated Australia's support for the proposed Global Strategy for Natural Heritage. Australia offered to contribute US\$ 20,000 towards the undertaking of such a Strategy.

IX.10 The expert group reviewed the natural heritage concepts, the coverage of natural sites on the World Heritage List as well as its balance, manageability and credibility.

IX.11 The expert group emphasized the unifying concept of World Heritage embracing both cultural and natural heritage as

outlined in the text of the Convention and the need for an overarching Global Strategy for both natural and cultural heritage. As a result of the discussions, the experts recommended changes to the Operational Guidelines, which were presented in Working Document WHC-96/CONF.201/18.

**IX.12** The Committee recalled that the Bureau at its twentieth session did not discuss the recommendations of the experts in detail and that a Circular Letter No. 5/96 was sent to all States Parties of the World Heritage Convention together with the report of the expert meeting. The Secretariat informed the Committee that replies to this Circular Letter were received from the following States Parties: Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Ireland, Lebanon, Morocco, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Spain and Switzerland, as well as by ICOMOS Poland.

**IX.13** The Committee took note that the replies were of quite substantive nature and that general agreement and support for the recommendations were expressed by Colombia, Croatia, Ireland, Lebanon, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Spain and Switzerland. Several States Parties underlined however, the complexity of the issue, in particular the problem of the application of "outstanding universal value", the usefulness of one set of criteria, the definition of universal beauty and the application of the conditions of integrity to all sites.

**IX.14** Several delegates commented on the report of La Vanoise and indicated that the interaction between culture and nature is in the spirit of the Convention and that the report of the experts is extremely interesting. There is however a more in-depth discussion needed on (a) the application of the "conditions of integrity" versus the "test of authenticity", (b) the question of a unified or a harmonized set of criteria, and (c) the notion of outstanding universal value and its application in different regional and cultural contexts. The Delegate of Italy proposed to involve other experts and offered to select experts from his country.

**IX.15** The Delegate of Canada proposed a truly joint meeting of cultural and natural heritage experts to consider these questions and to ensure that all advisory bodies be involved. This proposal was adopted.

**C.2 Expert Meeting on Geological and Fossil Sites held at the 30th International Geological Congress (Beijing, China, 8 to 10 August 1996)**

**IX.16** The Committee recalled that the Bureau at its eighteenth session in July 1994, had asked for an expert meeting on geological and fossil sites. This expert meeting was held at the 30th International Geological Congress (Beijing, China, 8 to 10 August 1996) in order to enhance the preparation of a comparative global study of Earth's evolutionary history. The meeting was organized by the UNESCO Division of Earth Sciences, the World Heritage Centre in cooperation with IUCN and IUGS (International Union of Geological Sciences). The Canadian authorities provided financial support for participants' travel to the expert meeting.

**IX.17** The Committee took note of the full report of this expert group which is contained in Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.10 and the annexed report "Earth's Geological History. A conceptual framework for assessment of World Heritage fossil site nominations". The Delegate of Italy noted that the list of sites proposed in this study is not exhaustive. Following the experts' recommendations, the Committee (a) encouraged States Parties to the Convention to prepare inventories of their national geological heritage, and further to consider identifying from these inventories sites for national tentative lists for World Heritage, (b) that IUGS, through the Global Geosite Working Group, make a first assessment of the values of these sites and compile a global comparative inventory and database, (c) invited IUCN to cooperate closely with IUGS and other NGOs as appropriate for further evaluation of sites proposed for World Heritage listing and (d) encouraged in-depth thematic studies, taking into account the important study prepared by Mr Wells on fossil sites.

**D. PROJECTS FOR 1997 AND 1998**

**D.1 Global Strategy for Cultural Heritage**

**IX.18** The Committee approved a Global Strategy meeting for the Pacific Region in 1997, and the principle of a meeting for the Caribbean region with the French Ministry of Education nationale et d'Enseignement Superieur et de la Recherche in 1998. The Committee allocated an amount of US\$ 40,000 under Chapter II of the budget for the Pacific region.

## **D.2 Global Strategy for Natural Heritage**

**IX.19** The Committee decided that, in view of the Vanoise conclusions on strengthening the links between cultural and natural values, and in the spirit of the Global Strategy adopted at the eighteenth session of the Committee in Phuket, a regionally balanced workshop of experts from both cultural and natural fields be organized in 1997. The Committee allocated an amount of US\$ 30,000 under Chapter II of the budget for this Workshop.

## **D.3 Thematic Studies**

### **i) Expert Meeting on Cultural Landscapes of the Andes**

**IX.20** Following regional thematic study meetings on specific aspects of cultural landscapes in the Asia Pacific Region and Europe, the Committee approved holding an expert meeting on the cultural landscapes of the Andes in 1997 to guide States Parties in the region in the identification, selection and presentation of cultural landscapes in the Andean Region. The Committee allocated an amount of US\$ 30,000 under Chapter II of the budget for this meeting.

### **ii) Expert Meeting on Cultural Landscapes in Africa**

**IX.21** Following recommendations by the subregional training seminar held at La Tapoa, Niger, in September-October 1996, the Committee approved holding an expert meeting on cultural landscapes in Africa in 1998.

## **E. COMPARATIVE STUDIES ON CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**IX.22** The Committee took note of the ICOMOS document on Comparative Studies (Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.11) and its results.

## **X. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ADVISORY BODIES AND THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE**

**X.1** The Secretariat presented a summary of Document WHC-96/CONF.201/11 on the subject of Co-operation between the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre. With increasing volume and complexity of work and relatively static funding abilities, the Secretariat, advisory bodies and Committee had

expressed concerns for the need of a close working relationship between the Centre and the three advisory bodies to avoid overlap, to effect cost efficiencies and to expedite the work of the Convention. As no overall agreements between the Centre and the advisory bodies existed, it was agreed that it was desirable to clarify and define the respective roles, requirements, responsibilities and obligations through the development of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) to reach these objectives and to assure a timely and effective collaboration through the annual contracting process. The twentieth session of the Bureau June 1996 requested such Memoranda of Understanding be prepared and further requested to review draft fee contracts for 1997 (the annual UNESCO work contracts between the Centre and the advisory bodies for the Centre to implement the decisions of the Committee) as required under Article 14.2 of the Convention.

**X.2** The preparation of the Memoranda of Understanding was described to the Committee as a productive, mutually beneficial and interactive process, which in itself was very constructive and led to strengthened co-operation. Progress to date in the preparation of these agreements was reported as the following: (a) The IUCN MoU had been successfully completed with mutual and complete satisfaction to the Parties, and on the occasion of the IUCN World Conservation Congress and General Assembly had been signed by the Director of the Centre and the Director General of IUCN. The MoU was endorsed by the 3000 IUCN worldwide membership participants in a World Heritage supporting resolution. A copy of this MoU was provided to the Committee in Annex A of WHC-96/CONF.201/11. (b) The ICCROM draft MoU, which had been identified as pending legal review by ICCROM, reached a mutually satisfying final draft stage during the Committee session in Merida. (c) The ICOMOS draft MoU which had been identified as pending review and consideration by ICOMOS, was endorsed in principle by the ICOMOS Delegate during the twentieth session of the Committee. The ICOMOS Delegate expressed enthusiasm with the nature of the agreement and a desire to sign it rapidly. The Committee was informed that the MoUs did not change the status of the advisory bodies under the terms of the Convention and Operational Guidelines, and did not replace the annual fee contracts between the Centre and the advisory bodies to perform work for the Committee.

**X.3** The texts of draft fee contracts between UNESCO and IUCN and ICOMOS for proposed advisory services to the Committee in 1997 were presented to the Committee for review. Following late submissions of proposed budgets by IUCN and ICOMOS, proposed costs could not be provided in the document. At the request of the advisory bodies, a sample budget framework was provided to the advisory bodies.

**X.4** A review of close cooperation between the Centre and the advisory bodies was also provided to the Committee. The Committee took note that regular meetings are held with the advisory bodies.

**X.5** In response to the inquiry from the Delegate of Canada, the three advisory bodies indicated respectively their complete satisfaction with the terms and conditions of the MoUs. The advisory bodies further indicated their full appreciation for the efforts of the Centre in this regard.

**X.6** The Delegation of Italy indicated reservations regarding the authority and competency for the Centre to conclude such agreements with the advisory bodies and proposed three considerations to the Committee: (a) The Chair of the Committee signs such agreements; (b) Having such a model as the Nordic Heritage Office, Oslo, the Director-General of UNESCO signs such agreements; and, (c) The MoUs are signed by the Chair of the Committee, the Director-General of UNESCO and by the executives of the three advisory bodies in a trilateral arrangement.

**X.7** The following delegations associated themselves with Italy on these positions: Australia, Benin, Germany, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco and Niger. The Committee decided that henceforth these Memoranda of Understanding should be signed by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and by the executives of the three advisory bodies.

**X.8** Further discussion identified ICCROM as a special case as it is an intergovernmental organization. In this respect, the Delegation of Italy posed the following legal considerations: (a) With intergovernmental organizations, who is party to such an agreement?; and, (b) Who is responsible to whom in such agreements, and for what? Given the intergovernmental nature of ICCROM and of the Convention and in order to avoid duplication, the Delegate of Italy proposed that ICCROM be the priority partner in the field of training in cultural World Heritage conservation and that it be consulted on all requests for training assistance in order to ensure quality and efficiency of training activities in the framework of the adopted training strategy. This proposal was adopted by the Committee. The Delegate of Mexico emphasized the importance of a regional approach in training.

**X.9** The Delegate of the United States of America referred to paragraph 14.2 of the Convention which states that the Director-General "shall have the responsibility for the implementation of its (the Committee's) decisions" and requested

a legal interpretation on its application regarding the contracting with advisory bodies. The Delegate of the United States requested a legal opinion from the Legal Affairs of UNESCO on the matter of signature authority.

## **XI. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE TRAINING STRATEGY**

### **NATURAL HERITAGE**

**XI.1** The Secretariat gave a succinct presentation of the World Heritage Convention Manual prepared by the Centre, which explains the World Heritage conservation process in a clear and logical way, and provided information concerning the implementation of the training strategy for natural heritage adopted in 1995.

### **CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**XI.2** The Director-General of ICCROM summarized the findings of the expert meeting held in Rome (19-22 September 1996) to define "strategical approaches to training concerning immovable cultural properties" (Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.15). He recalled that to ensure the enhancement of World Heritage sites, the creation of a strong operational capacity is needed for their conservation and management. This operational capacity includes: a) the establishment of a legal framework and its application; b) a strategy of human resource development; c) the establishment of operational communication and support structures; d) awareness within the professional and social environment.

**XI.3** He then defined the parameters and principles of the training strategy which should be based on the need: a) to train qualified interdisciplinary teams; b) to understand the specific conservation management process of the sites; c) to respond to specific needs; d) to develop awareness and educational programmes. He recalled that the Rome Meeting highlighted a series of findings common to the six regional presentations (Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, Arab States, Baltic States, South-east Asia and the Pacific):

- insufficient awareness
- insufficient political support
- insufficient multidisciplinary interventions
- insufficient qualified trained staff and operational support structures
- insufficient opportunities for information exchange
- insufficient link with economic planning.

The Director-General of ICCROM also emphasized that once the regional needs had been evaluated, strategic action plans should be developed.

**XI.4** He also explained the strategic framework adopted in Rome which is based on three levels of complementary activities: i) training, awareness, education; ii) demonstration/pilot projects; iii) information networks; while, on the training level, emphasis is on the need (a) to strengthen existing training opportunities; (b) to identify national, regional, international partnerships; (c) to create a network of training institutions; (d) to combine training with education.

**XI.5** He stressed that the strategic framework was in fact a management tool to evaluate technical assistance and training requests. The joint UNESCO/ICCROM approach will greatly enhance cooperation. Moreover, the Committee will be assured of the quality control of training activities.

**XI.6** The Secretariat referred to the detailed analysis of a regional survey conducted in forty-four countries south of the sub-Sahara which has provided the factual data needed to elaborate a pilot project for Africa. This project is expected to be developed over a ten-year period, and a first set of *in situ* training activities on World Heritage sites is already foreseen and training requests shall be examined by the Committee.

**XI.7** Several Committee members expressed their full satisfaction with the proposed training strategy for cultural heritage. They took note of Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.15 before approving a recommendation on the principles which should guide training activities in the field of natural and cultural heritage which is attached in Annex IV. They announced their intention to increase the 1997 budget line earmarked for training. The Representative of ICCROM proposed that ICCROM coordinate the training initiatives in order to avoid duplication.

## **XII. REQUESTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE**

**XII.** The Bureau at its twentieth extraordinary session noted that several requests for international assistance were related to state of conservation reports on the same properties and suggested the Committee to consider if these should be examined together. The Committee approved the recommendation of the Bureau. Furthermore, the Delegate of Germany proposed that all training requests submitted for World Heritage funding on a yearly basis be studied together so as to provide information on



the level of funds obligated on a regular basis. The Delegate of Canada insisted that these training programmes be evaluated, as it has been done within the training strategy for natural heritage. The Committee requested the Secretariat "to call upon the advice of the experts of the appropriate bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM)", according to paragraph 102 of the Operational Guidelines. Australia requested that in presenting requests to the Committee for international assistance, the Centre states, when appropriate, if the competent advisory body has been consulted. The Committee requested the advisory bodies to inform the World Heritage Centre of all their activities concerning World Heritage sites. In order to facilitate the consultations with the advisory bodies, the Committee decided to modify in paragraph 108 of the Operational Guidelines the deadline for the submission of international assistance requests, which will now be 1 September.

## A. NATURAL HERITAGE

### A.1 Technical Cooperation

#### A.1.1 Technical Workshop on the Conservation of Simen National Park (Ethiopia) (US\$ 46,000 requested)

The Committee approved the request for a reduced amount of **US\$ 30,000** and requested the State Party in consultation with the Secretariat and IUCN, to better define the programme of the workshop, the expected outputs and to revise the budget.

### A.2 Training

#### A.2.1 Nineteenth Protected Area Course CATIE, (Costa Rica) (US\$ 48,000 requested)

The Committee approved a sum of **US\$ 30,000** for participants to attend the Nineteenth International Protected Area Course, CATIE, Costa Rica.

#### A.2.2 Individual Scholarships for the School for the Training of Wildlife Specialists, Garoua, (Cameroon) (US\$ 45,000 requested)

The Committee approved an amount of **US\$ 45,000** for three scholarships for three students from State Parties of francophone African countries for a two-year period (1997/98 and 1998/99).

**B. CULTURAL HERITAGE****B.1 Technical Cooperation****B.1.1 Historic Centre of the Town of Olinda (Brazil)  
(US\$ 33,000 requested)**

Considering the potential inclusion of Olinda in a major programme for the development of tourism in the north-east of Brazil with subsequent funding possibilities for the rehabilitation and restoration of Olinda, the Committee approved the amount of **US\$ 33,000** for this technical cooperation to support the municipality authorities in the creation of a project office in Olinda for a feasibility study on urban rehabilitation and restoration.

**B.1.2 Conservation of Traditional Houses in Luang Prabang  
(Laos) (US\$ 49,900 requested)**

The Committee approved an amount of **US\$ 39,900** to meet the above request (with a reduction of input for the purchase of building material from US\$ 20,000 to US\$ 10,000) to co-finance a project to impart skills for the conservation of traditional wooden houses; to ameliorate the quality of locally produced bricks and roof tiles and to distribute traditional building material (roof tiles and wood) to renovate ten houses owned by poor families.

**B.1.3 Serra da Capivara National Park (Brazil)  
(US\$ 35,000 requested)**

The Committee approved an amount of **US\$ 35,000** for technical cooperation for the documentation, inventory and observation of the conditions of the rock paintings at Serra da Capivara National Park.

**B.1.4 Joya de Ceren Archaeological Site (El Salvador)  
(US\$ 10,000 requested in addition to US\$ 25,000  
already approved in 1994)**

Considering the fragility of the site and the complexity of its conservation and management and the need to continue the process started in 1994, the Committee approved the additional amount of **US\$ 10,000** for an international seminar on the conservation and management of Joya de Ceren and its surroundings that will be held in 1997.

**B.1.5      The Third General Assembly of the Organization of  
World Heritage Cities and the 4th Symposium of World  
Heritage (Evora, Portugal) (US\$ 50,000 requested)**

The Committee, in examining this request recalled the decision of the Committee at its eighteenth session that the World Heritage Fund should not finance statutory meetings nor subsidies for other organizations. The Committee noted that US\$ 15,000 financial input from the 1997 UNESCO Regular Programme budget to this General Assembly of O.W.H.C. was proposed in the 1997 budget under the Promotional and Educational Activities. The Committee decided to approve a contribution of **US\$ 30,000** to the Municipality of Evora on an exceptional basis, for the Symposium on Tourism and World Heritage Cities. This grant from the Fund is to finance the participation of mayors of World Heritage Cities in developing countries.

**B.2          Training**

**B.2.1      Regional Training Course on Conservation and  
Protection of Monuments and Sites for Architects of  
the Maghreb Region in Tunis (2nd session, November 1996  
- July 1998) (Tunisia) (US\$ 36,000 requested)**

The Committee approved **US\$ 36,000** for three fellowships for three non-Tunisian students for the second session of the two-year course, which would result in a regional training activity of the greatest importance.

**B.2.2      Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Graduate  
Training Course on 'Integrated Urban and Territorial  
Conservation' (ITUC/BR) (request submitted by  
Brazil) (US\$ 42,600 requested)**

The course responds to the training strategy for cultural heritage and the needs identified through a great number of state of conservation reports. Considering that the course is the first one of its kind in the region, that twenty-three World Heritage sites in the region are historical cities or urban areas representing fifty percent of the cultural sites, the Committee approved an amount of **US\$ 40,000**, providing that fellowships be awarded to participants with a responsibility for properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

**B.2.3 Pilot Project on Conservation Programme James Island  
(Gambia) (US\$ 40,000 requested)**

The Committee approved the amount of **US\$ 40,000** in the light of the recommendation for the training strategy south of the Sahara, and requested ICCROM/GAIA to implement this project which is an illustration of their strategic approach. The project will cover on-site training in James Island to enable the Museums and Monuments Department to prepare conservation plans not only for James Island but for other sites as well.

**B.2.4 Training Course for an Integrated Approach to Urban  
Conservation (ICCROM) (US\$ 40,000 requested)**

Given that the advisory bodies are being requested, within the overall strategy described in Document WHC-96/CONF.201/12, to develop thematic courses at the international level and adapt them at the regional level, the Committee approved the amount of **US\$ 30,000** to co-finance an international training workshop for World Heritage City managers to be organized at ICCROM with participants responsible for the conservation management of historic cities or areas, and teachers.

**B.2.5 Conservation of Immovable Property in Sub-Sahara,  
Africa (ICCROM) (US\$ 50,000 requested)**

Given that the pilot project for Africa is part of the overall training strategy for cultural properties as described in Document WHC-96/CONF.201/12, the Committee approved the amount of **US\$ 50,000**. This amount will co-finance the implementation of the first phase of the project, to organize a seminar in Africa with African partners, and identify scientific partners for thematic approaches for the preservation of stone, brick and wood and timber conservation and archaeological sites.

**XIII. EXAMINATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND AND APPROVAL  
OF THE BUDGET FOR 1997, AND PRESENTATION OF A  
PROVISIONAL BUDGET FOR 1998**

**XIII.1** The Chairperson opened the session and referred to Working Documents WHC-96/CONF.201/14A, B and C, as well as to Information Documents WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.17, INF.18 and INF.19. Mr Mark Warren, Deputy Comptroller of the Bureau of the Comptroller of UNESCO, then presented the structure of the accounts and the global proposals for 1997.

**XIII.2** The Deputy Comptroller explained that the documents relating to this agenda item (with the exception of WHC-96/CONF.201/14D which would be discussed later), had been prepared in response to the Bureau's decision at its twentieth session for a more comprehensive and transparent presentation of the budget. In particular, he drew the Committee's attention to Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.17 which contained the statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the preceding biennium 1994-1995, which will be submitted to the next General Assembly, and to Document WHC-96/CONF.201/14C. This latter document provided the rationale for the budget ceiling, the proposals concerning the Reserve Fund and provided a detailed proposed budget for 1997.

**XIII.3** The Director of the Centre then presented the proposed budget for 1997 and gave explanations concerning the differences proposed in the amounts allocated to the various chapters of the budget. The details were the following:

		US\$		
		Approved	Proposed	Indicative
		1996	1997	1998
Chapter I	Overall servicing/functioning of the World Heritage Convention	440 000	120 000	80 000
Chapter II	Establishment of World Heritage List	592 000	672 000	672 000
Chapter III	Technical implementation of World Heritage Convention	1 410 000	1 830 000	1 830 000
Chapter IV	Monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of World Heritage sites	260 000	280 000	280 000
Chapter V	World Heritage documentation, information and education programme for the 25th Anniversary	298 000	398 000	308 000
	Balance to be included in 1998 proposed budget when presented to the twenty-first session of the Committee			430 000
	<b>TOTAL WHF</b>	<b>3 000 000</b>	<b>3 300 000</b>	<b>3 600 000</b>

**XIII.4** Moreover, the Director recalled that if account is taken that the staff costs of the Centre paid by the World Heritage Fund will be absorbed in 1997 by the Regular Programme of UNESCO, the increase in the fiscal resources to the Fund available for World Heritage between 1996 and 1997 will be US\$

660,000, an almost 25% increase in fiscal resources available for Committee allocation.

