



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France

① +33 (0)1 45 68 15 71
Fax +33 (0)1 45 68 55 70

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To: All States Parties to the World Heritage Convention

cc: Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN)

Subject: Representivity of the World Heritage List - follow-up to the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties (1999)

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing to provide you with a copy of the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage (see Annex I).

This Resolution aims to strengthen the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. In particular, the Resolution invites States Parties to find ways to ensure representivity of the World Heritage List.

As a result, I wish to invite your country to provide the World Heritage Centre with a brief progress report (in English or French) on any measures that it has adopted to implement the Resolution (see sections A-C of Annex 1). All reports received will be used to inform the World Heritage Committee of progress undertaken. Please ensure that you have delivered your report to the World Heritage Centre (preferably in hard copy and in electronic Word format to n.dhumal@unesco.org) by **14 September 2001**.

In response to the Resolution concerning *Ways and means to ensure a Representative World Heritage List* adopted by the twelfth General Assembly of States Parties (1999) and deliberations on this issue at the twenty-third session of the Committee, (Marrakesh, 1999) a Working Group on the Representivity of the World Heritage List was established during a meeting of States Parties held at UNESCO on 21 January 2000. H.E. Mr Olabiyi B.J. Yai, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Benin to UNESCO was appointed as Chair of the Working Group.

This Working Group met four times between January and April 2000 and prepared a number of recommendations on the role and use of Tentative Lists, priorities for considering the large number of nominations, possible voluntary score board that would include a proposal for performance indicator system and suggestions for enhanced capacity building for under-represented regions. Further debate took place at the Special Session of the Bureau (Budapest, October 2000) during which the recommendations were refined and adopted. The recommendations of the Bureau were submitted to, and adopted by, the twenty-fourth session of the Committee (Cairns, 2000) and will be communicated to the thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties (30-31 October, 2001) in five sections (see Annex II).

Thank you in advance for your kind co-operation and collaboration in this important exercise. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please be assured, Madam/Sir of the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Francesco Bandarin
Director
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Attachments: Annex I and II

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE
Paris, 28 - 29 October 1999**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- **Considering** that the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, referred to here under as the 1972 Convention, is a general framework for international co-operation,
 - **Underlining** the importance of finding the correct balance between the various activities linked to the implementation of the Convention, in particular nominations of properties on the List, reporting on the state of conservation, training of specialists, and improving public awareness to safeguard the heritage of humankind,
 - **Noting** that the representative nature of the World Heritage List has been the subject of numerous debates by the World Heritage Committee since 1979,
 - **Recognizing** that since the adoption of the Global Strategy by the World Heritage Committee at its eighteenth session in December 1994 with a view to improving the representativity of the List, this objective has not been attained, despite the remarkable efforts of the Secretariat and States Parties concerned,
 - **Noting** that at present **two-thirds** of the States Parties have fewer than three sites on the List and that their heritage of outstanding universal value is still under-represented or not represented,
1. **Agrees** to give its full support for the implementation of the Convention, in the States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented on the List,
 2. **Recognizes** the interest of all the States Parties and the advisory bodies in preserving the authority of the 1972 Convention, by improving, through appropriate means, the representativity of the World Heritage List which must reflect the diversity of all cultures and ecosystems of all regions,
 3. **Endorses** the objectives of the Global Strategy while **reaffirming** the sovereign rights of the States Parties and the sovereign role of the General Assembly,
 4. **Shares** the will expressed by the World Heritage Committee at its twenty-second session in December 1998 "to move from recommendations to action" and to improve the representativity of the List, and therefore:

A. Invites all the States Parties to:

- i) Give the highest priority to the *"adoption of a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes"*, according to Article 5 of the 1972 Convention,
- ii) Take measures to redress the imbalance and improve the representativity of the World Heritage List, in order to reinforce the authority of the 1972 Convention,
- iii) Prepare or re-examine their tentative lists in the light of the methodology developed and regional and thematic definitions by focusing on categories of heritage which are still under-represented on the List,
- iv) Rigorously establish the outstanding universal value of properties when preparing the tentative lists,
- v) Give priority to the submission of nominations resulting from regional consultations in the categories under-represented that highlight notably the interaction between human beings and their environment and human beings in society, expressing the diversity and richness of living or past cultures.

