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TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
18-20 November 2015

Item 14 of the Provisional Agenda: Reflection on the Periodic Reporting exercise (2015-2017)

Reflection on the Periodic Reporting exercise (2015-2017)

SUMMARY

This document contains information about the decision taken by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session to launch a reflection period on the Periodic Reporting exercise, further to the completion of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting.

Draft Resolution: 20 GA 14, see Point II.

This document is to be read in conjunction with WHC-15/20.GA/INF14

I. BACKGROUND

1. The agenda of the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (Bonn, 2015) included a general reflection on Periodic Reporting following the end of the second Periodic Reporting cycle with the adoption, at the 39th session of the Committee, of the Periodic Report for the region of Europe.
2. While examining this item of the agenda, the Committee members highlighted the utmost importance of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The second cycle of Periodic Reporting had generated a wealth of information and had fully complied with the main purposes of the Periodic Reporting exercise defined by Paragraph 201 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It has brought to light that important efforts are being made to improve protection, conservation and management of World Heritage properties and has helped identify major trends and tendencies.
3. At the same time, during the second cycle a number of issues were identified regarding the Periodic Reporting process and format by different World Heritage stakeholders, which revealed a need for further improvement of the modalities of the exercise and updating it with the evolving factors and requirements.
4. As a result, the World Heritage Committee, in its Decision **39 COM 10B.5**, decided to suspend the third cycle of Periodic Reporting in order to allow for a two-year Periodic Reporting Reflection Period from 2015-2017. The Committee also requested the World Heritage Centre to bring this matter to the attention of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention, at its 20th session (Paris, 2015), in an information document.
5. The Committee decided that comments of the States Parties should be sought on the matters of reviewing the process, format, relevance, use and analysis of data and efficiency of the Periodic Reporting exercise as well as synergies with other UNESCO culture conventions, preferably by means of a questionnaire. A small expert working group will be entrusted with drafting an updated format of the questionnaire and proposals for improving the process, relevance, analysis and use of data, further to feedback of States Parties and outcomes of reflection meetings.
6. Further, the Committee called upon States Parties and other World Heritage stakeholders to provide extra-budgetary resources to ensure a proper reflection, including through hosting at least two Periodic Reporting reflection meetings with the participation of selected representatives of States Parties from all regions, Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Field offices, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, category 2 centres as well as experts that have been involved in the second cycle of Periodic Reporting.
7. The General reflection on Periodic Reporting (extract from document WHC-15/39.COM/10B) is presented to the General Assembly in information document WHC-15/20 GA/INF14.
8. Further to the Committee decision, the World Heritage Centre has started the preparation for the reflection period. As a first step, a questionnaire is being drafted, to be sent to the States Parties in fall 2015 seeking their feedback on the matters highlighted by the Committee.
9. It is to be noted however, that, in order to be properly prepared and implemented, the reflection period requires extra-budgetary funding, as highlighted by the World Heritage Committee in its decision.
10. The General Assembly, while examining this item of the agenda, may wish to further call upon the States Parties to actively participate in the reflection process and contribute with extra-budgetary funding.

II. DRAFT RESOLUTION

DRAFT RESOLUTION: 20 GA 14

The General Assembly,

1. *Having examined documents WHC-15/20 GA/14 and WHC-15/20 GA/INF.14,*
2. *Takes note of Decision **39 COM 10B.5** of the World Heritage Committee concerning the launch of a reflection period on the Periodic Reporting exercise;*
3. *Highlights the importance for all States Parties to actively participate in the reflection on the Periodic Reporting exercise;*
4. *Calls upon all States Parties to provide extra-budgetary funding for the reflection on the Periodic Reporting exercise.*