**XIII.5** Several delegates thanked the Director-General for having accepted to absorb in the Regular Programme of UNESCO the staff of the Centre presently funded from the World Heritage Fund. Furthermore, they welcomed the subsequent increase in the proposed available budget funds, increasing the capacity to respond to the needs of World Heritage sites. Several delegates suggested increasing the World Heritage budget by further reducing the reserves. Also, the management capacity of the World Heritage Centre for a budget which will be substantially increased was questioned. In this respect, the Committee noted that it was possible to call upon ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN and/or other competencies to increase the capacity of implementation.

**XIII.6** Questions concerning the World Heritage Fund accounts as presented in the Documents WHC-96/CONF.201/14A and WHC-96/CONF.201/14B were then discussed. In general, it was considered that although the presentation of the information requested by the Committee had much improved since the nineteenth session of the World Heritage Committee, the division of Item 13 of the Agenda into six different documents led to confusion and a lack of clarity. Therefore, they considered that a reduction of documentation and the production of an annual balance sheet for the past year and an action plan for the coming year with forecasts for the forthcoming two years, would be more than adequate and provide the necessary global overview to facilitate the full comprehension of the proposals.

**XIII.7** With regard to the accounts as at 31 August 1996, Cuba, France, Germany, Italy and Mexico questioned the transparency of the accounts and noted some anomalies. They remarked that they could not establish relationships between the tables and that some amounts did not correspond, or were incorrect. Moreover, they questioned the use of certain expenses obligated by the Centre. Delegates then raised a number of questions concerning details of the presentations of the World Heritage Fund accounts as well as the Document WHC-96/CONF.201/14/B "Synoptic Presentation of the World Heritage Centre (1996)". With regard to the same presentation, it was remarked that the staff costs of the Centre funded by UNESCO could not be shown as resources of the Centre. It was also recalled that, acting as the Secretariat for the Convention, the Centre could not have its own financial resources. (In fact, the Secretariat is the instrument for the implementation of the Convention and the decisions of the Committee.) Furthermore, several delegates requested clarifications on the income of the Centre, notably those coming from promotional activities.

**XIII.8** The Deputy Comptroller of UNESCO intervened and responded to delegates' queries, notably concerning the accounts of the World Heritage Fund as at 31 August 1996. He also presented two new documents entitled "Other Revenues of the World Heritage Fund" (WHC-96/CONF.201/14A.Add.1) and "Income from Contracts with Media Partners" (Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.19Add.1).

**XIII.9** The Director of the Centre assured the Committee that the income indicated in Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.19Add.1 had been paid into the World Heritage Fund and that this was ongoing. The Committee requested that the entire income could only be used upon the agreement of the Chairperson of the Committee and that a report be made of this income to the twenty-first session of the Bureau of the Committee in June 1997. They then discussed in detail the presentation of the Workplan proposed for 1997 and the provisional budget for 1998 (WHC-96/CONF.201/14C).

**XIII.10** The Delegate of Mexico drew attention to the fact that it was not possible to evaluate objectively the variations in proposals in comparison to 1996, because the Committee did not dispose of any programme or project. He considered that the proposals submitted to the Committee were based on an analysis of past trends and emphasized that he wished that future budgets be based on short, medium and long-term programmes and plans, clearly relating to the objectives fixed by the Committee. This analysis was endorsed by several other delegations of States Parties to the Convention, notably Australia, Benin, Canada, Cuba, France, Germany, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Niger and the United States of America. The Secretariat undertook to provide a detailed written reply to questions concerning Document WHC-96/CONF.201/14A.

**XIII.11** The decisions of the Committee concerned two main aspects:

- improvement of the financial procedures and management;
- revision of the budget of the World Heritage Fund for 1997 and the indicative budget for 1998.

**XIII.12** Improvement of the financial procedures and management

Delegates recalled that it was not the first time that there had been disagreement between the Committee and the Secretariat. Also, whilst recognizing the quality of the presentation had greatly increased since the nineteenth session, several delegates

requested an external audit be undertaken of the accounts of the World Heritage Fund and the Centre and that, in order to disperse all ambiguity and seek a satisfactory solution for the preparation of the statement of accounts and provisional budgets.

Following several interventions, the delegates reached a consensus to carry out the detailed evaluation of the financial and management procedures which was read by the Delegate of Australia. It was then proposed that: "in the framework of the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary, the World Heritage Committee undertakes a review on the way in which the Centre has assisted the Committee in the implementation of the Convention. This review is to consist of two parts: (a) an external audit specifically of the World Heritage Fund (Article 6.3 of the Financial Rules of the Fund) and an evaluation of the format, presentation and content of the financial information and the budgets presented to the Committee covering all the funds used by the Centre and made proposals to improve the financial system; (b) an audit of the management of the World Heritage Centre after five years of functioning so as to see the achievements and ways in which to improve its management structure and system.

This evaluation would be undertaken in 1997 so as to formulate recommendations to the Committee at its next session (twenty-first) and will be carried out by the constitution of a consultative body and the recruitment of an independent management advisory service of international repute, to carry out this evaluation according to the terms of reference elaborated by the consultative body. It will be financed from the World Heritage Fund (funds proposed for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary) and the consultative body would be composed of Committee delegates."

This proposal was unanimously endorsed by the Committee and a consultative body composed of the following members: Australia, Benin, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Malta and Mexico.

After having met, the Consultative Body thus constituted, submitted to the Committee the following text containing the terms of its task:

#### **"MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE**

The World Heritage Committee at its meeting in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, 2-7 December 1996, noted with pleasure that 1997 marks the 25th anniversary of the Convention. As part of the celebrations and in view to contribute to the improvement of the efficiency in the implementation of this Convention,



Committee members thought it would be appropriate to review the functioning of the World Heritage Centre, which itself is celebrating its fifth year of operation. Therefore, the Committee has created a Consultative Body, in conformity with Article 10.3 of the World Heritage Convention. The Consultative Body is composed of Committee members from Australia, Benin, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Malta and Mexico.

The purpose of the Consultative Body is to take action on the proposal adopted by the Committee, to undertake a review of the way in which the World Heritage Centre has assisted the Committee in implementing the World Heritage Convention. The Consultative Body recommends that the review be undertaken in two phases:

1. In order to review the financial statements and accounts presented to the Committee, the Chairperson of the Committee is requested to seek the support of the Director-General of UNESCO to request UNESCO's External Auditor to conduct a specific audit of the World Heritage Fund for the year ending 31 December 1996. The extra costs that this might incur in the audit fee will be borne by the World Heritage Fund.

This audit should cover all funding sources, including revenue and other income. The audit should include a review of the format of the World Heritage Fund, presentation and content of the financial statements, accounts and budget information, as presented to the General Conference and to the World Heritage Assembly as required by the World Heritage Convention and the Financial Regulations of the World Heritage Fund.

In addition, the External Auditor should be requested to address a report of his audit to the Director-General, and present it to the World Heritage Bureau meeting at its twenty-first session (June 1997) together with the comments thereon of the Director-General.

2. The Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee is asked to approach the Director-General with the objective that UNESCO prepares a call for bids for an international firm of management consultants to conduct a review of management practices in the World Heritage Centre.

The draft call for bids together with the names of management consultant firms to which it will be sent, should be submitted to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee for her agreement. The costs would be borne by the Fund.

The overall objectives are to review the efficiency and effectiveness of management practices in achieving outcomes, and to examine the degree to which programmes and budgetary procedures are designed to meet the Committee's needs.

In preparing their report and bringing forth recommendations for improvement, the management consultants should examine, among other matters, the following:

- \* operational policies, criteria and frameworks for decision-making
- \* strategic and work planning
- \* workload and division of work
- \* human resource capacity (skills sets, staff/contractor mix)
- \* technical infrastructure and equipment
- \* the quality and timeliness of advice to the Committee
- \* internal and external communications strategies
- \* accounting procedures related to other sources of income.

The methodology should include interviews with key stakeholders, including but not necessarily limited to Committee members, advisory bodies and World Heritage staff, to determine needs and expectations.

At the appropriate time, the Chairperson will call a meeting of the Consultative Body to review these matters."

This proposal was unanimously approved by the Committee. The Delegate of France requested that the income received from contracts on promotional activities carried out by the Centre over and above the amounts foreseen in the budget be used to cover the costs of this evaluation, if need be. The Delegate also recommended the use of the Reserve Fund could be made available for this purpose.

**XIII.13** Proposed Workplan for 1997 and provisional budget for 1998

Whilst regretting that the details and explanations provided by the Centre relating to the use of the funds foreseen in the Workplan for 1997 were insufficient, the delegates questioned the structure of the budget and the allocation of funds. Thus, the following decisions were taken:

- a) the budget for 1997 is increased to US\$ 3.5 million instead of US\$ 3.3 million originally foreseen;
- b) the funds allocated for the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations of the Convention (US\$ 40,000 in Chapter I and US\$ 100,000 in Chapter V) are allocated for other purposes, of which an amount of US\$ 120,000 for the Evaluation of the Administrative Management of the World Heritage Centre, placed in Chapter I);
- c) increasing Chapter II to respond to demands of the advisory bodies and a new item inserted "Other bodies and individuals";
- d) increasing preparatory assistance and training in Chapter III;
- e) increasing funds foreseen to support States Parties in monitoring and reporting, in Chapter IV;
- f) Chapter V remains at the same level as in 1996, with the elimination of the item on the twenty-fifth anniversary and the strengthening of educational activities.

The budget below was approved unanimously.

**WORLD HERITAGE FUND**  
**SYNOPTIC OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET**  
(expressed in US\$)

	Approved 1994	Approved 1995	Approved 1996	Approved 1997	Indicative 1998
<b>Chapter I</b>					
<b>Overall functioning of the World Heritage Convention</b>					
Attendance of experts in statutory World Heritage Meetings	40,000	40,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Support to the World Heritage Secretariat	280,000	360,000	360,000	0	0
Overall Management and financial review of the Administration of the World Heritage Convention				120,000	0
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	320,000	400,000	440,000	200,000	80,000
<b>Chapter II</b>					
<b>Establishment of the World Heritage List</b>					
Global Strategy	40,000	70,000	70,000	100,000	70,000
Advisory services :					
• ICOMOS			310,000	350,000	
• IUCN (including for 1997 WCMC - US\$ 27,000)			212,000	247,000	
• Other bodies and individuals				35,000	
Total Advisory services	520,000	522,000	522,000	632,000	602,000
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	560,000	592,000	592,000	732,000	672,000
<b>Chapter III</b>					
<b>Technical implementation of the World Heritage Convention</b>					
Preparatory assistance	150,000	150,000	175,000	300,000	240,000
Technical cooperation	790,000	750,000	685,000	900,000*	900,000
Training	440,000	452,000	550,000	745,000**	690,000
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	1,380,000	1,352,000	1,410,000	1,945,000	1,830,000

\* Of which ICCROM US\$ 25,000;

\*\* Of which IUCN US\$ 27,000 and ICCROM US\$ 150,000

	Approved 1994	Approved 1995	Approved 1996	Approved 1997	Indicative 1998
<b>Chapter IV</b>					
<b>Monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of World Heritage sites</b>					
Reactive monitoring (1997 includes US\$ 40,000 for IUCN)	85,000	68,000	60,000	80,000	80,000
Support to the States Parties for monitoring and reporting					
• Methodological development	80,000	50,000	0	0	0
• Latin America & the Caribbean	65,000	50,000	40,000	48,000	40,000
• Africa	55,000	50,000	50,000	67,000	50,000
• Arab States & the Mediterranean	40,000	30,000	38,000	46,000	38,000
• Asia & the Pacific	55,000	60,000	42,000	49,000	42,000
• Europe			30,000	35,000	30,000
Total support to States Parties	295,000	240,000	200,000	245,000	200,000
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>380,000</b>	<b>308,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>325,000</b>	<b>280,000</b>

<b>Chapter V</b>					
<b>World Heritage Documentation, Information and Education</b>					
• Documentation				55,000	
• Information Materials			199,000	132,000	
• Internet and WHIN			55,000	44,000	
• Education			44,000	65,000	
• Media Co-Production			0	2,000	
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>268,000</b>	<b>298,000</b>	<b>298,000</b>	<b>308,000</b>

Balance (*) (* This balance will be distributed among the Chapters of the 1998 budget according to the needs and will be reflected in the submission to the Committee at its 21 <sup>st</sup> session					430,000
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<b>TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET WORLD HERITAGE FUND</b>	<b>2,910,000</b>	<b>2,920,000</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>3,500,000</b>	<b>3,600,000</b>
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<b>Chapter VI Emergency Reserve Fund</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>		<b>500,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	
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In conclusion, the Committee thanked the Secretariat for the efforts undertaken to improve the presentation and to respond to the questions raised. It finally requested the Secretariat to provide the future workplans in a document comprising: a plan of action, the statement of accounts and forecasts, the needs in resources.

**XIV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION IN THE LIGHT OF  
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS' PRACTICE**

**XIV.1** The Secretariat presented Document WHC-96/CONF.201/15, "The implementation of the Convention in light of twenty-years' practice" which was divided into three sections. Section I provided a review of the "Strategic Orientations for the Future" including a synopsis of achievements in meeting the five goals established by the sixteenth session of the Committee in 1992. Section II provided the highlights of the States Parties' replies to the 25th Anniversary Circular Letter as of 23 October 1996. Section III proposed a meeting of experts to thoroughly review the implementation of the Convention and to draft a strategic plan for future implementation.

**XIV.2** The German Delegation drew the Committee's attention to an exhibition on World Cultural Heritage at the "World Fair Expo 2000" and to a seminar being planned with Centre involvement, which will be held in Hildesheim on the occasion of the 25th anniversary. The Committee expressed interest and support for this effort.

**XIV.3** The Delegate of Italy noted that the proposed US\$ 40,000 for the scientific and technical meeting of experts had not been accepted during the Committee's earlier budget considerations. In the further discussion on the proposed experts' meeting, the Committee reflected a general concern for experts' meetings being held without political decision-makers participating. Several delegates indicated that such meetings should not always be confined to the same experts from the Advisory Bodies as in the past, and, to the extent possible, should be broadened to include participants from the proposed States Parties' "lists of experts" which was proposed by the Delegate of Italy. This proposal was strongly supported by other delegations during preliminary budget considerations. Several delegations noted that they had unfortunate experiences with repeated use of the same experts. They also noted that there was the need for an open selection process for experts to avoid repeating past mistakes.

**XIV.4** The Observer of Hungary indicated that, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary, they would propose to host a sub-regional World Heritage Workshop. The Delegate of the United States indicated that it could provide space at the Presidium of San Francisco if anyone wished to hold a workshop there. In addition, the United States is considering a World Heritage Workshop for World Heritage Site Managers. In such a case, they would invite World Heritage site managers from other countries.

**XIV.5** The Committee concluded that it did not support neither a thorough review of the implementation of the Convention nor the drafting of a strategic plan for the future as proposed, and did not allocate the funding required for this purpose.

## **XV. PROMOTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**XV.1** In introducing this agenda item on promotional and educational activities carried out in 1996 and to examine the proposals for 1997 (as contained in Document WHC-96/CONF.201/16), the Chair stated that these activities play a vital role in enhancing the implementation of the Convention and that the Committee therefore attaches great importance to these matters. She explained to the Committee that the World Heritage Centre, in addition to managing such activities financed from the World Heritage Fund, also coordinates promotional and educational activities on World Heritage carried out by other sectors of UNESCO and implements activities in this field entrusted to the Centre by the Director-General of UNESCO.

**XV.2** The Chair requested the Secretariat to focus its presentation on the 1997 proposed activities on the assumption that the Committee has noted the activities carried out in this field in 1996 as reported in the above-mentioned document.

**XV.3** The Secretariat began its presentation by responding to the request from one of the members of the Committee for a clarification on the notion of promotional activities, as understood by the Centre. The Secretariat stated that promotion was not to be confused with public relations and marketing but refers to information and communication activities for the enhancement of understanding and support by the public of the World Heritage Convention and their participation in its implementation.

**XV.4** Towards the attainment of these objectives, and in the furtherance of one of the principles of UNESCO which is to provide access to information by as large a sector of the world population as possible, the information and communication strategy of the proposed programme is to produce basic core information that is adaptable and could be expanded for different target groups.

**XV.5** The Secretariat explained that the proposed programme aims to optimize limited financial and staff resources, and to meet the needs of these different target groups, ranging from political decision-makers; business sector, including tourism; teachers and students; local communities inhabiting in or near the World Heritage sites and to the general public at large.

**XV.6** The Delegates of Germany and the United States of America commended the excellent quality of the document and the clarity of the Secretariat's presentation, and congratulated the Director and the staff of the Centre for their accomplishments in this field.

**XV.7** Several members of the Committee raised serious concerns over the numerous errors contained in the CD-ROM on World Heritage Cities co-produced by UNESCO and produced by the media with the use of the World Heritage emblem and insisted upon the need for quality control. The Committee felt that UNESCO should share the text of the publications and films with the States Parties concerned for verification in conformity with the Operational Guidelines. A delegate drew the Committee's attention to the question of confidentiality of Committee documents on Internet.

**XV.8** Several members of the Committee also stated that UNESCO had not always respected paragraph 125 of the Operational Guidelines, regarding the commercial use of the emblem. In this respect the Delegate of Italy stated that the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention should be closely abided to, and in particular paragraph 125, which does not authorize commercial reproduction of images of World Heritage sites. It was emphasized that on the contrary, the paragraph required that the State Party concerned be consulted before dissemination of information and images (even non-commercial) in order to avoid errors. In any case, it is necessary to verify that the intellectual property rights of each country are protected.

**XV.9** With reference to the wide diffusion of documentary information mentioned by the Delegation of Germany, the Delegation of Mexico wished to express the surprise of their authorities at the Ministry of Public Education who had finalized the publication of a book on Mexican sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, when discovering the commercialisation of a publication on these same sites, without forewarning or prior authorization, in another country and which moreover contained important errors, especially with regard to the illustrations. Consequently, the Delegation of Mexico requested that the States concerned be systematically consulted regarding all publications and proposed: (a) the use of information (often already available at the World Heritage Centre) in coordination with States; (b) that States be provided with advance information regarding publication programmes to avoid legal problems at the level of individual States and therefore maintain the credibility of the Convention. Many members of the Committee stated the need for the Secretariat to bear in mind the information requirements of developing countries and local communities which often do not have access to telephones, much less the Internet. The importance



of the print and radio mediums for information dissemination was stressed.

**XV.10** As regards World Heritage Education, the Secretariat recalled that the World Heritage Centre initiated in 1994, jointly with UNESCO's Education Sector, a project aiming at introducing knowledge about World Heritage in secondary schools worldwide, primarily through UNESCO's network of Associated Schools. Its main purpose is to empower local people to protect their cultural and natural heritage by helping them understand the Convention, and by having them actively involved in local/national preservation efforts.

**XV.11** The project focuses on working regularly with students, teachers and specialists (curricula developers and conservation specialists) in developing a World Heritage Education Kit (consisting of a manual, texts, visual and audio material) which should help teachers "translate" the Convention into the language of their students, and raise the students' awareness about cultural and natural heritage in general. The first parts of this kit, produced on an experimental basis, have been tested through UNESCO's (sub)regional World Heritage Youth Fora which followed the First Forum held in Bergen in 1995, namely: (a) the European Forum held in Dubrovnik in May 1996, and (b) the Forum for countries of English-speaking and Portuguese-speaking Africa, held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in September 1996. Further work on the material, in collaboration with ICOMOS and IUCN will take place in 1997, and this will be tested during the fora to be held in Asia and the Pacific, the French-speaking countries of Africa, the Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean in the next two to three years.

**XV.12** The main institutional partners for this project in each country are the UNESCO National Commissions, ICOMOS and IUCN chapters (as resource persons) and teachers' associations. The project is receiving major financial support from the Rhone Poulenc Foundation and NORAD (both contributions go to a Special Account within UNESCO, earmarked for this project) and is being carried out with assistance from UNESCO Field Offices and other units of the Secretariat.

**XV.13** In the ensuing debate, many of the members of the Committee expressed their full support for the World Heritage education work that is being done. Some stressed however the importance of assuring follow up activities to the World Heritage Youth Fora.

**XV.14** The Director of the Centre in responding to the comments and concerns raised by the Committee stated that the Centre is trying to ensure the quality of the multimedia information products by employing experts to check on the text

from the servicing fees provided through contractual agreements with the media and publishing partners. The amount already received in the first ten months of the year has permitted this in addition to a full-time consultant working at the Centre to negotiate with media partners and to provide them with the logistic support as defined in the contract. He indicated that the costs for one full-time consultant for backstopping the media and publishing partners for 12 months, one expert to revise the German-language products for 6 months and one expert to revise the English-language material for 3 months have been paid from the servicing fees from these contracts.

**XV.15** The Director was requested by the Chair to respond to the following questions related to this agenda item raised by members of the Committee during the examination of the 1997 budget.

- (a) clear breakdown on incomes generated from contracts with the media and publishers, and how they have been spent;
- (b) other expected income from these contracts in 1997;
- (c) if the policy of the Centre is to reinvest these incomes into promotional or operational activities;
- (d) whether a marketing strategy is needed and if so, whether this would be in keeping with the rules and regulations of the Committee.

**XV.16** The Director stated that the income received from the contracts between 1 January and 31 October 1996, amounted to US\$ 94,437 as servicing fees (entered into the accounts as earmarked contribution) and US\$ 132,787 as contribution towards the Fund for use to be determined by the Committee. He specified that this amount does not take into account the share on incomes retained by the UNESCO Publishing Office (UPO) or other entities of UNESCO which also conclude contracts related to World Heritage.

**XV.17** He explained that income in 1997 will most likely increase but that he was not in a position to provide the amount since much of the income comes from percentages on royalties which of course depends on the sales.

**XV.18** The overall strategy and programme was approved, with the exception of the proposed budgetary appropriation for the 25th anniversary (US\$ 100,000) and the State of the World Heritage Report (US\$ 35,000).