B. Invites the States Parties that already have a substantial number of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List to:

- i) Apply paragraph 6 (vii) of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention:
 - a) by spacing voluntarily their nominations according to conditions that they will define, and/or
 - b) by proposing only properties falling into categories still under-represented, and/or
 - c) by linking each of their nominations with a nomination presented by a State Party whose heritage is under-represented, or
 - d) by deciding, on a voluntary basis, to suspend the presentation of new nominations,
and
to inform the Committee of the measures taken,
- ii) Initiate and encourage bilateral and multilateral co-operation with States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented in the List within the framework of the preparation of tentative lists, nominations and training programmes,
- iii) Give priority to the re-examination of their tentative lists within the framework of regional consultations and to the preparation of periodic reports.

C. Invites the States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented on the List to:

- i) Give priority to the preparation of tentative lists and nominations,
- ii) Initiate and consolidate at regional level, partnerships based on the exchange of technical expertise,
- iii) Encourage bilateral and multilateral co-operation so as to increase their expertise and the technical capacities of institutions in charge of the protection, safeguard and management of their heritage,
- iv) Participate, as much as possible, in the meetings of the World Heritage Committee.

D. Invites the advisory bodies to:

- i) Pursue their collaboration with the Secretariat for the preparation and co-ordination of regional consultations,
- ii) Pursue their programmes of thematic studies and the classification of the themes into sub-themes, on the basis of the tentative lists prepared by States Parties and the recommendations of the regional experts meetings,
- iii) Observe the greatest scientific rigour during the evaluation of the proposals for inscription, so that the decisions of the Committee can reflect more systematically the positive results of the implementation of the Global Strategy,
- iv) Develop mechanisms that would give experts of the regions under-represented on the List the necessary training to prepare and evaluate nominations and ensure the state of conservation of properties.

E. Invites the World Heritage Committee to:

- i) Continue its actions undertaken within the framework of the Global Strategy,
- ii) Provide the necessary resources from the World Heritage Fund to support the efforts of the States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented on the List, in order to increase the number of their nominations,
- iii) Adopt a regional and multi-year Action Plan for the implementation of the Global Strategy, as a follow-up to the Action Plan adopted in 1999,
- iv) Evaluate the progress in the implementation of the Global Strategy Action Plan with the participation of all States Parties and define, should the need arise, adjustment measures to fulfil its objectives.

F. Invites the Secretariat of the Convention to:

- i) Pursue its collaboration with the advisory bodies in the framework of regional consultations,⁹
- ii) Support in particular the efforts of States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented on the List in the preparation of their tentative lists and nominations,
- iii) Ensure that the human resources allocated to the implementation of the Action Plan are consistent with its objectives,
- iv) Submit to the General Assembly a progress report on the implementation of the regional and multi-year Action Plan.

G. Invites the international community and more particularly the donor agencies to :

- i) Support, in co-operation with the advisory bodies and the Secretariat, the protection of cultural and natural heritage and the implementation of the 1972 Convention,
- ii) Give priority to the actions directed towards the implementation of the Global Strategy, undertaken in States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented on the List.

The General Assembly invites all States Parties, the advisory bodies and the Secretariat to transmit this resolution to the concerned agencies.

**EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE, CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA
(27 NOVEMBER - 2 DECEMBER 2000)**

3. REPRESENTIVITY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

The Committee examined and discussed the recommendations of the Working Group on the Representivity of the World Heritage List chaired by Ambassador Yai (Benin), which had been transmitted by the Special Session of the Bureau with some changes.

The Committee recognized that the issue of representivity of the World Heritage List was the most difficult of the reform issues under consideration by the Committee. The Committee noted that more effective use of tentative lists and greater regulation of the ever-increasing number of nominations was required. It was agreed that other measures, such as assistance for capacity-building would be vital for ensuring the representation of sites from all regions on the World Heritage List.

The Committee therefore agreed on a decision presented in 5 sections:

1. Respecting the Convention
2. Tentative Lists
3. Nominations
4. Resolution of the Twelfth General Assembly, 1999
5. Capacity Building for under-represented Regions

With reference to Section 3, the Delegate of Hungary asked that his request for a change in the deadline for submission of nominations to be examined in 2002, from December 2000 as agreed by the Committee, to April 2001, be noted in the Report. The Committee agreed to note this request by the Delegate of Hungary but stated that in the interest of a smooth transition, the majority position of the Committee will be maintained.

With the exception of Hungary, the text of the decision was adopted by all members of the Committee. A letter from the Italian Government is included as Annex IX of this report.

