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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-first session

**Krakow, Poland
2 – 12 July 2017**

Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda: Follow-up to Recommendations of Evaluations and Audits on Working Methods and outcomes of the ad-hoc Working Group

12B. Progress report on the follow-up to the Recommendations of the External Auditor's "Report on the governance of UNESCO and dependant funds, programmes and entities" (Document 38C/23)

SUMMARY

This Document presents a progress report on the follow-up to the Recommendations of the External Auditor's "*Report on the governance of UNESCO and dependant funds, programmes and entities*" contained in Document 38 C/23, in conformity with Decision **40 COM 13B**.

Draft Decision: see Point III.

I. BACKGROUND

1. By Resolution **38 C/ 101**, the General Conference established an open-ended working group with the mandate to examine the governance, procedures and working methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO on the basis of the views and proposals received from Member States, the External Auditor's *Report on the Governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities*, relevant evaluations and audits by the Internal Oversight Service (IOS), as well as previous decisions and resolutions related to governance. The Working Group will aim at providing a set of recommendations, along with their likely impact and financial implications, to be examined by the General Conference at its 39th session (2017).
2. Two sub-groups have been established by the General Conference open-ended working group on governance. Sub-Group 1 is discussing "*Structure, composition and methods of work of the Governing Bodies (General Conference and Executive Board)*", while Sub-Group 2 is examining the "*Structure, composition and methods of work of UNESCO's international and intergovernmental bodies*".
3. Further to Resolution **38 C/ 101** which invited all intergovernmental programmes, committees and organs of the Conventions to inscribe, if feasible in 2016, an item concerning governance, this matter was inscribed on the Agenda of the World Heritage Committee which examined it during its 40th session in 2016 (see Document *WHC/16/40.COM/13B*).

II. PROGRESS REPORT

4. In its Decision **40 COM 13B**, the World Heritage Committee recalled the work already undertaken by the Governing Bodies of the *World Heritage Convention* with a view to assess and improve their working methods.
5. In this regard, the Committee recalled that the reflection on working methods has been ongoing in the framework of the intersessional ad-hoc Working Group it established at its 38th session in 2014, with a view *inter alia*, to improve and streamline the working methods of the Governing Bodies. The outcomes of the work of this working group can be found in Document *WHC/17/41.COM/12A*.
6. Furthermore, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention inscribe a new Agenda item on matters on Governance at its next session in November 2017 and transmitted Decision **40 COM 13B** along with the corresponding working document related to governance to the Chairperson of the open-ended Working Group of the General Conference, as requested.
7. It is to be noted that the open-ended working group established by the General Conference as well as its two sub-groups, have held several meetings in the course of 2016 and 2017. In this regard, the Sub-Group 2 which concerns more specifically the structure, composition and methods of work of UNESCO's international and intergovernmental bodies, held a meeting on 31 March 2017 during which issues related to governing bodies of Culture Conventions - including the 1972 Convention - were discussed. Recognition of good practices - notably periodic reporting - and appropriate methods of works as well as appreciation of the work of the 1972 Secretariat were strongly underlined by the Sub-Group. In this regard, it recognized the work of the intersessional ad-hoc Working Group established by the World Heritage Committee as a good practice which facilitate the work and ease the workload of the sessions of the Committee. Furthermore, no specific requirement on improvement of governance regarding the 1972 Convention made on that occasion.

8. It is to be underlined that more meetings are scheduled before the recommendations of the General Conference open-ended working group's recommendations are submitted to the 202nd session of the Executive Board (October 2017) which will transmit it - with its own comments - to the 39th session of the General Conference. Therefore, at the time of the preparation of this document, the recommendations of the open-ended working group are not yet available.
9. The Informal Summary of the meetings of the open-ended working group that have already been held are available at the following address <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/general-conference-39th/working-group-on-governance/sub-group-2/>

III. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 41 COM 12B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/12B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 13B** and the reflection ongoing undertaken by the Governing Bodies of the World Heritage Convention to assess, improve and streamline their working methods,*
3. *Takes note of the progress report of the ongoing work undertaken by the General Conference to examine the governance, procedures and working methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO.*