**XVI. USE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE EMBLEM**

**XVI.1** The Secretariat summarized Working Document WHC-96/CONF.201/17 on the "Use of the World Heritage Emblem" which was requested by the twentieth session of the Bureau in 1996, and which provided a legal analysis by UNESCO's Legal Advisor of the aspects concerning the use of the emblem, as well as proposals as to the manner in which to guide its appropriate use. The legal analysis determined that under the terms of the contract with the artist, Mr. Olyff, who designed the emblem, the owner of the emblem is UNESCO. However, it was further underlined that the Committee adopted the artwork as the emblem of the Convention at its second session in 1978, and had developed guidelines for its use as represented in the Operational Guidelines, paragraphs 122-128. The Secretariat explained that the situation was multifaceted and complex as well as not sufficiently addressed in the Operational Guidelines to assure the consistent and timely authorization of the use of the emblem. The Committee emphasized that it had previously decided that the States Parties had the responsibility to control the use of the emblem within their sovereign territories and it was observed that two States Parties (Canada and the United States of America) had taken the necessary steps to regulate and control the use of the emblem. The non-commercial and commercial, educational, informational, promotional and presentational uses of the emblem were noted as difficult determinations to make in the absence of more detailed guidelines. While the prerogative of the Committee to make such determinations on a case by case basis is recognized in the Operational Guidelines, pragmatic considerations for the use of the emblem had led the Centre to make - for educational purposes with the private and public sector media - contractual arrangements which have generated contributions to the World Heritage Fund. The Centre sought additional guidance from the Committee with respect to the development of criteria for the consistent and appropriate use, regulation and protection of the emblem.

**XVI.2** It was brought to the attention of the Committee that in the current Operational Guidelines, the use of the term World Heritage "emblem" was recommended, but that the term "logo" also appears. For consistency and to avoid a nomenclature that implied a commercial connotation it was suggested to use in the future exclusively the term "emblem". It was recommended that the Committee considers revising the Operational Guidelines accordingly.

**XVI.3** The Delegate of Lebanon concurred with a consistent use of the term "emblem" throughout the Operational Guidelines and

the equivalent in the French text. He further expressed the opinion that UNESCO had not respected the procedures for the use of the emblem. The Delegate of Malta welcomed the confirmation from UNESCO's Office for International Standards and Legal Affairs that the decision to adopt the design as the emblem of the Convention could only be taken by the Committee, and that UNESCO can only dispose of it through the Committee. Therefore, Article 6 of the Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Norway was legally problematic. The Committee believed that the development of more detailed guidelines for the use of the "emblem" was necessary and that the abusive commercial use of the "emblem" should be avoided.

**XVI.4** The Committee decided to place this question on the appropriate use and authorization of the World Heritage emblem before the Consultative Body created by the Committee for the purpose of reviewing the financial and management aspects of the Centre.

**XVII. REVISION OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION**

**XVII.1** The Committee took note of the revisions to the Operational Guidelines which were proposed by the Expert Meeting on Evaluation of general principles and criteria for nominations of natural World Heritage sites (Parc national de la Vanoise, France, 22 to 24 March 1996) and of the full report contained in Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.8, as well as the responses by eleven States Parties to the Circular Letter requesting comments on this matter.

**XVII.2** The Delegate of Canada proposed to keep the Vanoise recommendations as well as comments by States Parties on record and bring them up at the joint meeting of cultural and natural heritage experts proposed under agenda item 9 "Progress report on the Global Strategy, and Thematic and Comparative Studies". The Delegate of Lebanon emphasized that these recommendations should not be brought from one expert meeting to another, but to the twenty-first session of the World Heritage Committee.

**XVII.3** The Committee recalled that it had adopted the nomination form as amended under agenda item 7.1. The Committee revised Section I.G. of the Operational Guidelines on the format and content of nominations and replaced paragraph 64 of the Operational Guidelines by the following text:

**"64. The same form approved by the Committee is used for the submission of nominations of cultural and natural**

properties. Although it is recognized that all properties have specific characteristics, States Parties are encouraged to provide information and documentation on the following items:

1. Identification of the Property

- a. Country (and State Party if different)
- b. State, Province or Region
- c. Name of Property
- d. Exact location on map and indication of geographical coordinates to the nearest second
- e. Maps and/or plans showing boundary of area proposed for inscription and of any buffer zone
- f. Area of site proposed for inscription (ha.) and proposed buffer zone (ha.) if any

2. Justification for Inscription

- a. Statement of significance
- b. Possible comparative analysis (including state of conservation of similar sites)
- c. Authenticity/Integrity
- d. Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria)

3. Description

- a. Description of Property
- b. History and Development
- c. Form and date of most recent records of site
- d. Present state of conservation
- e. Policies and programmes related to the presentation and promotion of the property

4. Management

- a. Ownership
- b. Legal status
- c. Protective measures and means of implementing them
- d. Agency/agencies with management authority

- e. Level at which management is exercised (e.g., on site, regionally) and name and address of responsible person for contact purposes
- f. Agreed plans related to property (e.g., regional, local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)
- g. Sources and levels of finance
- h. Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques
- i. Visitor facilities and statistics
- j. Site management plan and statement of objectives (copy to be annexed)
- k. Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance)

5. Factors Affecting the Site

- a. Development Pressures (e.g., encroachment, adaptation, agriculture, mining)
- b. Environmental Pressures (e.g., pollution, climate change)
- c. Natural disasters and preparedness (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.)
- d. Visitor/tourism pressures
- e. Number of inhabitants within site, buffer zone
- f. Other

6. Monitoring

- a. Key indicators for measuring state of conservation
- b. Administrative arrangements for monitoring property
- c. Results of previous reporting exercises

7. Documentation

- a. Photographs, slides and, where available, film/video
- b. Copies of site management plans and extracts of other plans relevant to the site
- c. Bibliography
- d. Address where inventory, records and archives are held

## 8. Signature on behalf of the State Party

The Committee has adopted at its twentieth session substantive Explanatory Notes to the above nomination form. These notes relate to each of the above headings and will be made available as an annex to the nomination form to the States Parties in order to provide guidance to those nominating properties for inclusion on the World Heritage List."

XVII.4 The Committee also recalled that it had recommended under agenda item 12 to amend the dates for submission of international assistance requests and to revise paragraph 108 of the Operational Guidelines as follows:

"All requests for international assistance which are to be examined by the Bureau, with the exception of requests for emergency assistance, should be submitted before 1 May and 1 September respectively for consideration by the following session of the Bureau. Large-scale requests (that is those exceeding US\$ 30,000) will be forwarded, with the Bureau's recommendation, to the following session of the World Heritage Committee for decision-making."

XVII.5 The Committee recalled several discussions held on the application of cultural criterion (vi) and decided to amend paragraph 24 (a) (vi) as follows:

"be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance (the Committee considers that this criterion should justify inclusion in the List only in exceptional circumstances and in conjunction with other criteria cultural or natural);"

XVII.6 The Committee took note of the "Glossary of World Heritage Terms" contained in Information Document WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.21 and expressed the wish that the Glossary be prepared in other languages.

XVII.7 The Delegates of Germany and the United States of America made statements as to the legal significance of the Operational Guidelines and the fact that, in their views, the Operational Guidelines had not been applied properly during this

session. Both Delegates requested that their statements be included in extenso in the report and are attached in Annex IX.

**XVII.8** The Delegate of Italy agreed to the strict application of the Operational Guidelines, however, underlined that the Guidelines had been followed and that the Committee itself is the decision-making body of the World Heritage statutory organs. The Delegate of France agreed to this statement and said that it is common practice of the Committee not always to follow recommendations by the Bureau and by the advisory bodies. This was endorsed by the Delegate of Benin. The statement of the Delegate of Italy is included in Annex IX.

**XVII.9** In concluding the debate which she found constructive, the Chairperson recalled that each one of the delegates of the Committee had made a serious analysis of the case and of the spirit of the Convention before taking a final decision, and that in respecting the statements of each of the speakers, even if she considered not acceptable those of the Delegates of Germany and the United States of America, the Committee had retained its credibility and competence. The statement of the Chairperson is also included in Annex IX.

#### **XVIII. AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**XVIII.1** The Committee examined the proposals contained in Document WHC-96/CONF.201/19 to ensure the continuing legality for the functioning of the Bureau following each General Assembly of States Parties until the election of the new Bureau.

**XVIII.2** The Committee decided to modify Rule 12.1 of the Rules of Procedure as follows:

"The Committee, at the beginning of each ordinary session, shall elect a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, who shall remain in office until the beginning of the next ordinary session. When its December session precedes the year when the General Assembly will be held, the Committee will decide to meet very briefly in an extraordinary session at the end of the General Assembly in order to elect its new Bureau, so that this Bureau can meet the following month, prior to the Committee, in all legality."



**XIX. DATE, PLACE AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**XIX.1** The Committee decided that the twenty-first session of the Bureau will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 23 to 28 June 1997.

**XIX.2** The Committee adopted the provisional agenda for the Bureau's session which is attached as Annex VIII.

**XX. DATE AND PLACE OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**XX.1** The Committee decided that, following the invitation of the Government of Italy expressed at its nineteenth session and reiterated at the twentieth session of the Bureau, the twenty-first session of the Committee will take place in Naples, Italy from 1 to 6 December 1997. The Committee expressed its gratitude for this generous invitation.

**XX.2** The Delegate of Japan informed the Committee that his country would like to host the Committee in 1998. However, as the Delegate of Niger had already transmitted, at the nineteenth session of the Committee, his Government's intention to host the 1998 session, consultations will take place between the two countries in this respect.

**XX.3** The Delegate of Australia informed the Committee that her country would be pleased to receive the Committee in Australia in the year 2000.

**XXI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**XXI.1** Referring to the discussions under agenda item 7.2. on the state of conservation of the Galapagos Islands, the Minister of the Environment of Ecuador, Head of the Delegation of Ecuador to the Committee, reiterated the commitment of his Government to the preservation of the islands. He indicated that several problems and risks exist and outlined the measures taken by his Government to reverse the situation. He mentioned in particular that his Government will meet the obligations under the World Heritage Convention and that the new law for the Galapagos Islands will be adopted by May 1997 at the latest. He expressed the hope that his country would be able to count on the technical and financial support from the World Heritage Fund, and that proposals will be submitted at a later stage.

**XXII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**

**XXII.1** The Rapporteur presented the draft report of the session to the Committee and thanked the Secretariat for its efficient support in its preparation. Following a detailed examination of the draft report, the Committee adopted it with the amendments noted and received in written form during the debate.

**XXIII. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION**

**XXIII.1** The Director of the Centre, on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, expressed his gratitude to the Mexican authorities for having provided the facilities for this session and to the Chairperson, the Rapporteur and all members of the Committee for their constructive participation in the debates. He assured the Committee that the Secretariat will do its utmost to implement the decisions of the Committee in a timely and appropriate manner.

**XXIII.2** The Delegate of Australia, speaking on behalf of all participants, thanked the Government of Mexico for its generous hospitality and for the excellent facilities provided. She expressed the Committee's appreciation for the Mexican culture and cultural traditions and commended the Government on the high standards of management and conservation of the cultural and natural heritage sites. She congratulated the Chairperson for her strategic skills, her commitment and her considerable efforts to conclude in a satisfactory way many difficult and sensitive matters. She also thanked the National Commission for UNESCO and Mr Salvador Diaz-Berrio for their efficient collaboration in organizing this Committee's session.

**XXIII.3** She furthermore thanked the Director-General of UNESCO for his presence at the opening ceremony and for his inspiring speech and expressed the Committee's appreciation for the work and dedication of the Director of the Centre, the Director of the Division of Cultural Heritage of UNESCO and all staff of the World Heritage Centre.

**XXIII.4** The Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, Ms Maria-Teresa Franco, thanked the Committee for the confidence placed in her and committed herself to furthering the work of the World Heritage Convention. She thanked the Rapporteur for the extensive report, the UNESCO Secretariat for its extremely hard work, as well as the Mexican authorities and staff for contributing to the excellent preparation and development of the session. After having thanked the interpreters, both from UNESCO and those provided by the host country, for having facilitated

simultaneous interpretation in three languages, she then declared the session closed. The closing speech of the Chairperson is included as Annex II.7.

**ANNEX I/ANNEXE I**

Distribution limited  
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WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.3Rev.1  
Merida, 7 December 1996

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND  
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION/ORGANISATION DES NATIONS  
UNIES POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD  
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE/CONVENTION CONCERNANT  
LA PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL CULTUREL ET NATUREL**

**World Heritage Committee/Comité du Patrimoine mondial**

**Twentieth session/Vingtième session**

**Merida, Yucatan, Mexico/Merida, Yucatan, Mexique  
2-7 December/2-7 décembre 1996**

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#### **IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS/ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES**

#### **INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS/FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ARCHITECTS PAYSAGISTES**

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Principal Advisor to the Director  
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Ms Jocelyne POUTEAU  
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**Discurso del Sr. Victor Cervera Pacheco  
Gobernador del Estado de Yucatán**

Señoras y Señores integrantes del Presidium:

Muy distinguidos miembros de la UNESCO e invitados especiales:

Señoras y señores amigos todos:

Sería un exceso de mi parte realizar ante ustedes un recuento del patrimonio cultural y natural de Yucatán. Son ustedes conocedores por excelencia en esta materia e integrantes de un Comité especializado de la UNESCO, que goza mercedamente del mayor prestigio en materia de cultura, de su preservación y divulgación.

Los yucatecos nos sentimos sumamente orgullosos de nuestro pasado, de los monumentos arqueológicos y coloniales legados por nuestros antecesores, así como de los tesoros naturales de nuestra región. Sabemos que somos depositarios de un patrimonio que pertenece a la humanidad y eso aumenta el grado de responsabilidad: responsabilidad con nosotros mismos, con nuestra historia y con los pueblos del mundo.

Estamos convencidos que la mejor manera de preservar los tesoros del pasado o los recursos naturales, es alimentando y fortaleciendo la cultura viva, nuestra identidad como pueblo, la relación que mantenemos con la naturaleza y con otros pueblos. Y esta es, también, una cuestión por la que sentimos un gran orgullo. Orgullo y satisfacción con los que vengo esta mañana, ante ustedes, como gobernante de un pueblo cálido, amante de la paz, practicante del arte, conocedor del tiempo largo y circular respetuoso de la historia de cada pueblo.

Para mi representa un gran honor estar con ustedes esta mañana y darles la bienvenida a nombre de Yucatán y de su gente. Es un lugar común para los pueblos iberoamericanos decir a los visitantes « sientanse en su casa ».

Pero yo quiero que sepan ustedes, amigos integrantes de la UNESCO, que Yucatán, que tiene tantas y tan importantes joyas culturales que forma parte de esa enorme « aldea mundial », se siente y se sabe, también, parte entrañable de esa familia que es la UNESCO.

Somos nosotros, los yucatecos, los que nos sentimos en familia con ustedes, los que nos sabemos en casa, en la casa de ustedes, porque somos parte activa, convencida y afectuosa, del Patrimonio de la Humanidad.

INTERVENCIÓN DEL  
LIC. MIGUEL LIMÓN ROJAS,  
SECRETARIO DE EDUCACIÓN PÚBLICA,  
EN LA VIGÉSIMA REUNIÓN DEL  
COMITÉ INTERGUBERNAMENTAL DE  
PROTECCIÓN DEL PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL,  
CULTURAL Y NATURAL DE LA U.N.E.S.C.O.

MÉRIDA, YUC. 2 DE DICIEMBRE DE 1996

EN NOMBRE DEL GOBIERNO DE MÉXICO, ME ES GRATO DAR LA MÁS CORDIAL BIENVENIDA A LOS INTEGRANTES DEL COMITÉ INTERGUBERNAMENTAL DE PROTECCIÓN DEL PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL, CULTURAL Y NATURAL DE LA U.N.E.S.C.O.

ES MOTIVO DE ALEGRÍA LA PRESENCIA DE ESTE GRAN AMIGO DE MÉXICO QUE ES FEDERICO MAYOR, A QUIEN RECONOCEMOS EL LIDERAZGO CON EL QUE CONDUCE LOS TRABAJOS DE LA GRAN ORGANIZACIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA LA EDUCACIÓN, LA CIENCIA Y LA CULTURA.

CELEBRAMOS LA DECISIÓN DEL COMITÉ DE ELEGIR COMO SEDE DE SU VIGÉSIMA REUNIÓN A ESTA CIUDAD CAPITAL DEL ESTADO DE YUCATÁN, PUES AQUÍ SE CONFORMA PARTE DE UNA VASTA REGIÓN QUE FUE EL ESPACIO ORIGINARIO DE UNA DE LAS MÁS DESLUMBRANTES CIVILIZACIONES MESOAMERICANAS.

AGRADEZCO A SU GOBERNADOR, VÍCTOR CERVERA PACHECO EL APOYO BRINDADO PARA SU REALIZACIÓN. ESTAMOS SEGUROS DE QUE EN ESTA GRAN CIUDAD ENCONTRAREMOS LA HOSPITALIDAD ESMERADA, CARACTERÍSTICA DE LOS YUCATECOS, Y LA INSPIRACIÓN FECUNDA PARA NUESTRAS DELIBERACIONES.

PARA MÉXICO, ES UN PRIVILEGIO Y UN ESTÍMULO QUE EL COMITÉ SESIONE AQUÍ. LO ES PORQUE LA NACIÓN Y SU GOBIERNO ENTIENDEN Y SE IDENTIFICAN CABALMENTE CON LA DELICADA ENCOMIENDA QUE LES HA DADO LA U.N.E.S.C.O., Y PORQUE NUESTRO PAÍS CUENTA CON UNA FIRME TRADICIÓN QUE LO HA COMPROMETIDO, DESDE HACE MUCHO TIEMPO CON LAS TAREAS DE RESCATE, CONSERVACIÓN Y PRESERVACIÓN DE SU ENORME PATRIMONIO CULTURAL.

LA INTENSIDAD DE NUESTRA HISTORIA SE REFLEJA EN LA DIVERSIDAD Y LA ABUNDANCIA DE LAS CREACIONES DE NUESTRO PUEBLO. LOS MEXICANOS NOS SENTIMOS LEGÍTIMAMENTE ORGULLOSOS DE ESTA ABUNDANCIA. SIN EMBARGO, EN OCASIONES, LA MAGNITUD DE ESA RIQUEZA NOS HACE SENTIR LA INSUFICIENCIA DE LOS RECURSOS PARA LLEVAR A CABO EL DEBIDO RESGUARDO DE LAS DECENAS DE MILES DE SITIOS Y MONUMENTOS QUE POSEEMOS.

VELAR POR ELLOS IMPLICA UNA VASTA Y COMPLEJA TAREA QUE EXIGE TODO NUESTRO ESFUERZO COMO SOCIEDAD Y COMO GOBIERNO, Y QUE NOS OBLIGA A CONJUGAR IMAGINACIÓN Y VOLUNTAD PARA PRESERVAR, Y DIFUNDIR LA GRANDEZA DE NUESTRO LEGADO CULTURAL.

LOS MEXICANOS ESTAMOS CONVENCIDOS DE QUE NUESTRA ESENCIA, NUESTRO ESPÍRITU, ESTÁ ÍNTIMAMENTE VINCULADO A ESTE PATRIMONIO CULTURAL, QUE CONSTITUYE A UN TIEMPO EL SUSTRATO MATERIAL DE NUESTRA IDENTIDAD Y LA MANIFESTACIÓN MÁS PATENTE DE LO QUE HEMOS SIDO Y SOMOS; QUE ES LEGADO Y BENEFICIO; MEMORIA E HISTORIA DE NUESTRA SINGULARIDAD; LAZO DE IDENTIFICACIÓN ENTRE LOS MEXICANOS QUE NOS DEFINE Y DISTINGUE FRENTE A LAS OTRAS NACIONES DEL MUNDO.

Y SI LOS BIENES CREADOS POR EL HOMBRE MERECEMOS NUESTRO APRECIO Y NUESTRO CUIDADO PERMANENTE, RESULTA AÚN MÁS APREMIANTE LA ATENCIÓN QUE RECLAMA EL MEDIO NATURAL, NUESTRO HÁBITAT IRREEMPLAZABLE, FUENTE DE VIDA Y BELLEZA QUE NOS DA CONTINUIDAD. ES MUY PROBABLE QUE SE PUEDA AFIRMAR QUE EXISTIÓ UNA RELACIÓN DIRECTA ENTRE LA VARIEDAD Y RIQUEZA DE LAS ANTIGUAS CULTURAS QUE FLORECIERON EN ESTA REGIÓN DEL MUNDO Y LA EXTRAORDINARIA BIODIVERSIDAD QUE LA CARACTERIZÓ.

POR ELLO, EL CONCEPTO DE DESARROLLO SUSTENTABLE GUÍA NUESTRO PROGRAMA GUBERNAMENTAL DEL MEDIO AMBIENTE QUE CUENTA ENTRE SUS INSTRUMENTOS ESENCIALES CON LA DELIMITACIÓN Y MANEJO DE ÁREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS, QUE AL SER RECONOCIDAS OBTIENEN LA DEFINICIÓN JURÍDICA Y LOS DISPOSITIVOS NECESARIOS MÁS IMPORTANTES PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LA BIODIVERSIDAD Y PARA LA PROMOCIÓN DEL DESARROLLO REGIONAL.

EN MÉXICO, COMO ES COMÚN EN CASI TODO EL ORBE, INTERESES DE DIVERSA ÍNDOLE ATENTAN CONTRA LA SALVAGUARDA DEL PATRIMONIO. NO PODEMOS IGNORAR LA VARIEDAD DE CAUSAS QUE EXPLICAN ESTOS HECHOS Y SÍ, EN CAMBIO, BUSCAR SOLUCIONES COPARTICIPATIVAS, QUE GARANTICEN LA ADECUADA, ENÉRGICA Y EFICAZ CONSERVACIÓN DE NUESTRA HERENCIA.