The Committee agreed to transmit its decision to the Thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties in 2001.

1. Respecting the Convention

The Committee reaffirmed the Convention for the Protection of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage as an instrument of consensus, cooperation and accord between States Parties and takes particular note of Articles 6 (1) and 6 (2) and Article 11 (1):

- (i) Whilst fully respecting the sovereignty of the States on whose territory the cultural and natural heritage mentioned in Articles 1 and 2 is situated, and without prejudice to property right provided by national legislation, the States Parties to this Convention recognize that such heritage constitutes a world heritage for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate (Article 6 (1))

(ii) The States Parties undertake, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, to give their help in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage ... if the States on whose territory it is situated so request (Article 6 (2)).

(iii) Every State Party to this Convention shall, in so far as possible, submit to the World Heritage Committee an inventory of property forming part of the cultural and natural heritage, situated in its territory and suitable for inclusion in the list ... (Article 11 (1)).

Decisive cooperative action is required by the Committee and States Parties to ensure that the World Heritage List is fully representative of the world's natural and cultural heritage.

2. Tentative Lists

(i) In the future, consistent with Article 11, the tentative lists of cultural and natural sites should be used, as a planning tool to reduce the imbalances in the World Heritage List. States Parties are reminded of the invitation to submit tentative lists in conformity with Article 11 of the Convention. The Committee should revise paragraphs 7 and 8 of the *Operational Guidelines* to extend to natural sites its decision not to examine nominations of sites for inscription if the property does not appear on a tentative list.

(ii) The advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre should proceed with an analysis of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and the tentative list on a regional, chronological, geographical and thematic basis. This analysis should be undertaken as soon as possible, taking into account the workload on advisory bodies and the financial implications of this work, particularly in regard to the large number of sites on the tentative list. For this reason, the work should be undertaken in two parts, sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and sites on the tentative list. The analysis will provide States Parties with a clear overview of the present situation, and likely trends in the short to medium term with a view to identifying under-represented categories.

(iii) The advisory bodies should take into account in their analyses:

- The diversity and particularities of natural and cultural heritage in each region,
- The results of regional Periodic Reporting, and
- The recommendations of the regional and thematic meetings on the harmonisation of tentative lists held since 1984 and those on the Global Strategy organised since 1994.

(iv) The World Heritage Centre and advisory bodies should communicate the results of the analyses to the World Heritage Committee and, following the Committee's examination, the results should be conveyed to States Parties to the Convention, together with the Committee's recommendations. This will allow them to prepare, revise and/or harmonise their tentative list, taking into account, where appropriate, regional considerations, and to take the results of the analyses into consideration for the submission of future nominations.

(v) The results of the analyses should be communicated no later than 30 September 2001.

3. Nominations

In order to promote the effective management of the increasing size of the World Heritage List, the Committee at each ordinary session will set the maximum number of nominations to be considered. In the first instance and on an interim basis, it is proposed that at the twenty-

seventh session of the Committee in 2003, the number of nominations examined by the Committee will be limited to a maximum of 30 new sites.

In order to determine which sites should be given priority for consideration, all nominations to be considered at the twenty-seventh session of the Committee must be received in full by the new due date of 1 February 2002 agreed by the Committee as part of the change of cycle of meetings. No State Parties should submit more than one nomination, except those States Parties that have no sites inscribed on the World Heritage List who will have the opportunity to propose two or three nominations.

In order to address the issue of representivity of the List the following criteria will be applied in order of priority¹:

In the event that the number of nominations received exceeds the maximum number set by the Committee, the following priority system will be applied each year by the World Heritage Centre before nominations are transmitted to the advisory bodies for evaluation, in determining which sites should be taken forward for consideration:

1. Nominations of sites submitted by a State Party with no sites inscribed on the List;²
2. Nominations of sites from any State Party that illustrate un-represented or less represented categories of natural and cultural properties, as determined by analyses prepared by the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies and reviewed and approved by the Committee;
3. Other nominations.

When applying this priority system, date of receipt of full and complete nominations by the World Heritage Centre shall be used as the secondary determining factor within the category where the number of nominations established by the Committee is reached.

In addition to the approved maximum number of sites, the Committee will also consider nominations deferred, or referred, from previous meetings and changes to the boundaries of already inscribed properties. The Committee may also decide to consider, on an emergency basis, situations falling under paragraph 67 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Transition arrangements

Committee meeting, December 2001

No change to existing system.