POR ELLO, HACE YA TRECE AÑOS NOS ADHERIMOS DECIDIDAMENTE A LA CONVENCIÓN FORMULADA POR LA U.N.E.S.C.O. PARA PROTEGER EL PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL, EN FUNCIÓN DE LA CUAL HEMOS LOGRADO LA INSCRIPCIÓN DE CATORCE BIENES NACIONALES EN LA LISTA DE DICHO PATRIMONIO, QUE USTEDES ESCRUPULOSAMENTE CALIFICAN.

LA PARTICIPACIÓN DE BIENES NACIONALES EN EL LISTADO QUE INTEGRA GRADUALMENTE EL COMITÉ, NOS COMPROMETE Y OBLIGA A PERSEVERAR EN LA REVALORACIÓN Y EN EL CUIDADO DE NUESTRO PATRIMONIO, Y NOS DA UNA VALIOSA PAUTA PARA INDUCIR ENTRE LA SOCIEDAD ENTERA ACTITUDES DE CORRESPONSABILIDAD EN SU CUSTODIA Y DE GUSTO POR SU USO Y DISFRUTE.

DE MANERA PARALELA Y EN CONCORDANCIA CON UNA RESPONSABILIDAD ASUMIDA A LO LARGO DE NUESTRA HISTORIA, EL

GOBIERNO DEL PRESIDENTE ZEDILLO DESPLIEGA EN LA ACTUALIDAD INTENSOS ESFUERZOS PARA SALVAGUARDAR EL PATRIMONIO CULTURAL Y NATURAL, MEDIANTE PROGRAMAS QUE ESTIMULAN LAS TAREAS DE CONSERVACIÓN, INVESTIGACIÓN Y DIFUSIÓN, POR CONSIDERÁRSELES ESENCIALES PARA FORTALECER LA IDENTIDAD NACIONAL. BUSCAMOS, ADEMÁS, VINCULAR ESAS TAREAS CON EL SISTEMA EDUCATIVO, EL CUAL, CON SUS MÁS DE 27 MILLONES DE ESTUDIANTES Y CIENTOS DE MILES DE MAESTROS, REPRESENTA EL MEJOR VEHÍCULO PARA LOGRAR LA REVALORACIÓN MÁS PROFUNDA, EFICAZ Y DURADERA DE DICHO PATRIMONIO.

SEÑORAS Y SEÑORES:

EL AVANCE VERTIGINOSO Y SORPRENDENTE DE LAS TELECOMUNICACIONES Y LA INFORMÁTICA PODRÍA IMPLICAR LA INDESEABLE Y EMPOBRECEDORA UNIFORMACIÓN DE LAS CULTURAS QUE HOY CONVIVEN EN EL PLANETA, PERO TAMBIÉN OFRECE LA OPORTUNIDAD EXCEPCIONAL DE AVANZAR EN EL CAMINO DE UNA CONCIENCIA UNIVERSAL PUES, AL DESAPARECER LAS MURALLAS QUE INCOMUNICAN Y ALEJAN A LAS DIFERENTES CULTURAS, ÉSTAS SE DESCUBREN, SE OBSERVAN, SE JUZGAN Y ADQUIEREN CONCIENCIA, AL MISMO TIEMPO, DE SU SINGULARIDAD Y DE SU PERTENENCIA A UN TODO MAYOR Y MÁS COMPLEJO QUE LAS IMPULSA A INTERACTUAR.

ES NECESARIO TAMBIÉN REFLEXIONAR EN QUE A LA PAR DE LA MUNDIALIZACIÓN SE ACENTÚA EL VALOR DE LA DIVERSIDAD, TANTO AL INTERIOR DE LAS NACIONES COMO ENTRE ELLAS, LO QUE PERMITE QUE LAS CULTURAS SE APROXIMEN ENTRE SÍ MEDIANTE UN PROCESO PAULATINO DE ASIMILACIÓN Y APORTE CREATIVO ORIENTADO POR UNA NOCIÓN SUPERIOR, QUE PODRÍA IDENTIFICARSE COMO LA OBRA DE TODOS QUE SE FUNDA EN

VALORES COMUNES A LA GENERALIDAD DE LOS SERES HUMANOS Y CONSTITUYE UN PATRIMONIO DE LA ESPECIE ENGRANDECIDO POR LAS CONTRIBUCIONES DE CADA CULTURA PARTICULAR, CUYA SINGULARIDAD, MERECE CABAL RESPETO.

LA POBLACIÓN DEL PLANETA ASCIENDE HOY, A MÁS DE 5 MIL 500 MILLONES DE INDIVIDUOS QUE TEJEMOS A DIARIO NUESTRAS VIDAS PERSONALES Y CON ELLAS, LAS HISTORIAS DE NUESTROS PUEBLOS Y LA DE LA HUMANIDAD. DEBEMOS, COMO LO SUGIERE EL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN PRESIDIDA POR JACQUES DELORS, CONOCERNOS MÁS, CONOCER AL OTRO, A LOS OTROS, PARA AYUDAR A TRANSFORMAR UNA INTERDEPENDENCIA DE HECHO EN UNA SOLIDARIDAD DESEADA.

ESTE ES EL ESPÍRITU QUE PREVALECE EN REUNIONES COMO ESTA, EN LA QUE SE SUMAN VOLUNTADES PARA MEJORAR LA POSIBILIDAD DE RESCATE, PRESERVACIÓN Y DIFUSIÓN DEL PATRIMONIO DE LA HUMANIDAD. POR ESE MOTIVO, LOS MEXICANOS RESPALDAMOS DECIDIDAMENTE TODAS LAS INICIATIVAS ENCAMINADAS HACIA ESTOS FINES, Y DE MODO SEÑALADO LAS QUE AUSPICIA LA U.N.E.S.C.O.

SEAN USTEDES BIENVENIDOS A MÉXICO. ESTAMOS CIERTOS DE QUE NUESTRO TRABAJO CONTRIBUIRÁ A ENSANCHAR LA CONCIENCIA HUMANA Y LA SOLIDARIDAD, PARA HACER PERDURABLE EL GRANDIOSO PATRIMONIO DE ESTE MUNDO QUE TENEMOS TODOS LA FORTUNA DE HABITAR.



DISCURSO PRONUNCIADO POR LA SECRETARIA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE, RECURSOS NATURALES Y PESCA, JULIA CARABIAS LILLO, EN EL ACTO INAUGURAL DE LA XX REUNION DEL COMITE INTERGUBERNAMENTAL DE PROTECCION DEL PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL, CULTURAL Y NATURAL DE LA UNESCO, MERIDA, YUCATAN. 2 DE DICIEMBRE DE 1996.

SEÑOR GOBERNADOR VICTOR CERVERA PACHECO.

SEÑOR DIRECTOR GENERAL DE LA UNESCO, FEDERICO MAYOR

SEÑOR SECRETARIO DE EDUCACION PUBLICA, MIGUEL LIMON ROJAS.

DISTINGUIDOS DELEGADOS DE LOS PAISES Y DE LAS AGENCIAS Y ORGANIZACIONES, INTERESADAS EN LA CONSERVACION DEL PATRIMONIO CULTURAL Y NACIONAL NATURAL.

Celebro mucho que esta XX sesion del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial se esté llevando a cabo en nuestro país, puesto que esto nos va a permitir estrechar mucho más los lazos con la organización y además tener el beneficio de un trabajo conjunto en todas las delegaciones y los mexicanos.

Es una actividad que durante 20 sesiones y más de 25 años se ha venido llevando a cabo en el seno de la UNESCO y es un momento muy adecuado para poder evaluar como vamos avanzando en este objetivo de lograr preservar realmente nuestro patrimonio cultural y natural.

El Secretario Limón ha hecho una serie de referencias con la política del gobierno hacia estos dos temas y quisiera solicitar la posibilidad de explicar como lo vemos desde el gobierno en los aspectos que tiene que ver con la conservación del patrimonio natural. Como ustedes saben, México es uno de los países que cuenta con una de las mayores riquezas en flora y fauna, es considerado como un país de mega diversidad y esto nos abre enormes posibilidades para el desarrollo, pero una enorme responsabilidad también para la conservación de las especies de la flora y de la fauna y de sus habitat, en donde han evolucionado.

Tenemos una gran riqueza pero, además, una buena parte de esta flora y fauna es endémica a nuestro país, esto significa que solamente en el territorio mexicano existen, aquí han evolucionado y no se distribuyen en ninguna otra parte del mundo, la responsabilidad que tenemos para la preservación de este germoplasma pone a México en una situación de mucha importancia y en un compromiso mundial.

Dos estrategias fundamentales estamos siguiendo para esta conservación; lograr que todo el uso de esta flora y esta fauna, a través de los distintos procesos productivos, a través de los distintos procesos productivos, esté empapado de criterios de sustentabilidad; y lograr que regiones críticas, importantes por su endemismo, por la cantidad de especies, por la representatividad única en nuestro país, estén protegidas bajo algún régimen de protección en áreas naturales.

Tenemos ya 11 millones de hectáreas en esta situación, es poco más del 5% del territorio nacional y en ello se representa prácticamente todos los ecosistemas que tiene México, que son todos los ecosistemas del mundo, excepto los más extremos fríos. Necesitamos continuar con esta tarea de una mayor representatividad en regiones importantes de nuestro país como es fundamentalmente las costas del Pacífico que tienen los mayores endemismos en sus selvas secas y en los bosques mesófilos.

Nos interesa, fundamentalmente, consolidar las áreas naturales protegidas a través del Sistema Nacional de Areas Protegidas que el gobierno mexicano ha constituido. No queremos reservas de papel, no queremos decretos ajenos a los verdaderos objetivos de conservación.

Ello requiere de esfuerzos importantes de los gobiernos y de la sociedad, que implica personal calificado, infraestructura, recursos económicos, programas de manejo para orientar que se puede hacer y como se puede hacer y que implica, sobre todo, la participación de la sociedad.

Se está trabajando con los habitantes que en estas regiones están desde hace siglos viviendo, comunidades indígenas y campesinas, se está trabajando con los grupos no gubernamentales que se han dedicado a la conservación, se trabaja con los grupos académicos que han estudiado durante décadas estas regiones y tenemos así constituido ya en nuestro país el Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas y los consejos técnicos asesores para cada una de las reservas.

Estamos fortaleciendo el marco normativo, y hace apenas unas semanas, se ha hecho una reforma espectacular en México de la Ley General del Equilibrio Ecológico que todos los aspectos normativos en parte de las áreas naturales protegidas quedan fuertemente fortalecidos y se abren estos cauces de participación al nivel de la Ley.

Estamos trabajando en un proceso de descentralización para lograr una mayor corresponsabilidad con los distintos niveles de gobierno y con la propia sociedad. Ejemplo de ello, lo tenemos aquí en el estado de Yucatán, en donde el gobierno del estado se ha involucrado muy activamente en la protección de

sus áreas, uno de estos sitios como Dzibizaltum es ya administrado por el propio gobierno del estado.

Estamos trabajando muy intensamente en la vinculación con las universidades, con los grupos de investigación, para fortalecer el conocimiento, los sistemas de información y tenemos una Comisión Nacional de Biodiversidad, que se encarga de esta sistematización del conocimiento.

Estamos logrando canalizar recursos importantes, por primera vez en México de parte del gobierno federal, que van directamente a estas actividades de protección y esto ha desatado un proceso muy interesante de canalización de recursos económicos, tanto de la iniciativa privada, de los grupos no gubernamentales, y finalmente hemos logrado resolver un largo problema que nuestros países habían tenido por mucho tiempo que es el financiamiento del llamado GER.

Estos elementos, nos permiten vincularnos ya con una estructura, con una estrategia que se encuentra establecida en este Programa de Áreas Naturales Protegidas que presentó el señor Presidente por primera vez como una política para desarrollar estos elementos en nuestro país y que quisiera hacer entrega al Señor Director de la UNESCO....y que nos plantea las estrategias que estamos llevando a cabo y que brevemente he resumido.

Nos permite vincularnos muy estrechamente con la Secretaría de Educación Pública, para lograr trabajar en todos estos espacios, en donde el patrimonio cultural y natural, son uno mismo. Trabajamos en Tulum, Palenque, Bonampak y Kalacmul, entre otros sitios. Esto nos permite fortalecer y desarrollar el turismo, nos permite rescatar nuestra cultura y nos permite fortalecer también la protección y garantizar la protección de estas áreas.

La UNESCO tiene reconocida la propuesta de México sobre estas dos áreas muy importantes para el país que son el área de Sian'Kaan, que está cumpliendo 10 años; y el área de Lagunas de San Ignacio y de Ojo de Liebre, en Baja California, como parte de una de las reservas más grandes del país; la reserva del Vizcaino. Se propone próximamente la visita a la reserva del Triunfo, que ustedes escrupulosamente estarán evaluando.

Se cuenta ya hoy en estas reservas con personal, con recursos económicos, se está fortaleciendo la infraestructura, se tienen ya en estas reservas programas de manejo, se trabaja con las academias, con los grupos no gubernamentales, con las comunidades y estamos haciendo una evaluación cuidadosa de los avances, para garantizar la conservación de estas reservas que ustedes han catalogado ya como patrimonio mundial cultural y natural.

Quisiéramos tener y presentar nuevas propuestas, en la medida que este proceso de manera paulatina se va consolidando, estoy segura que estos avances, estos compromisos nacionales e internacionales, nos va permitir asegurar la conservación y el rescate de nuestros recursos naturales, nuestro patrimonio natural y cultural.....muchas gracias y esperamos los resultados de esta reunión.

Original: español/inglés

ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS  
PARA LA EDUCACIÓN, LA CIENCIA Y LA CULTURA

Discurso  
del Profesor Federico Mayor

Director General  
de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura  
(UNESCO)

con motivo de la  
**20ª sesión del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial**

Mérida (México)  
2 de diciembre de 1996

Señor Secretario,  
Señoras y señores:

México ilustra cabalmente el dilema fundamental que hoy nos convoca: la necesidad de preservar el pasado sin dejar de construir el futuro, la de conciliar el desarrollo con la cultura. Muy pocas de las maravillas del arte tolteca, maya o azteca, que cantaron los cronistas del siglo XVI sobreviven en la actualidad, a pesar del esfuerzo que ese país ha realizado para preservar y dar a conocer su patrimonio histórico, artístico y natural.

Con diferencias de grado, todas las naciones afrontan actualmente una situación análoga, lo mismo en América que en el resto del planeta. La índole mundial del problema, -que se ha conocido con gran detalle en las últimas décadas por el desarrollo impetuoso de los medios de comunicación- otorga un relieve aun mayor a la labor preventiva y educativa que la UNESCO, con todos sus Estados miembros, fomenta incansablemente. Como lo plantea su Constitución, uno de los cometidos fundamentales de la UNESCO es -cito textualmente-: "contribuir a la conservación, al progreso y a la difusión del saber, velando por la conservación y la protección del patrimonio universal de libros, obras de arte y monumentos de interés histórico o científico".

Pero además de desempeñar un papel catalítico, incitador y coordinador en las actividades relativas al patrimonio físico, sea cultural o natural, la UNESCO ha asumido la misión de contribuir a la conservación y el desarrollo del patrimonio inmaterial. El conjunto de lenguas, danzas, cantos, ritos, ceremonias y productos artesanales transmitidos por la tradición que constituyen el tesoro del arte popular y las costumbres, corre el riesgo de desaparecer, bajo el doble impacto de la mundialización de las corrientes y tendencias, y la presión del mercado, que suele aplicar baremos comerciales a aspectos de la vida humana que difícilmente pueden reducirse al criterio de pérdidas y ganancias. Sin embargo, el desarrollo tecnológico ofrece, por su otra cara, la posibilidad de preservar y difundir ampliamente las culturas y tradiciones. El cine, la radio, la televisión y, en general, la electrónica aplicada a las telecomunicaciones, contribuyen a salvaguardar y transmitir algunas de estas actividades, esenciales para la vida y, sobre todo -como ponía de manifiesto el Secretario de Educación Pública- sobre todo sirven para hacer posible y mejorar la convivencia cotidiana.

Decía Miguel de Unamuno que "la memoria es la base de la personalidad individual, así como la tradición es la base de la personalidad colectiva de un pueblo. Vivimos **en** y **por** el recuerdo, y nuestra vida espiritual no es en el fondo sino el esfuerzo que hacemos para que nuestros recuerdos se perpetúen y se vuelvan esperanza, para que nuestro pasado se vuelva futuro".

Pero debo decirles que además de las piedras y de los cantos, de lo que representan como símbolo y como memoria, me interesan otras formas del patrimonio que considero indispensable preservar en esta transición histórica de siglo y de milenio. Porque el mundo necesita hoy más que nunca de una visión extensa, ampliada de lo que significa patrimonio. El patrimonio de las ideas, el patrimonio científico, el patrimonio genético -que también la UNESCO, como saben, se empeña en conservar, porque es común a toda la especie- son parte de la herencia milenaria que debemos preservar. Pero además de esas formas intangibles del patrimonio, tengo que proclamar la importancia del patrimonio ético, la inmensa relevancia de unos cuantos valores, muy pocos: esos principios universales que pueden conjugar toda la fantástica e infinita diversidad que es nuestra riqueza y convertirla en esa unión que es nuestra fuerza y nuestra esperanza.

Señor Secretario,  
Señoras y señores:

En los últimos años, he constatado con alegría que la comunidad internacional comienza por fin a poner de relieve el papel fundamental que la cultura desempeña en la construcción de la paz, la democracia y el desarrollo duradero. No hace mucho, se la consideraba todavía como algo accesorio, como ornamento. Sin embargo, un análisis detenido de su relevancia nos indica que atañe a lo esencial y que muchas iniciativas de desarrollo han fracasado porque, como señala Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, se ha "subestimado la importancia del factor humano, la compleja trama de relaciones y creencias, valores y motivaciones, que son la médula de la cultura".

Fue esta preocupación la que llevó a la UNESCO, apoyada en su acción por las Naciones Unidas, a crear conjuntamente la Comisión Mundial de Cultura y Desarrollo, que comenzó sus trabajos -como bien saben- en la primavera de 1993, bajo la presidencia del propio Pérez de Cuéllar. La tarea de la Comisión consistió en examinar los vínculos entre cultura y desarrollo,

y proponer medidas orientadas a la solución de los problemas fundamentales derivados de esa interacción. Se trataba de una iniciativa sin precedentes, dado que nunca antes las relaciones entre ambos habían sido objeto de un examen global y coordinado, a escala planetaria. La principal finalidad de las recomendaciones de la Comisión es inspirar las políticas en todos los ámbitos en los que se articulan el desarrollo y la cultura.

La idea de que el desarrollo es poco más que simple crecimiento económico es un concepto que exige profunda revisión en nuestros días. No basta con el aumento de los índices de la producción industrial y el consumo de electricidad para que un país se modernice y mejore el destino de sus habitantes. Los dogmas y las ideas preconcebidas, los lugares comunes sobre las etapas del crecimiento, la visión fácil de modelos de progreso que se importan, llave en mano, listos para ser aplicados, todo esto ha estallado en pedazos. Tenemos que reconsiderar el desarrollo de punta a cabo, si no deseamos seguir acumulando conflictos de difícil solución al entrar en el siglo XXI. El desarrollo solamente puede encontrar las articulaciones perdidas entre lo económico y lo cultural, si cada sociedad se reconoce en un sistema original de valores indisociable de su patrimonio de usos y creencias.

Sin embargo, precisamente cuando más convencidos estamos de que la cultura es una dimensión fundamental del desarrollo, los peligros que pueden esterilizar esta articulación se acumulan. La trivialización cultural por el comercio de las imágenes. La ruptura del diálogo y el intercambio entre culturas, que abre paso a la animadversión y a la violencia. El del triunfo del aislacionismo sobre la nación, la amarga victoria del fanatismo sobre la cooperación. El del conformismo asfixiante sobre la innovación y la creación intelectual. El encierro sobre la apertura.

No hay mejor protección para una cultura que la interacción a la intemperie, sin telones de acero ni muros de vergüenza. Las culturas sólo medran y fructifican en el encuentro y el intercambio fecundo de otros modos de pensar y sentir. La soledad y el repliegue, los recintos amurallados -que suelen estar defendidos por la intransigencia y el temor a la innovación- son precisamente los ámbitos donde las culturas declinan y acaban por agostarse. Olvidamos que la diferencia es riqueza, siempre que pueda convertirse en nexo de unión. Es menester interactuar, es menester vivir conjuntamente en un mundo que carece ya de compartimentos estancos, porque tiene un destino



común. Necesitamos grandes dosis de conocimiento, de respeto de la diferencia y de apertura, de par en par, a los demás. La paz duradera requiere la exaltación de la diversidad, de estas "culturas mestizas y peregrinas" que, en decir de Carlos Fuentes, son nuestra mayor riqueza.

Señoras y señores:

El cometido de preservar y aumentar la herencia natural y cultural de nuestros antecesores va mucho más allá -como hemos visto- de la simple conservación de paisajes y monumentos. Por primera vez en la historia de la humanidad, la conciencia de la globalidad y del impacto de nuestras acciones nos obliga a proceder de tal modo que se eviten efectos irreversibles sobre el mismo, que podrían limitar o anular a las generaciones futuras el ejercicio de sus derechos. Es pues el criterio de irreversibilidad potencial, el de alcanzar puntos de no retorno, el que exige hoy moralmente a los decisores la adopción de medidas a tiempo, antes de que sea demasiado tarde para corregir las tendencias que podrían desembocar, en caso contrario, en alteraciones irreparables.

Es menester avizorar, anticiparse y prevenir; saber para prever, prever para evitar. En nuestra época, cuando prevenir no es sólo una posibilidad, sino que es una obligación inescusable, es un imperativo ético. Debemos mirar hacia adelante para diseñar el contorno de nuestro común destino y no aceptar nunca el fatalismo. La Constitución de la UNESCO nos encomienda una fantástica misión: ser la conciencia ética de la humanidad.

La Convención sobre Protección del Patrimonio Mundial Cultural y Natural, adoptada por la Conferencia General de la UNESCO en 1972, se inspiró en esta preocupación de salvaguardar el patrimonio, a fin de transmitirlo intacto a las generaciones venideras -idea que aparece explícita en el texto-. Veinte años después, en la Cumbre de la Tierra, se adoptó la "Declaración de Río", en la que se reitera, reforzada y consolidada, la noción de solidaridad intergeneracional.

Esta solidaridad es la que nos impulsa a conjugar el desarrollo económico y la preservación de las diversas modalidades de patrimonio. No es tarea fácil, como tampoco resulta sencillo equilibrar en nuestra vida individual el pasado con el porvenir. Pero es un cometido insoslayable. En él se

concreta nuestro deber de previsión para con las generaciones que heredarán la Tierra.

Como nos recuerda el poeta catalán Miquel Martí i Pol:

"De nosotros depende que el paso del tiempo  
no dañe las señales grabadas en las piedras,  
y que el huésped que los años anunciaron  
no encuentre la casa abandonada, oscura y triste".

Señor Secretario de Educación Pública,  
Señor Presidente,  
Señoras y señores:

Por una feliz coincidencia, se nos ha llamado a confrontar nuevas situaciones al mismo tiempo que celebrar el vigésimoquinto aniversario de la Convención que aquí nos reúne. Esta es una oportunidad para detenernos, reflexionar y prepararnos mejor para hacer frente al porvenir.

Con el fin de reforzar el Centro del Patrimonio Mundial para responder mejor a los desafíos del mañana, he tomado varias medidas que completarán de este modo otras de ámbito regional.

He decidido reforzar, como saben, en personal al Centro, es decir absorber bajo el presupuesto de la Organización a todos aquellos que trabajan en el mismo y cuyos contratos hasta ahora habían sido cubiertos por el Fondo del Patrimonio Mundial. De esta manera se liberará la totalidad de los recursos del Fondo en favor de los sitios y mejorará así nuestra respuesta a las necesidades crecientes de conservación y de protección. He tomado esta decisión -y lo sabe muy bien el Presidente Winkelmann- a pesar de la situación financiera de la Organización. Creo que es una prueba adicional de mi compromiso en favor del exacto cumplimiento y la puesta en práctica de la Convención. Así lo había prometido, *pacta sum servanda*, aunque a veces sea muy difícil por las circunstancias que Uds. conocen, poder poner a tiempo en práctica estas previsiones.

Estas medidas en términos de personal se complementan con el papel que he otorgado al Centro. Establecido bajo mi autoridad directa, el Centro, como cualquier otra Unidad de la Secretaría de la UNESCO, asume la coordinación de las actividades emprendidas en favor de los sitios del patrimonio mundial por los servicios de la Organización, de acuerdo con las decisiones del

Comité, así como en colaboración con las diversas organizaciones no gubernamentales, que tanto nos ayudan en esta tarea. Para que el Centro pueda llevar a cabo con la eficacia y flexibilidad requeridas las numerosas responsabilidades que le he atribuido, he decidido otorgarle el régimen de *grant-in aid*. Este régimen especial permite que no se realice ninguna de las medidas, a veces de disminución de los fondos previstos, de acuerdo con la situación de la tesorería. También permite una utilización más fluida de los fondos. En este, como en otros aspectos que favorezcan el cumplimiento de su misión, puedo asegurarles que no faltará mi personal atención, ni tampoco faltará el uso de todas las facultades propias de mi cargo.

Lo que pretendo es asegurar el exacto cumplimiento de las decisiones del Comité Mundial del Patrimonio y el seguimiento de la conservación de los sitios del patrimonio. Cada año aumenta en cantidad el número de sitios; cada año, por tanto, debemos estar a la altura, con la calidad y el seguimiento apropiado y cercano de los sitios del patrimonio común de la humanidad.

Personalmente, he podido constatar la calidad de algunas iniciativas que se han realizado en este último año. He asistido a los foros de jóvenes organizados en Bergen, Noruega, y en las Cataratas Victoria, en Zimbabwe. El entusiasmo y compromiso de los jóvenes en favor del patrimonio mundial me impresionaron muy favorablemente.

También he constatado con gran satisfacción que la capacitación del personal responsable de la gestión de los sitios del patrimonio mundial avanza como estaba previsto y que pronto dispondremos de la estrategia de formación que Uds. debatirán durante la reunión. Me complace comprobar que instituciones de prestigio se asocian a nuestros esfuerzos en este campo y hago votos porque este importante trabajo siga ampliándose.

También quisiera compartir con ustedes mi satisfacción por el trabajo de cooperación puesto en marcha por el Centro con los medios de difusión masiva, públicos y privados. Esta cooperación ha contribuido a aumentar la visibilidad de nuestra acción. Al respecto, he asistido a numerosas ceremonias de inauguración de sitios y he constatado con pesar que aún no se ha concluido la presentación prevista de las placas que manifiestan la pertenencia de un sitio al patrimonio mundial.

[The Director-General continues in English]

Your Excellency,  
Mr Secretary of Education,  
Governor,  
Honourable Minister,  
Mr Chairman,

I should like, before concluding, to say a few words about the ultimate goal of all our efforts. For through your work you are making a very substantial contribution to what UNESCO is doing every day, through education, science, the social and human sciences, communication and culture, to help alleviate suffering and, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, to help "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". And it is UNESCO's mission, in particular, to build peace in the minds of men through education, science and culture. This is our goal and it is this that I wish to emphasize so that, in our day-to-day work, even when we are addressing the most concrete issues, we never lose sight of this paramount concern. Because where there is conflict, where there is violence, where there is war, there is no safeguarding, there is only destruction. Nor are there human rights, nor democracy, nor the right to education, nor the right to justice, nor the right to housing. Without peace there is nothing. Peace is the precondition, and it is for this reason that it was so clearly proclaimed by the founders of the United Nations and of UNESCO in the preamble to their respective charters. The overriding aim they say is to prevent "the scourge of war", to stop people killing one another.

How in this context can we safeguard our physical heritage, natural or cultural? How can we disregard our ethical heritage - those intangible, invisible values that have ever greater importance in our lives? Without these values, life has little meaning, and they must therefore be impressed upon the minds of the young in particular, who in some cases possess so many material goods but lack these essential intangible values. Without them life itself is endangered. It is for this reason that I am fond of repeating that the most important monument we have to preserve is human life. Human beings alone are endowed with the creative spirit. This is their distinctive faculty, setting them aside from all other living organisms. This is the wonder of human life. And in wishing to preserve human life, our first concern must be with children, children all over the world, whatever their nationality, for children have no nationality, they are the children of us all. They are the most important

heritage we have to preserve. They are much more important than stones because they are more vulnerable than stones.

Our constant endeavour then must be to preserve human life, to preserve the wonder of human life. How is this to be achieved? How is violence to be averted? In seeking answers to these questions we must think about the future, we must draw upon our memory of the future, so that we can, in the world of tomorrow, safeguard the most important human right, the right to life.

When we are told that in the next twenty years we shall be able to provide food for only fifty per cent of the world's hungry people, it is therefore unacceptable to cry "What a shame!". For we know that, elsewhere in the world, because of commercial considerations or for the sake of protectionism, so many tonnes of food are being destroyed. How can we accept to preserve stones while at the same time leaving four hundred million human beings to die of hunger - each one of them more important than all the stone monuments in the world?

Mr Chairman, in the conversations I have had with you, in your capacity as representative of the Committee, I have accordingly been very appreciative of your conviction that safeguarding the past is important in so far as it contributes to a new design for the future. Such is your tremendous responsibility. And this is why I encourage you to deal with substantive issues. Those organizations that deal with purely technical matters are bound to disappear before very long. The information they provide can be had very easily. Our mission is to preserve our past, to preserve this multicultural message embodied in all the wonders that you proclaim every year to be part of the World Heritage. There, in the infinite variety of cultures, you recognize the great wealth of humanity. But at the same time there are other values, duly enshrined in UNESCO's Constitution, the values of justice and freedom, the values of equality and mutual respect, requiring the Organization, in the interests of peace, to ensure "the moral and intellectual solidarity of mankind".

It is a mistake then to concern ourselves with technicalities. They must be left to the technicians. Our responsibility is political, ours is the important role. For this reason I am happy that we have with us today the President of the Cultural Commission of the Mexican Parliament. For we can influence parliaments in their decision-making, we can make our views felt, the views of the World Heritage Committee, so that

they are taken into account in their policy-making, at the strategic level, in their laws.

Considering how important all this is at the close of the century, I wish to express my gratitude to you, for you are helping to build peace in the minds of men; I wish to thank you because in your work you are saying "This is the path of the future, this is what we must safeguard and pass on to our children".

[El Director General termina en español]

Señor Secretario,  
Señoras y señores:

Esta encrucijada magnífica de pueblos y culturas que es Yucatán nos acoge hoy con su hospitalidad proverbial. Hospitalidad y sabiduría..., y saberes. Sí, saberes antiguos recogidos en forma poética, en compendios, como el **Popol Vuh**, el **Memorial de Sololá** y los **Libros de Chilam Balam**, que nos sirven hoy a todos de ejemplo y de admiración.

En uno de sus ensayos más conocidos, Octavio Paz escribió estas palabras: "Toda cultura nace del mestizaje, del encuentro, del choque con otras culturas. Y a la inversa, es el aislamiento, la obsesión de la pureza lo que mata a las civilizaciones". No olvidemos, pues, las señales que el tiempo ha dejado en las viejas piedras de los mayas y los quichés.

**Opening Address by Dr Horst Winkelmann  
at the 20th session of the World Heritage Committee  
Merida, 2 December 1996**

We are about to begin the 20th session of the World Heritage Committee. Let me give you two more "round numbers": UNESCO is fifty years old, and next year the World Heritage Convention celebrates its twenty-fifth birthday. In my view this combination alone proves that this meeting is of special significance.

Before we turn to our agenda, I would like to share with you a few personal impressions of my term in office as President of the Committee, as well as some thoughts on the Committee and its work.

Let me start by saying that when I was elected President I was a complete newcomer to the field of world heritage. Since then the idea of "lifelong learning" has taken on a whole new dimension. I have tried as far as possible to use the mandate given to me in the service of our Committee's objective, in other words the protection of world heritage. In doing so I paid attention to three levels: national, i.e. Germany, international and UNESCO.

At national level I concentrated directly upon the protection of World Heritage Sites with which the Committee and the Bureau dealt this year and which required urgent action: the Trier Amphitheatre and the Palaces and Parks of Potsdam. In both these cases I took advantage of the opportunity given to me, and I think I can say that as President I was able to achieve more than I would have done under normal circumstances.

In Trier building plans in the direct vicinity of the Amphitheatre gave rise to concerns regarding the integrity of this World Heritage Site. I therefore contacted the relevant authorities in the City of Trier and Land Rhineland-Palatinate and, on 20 May, I held a local meeting to clarify the situation in which representatives of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS took part. Although we were unable to limit building work to the extent we would have liked, we were able to involve ICOMOS in an urban-planning competition aimed at defining the future form of the area surrounding the Amphitheatre. In this way we seek to

ensure that the new building work conforms to the character of the World Heritage Site. My experience of this case, which I am happy to pass on to you, is that the involvement of "advisory bodies" at the right time can markedly increase awareness on the part of local officials of the international scope of world heritage.

A more difficult case, which took up an increasing amount of my time as President this year, was the discussion on planning and construction in the direct and indirect vicinity of the World Heritage Sites in Potsdam. Luckily, in this case I was able to pick up from the Berlin session, during which, of course, the Committee itself had visited Potsdam. At the start of my term, in January, I conducted initial talks with the City of Potsdam, together with the head of the World Heritage Centre and an ICOMOS representative, and had the situation and plans explained to me in detail. Since then, in countless telephone calls, letters and conversations, I have striven to make sure that the protection of world heritage is given sufficient consideration. My activities have not gone unnoticed: There is now a wide and ongoing discussion in Germany, even at the highest political level, but also in the media, about how to protect Potsdam's cultural assets. Let me emphasize here that the German UNESCO Commission has given me valuable support during decisive phases of the public discussion. I have learned from this case, and the Committee and UNESCO should take note of this fact, that due to their contacts and public image the national UNESCO Commissions can play a vital role in protecting the world's cultural and natural heritage. Local authorities and persons charged with conserving World Heritage Sites should be aware of this potential. The World Heritage Committee, too, should directly address the issue of how the national commissions can be better used for its purposes. In Potsdam, as in Trier, I succeeded in giving ICOMOS experts an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the situation on the ground and to conduct extensive talks. The Committee will be able to draw upon this expertise during its further negotiations on the Potsdam issue.

At international level I spent much time dealing with the Galapagos Islands. One highlight for me was the mission to Ecuador, which we had decided upon during the Berlin session and which was carried out in June. A detailed report on this mission is contained in information document No. 13. Director-General Mayor and I both wrote to the President of Ecuador to urge his support for the protection of the Galapagos Islands. The President recently vetoed on constitutional grounds a draft law, which was criticized by experts, and which would have permitted major interference in the islands' ecosystem. A new draft is now to be drawn up. The World Heritage Committee and UNESCO must continue to monitor this situation very carefully. Although I am not able to say here with a clear conscience that our mission has negated all the Committee's concerns regarding Galapagos, I can state, on the basis of my



experience, that I regard the World Heritage Convention as an essential basis for international cooperation on world heritage protection which can achieve real results if it is used wisely. On the other hand, the limits of the Convention become particularly clear when the world's desire to preserve its heritage collides with developments and events on the site itself.

My work with UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre was mainly concerned with improving in the widest sense working relations between the Committee and the Secretariat, i.e. the Centre.

In Berlin the Committee had charged me with taking up the issue of financing Secretariat posts from the World Heritage Fund with Director-General Mayor. I had two personal meetings with him on this subject, and in a letter of 14 October he agreed that the eight posts in question would be fully funded from the UNESCO regular budget from 1 January 1998 onwards. For 1997, ad interim, 6 posts would, he wrote, be financed from the regular programme staff costs budget of UNESCO and 2 from grant-in-aid funds allocated by UNESCO to the World Heritage Centre for the current biennium. The Director-General added, and I quote, "You will certainly appreciate that given the present circumstances of conflicting demands placed upon UNESCO, and at this present juncture of financial restraint, all the above measures constitute a rather exceptional effort on the part of the Organization, demonstrating UNESCO's strong commitment to the cause of the World Heritage Convention." End of quotation. I think the World Heritage Committee should find a way to express its gratitude to the Director-General for his support. I myself am also relieved that we will no longer need to discuss the financing of posts from the World Heritage Fund when we deal with the budget for the coming year.

Another issue which had given me cause for concern since the Berlin session was the improvement of documentation for the Committee and Bureau meetings, particularly with regard to budget documents. We also discussed this problem in detail during the Bureau meeting in Paris in June. As you can see from the documentation for this Committee meeting, the Secretariat has tried to conform as closely as possible to the Committee's ideas on the type of information and its presentation.

My experience as President has shown that working relations between the World Heritage Centre, the Committee and the "advisory bodies" deserve the Committee's special attention and goodwill. Particularly during the Paris Bureau meeting, I tried to encourage constructive dialogue between all concerned on cooperation with the Centre. In my view everyone must be aware that the demands on the Committee are increasing, and that it relies more and more on

the assistance and advice of the "advisory bodies". They must be able, also financially speaking, to carry out their tasks to the full. However, it is also true that the Committee must be able to count on the support, advice and succinct proposals of the "advisory bodies". Against this background I am pleased that the Committee will discuss this cooperation under agenda point 10. Such a discussion seems to me to be necessary if we look to the future, especially in view of the fact that the World Heritage Convention will soon be 25 years old. This dialogue should of course lead to positive and bearable results for all partners.

I do not want to go into detail about my other, more routine tasks as President. Within the scope of my competence as defined in the "Operational Guidelines", I approved fifteen applications for international support from the World Heritage Fund, and on other topical issues I was in close contact with the World Heritage Centre, which gave me valuable assistance during my entire term in office. I would therefore like to thank the Director of the Centre and his staff for their support and personal commitment. Remain true to your calling and do not let yourselves be discouraged by setbacks! Your work is recognized and valued worldwide, and there is no doubt about its significance. Let me also thank the representatives of ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM who supplied me with good and forthcoming advice during my term in office.

At 25 years of age, the World Heritage Convention is at a crossroads. In the past it has achieved indisputable success and made great progress, but it can only continue this trend if it solves the problems and removes the weaknesses which have now come to light, a task upon which the Committee and the Member States should urgently concentrate their efforts.

I would like to mention just a few key points which I regard as being important:

The World Heritage Committee has underlined the importance of monitoring; I need not explain this further. It must not be left to chance whether possible threats to individual World Heritage Sites are recognized in time. Following the next UNESCO General Conference, the Committee and the Centre will face the major task of lending greater substance to the concept of monitoring, together with the Member States. There will be many questions to answer; for example, how will the Centre and the Committee, with their existing structures and capacities, be able to cope with all the data and information? In my opinion the "advisory bodies" will play a vital role in this regard. We will not manage without their help.

The World Heritage List now contains almost 500 sites. My fear is that one day we will reach a stage where the List, and the protection requirements of the individual sites, can no longer be sufficiently surveyed. The Member States must realize that their nominations are a factor in how quickly this stage is reached. I appeal to them to bear in mind the request for self-limitation already made by the Committee in the "Operational Guidelines".

The universal character of the World Heritage List must be more clearly defined in order to avoid the impression that it is a "supermarket" for some regions, while others remain under-represented and lose interest in the Convention in the long term. I strongly support all plans which allow, for example, African or some Asian countries better access to the List.

The Committee has already extensively discussed the balance between cultural and natural monuments. My opinion is that in view of the frightening increase in the rate at which nature is being exploited, everything must be done to enable the World Heritage Committee to help save what can be saved. I personally can only warn the Committee that it is becoming bogged down in theoretical discussions on principles. The protection of the world's natural assets is better served if the Committee takes action in a pragmatic and energetic way.

One course the Committee could take in order to address these problems might be to use its criteria more flexibly and thus encourage certain trends. This requires a consensus within the Committee and among the "advisory bodies", and as outgoing President I urge you to seek this.

I have no wish to end my speech on a pessimistic note, as this would surely be wrong. The World Heritage Committee can point to a very positive and convincing range of activities; this must remain so in future. It plays a highly significant role in promoting the peaceful coexistence of peoples and countries, and it encourages and works towards intercultural understanding, tolerance, and acceptance both of one's own cultural identity and those of others. UNESCO's peace mission is clearly reflected in the Committee's tasks and activities. I am proud to have been able, as your President, to render a minor contribution to this work of peace, and I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to do so.

Thank you.

OPENING SPEECH OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE  
WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

SEÑORES DELEGADOS AL COMITE PARA LA PROTECCION DEL  
PATRIMONIO CULTURAL Y NATURAL.

Deseo agradecer el honor que se me ha conferido al elegirme Presidenta del Comité.

Desde su fundación las Naciones Unidas y la UNESCO han jugado un papel fundamental para favorecer la paz y el entendimiento entre las naciones.

Es un hecho que todos los Estados aquí representados hemos comprometido nuestro más amplio y decidido esfuerzo con las tareas de la UNESCO y de la Convención del Patrimonio Mundial; y, en las postrimerías del milenio, cuando la globalización de algunos fenómenos abre posibilidades nuevas para la interacción planetaria y a la vez se cierne como amenaza de uniformidad, de intolerancia a las diferencias, la conservación de las identidades culturales adquiere gran peso y nueva importancia para todos los pueblos y para el equilibrio mundial. Reiteramos nuestra vocación pluricultural; el indeclinable respeto por todas las expresiones de la espiritualidad y de la naturaleza.

Me emociona decir esto, hoy, ante ustedes, en este queridísimo Yucatán, plétórico de historia y patrimonio, y considero que, a casi 25 años de haberse suscrito la Convención del Patrimonio Mundial en la que se establecieron compromisos trascendentales que han permitido acciones de las que todos nos hemos beneficiado, debemos hacer un ejercicio de análisis crítico y propositivo.

Fortalecer nuestro Comité implica asumir los acelerados cambios que estamos viviendo e innovar y hacer más eficaces nuestras formas de trabajo, intensificar el trazo de muy diversos caminos para auspiciar las políticas de conservación y la cooperación internacional, para incrementar los programas de formación y la promoción del patrimonio natural y cultural.

Nuestra Convención es una guía segura para actualizar la labor que conjuntamente estamos realizando. "Humanizar el patrimonio es el mensaje ético de la UNESCO" expresó su Director General recientemente al referirse a la preservación de los grandes valores de las ciudades. Humanizar es, en efecto, buscar la democratización de la cultura, es admitir que en las diferencias culturales reside la riqueza de nuestro mundo, por cierto, el único posible para todos, y que la cultura se ensancha en la medida en que con seriedad admitimos que es en los otros donde mejor podemos reconocernos.