Committee meeting June 2002

Full and complete nominations received by the World Heritage Centre prior to 31 December 2000 will be considered together with nominations deferred, or referred, from previous meetings and changes to the boundaries of already inscribed properties. The

¹ In nominating properties to the List, States Parties are invited to keep in mind the desirability of achieving a reasonable balance between the numbers of cultural heritage and natural heritage properties included in the World Heritage List (Paragraph 15 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

² In evaluating these, and all other nominations, the Advisory Bodies should continue to apply a strict evaluation of criteria as set out in the *Operational Guidelines*.

Committee may also decide to consider, on an emergency basis, situations falling under paragraph 67 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Committee meeting June 2003

Nominations to be submitted by 1 February 2002 and prioritized in accordance with the system as described above.

Review

The system described above is to be reviewed by the Committee after two full years of operation.

4. Resolution of the Twelfth General Assembly, 1999

The Committee decided to call on States Parties concerned to inform the Committee with a minimum of delay, of measures taken in the implementation of the clauses of the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly (Paragraph B) that invites all States Parties that already have a substantial number of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List to:

(i) Apply paragraph 6 (vii) of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*:

a) by spacing voluntarily their nominations according to conditions that they will define, and/or

b) by proposing only properties falling into categories still under-represented, and/or

c) by linking each of their nominations with a nomination presented by a State Party whose heritage is under-represented, or

d) by deciding, on a voluntary basis, to suspend the presentation of new nominations.

ii) Initiate and encourage bilateral and multilateral co-operation with States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented in the List within the framework of the preparation of tentative lists, nominations and training programmes,

iii) Give priority to the re-examination of their tentative lists within the framework of regional consultations and to the preparation of periodic reports.

5. Capacity Building for Under-represented Regions

The Committee decided that co-operative efforts in capacity-building and training are necessary to ensure that the World Heritage List is fully representative and agrees that:

(i) The World Heritage Centre should continue to promote training programmes, preferably at the regional level, aimed at allowing States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented to be better versed in the Convention and to better implement the measures under Article 5. These primarily concern the identification, management, protection, enhancement and conservation of heritage. Such programmes should also assist States Parties to acquire and/or consolidate their expertise, in the preparation and harmonisation of their tentative lists and the preparation of nominations.

(ii) The advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre should use the opportunity of evaluation missions to hold regional training workshops to assist under-represented States in the methods of preparation of their tentative list and nominations. Appropriate financial and human resources should be provided through the World Heritage Centre budget process to undertake such workshops.

(iii) Requests by States Parties whose heritage is non-represented or under-represented should be given a high priority when the portion of the World Heritage budget relating to Preparatory Assistance in preparing nominations is developed.

(iv) The order of priorities for the granting of international assistance, as defined in paragraphs 91 and 113-114 of the *Operational Guidelines*, should be revised in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the International Expert Meeting on the Revision of the *Operational Guidelines* (Canterbury, United Kingdom) to improve the representivity of the World Heritage List and to be coherent with the Global Strategy. Beyond the conditions provided for by the Convention, and subject to the conclusions of the evaluation of international assistance, the new priority order should take into account:

- The necessity of encouraging the beneficiary countries to develop measures for the implementation of the Convention in their country,
- The order of priority for the examination of the nominations for inscription,
- The state of preparation of the beneficiary countries, and
- The necessity of giving priority to the least developed countries (LDCs) and countries with a low revenue.

(v) Regional Plans of Action should be updated and developed within the framework of the Global Strategy. These should specify for each targeted region and State Party, the objective, action needed, responsibility, timetable for adoption, state of play and a mechanism to report on progress in implementing these at each session of the World Heritage Committee. In order to underline their incentive nature, the Plans of Action should highlight the actions by the States Parties concerned, notably in application of Article 5 of the Convention, and should mention the bilateral or multilateral co-operation programmes in the field of heritage in general, for the elaboration in particular of nominations.

(vi) The next UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy should stress the necessity of adopting an intersectoral policy aimed at better implementing the Convention. From the 2002-2003 biennium, an intersectoral project should be developed and implemented to encourage the States Parties whose heritage is still under-represented to reinforce their capacity to protect, conserve and enhance it.

The Committee noted that the Hungarian authorities had prepared a proposal for the establishment of a Heritage Partnership Programme to be examined by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session in Cairns (WHC-2000/CONF.204/19).

The Committee decided that a review of the implementation and effectiveness of such measures should take place not later than 2003.