Creo que debemos entrar de lleno en el debate de los temas cruciales que hoy nos preocupan: cómo hacer la mejor aplicación de la Convención de acuerdo a los diferentes grados de desarrollo socio económico en que se encuentran los grandes valores de la naturaleza y la cultura, cómo revitalizar nuestro diálogo con la comunidades en que éstos están inmersos para que sean ellas plenamente partícipes de su preservación y de las posibilidades de desarrollo que puedan derivarse; cómo incrementar las útiles acciones que ya se llevan a cabo para hacer participar a los Estados Miembros a fin de que potencien sus posibilidades de cooperación internacional, de generar una verdadera planeación local y regional, de apoyar e integrar a los sistemas educativos dichos proyectos de formación y capacitación, de atraer a los más diversos sectores sociales y a las fuentes de financiamiento que puedan hacer realidad el rescate patrimonial. Ciertamente es en la soberanía de cada Estado donde nace la fuerza para producir las mejores propuestas de colaboración abierta a otros y para, a partir de esa soberanía, recrear una visión universal de la cultura que es la que dá sentido a nuestra Convención.

Les ofrezco mi total compromiso con la honrosa tarea que este Comité se ha servido encomendarme y estoy segura de que con base en la excelente Convención que nos anima, pondremos lo mejor de todos nosotros para abatir cualquier obstáculo y así cumplir con capacidad técnica e imaginación con una de las más nobles tareas que cualquier hombre pueda plantearse: la conservación de la mejores obras de la naturaleza y de las sociedades.

CLOSING SPEECH OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE  
WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

DISTINGUIDOS DELEGADOS AL COMITÉ DEL PATRIMONIO  
MUNDIAL Y OBSERVADORES DE LOS PAÍSES MIEMBROS.  
SEÑOR REPRESENTANTE DEL SECRETARIO DE EDUCACIÓN  
PÚBLICA, LIC. MIGUEL LIMÓN ROJAS.  
SEÑORES DE LOS CUERPOS ASESORES DE ESTE COMITÉ ICCROM,  
IUCN, ICOMOS.  
SEÑORAS Y SEÑORES DEL SECRETARIADO.  
AMIGOS TODOS.

DESPUÉS DE UNA INTENSA JORNADA DE TRABAJO PODEMOS  
AFIRMAR QUE LA VIGÉSIMA SESIÓN DEL COMITÉ DEL  
PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL HA ALCANZADO SUS OBJETIVOS Y  
PUESTO DE MANIFIESTO LA FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCIA QUE  
TIENE SU LABOR PARA HACER VIGENTE LA CONVENCION QUE LE  
DA ORIGEN Y SENTIDO.

LOS 37 SITIOS QUE HAN SIDO INSCRITOS AUMENTANDO ASÍ A 506  
LOS CONSIDERADOS PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL, SON LA  
EXPRESIÓN DEL DELICADO Y CONCIENZUDO TRABAJO QUE  
PRECEDE CADA UNA DE ESAS HONROSAS DESIGNACIONES.

A LA PUERTA DE LA CELEBRACIÓN DEL VIGÉSIMO QUINTO  
ANIVERSARIO DE LA CONVENCION SE HACE INDISPENSABLE  
HACER UNA VALORACIÓN COMPRENSIVA, CRÍTICA Y TAMBIÉN  
PROPOSITIVA DEL DESEMPEÑO DE NUESTRO COMITÉ PARA  
PROTEGER Y PONER EN VALOR LAS MEJORES OBRAS DE LA  
NATURALEZA Y AQUELLAS EXPRESIONES MATERIALES FRUTO  
DE LA ESPIRITUALIDAD HUMANA, SIEMPRE DIVERSA Y  
CAMBIANTE QUE CONSTITUYEN LA HERENCIA CULTURAL  
MUNDIAL.

INDUDABLEMENTE, LA VIGENCIA DE LA VISIÓN PLURAL QUE DE LA CULTURA EXPRESA LA CONVENCION, LA CONVIERTE EN FUENTE FUNDAMENTAL DE INSPIRACION.

HOY, CUANDO EL MUNDO SE EMPENA EN ACELERAR LOS PROCESOS DE INTERCAMBIO DE CARÁCTER ECONÓMICO Y EN ACELERAR POR TANTO TAMBIÉN LOS ESCENARIOS POLÍTICOS Y SOCIALES, DEBEMOS RESPONDER DESDE EL CAMPO DE LA CIENCIA, LA EDUCACIÓN Y LA CULTURA CON MAYOR EFICIENCIA. SI, COMO ES SABIDO, TODA LABOR DE PROTECCIÓN PATRIMONIAL NO ES EN ESENCIA SINO UN ACTO DE CONDUCCIÓN DE LA HISTORIA NATURAL Y SOCIAL Y POR TANTO UNA DETERMINACIÓN DEL FUTURO BASADA EN LOS MEJORES CRITERIOS QUE HOY PODAMOS APLICAR PARA SELECCIONAR LOS VALORES EXCEPCIONALES DEL PLANETA, TENDREMOS QUE SER CAPACES DE AMPLIAR CONSTANTEMENTE LAS PERSPECTIVAS INTELECTUALES Y NUESTRA ÓPTICA CULTURAL PARA TOMAR LAS MEJORES DECISIONES EN UN MUNDO AFORTUNADAMENTE **MULTICULTURAL Y PLURIÉTNICO**.

LOS PLANTEAMIENTOS QUE ORIENTAN LA ESTRATEGIA GLOBAL DEL COMITÉ DEBEN MERECER NUESTRA MAYOR ATENCIÓN, PUES DE ELLOS DEPENDE LA POSIBILIDAD DE RECONOCER ACERTADAMENTE LOS CAMINOS PARA INTERVENIR A FAVOR DE LA PAZ, EL EQUILIBRIO Y LA JUSTICIA EN EL RECONOCIMIENTO DE LOS VALORES NATURALES Y CULTURALES DE TODAS LAS SOCIEDADES Y REGIONES GEOGRÁFICAS DEL MUNDO.

LOS PROYECTOS DE COOPERACIÓN TÉCNICA Y ASISTENCIA INTERNACIONAL, LOS DE CAPACITACIÓN Y ACTUALIZACIÓN Y LAS TAREAS DE SEGUIMIENTO CONSTITUYEN UN HAZ ÍNTIMAMENTE RELACIONADO DEL QUE EN BUENA MEDIDA DEPENDEN LAS ALTERNATIVAS SIEMPRE DIVERSAS DE CONSERVACIÓN.

### 3.

SERÁN TAREAS DEL COMITÉ AMPLIAR EL ESPACIO DE ACCIÓN Y EL FUNCIONAMIENTO PARA QUE SUS CUERPOS ASESORES Y TODAS LAS AGENCIAS NACIONALES E INTERNACIONALES, PRIVADAS Y PÚBLICAS DE CARÁCTER PROFESIONAL QUE PUEDAN INFLUIR A FAVOR DE LA PRESERVACIÓN DEL PATRIMONIO, ENCUENTREN CABIDA EN NUESTROS ENGRANES DE OPERACIÓN.

EN EL CAMPO DE LA DIFUSIÓN Y LA PROMOCIÓN SE HACE INDISPENSABLE AMPLIAR NUESTRA PRODUCCIÓN Y VEMOS CON EXTREMA SIMPATÍA LOS LOGROS ALCANZADOS EN ESTA MATERIA. HABRÁ, SÍ, QUE INVOLUCRAR DIRECTAMENTE A LOS ESTADOS MIEMBROS EN ESTOS GRANDES PROYECTOS PUES DE ELLOS DEPENDERÁ LA CAPACIDAD PARA DETERMINAR EL TIPO DE MANEJOS Y LAS FORMAS ESPECÍFICAS (ACCIÓN CONTINUA, USO DEL RADIO, VIDEO, CINE, PRENSA ESCRITA, MEDIOS ELECTRÓNICOS, ETC.) QUE ATIENDAN A LAS NECESIDADES DE LA POBLACIÓN A LAS QUE SON DIRIGIDAS Y RESCATEN, PRESERVEN TAMBIÉN, SUS SIEMPRE REALES CAPACIDADES DE INTERVENIR DIRECTAMENTE EN LA CONDUCCIÓN DE LOS PROCESOS QUE DEFIENDEN Y RECREAN LA CULTURA Y LA NATURALEZA.

ES INDISPENSABLE QUE EL COMITÉ CONVOQUE MÁS AMPLIAMENTE A LAS AGENCIAS DE FINANCIAMIENTO Y A LAS DEDICADAS AL FAVORECIMIENTO DEL DESARROLLO SOCIAL PARA COOPERAR EN LAS SOLUCIONES DE LAS CAUSAS REALES QUE AFECTAN EL PATRIMONIO DE LA HUMANIDAD QUE MUCHAS VECES SON EL PRODUCTO DE LA MARGINACIÓN Y LA POBREZA.

POR ELLO, LOS CRITERIOS PRESUPUESTALES NO SON DE SEGUNDA MONTA, SON EN SÍ MISMOS EL PRODUCTO DE UN EJERCICIO HERMENÉUTICO QUE INTERPRETA Y DEFINE LOS PROYECTOS QUE DEBEN SER PRIVILEGIADOS Y POR TANTO CONSTITUYEN UNA RADIOGRAFÍA SOBRE UNA FACETA FUNDAMENTAL EN LA TOMA DE DECISIONES.



4.

CREO QUE TODOS LOS MIEMBROS DEL COMITÉ, HAN DEMOSTRADO SU COMPROMISO CON LA CONVENCION Y HAN LLEVADO A CABO UN ESFUERZO PROFESIONAL IMPORTANTE. QUIERO MANIFESTARLES MI MÁS ALTO RECONOCIMIENTO. EL COMITÉ CUENTA CON EL TOTAL APOYO DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL DE LA UNESCO, SR. FEDERICO MAYOR, SU PRESENCIA AQUÍ EN MÉRIDA PARA LA APERTURA Y SU DISCURSO LLENO DE CONCEPTOS QUE EXPLICITAN SU COMPROMISO CON LA PRESERVACIÓN DEL PATRIMONIO CULTURAL HAN SIDO UN ALIENTO EFECTIVO PARA NUESTRA LABOR. QUIERO AGRADECERLE SU COMPROMISO, SU IRRESTRICTO RESPALDO Y TALENTO PARA CONCEBIR CON APERTURA Y CAPACIDAD DE INNOVACIÓN LA COMPLEJA TRAMA DE ACCIONES QUE SE REQUIEREN PARA EL DISEÑO DE UNA POLÍTICA EFICAZ EN FAVOR DEL PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL.

ESTOY SEGURA DE QUE TODOS PONDREMOS LO MEJOR DE NOSOTROS MISMOS, PARA COMO, EXPRESÓ EL SR. DIRECTOR GENERAL DE LA UNESCO, DEDICAR NUESTRAS FUERZAS A LA CONSECUCIÓN DE LOS OBJETIVOS DE LA CONVENCION Y HAREMOS TODO LO QUE ESTÉ A NUESTRO ALCANCE PORQUE ESTAS REUNIONES NOS PERMITAN DEBATIR LO ESENCIAL DE ACUERDO A NUESTRA MISIÓN.

ME SIENTO MUY CONTENTA POR LAS INICIATIVAS QUE TOMÓ EL COMITÉ AL FORMAR UN PEQUEÑO ÓRGANO ASESOR QUE SEGURAMENTE AYUDARÁ A MEJORAR NUESTRA LABOR CONJUNTA.

LES PIDO UNA DISCULPA POR LOS MUCHOS Y EVIDENTES ERRORES QUE COMETÍ EN EL MANEJO DE LOS DEBATES Y QUE FUERON DISMINUÍDOS POR SU CONTRIBUCIÓN GENEROSA.

A TODOS LOS DELEGADOS AL COMITÉ, A LOS DELEGADOS DE LOS PAÍSES MIEMBROS, A LOS CUERPOS ASESORES (ICROM, ICOMOS E IUCN), AL ESTUPENDO EQUIPO DEL SECRETARIADO

5.

INTEGRADO POR MIEMBROS DEL CENTRO DEL PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL, QUE TANTO NOS AYUDÓ, DE CORAZÓN LES DOY LAS GRACIAS. SU TRABAJO SIEMPRE PROFESIONAL Y SU DISPOSICIÓN PARA ORIENTARME ME MERECE GRAN RESPETO Y RECONOCIMIENTO.

A LOS TRADUCTORES E INTÉRPRETES QUE NO ESCATIMARON ESFUERZO ALGUNO PARA CONTRIBUIR AL ÉXITO DE NUESTRA SESIÓN, LES DAMOS MUCHAS, MUCHAS GRACIAS.

A NUESTRO EMBAJADOR DE NIGER, SR. LAMBERT MESSAN, RELATOR DEL COMITÉ LE AGRADECEMOS SU ENCOMIABLE TRABAJO.

AL SR. MOUNIR BOUCHENAKI, DIRECTOR DE LA DIVISIÓN DEL PATRIMONIO DE LA UNESCO, LE AGRADECEMOS SU ACTIVA PARTICIPACIÓN Y PERMANENTE APOYO PARA AYUDAR A LA PRESIDENCIA DEL COMITÉ.

AL SR. BERND VON DROSTE, DIRECTOR DEL CENTRO DEL PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL, QUIERO DECIRLE QUE LE QUEDO MUY AGRADECIDA, QUE EL INTENSO DIÁLOGO QUE HUBIMOS DE SOSTENER ME PERMITIÓ VALORAR SU INTELIGENCIA Y CONOCIMIENTOS Y QUE CONFÍO EN QUE DURANTE LOS PRÓXIMOS DOCE MESES HAGAMOS DE LAS DECISIONES DEL COMITÉ UNA REALIDAD QUE COADYUVE FUERTEMENTE AL CUIDADO Y DIFUSIÓN DEL PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL.

AL SR. GEORGE ZOUDIN, DIRECTOR ADJUNTO DEL CENTRO, LE RECONOCEMOS SU PERMANENTE ESPÍRITU DE COOPERACIÓN.

AL SR. MÀRC WARREN DEL ÁREA DE FINANZAS DE LA UNESCO, MUCHAS GRACIAS POR SU AYUDA.

ESPECIAL MENCIÓN QUIERO HACER DEL MANIFIESTO APOYO Y ENTUSIASMO DEL SR. DIRECTOR GENERAL DE LA UNESCO, DON

6.

FEDERICO MAYOR, PARA EL BUEN FUNCIONAMIENTO DEL COMITÉ.

POR LA PARTE MEXICANA DEBO MENCIONAR EN PRIMER TÉRMINO EL DECIDIDO RESPALDO DEL SR. SECRETARIO DE EDUCACIÓN PÚBLICA, LIC. MIGUEL LIMÓN ROJAS, Y PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN NACIONAL DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS PARA LA UNESCO, Y SE LO AGRADEZCO A TRAVÉS DE SU REPRESENTANTE AQUÍ PRESENTE EL SR. DIRECTOR GENERAL DE RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES DE LA SEP Y SECRETARIO GENERAL DE DICHA COMISIÓN.

AGRADECEMOS A LA SECRETARIA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE, RECURSOS NATURALES Y PESCA, MTRA. JULIA CARABIAS, AL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO NACIONAL PARA LA CULTURA Y LAS ARTES, LIC. RAFAEL TOVAR, AL SR. EMBAJADOR DE MÉXICO ANTE LA UNESCO, DR. MARIO OJEDA.

FELICITÁNDONOS DE QUE ESTA SESIÓN SE HAYA CELEBRADO EN YUCATÁN, LE EXPRESO AL GOBERNADOR VÍCTOR CERVERA PACHECO SU EXTRAORDINARIA CONTRIBUCIÓN A LOS TRABAJOS QUE AQUÍ HEMOS REALIZADO.

AL INSTITUTO DE CULTURA DE YUCATÁN, AL PATRONATO CULTUR, A LA FUNDACIÓN CULTURAL MACAY, A LA FUNDACIÓN CULTURAL DOMEQ, NUESTRO SINCERO AGRADECIMIENTO.

ES JUSTO DESTACAR LA LABOR DEL JEFE DE LA DELEGACIÓN MEXICANA, SALVADOR DÍAZ-BERRIO, POR SU CONSTANTE SERVICIO A LA COMISIÓN, POR SUS LOGROS Y FRUCTÍFEROS AÑOS DE TRABAJO AQUÍ, A PATRICIA PERNAS EN QUIEN RECAYÓ BUENA PARTE DEL TRABAJO DE ORGANIZACIÓN DE ESTA SESIÓN Y A TODO SU EQUIPO QUE SON PARTE DE LA VOCALÍA DE LA COMISIÓN DE MÉXICO ANTE LA UNESCO.

7.

A LOS ESPECIALISTAS DE LA SEMARNAP QUE AQUÍ COLABORARON, AL DIRECTOR DEL CENTRO INAH YUCATÁN, ARQ. ALFREDO BARRERA Y A TODOS SUS TRABAJADORES E INVESTIGADORES.

A SALVADOR ACEVES, FRANCISCO LÓPEZ, JORGE DÍAZ CUERVO Y ALEJANDRO MARTÍNEZ DE LA DELEGACIÓN MEXICANA MI MÁS FUERTE AGRADECIMIENTO.

A NUESTRAS AMABLES Y SERVICIALES EDECANES Y A MIS ENTRAÑABLES AMIGAS Y COLABORADORAS

ADRIANA KONZEVIK  
GUADALUPE LAZO  
FLOR DE MA. GONZÁLEZ  
MA. OLVIDO MORENO Y  
MINA DE OLLOQUI, MUCHAS GRACIAS.

SEÑORES Y SEÑORAS: ES UN HONOR QUE IMPLICA UNA GRAN RESPONSABILIDAD TRABAJAR PARA NUESTRO COMITÉ. LES OFREZCO MI MAYOR ESFUERZO.

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Draft report on monitoring and reporting to be submitted by the  
World Heritage Committee to the Eleventh General Assembly of  
States Parties (Oct./Nov. 1997)

Adopted by the World Heritage Committee  
at its twentieth session

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Item xx of the provisional agenda: monitoring and reporting on the  
state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World  
Heritage List**

**SUMMARY**

In accordance with the decision of the Tenth General Assembly of States Parties (paragraph 31 of the Summary Record of the Tenth General Assembly), the World Heritage Committee submits herewith a report and a draft resolution on the monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Decision required: The General Assembly may wish to adopt the draft resolution on monitoring and reporting submitted in paragraph 16 of this document.

## **Background\***

1. To ensure the efficient implementation of the World Heritage Convention it is essential that all the actors involved have access to up-to-date knowledge on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties. This is not only true for the national authorities and site-managers, in order to plan for preventive conservation, but also for the World Heritage Committee and its Secretariat, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, to fulfil their functions in collaborating in the preservation of properties and enhancing international solidarity as set out in the Convention. In order to set priorities for international collaboration and emergency assistance the international community has to be kept informed of requirements at World Heritage properties.

2. Discussions on the most appropriate means to establish up-to-date information on World Heritage properties were initiated in 1982 and have continued since then at the sessions of the World Heritage Committee, the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention and the General Conference of UNESCO. Numerous States Parties and experts, as well as the advisory bodies, were involved in this process. The work undertaken by the Working Group of States Parties on Monitoring and Reporting in 1987 and by the Strategic Planning Meetings held in 1992 constitute the main stages of it.

3. This process is described in detail in the report that the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee submitted to the Tenth General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention which was held in Paris on 2 and 3 November 1995.

4. Practical experiences in monitoring and reporting benefitted to the process, particularly those gained in the implementation of regional and national monitoring and reporting programmes and the different models that had been applied. In some cases for example the preparation of state of conservation reports was undertaken through United Nations activities such as the Regional Project for Cultural Heritage of UNDP and UNESCO for Latin America and the Caribbean, and a UNEP project for the Mediterranean. In other cases, the States Parties undertook the reporting by themselves or in collaboration with non-governmental organizations such as ICOMOS and IUCN or ICCROM. The World Heritage Committee examined at various occasions the results of these monitoring and reporting activities and concluded that they all resulted in credible state of conservation reports.

\* This report addresses the concept of systematic monitoring and reporting described in paragraph 69 to 74 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. At the same time, the World Heritage Committee recognizes the important and continuing role of

reactive monitoring as described in paragraph 75 of the Operational Guidelines.

5. As a result of the above process and practical experiences, the World Heritage Committee reconfirmed at its eighteenth session in December 1994 the responsibility of the States Parties to monitor on a day-to-day basis the conditions of the properties and invited all States Parties to present periodic state of conservation reports to the World Heritage Committee.

6. The Tenth General Assembly examined the matter of monitoring and reporting under its agenda item 'New monitoring activities

related to World Heritage sites' against the background of the report and a draft resolution presented by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee as well as a number of draft resolutions that were submitted by States Parties. The report of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and the draft resolutions are included in Annex II of the Summary Record of the Tenth General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

7. The debate at the Tenth General Assembly is reflected in paragraphs 15 to 31 of the Summary Record of the Tenth General Assembly. As a conclusion, the Tenth General Assembly decided the following:

'As a conclusion, the General Assembly decided to continue the debate on the systematic monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties at the Eleventh General Assembly of States Parties that will be held in 1997. The General Assembly requested the World Heritage Committee to prepare a report and a proposed resolution for the eleventh session of the General Assembly of States Parties taking into account the discussions and experiences gained over the past years as well as the documents that had been presented to the Tenth General Assembly and the discussions thereon.'

8. In compliance with this decision, the matter of monitoring and reporting was again examined by the World Heritage Committee at its nineteenth and twentieth sessions. At these sessions, the World Heritage Committee studied the reporting procedures foreseen under the World Heritage Convention, defined the main principles of monitoring and reporting and prepared a draft resolution for submission to the Eleventh General Assembly of States Parties.

### **The reporting under Article 29 of the World Heritage Convention**

9. The World Heritage Convention does not foresee any other reporting by States Parties than to the General Conference of UNESCO. Article 29 of the Convention states that "The States Parties to this Convention shall, in the reports which they submit to the General Conference (...) on dates and in a manner to be determined by it, give information on the legislative and administrative provisions which they have adopted and other action which they have taken for the application of this Convention, together with details of the experience acquired in this field."

10. It is the view of the Committee that the periodic reporting by the States Parties on the state of conservation of the properties on their territories would fall within the terms of Article 29 and that the General Conference could determine that 'the manner' of the reporting would be through the World Heritage Committee. The General Conference could be asked, therefore, to activate Article 29 and to determine that reports should be submitted through the World Heritage Committee, requesting the Committee at the same time to define the periodicity, the form, nature and extent of the regular reporting, i.e. to establish a format for the periodic reporting by the States Parties on the application of the Convention.

11. In this case, this reporting would include information on the general application of the Convention, particularly the stipulations in Articles 4, 5 and 6, Article 11.1, Article 17 and 18 and Article 27, as well as information on the state of conservation of specific properties on the World Heritage List.

12. If the General Conference of UNESCO would delegate to the World Heritage Committee the examination and responding to the States Parties' reports, this activity would automatically be included in the report which the Committee is required to submit to the General Conference under the terms of Article 29.3.

### **Principles of monitoring and reporting**

13. On the basis of past experiences, consultations with States Parties and experts and, above all, the debate at the Tenth General Assembly and the nineteenth session of the Committee, the World Heritage Committee concludes that there is a general recognition among the States Parties of the need for them to monitor, as an integral part of their management efforts, the conditions of the World Heritage properties on their territories and to report its results to the bodies that are involved in the implementation of the Convention. In this sense, the Committee considers that there is a need to interpret the Convention in the light of twenty-five years of experience in its implementation



while recognizing the sovereign rights of the States Parties. The Committee, furthermore, considers that the General Assembly and the World Heritage Committee have a role to play as standard setting organizations.

14. In this context, the Committee proposes that the following principles govern the methodology and procedures of monitoring and reporting:

- i) monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties is the responsibility of the State Party concerned and is part of the site management;
- ii) the commitment of the States Parties to provide regular reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties is consistent with the principles of the World Heritage Convention and should be part of a continuous process of collaboration between the States Parties and the World Heritage Committee;
- iii) regular reports may be submitted in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention. The General Conference of UNESCO should be asked to activate Article 29 of the Convention and to entrust the World Heritage Committee with the responsibility to respond to these reports;
- iv) the World Heritage Committee should define the form, nature and extent of the regular reporting in respect of the principles of State sovereignty.

15. The World Heritage Committee considers that these principles would provide the appropriate framework for the management of the World Heritage properties by the States Parties themselves and for the enhanced cooperation between the States Parties, the World Heritage Committee and the international community for their preservation. Their introduction would also facilitate the World Heritage Committee to perform its functions effectively, particularly in providing and generating international assistance and in maintaining a credible World Heritage List.

#### **Decision required**

16. The General Assembly may wish to adopt the following draft resolution:

*The General Assembly,*

1. Noting that the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage has recognized that the cultural and natural heritage

'are increasingly threatened with destruction, not only by traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions which aggravate the situation with even more formidable phenomena of damage or destruction';

2. Reaffirms that 'deterioration or disappearance of any item of the cultural or natural heritage constitutes a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world';
3. Considers that the Convention should be interpreted in the light of twenty-five years of experience in its implementation;
4. Considers that such interpretation recognizes the sovereign right of the State Party concerned over the World Heritage sites situated on its territory;
5. Considers that a well-reflected and formulated common policy for the protection of cultural and natural heritage is likely to create a continuing interaction between States Parties;
6. Emphasizes the interest of each State Party to be informed of the experience of others with regard to conservation methods and the possibilities so offered, through voluntary international cooperation, for the general improvement of all actions undertaken;
7. Reaffirms the standard setting role of the General Assembly as well as of the World Heritage Committee;
8. Concludes that monitoring is the responsibility of the State Party concerned and that the commitment to provide regular reports on the state of the site is consistent with the principles set out in the Convention in
  - (i) the first, second, sixth, seventh and eighth preambular clauses,
  - (ii) Art. 4
  - (iii) Art. 6.1. and 6.2.
  - (iv) Art. 7
  - (v) Art. 10
  - (vi) Art. 11
  - (vii) Art. 13
  - (viii) Art. 15
  - (ix) Art. 21.3
  - (x) Art. 29;

9. Emphasizes that monitoring by the State Party is part of the site management which remains the responsibility of the States Parties where the site is located, and that regular reports may be submitted in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention;
10. Recalls that Article 4 of the Convention provides that 'Each State Party....recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage...situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State';
11. Recalls that Article 6 lays down the concept of world heritage 'for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate', and that Article 7 requires the establishment of a 'system of international co-operation' and assistance 'designed to support States Parties' efforts to conserve and identify that heritage;
12. Emphasizes that regular reporting should be part of a consultative process and not treated as a sanction or a coercive mechanism;
13. Notes that within the broad responsibility of the World Heritage Committee in standards setting, the form, nature and extent of the regular reporting must respect the principles of State sovereignty;
 

The involvement of the Committee, through its Secretariat or advisory bodies, in the preparation of the regular reports would be with the agreement of the State Party concerned. The States Parties may request expert advice from the Secretariat or the advisory bodies. The Secretariat may also commission expert advice with the agreement of the States Parties;
14. Suggests the General Conference of UNESCO to activate the procedures in Art. 29 of the Convention and to refer to the World Heritage Committee the responsibility to respond to the reports;
15. Encourages States Parties to take advantage of shared information and experience on World Heritage matters;
16. Invites other States to become States Parties to the Convention.

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Draft resolution for inclusion in the 'Report by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage on its Activities (1996-1997)' to be submitted to the 29th General Conference of UNESCO.

Adopted by the World Heritage Committee  
at its twentieth session

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The General Conference,

1. Noting that the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage has recognized that the cultural and natural heritage 'are increasingly threatened with destruction, not only by traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions which aggravate the situation with even more formidable phenomena of damage or destruction';
2. Reaffirms that 'deterioration or disappearance of any item of the cultural or natural heritage constitutes a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world';
3. Considers that the Convention should be interpreted in the light of twenty-five years of experience in its implementation;
4. Considers that such interpretation recognizes the sovereign right of the State Party concerned over the World Heritage sites situated on its territory;
5. Considers that a well-reflected and formulated common policy for the protection of cultural and natural heritage is likely to create a continuing interaction between States Parties;
6. Emphasizes the interest of each State Party to be informed of the experience of others with regard to conservation methods and the possibilities so offered, through voluntary international cooperation, for the general improvement of all actions undertaken;

7. Reaffirms the standard setting role of the General Assembly as well as of the World Heritage Committee;
8. Concludes that monitoring is the responsibility of the State Party concerned and that the commitment to provide regular reports on the state of the site is consistent with the principles set out in the Convention in
  - (i) the first, second, sixth, seventh and eighth preambular clauses,
  - (ii) Art. 4
  - (iii) Art. 6.1. and 6.2.
  - (iv) Art. 7
  - (v) Art. 10
  - (vi) Art. 11
  - (vii) Art. 13
  - (viii) Art. 15
  - (ix) Art. 21.3
  - (x) Art. 29;
9. Emphasizes that monitoring by the State Party is part of the site management which remains the responsibility of the States Parties where the site is located, and that regular reports may be submitted in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention;
10. Recalls that Article 4 of the Convention provides that 'Each State Party...recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage...situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State';
11. Recalls that Article 6 lays down the concept of world heritage 'for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate', and that Article 7 requires the establishment of a 'system of international co-operation' and assistance 'designed to support States Parties' efforts to conserve and identify that heritage;
12. Emphasizes that regular reporting should be part of a consultative process and not treated as a sanction or a coercive mechanism;
13. Notes that within the broad responsibility of the World Heritage Committee in standards setting, the form, nature and extent of the regular reporting must respect the principles of State sovereignty;

The involvement of the Committee, through its Secretariat or advisory bodies, in the preparation of the regular reports would be with the agreement of the

the regular reports would be with the agreement of the State Party concerned. The States Parties may request expert advice from the Secretariat or the advisory bodies. The Secretariat may also commission expert advice with the agreement of the States Parties;

14. Invites the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to submit in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention, through the World Heritage Committee, via its secretariat the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, reports on the legislative and administrative provisions and other actions which they have taken for the application of the Convention, including the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties located on its territories;
15. Requests the World Heritage Committee to define the periodicity, form, nature and extent of the regular reporting on the application of the World Heritage Convention and on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and to examine and respond to these reports while respecting the principle of State sovereignty;
16. Requests the World Heritage Committee to include in its reports to the General Conference, presented in accordance with article 29.3 of the Convention, its findings as regard to the application of the Convention by the States Parties;
17. Encourages States Parties to take advantage of shared information and experience on World Heritage matters and to contribute to the conservation of World Heritage properties, including through voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund;
18. Invites other States to become States Parties to the Convention.

WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION  
NOMINATION OF PROPERTIES FOR INCLUSION ON  
THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

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- e. Level at which management is exercised (e.g., on site, regionally) and name and address of responsible person for contact purposes
- f. Agreed plans related to property (e.g., regional, local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)
- g. Sources and levels of finance
- h. Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques
- i. Visitor facilities and statistics
- j. Site management plan and statement of objectives (copy to be annexed)
- k. Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance)

5. Factors Affecting the Site

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6. Monitoring

- a. Key indicators for measuring state of conservation
- b. Administrative arrangements for monitoring property
- c. Results of previous reporting exercises

7. Documentation

- a. Photographs, slides and, where available, film/video
- b. Copies of site management plans and extracts of other plans relevant to the site
- c. Bibliography
- d. Address where inventory, records and archives are held

8. Signature on behalf of the State Party



## WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

NOMINATION OF PROPERTIES FOR INCLUSION ON  
THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

## Explanatory Notes

INTRODUCTION

- (i) These notes are intended to provide guidance to those nominating sites for inclusion on the World Heritage List. They relate to the headings under which information is sought, which appear in front of each section of notes. Nomination dossiers should provide information under each of these headings. They should be signed by a responsible official on behalf of the State Party.
- (ii) The nomination dossier is intended to serve two main purposes.
- First it is to describe the property in a way which brings out the reasons it is believed to meet the criteria for inscription, and to enable the site to be assessed against those criteria.
- Secondly it is to provide basic data about the property, which can be revised and brought up to date in order to record the changing circumstances and state of conservation of the site.
- (iii) In spite of the wide differences between sites, information should be given under each of the categories set out at the head of sections 1 - 7 of these notes.

General Requirements

- (iv) Information should be as precise and specific as possible. It should be quantified where that can be done and fully referenced.
- (v) Documents should be concise. In particular long historical accounts of sites and events which have taken place there should be avoided, especially when they can be found in readily available published sources.
- (vi) Expressions of opinion should be supported by reference to the authority on which they are made and the verifiable facts which support them.

- (vii) Dossiers should be completed on A4 paper (210mm x 297mm) with maps and plans a maximum of A3 paper (297mm x 420mm). States Parties are also encouraged to submit the full text of the nomination on diskette.

1. Identification of the Property

- a. Country (and State Party if different).
- b. State, Province or Region
- c. Name of Property
- d. Exact location on map and indication of geographical coordinates to the nearest second
- e. Maps and/or plans showing boundary of area proposed for inscription and of any buffer zone
- f. Area of site proposed for inscription (ha.) and proposed buffer zone (ha.) if any.

1.1 The purpose of this section is to provide the basic data to enable sites to be precisely identified. In the past, sites have been inscribed on the list with inadequate maps, and this has meant that in some cases it is impossible to be certain what is within the World Heritage site and what is outside it. This can cause considerable problems.

1.2 Apart from the basic facts at 1a - 1d of the dossier, the most important element in this section of the nomination therefore consists of the maps and plans relating to the nominated site. In all cases, at least two documents are likely to be needed and both must be prepared to professional cartographic standards. One should show the site in its natural or built environment and should be between 1:20,000 and 1:100,000. Depending on the size of the site, another suitable scale may be chosen. The other should clearly show the boundary of the nominated area and of any existing or proposed buffer zone. It should also show the position of any natural features, individual monuments or buildings mentioned in the nomination. Either on this map, or an accompanying one, there should also be a record of the boundaries of zones or special legal protection from which the site benefits.

1.3 In considering whether to propose a buffer zone it should be borne in mind that, in order to fulfil the obligations of the World Heritage Convention, sites must be protected from all threats or inconsistent uses. These developments can often take place beyond the boundaries of a site. Intrusive development can harm its setting, or the views from it or of it. Industrial

processes can threaten a site by polluting the air or water. The construction of new roads, tourist resorts or airports can bring to a site more visitors than it can absorb in safety.

In some cases national planning policies or existing protective legislation may provide the powers needed to protect the setting of a site as well as the site itself. In other cases it will be highly desirable to propose a formal buffer zone where special controls will be applied. This should include the immediate setting of the site and important views of it and from it. Where it is considered that existing zones of protection make it unnecessary to inscribe a buffer zone, those zones also should be shown clearly on the map of the site.

## 2 Justification for Inscription

- a. Statement of significance
- b. Possible comparative analysis (including state of conservation of similar sites)
- c. Authenticity/Integrity
- d. Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria)

- 2.1 This is the most crucial aspect of the whole nomination dossier. It must make clear to the Committee why the site can be accepted as being "of outstanding universal value". The whole of this section of the dossier should be written with careful reference to the criteria for inscription found at paragraphs 24 and 44 of the Operational Guidelines. It should not include detailed descriptive material about the site or its management, which come later, but should concentrate on what the site represents.
- 2.2 The statement of significance (a) should make clear what are the values embodied by the site. It may be a unique survival of a particular building form or habitat or designed town. It may be a particularly fine or early or rich survival and it may bear witness to a vanished culture, way of life or eco-system. It may comprise assemblages of threatened endemic species, exceptional eco-systems, outstanding landscapes or other natural phenomena.
- 2.3 The possible comparative analysis (b) could relate the site to comparable sites, saying why it is more worthy than they are for inscription on the World Heritage list

(or, if they are inscribed, what features distinguish it from those sites). This may be because the site is intrinsically better, or possessed of more features, species or habitats.

It may also be because the site is a larger or better preserved or more complete survival or one that has been less prejudiced by later developments. This is the reason for the requirement for an account of the state of conservation of similar sites.

2.4 This section should demonstrate that the site fulfills the criteria of authenticity/integrity set out in paragraphs 24 (b) (i) or 44 (b) (i) - (iv) of the Operational Guidelines, which describe the criteria in greater detail. In the case of a cultural site it should also record whether repairs have been carried out using materials and methods traditional to the culture, in conformity with the Nara Document (1995) (attached). In the case of natural sites it should record any intrusions from exotic species of fauna or flora and any human activities which could compromise the integrity of the site.

2.5 Section 2 (d) is therefore the culmination of the section, relating the specific site to one or more individual criteria and saying unambiguously why it meets the specific criterion or criteria. States Parties may consider to provide, if possible, a comparative analysis of the nominated property with similar properties.

### 3. Description

- a. Description of Property
- b. History and Development
- c. Form and date of most recent records of site
- d. Present state of conservation
- e. Policies and programmes related to the presentation and promotion of the property

3.1 This section should begin with a description (a) of the property at the date of nomination. It should refer to all the significant features of the property. In the case of a cultural site this will include an account of any building or buildings and their architectural style, date of construction and materials. It should also describe any garden, park or other setting. In the case of an historic town or district it is not necessary to describe each individual building, but important public buildings should be described individually and an

account should be given of the planning or layout of the area, its street pattern and so on. In the case of natural sites the account should deal with important physical attributes, habitats, species and other significant ecological features and processes. Species lists should be provided where practicable, and the presence of threatened or endemic taxa should be highlighted.

The extent and methods of exploitation of natural resources should be described. In the case of cultural landscapes it will be necessary to produce a description under all the matters mentioned above.

- 3.2 Under item (b) of this section what is sought is an account of how the property has reached its present form and condition and the significant changes that it has undergone. This should include some account of construction phases in the case of monuments, buildings or groups of buildings. Where there have been major changes, demolitions or rebuilding since completion they should also be described. In the case of natural sites and landscapes the account should cover significant events in history or pre-history which have affected the evolution of the site and give an account of its interaction with humankind. This will include such matters as the development and change in use for hunting, fishing or agriculture, or changes brought about by climatic change, inundation, earthquake or other natural causes. In the case of cultural landscapes all aspects of the history of human activity in the area will need to be covered.
- 3.3 Because of the wide variation in the size and type of properties covered by properties nominated as World Heritage Sites it is not possible to suggest the number of words in which the description and history of properties should be given. The aim, however, should always be to produce the briefest account which can provide the important facts about the property. These are the facts needed to support and give substance to the claim that the property properly comes within the criteria of paragraphs 24 and 44 of the Operational Guidelines. The balance between description and history will change according to the applicable criteria. For example, where a cultural site is nominated under criterion 24 a (i), as a unique artistic achievement, it should not be necessary to say very much about its history and development.
- 3.4 Under section 3 (c) what is required is a straightforward statement giving the form and date of

the most recent records or inventory of the site. Only records which are still available should be described.

- 3.5 The account of the present state of conservation of the property [3 (d)] should be related as closely as possible to the records described in the previous paragraph. As well as providing a general impression of the state of conservation dossiers should give statistical or empirical information wherever possible.

For example, in a historic town or area the percentage of buildings needing major or minor repair works, or in a single major building or monument the scale and duration of any recent or forthcoming major repair projects. In the case of natural sites data on species trends or the integrity of eco-systems should be provided. This is important because the nomination dossier will be used in future years for purposes of comparison to trace changes in the condition of the property.

- 3.6. Section 3 (e) refers to the stipulations in Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention regarding the presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage. States Parties are encouraged to provide information on the policies and programmes for the presentation and promotion of the nominated property.

#### 4 Management

- a. Ownership
- b. Legal status
- c. Protective measures and means of implementing them
- d. Agency/agencies with management authority
- e. Level at which management is exercised (e.g., on site, regionally) and name and address of responsible person for contact purposes
- f. Agreed plans related to property (e.g., regional, local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)
- g. Sources and levels of finance
- h. Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques
- i. Visitor facilities and statistics
- j. Site management plan and statement of objectives (copy to be annexed)
- k. Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance)

- 4.1 This section of the dossier is intended to provide a clear picture of the protective and management arrangements which are in place to protect and conserve the property as required by the World Heritage Convention. It should deal both with the policy aspects of legal status and protective measures and with the practicalities of day-to-day administration.
- 4.2 Sections 4 (a) - (c) of the dossier should give the legal position relating to the property. As well as providing the names and addresses of legal owners [4 (a)] and the status of the property [4 (b)], it should describe briefly any legal measures of protection applying to the site or any traditional ways in which custom safeguards it. Legal instruments should be given their title and date. In addition, the dossier should say how in practice these measures are applied and how responsibility for dealing with potential or actual breaches of protection is exercised. For example, it would be desirable to indicate who is responsible for ensuring that the nominated site is safeguarded, whether by traditional and/or statutory agencies and whether adequate resources are available for this purpose.
- It is not necessary to set out all the elements of legal protection, but their main provisions should be summarized briefly. In the case of large natural sites or historic towns there may be a multiplicity of legal owners. In these cases it is necessary only to list the major land- or property-owning institutions and any representative body for other owners.
- 4.3 Sections 4 (d) and (e) are intended to identify both the authority or authorities with legal responsibility for managing the property and the individual who is actually responsible for day-to-day control of the site and for the budget relating to its upkeep.
- 4.4 The agreed plans which should be listed at 4 (f) are all those plans which have been adopted by governmental or other agencies and which will have a direct influence on the way in which the site is developed, conserved, used or visited. Either relevant provisions should be summarized in the dossier or extracts or complete plans should be annexed to it.
- 4.5 Sections 4 (g) and (h) could show the funds, skills and training which are available to the site. Information about finance and expertise and training could be related to the earlier information about the state of conservation of the site. In all three cases an

estimate could also be given of the adequacy or otherwise of what is available, in particular identifying any gaps or deficiencies or any areas where help may be required.

4.6 As well as providing any available statistics or estimates of visitor numbers or patterns over several years, section 4 (i) could describe the facilities available for visitors, for example:

- (i) interpretation/explanation, whether by trails, guides, notices or publications;
- (ii) site museum, visitor or interpretation centre;
- (iii) overnight accommodation;
- (iv) restaurant or refreshment facilities;
- (v) shops;
- (vi) car parking;
- (vii) lavatories;
- (viii) search and rescue.

4.7 Section 4 (j) in the dossier could provide only the briefest details of the management plan relating to the site, which could be annexed in its entirety. If the plan provides details of staffing levels it would not be necessary to complete section 4 (k) of the dossier and other sections may also be omitted where the plan provides adequate information (e.g. on finance and training).

## 5 Factors Affecting the Site

- a. Development Pressures (e.g., encroachment, adaptation, agriculture, mining)
- b. Environmental Pressures (e.g., pollution, climate change)
- c. Natural disasters and preparedness (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.)
- d. Visitor/tourism pressures
- e. Number of inhabitants within site, buffer zone
- f. Other

5.1 This section of the dossier should provide information on all the factors which are likely to affect or threaten a site. It should also relate those threats to measures taken to deal with them, whether by application of the protection described at Section 4 (c) or otherwise. Obviously, not all of the factors suggested in this section are appropriate for all properties. They are indicative and are intended to assist the State Party to identify the factors that are relevant to each specific property.



- 5.2 Section 5 (a) deals with development pressures. Information should be given about pressure for demolitions or rebuilding; the adaptation of existing buildings for new uses which would harm their authenticity or integrity; habitat modification or destruction following encroaching agriculture, forestry or grazing, or through poorly managed tourism or other uses; inappropriate or unsustainable natural resource exploitation; damage caused by mining; the introduction of exotic species likely to disrupt natural ecological processes, creating new centres of population on or near sites so as to harm them or their settings.
- 5.3 Environmental pressures [5 (b)] can affect all types of site. Air pollution can have a serious effect on stone buildings and monuments as well as on fauna and flora. Desertification can lead to erosion by sand and wind. What is needed in this section of the dossier is an indication of those pressures which are presenting a current threat to the site, or may do so in the future, rather than an historical account of such pressures in the past.
- 5.4 Section 5 (c) should indicate those disasters which present a foreseeable threat to the site and what steps have been taken to draw up contingency plans for dealing with them, whether by physical protection measures or staff training. (In considering physical measures for the protection of monuments and buildings it is important to respect the integrity of the construction.)
- 5.5 In completing section 5 (d) what is required is an indication of whether the property can absorb the current or likely number of visitors without adverse effects, i.e. its carrying capacity.

An indication should also be given of the steps taken to manage visitors and tourists. Amongst possible forms of visitor pressure that could be considered are:

- (i) Damage by wear on stone, timber, grass or other ground surfaces;
- (ii) Damage by increases in heat or humidity levels;
- (iii) Damage by disturbance to the habitat of living or growing things;
- (iv) Damage by the disruption of traditional cultures or ways of life;
- (v) Damage to visitor experience as a result of over-crowding.

- 5.6 Section 5 should conclude with the best available statistics or estimate of the number of inhabitants within the nominated site and any buffer zone, any activities they undertake which affect the site and an account of any other factors of any kind not included earlier in the section which have the potential to affect its development or threaten it in any way.
6. Monitoring
- a. Key indicators for measuring state of conservation
  - b. Administrative arrangements for monitoring property
  - c. Results of previous reporting exercises
- 6.1 This section of the dossier is intended to provide the evidence for the state of conservation of the property which can be reviewed and reported on regularly so as to give an indication of trends over time.
- 6.2 Section 6 (a) could set out those key indicators which have been chosen as the measure of the state of conservation of the whole site. They could be representative of an important aspect of the site and relate as closely as possible to the statement of significance. Where possible they could be expressed numerically and where this is not possible they could be of a kind which can be repeated, for example by taking a photograph from the same point. Examples of good indicators are:
- (i) the number of species, or population of a keystone species on a natural site;
  - (ii) the percentage of buildings requiring major repair in a historic town or district;
  - (iii) the number of years estimated to elapse before a major conservation programme is likely to be completed;
  - (iv) the stability or degree of movement in a particular building or element of a building;
  - (v) the rate at which encroachment of any kind on a site has increased or diminished.
- 6.3 Section 6 (b) should make clear that there is a regular system of monitoring of the property, leading to the recording, at least annually, of the conditions of the site. This should result, every five years, in a state of conservation report to the World Heritage Committee.

- 6.4 Section 6 (c) should summarize briefly earlier reports on the state of conservation of the site and provide extracts and references to published sources.

7 Documentation

- a. Photographs, slides and, where available, film
- b. Copies of site management plans and extracts of other plans relevant to the site
- c. Bibliography
- d. Address where inventory, records and archives are held

- 7.1 This section of the dossier is simply a check-list of the documentation which should be provided to make up a complete nomination.

7 (a) There should be enough photographs, slides and, where possible, film/video to provide a good general picture of the site, including one or more aerial photographs. Where possible, slides should be in 35mm format. This material should be accompanied by a duly signed authorization granting free of charge to UNESCO the non-exclusive right for the legal term of copyright to reproduce and use it in accordance with the terms of the authorization attached.

7 (b) Copies of and extracts from plans should be provided.  
 Management plan.  
 Legal protection, if necessary summarized.  
 Maps and plans.

7 (c) The Bibliography should include references to all the main published sources and should be compiled to international standards.

7 (d) One or more addresses for inventory and site records should be provided.

8. Signature on behalf of the State Party

The dossier should conclude with the signature of the official empowered to sign it on behalf of the State Party.

**STATEMENTS BY CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DURING THE INSCRIPTION OF THE HIROSHIMA PEACE MEMORIAL  
(GENBAKU DOME)**

**CHINA**

“During the Second World War, it was the other Asian countries and peoples who suffered the greatest loss in life and property. But today there are still few people trying to deny this fact of history. As such being the case, if Hiroshima nomination is approved to be included on the World Heritage List, even though on an exceptional basis, it may be utilized for harmful purpose by these few people. This will, of course, not be conducive to the safeguarding of world peace and security. For this reason China has reservations on the approval of this nomination.”

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

“The United States is dissociating itself from today’s decision to inscribe the Genbaku Dome on the World Heritage List. The United States and Japan are close friends and allies. We cooperate on security, diplomatic, international and economic affairs around the world. Our two countries are tied by deep personal friendships between many Americans and Japanese. Even so, the United States cannot support its friend in this inscription.

The United States is concerned about the lack of historical perspective in the nomination of Genbaku Dome. The events antecedent to the United States’ use of atomic weapons to end World War II are key to understanding the tragedy of Hiroshima. Any examination of the period leading up to 1945 should be placed in the appropriate historical context.

The United States believes the inscription of war sites outside the scope of the Convention. We urge the Committee to address the question of the suitability of war sites for the World Heritage List.”

**PRINCIPLE TRAINING GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY THE  
WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS TWENTIETH SESSION**

- i) Apply to both cultural and heritage sites the following strategic actions which were adopted by the Committee in 1995:
  - continue to develop curricula and training information packages on the World Heritage Convention, its ethics and implementation as basic materials;
  - and develop World Heritage Convention Information Networks, for the benefit of all site managers: procurement of computer and communication equipment to access site managers on Internet should be facilitated.
- ii) request the advisory bodies (IUCN, ICCROM, ICOMOS) to collaborate, in as much as possible, in the preparation of regional strategies, awareness and educational programmes which should be part of the training strategy. Common workshops should be encouraged, and the outcome of their evaluation brought to the attention of the Committee.
- iii) request the advisory bodies to develop thematic courses at the international level and adapt them at the regional level with partner institutions: the course on “the Conservation of World Heritage Cities Integrated Territorial and Urban Conservation” is a case in point of this necessary development.
- iv) give more influence to awareness and educational programmes which are part of the training strategy, and allocate more resources to such activities.
- v) all training needs should be assessed and analysed not only in relation to the conservation and management processes of the site, but also within the overall context of a national policy for heritage conservation: and, gradually in the light of a regional planning framework which takes into account integrated and sustainable conservation programmes.
- vi) consequently, encourage all regions to cooperate, through the World Heritage Committee, with the Advisory bodies, ICCROM in particular, to further develop their strategic approaches and take into account: local realities, priorities, availability of resources, financial constraints and time frames. Moreover, heritage preservation should also embrace economics and development.

- vii) progress reports of the regional approaches for cultural heritage, beginning with proposals concerning the Baltic States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the course in Integrated Territorial and Urban conservation; as well as for natural heritage in Asia and the Pacific, should be brought to the attention of the committee.
- viii) regional training centres such as: (a) school for the training of specialists in wildlife in francophone Africa (Garoua, Cameroon), anglophone Africa - Mweka college of Wildlife Management, Moshi, Tanzania; (b) CATIE Costa Rica (Latin America); (c) Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehra Dun, India; (d) Centro Nacional de Conservación, Restauración y Museología, Cuba (CENCREM) - Catedra Regional de Conservación (UNESCO - UNITWIN); (e) CECRE architectural conservation course at the Federal University of Bahía, Brazil; (f) the CECOR Conservation Centre at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil: and others as appropriate, should be provided with the curricula and information packages on the World Heritage Convention and use case studies of World Heritage sites. Moreover, networking of training institutions for cultural and natural heritage should be encouraged and supported to coordinate existing and new curricula, and provide for their dissemination.
- ix) given the under-representation of the cultural heritage of certain regions on the World Heritage List and in particular African heritage, UNESCO's priority in favour of Africa, the lack of training courses in the field of immovable cultural properties in sub-Saharan Africa, the need to train and educate almost all decision-makers, site managers, technicians and local populations decides to launch in 97, through the World Heritage Centre and in the framework of the project ICCROM/GAIA, a first set of the *in situ* training activities in sub-Saharan Africa. These will be developed within the framework of a ten-year **pilot** international framework project. During the three year **launching phase**, the strategic framework will be developed, and the methodology tested. In the **second phase**, the existing training potential will be reevaluated, and adequate national and regional training institutions identified with a view to adapting, improving and diversifying the teaching materials. In the **last phase**, new training programmes shall be elaborated and adapted to local realities, to reflect the know-how acquired during *in situ* activities.
- x) The World Heritage Centre, the advisory bodies and the State Parties should cooperate closely with one another in the design and conduct of training activities in conformity with the regional and thematic approaches adopted by the committee. Moreover, the Committee may wish to foresee a two year period after which all World Heritage Fund supported activities should derive from the above mentioned guiding principles.

In addition, the Committee:

- xi) may request a revision of the *Operation Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* in order to reflect the guiding principles for training activities as adopted at its XXth session.

**INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS APPROVED BY THE BUREAU**

**CULTURAL HERITAGE**

The Bureau examined and approved international assistance requests concerning cultural heritage for amounts between US\$ 20,000 and US\$ 30,000.

**A.1 TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

**A.1.1 ICCROM - Technical Assistance Programme (TAP)  
(US\$ 25,000 requested)**

The Bureau approved an amount of US\$ 25,000 to allow ICCROM to continue its work of dissemination of scientific information by supplying World Heritage sites with basic conservation materials and libraries.

**A.1.2 Technical Assistance Request for Vilnius Old Town (Lithuania) (US\$ 25,000 requested)**

The Bureau approved an amount of US\$ 25,000 to provide expert advice and logistic support to both the rehabilitation programme and the organization of the Donors' and Investors' Conference.

**A.1.3 Lalibela; Fasil Ghebi; Lower Valley of the Awash; Tiya; Aksum and Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia) (US\$ 27,500 requested)**

Considering the quality and the well-chosen small-scale activities which are already partly funded by the Centre for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (CRCCH), and in order to backstop the remarkable achievements and commitments of CRCCH to conservation, the Bureau approved an amount of US\$ 27,500. Support from the World Heritage Fund will permit the funding of international experts to examine the studies and restoration programmes for Lalibela, to improve the presentation of Tiya and organize an in-situ training course in Gondar.



## A.2 TRAINING

### A.2.1 Regional Training Course on Critical Wetlands Habitats: Keoladeo National Park (India) (US\$ 30,000 requested)

The Bureau approved an amount of US\$ 30,000 to organize at the beginning of 1997 this regional training workshop for site managers from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and other countries in support of the Natural Heritage Training Strategy. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to contact the Wildlife Institute and the Government of India to ensure that there is no overlap with any other subregional training seminars for protected area managers foreseen for 1997 to be hosted by India.

### A.2.2 International Study Project for the Conservation of Wadi Tumilat (Egypt) (US\$ 26,000 requested)

The Bureau approved an amount of US\$ 20,000 for the international training project for a scientific study and the conservation of the region of Wadi Tumilat. Organized by the Universities of Cairo, London, and Uppsala, the project foresees the participation of 20 students in documentation and conservation research work.

### A.2.3 Training Workshop for Urban Planning Officers of China's Historic Cities (US\$ 25,000 requested)

The Bureau, recognizing the urgent need to sensitize the municipal authorities and increase their technical competence to safeguard the historic cities of China, approved an amount of US\$ 25,000 to organize a workshop in May 1997 for the preparation of the Conference for the Mayors of Historic Cities, foreseen in September 1997.

### A.2.4 Regional Training Workshop in Tbilisi and Signagi on "The Significance of Vernacular Architecture and the Problem of Conservation (Georgia) (US\$ 27,000 requested)

The Bureau recognized the importance of Georgian vernacular architecture and the need to improve scientific, technological and management competences of the persons responsible for the conservation and presentation of the remarkable heritage. The Bureau approved an amount of US\$ 27,000 for this **regional training activity** organized for trainees from the

neighbouring countries, viz. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Iran, Russia and the Ukraine, as well as Georgia.

**A.2.5 ICCROM: Regional course for Latin America and the Caribbean on Scientific Principles of Conservation (US\$ 30,000 requested)**

The Bureau approved an amount of US\$ 30,000 as a contribution towards the costs of the regional course for Latin America and the Caribbean on Scientific Principles of Conservation, in order to improve the understanding of the elementary principles of scientific conservation relevant to different materials, the deterioration processes they undergo and the governing principles of different conservation/restoration treatments.

**A.2.6 Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Course on Financial and Institutional Capacity-Building in Urban Rehabilitation in Historic Cities (request submitted by Cuba) (US\$ 30,000 requested)**

The Bureau took note of the complementary nature of this course, organized in Cuba, with the one proposed by the Federal University of Pernambuco in Brazil. The Bureau approved an amount of US\$ 30,000 for the organization of this two-week course, which places the emphasis on funding and addresses decision-makers at the municipal level, and in particular those of World Heritage cities.

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twentieth session  
Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

2-7 December 1996

Item 19 of the Provisional Agenda: Provisional agenda for the twenty-first session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (June/July 1997)

1. Opening of the session by the Director General of UNESCO or his representative
2. Adoption of the agenda and the timetable
3. Report on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the twentieth session of the Committee
4. State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List:
  - 4.1. Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

4.2. Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

5. Information on tentative lists and examination of nominations of cultural and natural properties to the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger
6. Requests for international assistance
7. Progress report by the Committee's consultative body on the overall management and financial review of the administration of the World Heritage Convention
8. Approval of the Committee's report on its activities for 1996-1997 to be submitted to the 29th session of the General Conference of UNESCO
9. Information on the preparation of the Eleventh General Assembly of States parties (November 1997)
10. Date, place and provisional agenda of the twenty-first extraordinary session of the Bureau (December 1997)
11. Date, place and provisional agenda of the twenty-first session of the World Heritage Committee (December 1997)
12. Other business
13. Closure of the session.

**STATEMENTS ON THE LEGAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES****IX.1 Statement of the Delegate of Germany**

"During this session, the Committee decided the inscription of a site neglecting the following rules of the Operational Guidelines: Paragraph 65 which stipulates that nominations deferred by the Bureau will not be examined by the Committee the same year; paragraph 57 stating that the evaluation will be carried out by IUCN for natural properties; paragraph 62 indicating that representatives of a State Party shall not speak to advocate the inclusion in the List of a property nominated by that State; paragraph 63 that the criteria for which a specific property is included will be set out by the Committee, as well as paragraph 58 in connection with 44 (b) on the integrity of the property. Germany is of the strong opinion that the Operational Guidelines can be overruled by the Committee only by amending them, but not by not applying them in one single case. By not applying the Operational Guidelines, the World Heritage Convention is in Danger to become a mere political instrument."

**IX.2 Statement of the Delegate of the United States of America**

"Divergence from the Operational Guidelines now and then, especially when not related directly to the main purpose of this body is certainly tolerable, so long, as all delegations, large and small are treated fairly. Everyone appreciates that manner of operation. The primary purposes of this body are: (1) inscribe sites on the World Heritage List (2) inscribe sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger and (3) remove sites from both lists. The intend of the Convention was to inscribe only those sites which clearly qualify. Very rigorous criteria and procedures were designed to ensure the professional integrity of the decisions reached by this body. The criteria are tough and comprehensive because of the need to protect the integrity of this body so that we are seen as the highest epiform of conservation and preservation decision making. Only the best of the world make it. The procedures were very obviously designed to try and ensure that this body always acts in a manner which cannot be questioned anywhere in the world. It was recognized that taking time rather than rushing is not punitive; rather it helps ensure impassive, thoughtfull, professionally based criteria driven decision making and to avoid any open forum for dueling experts."

We made a sham of our integrity this week. Please do not infer any derogation of the management of W National Park. I am told by professionals who have been there that it is unusually well managed. That is not the subject at hand. We made a sham of our integrity. Why is that important? It is important, because conservation and preservation of the best of this world is a constant battle and an uphill battle at that. The force is not always, perhaps not even usually with us. Our most important weapon is our integrity. I have worked for the US National Park Service for 35 years, I have planned parks, I have managed parks, I have advised on parks in several countries and I have been the Deputy Director over 369 national park areas in the US. I have fought for protection of natural and cultural parks with individuals, groups, municipalities, states, other agencies and the United States congress. I have not always prevailed, but I always left knowing that the parks were better respected and therefore more likely to be protected in the future. We tarnished our integrity by not following our own procedures. The result is that we may not be as well respected when we leave as we were when we got here."

### **IX.3 Statement of the Delegate of Italy**

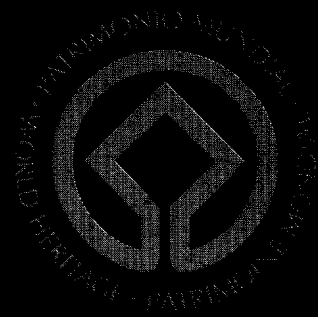
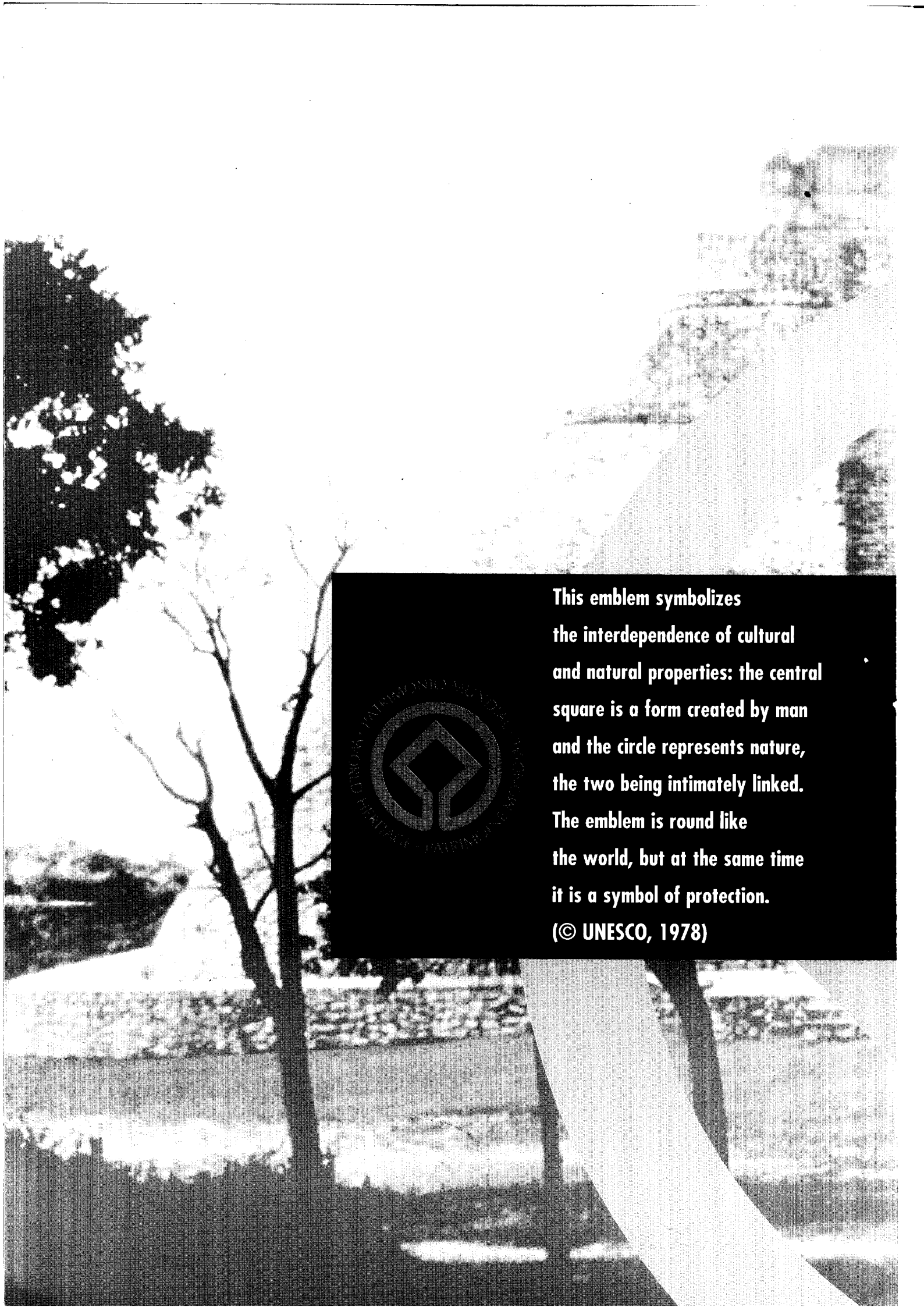
The Delegate of Italy stated that he was in agreement with the views expressed by Germany concerning the Guidelines.

However, he wished to point out that all the decisions taken by the Committee during this session were taken in complete conformity with the existing regulations.

He furthermore noted that in accordance with the hierarchy of organizations, a superior hierarchical organization always has the possibility to take decisions concerning matters treated by a lesser organization.

### **IX.4 Statement of the Chairperson**

In concluding the discussions which she found constructive, the Chairperson recalled that each of the delegates of the Committee had made a serious analysis of the concrete cases and the and the spirit of the Convention before making a final decision, and, whilst respecting the statements of one and all, even although she considered those of the Delegates of Germany and the United States of America unacceptable, the Committee had retained its credibility and competence.



**This emblem symbolizes the interdependence of cultural and natural properties: the central square is a form created by man and the circle represents nature, the two being intimately linked. The emblem is round like the world, but at the same time it is a symbol of protection.**

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