



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

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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

Extended forty-fourth session

**Fuzhou (China) / Online meeting
16 - 31 July 2021**

GENERAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY

This document provides important information regarding the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee that will be held online from 16 to 31 July 2021 (registration, protocols of an online meeting, etc.).

All information on the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee is also available at the following webpage:

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM>

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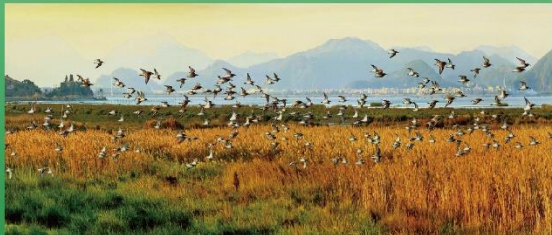



 United Nations
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 la science et la culture


 44th Session of the
 World Heritage Committee
 FUZHOU, CHINA 2021
 第44届世界遗产大会



General Information



Extended 44th Session of the
 World Heritage Committee

16-31 July 2021 Fuzhou, China



1 INTRODUCTION

The People's Republic of China has the pleasure of hosting the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee. The session is organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the Host Country, the People's Republic of China. The session will be presided over from Fuzhou by His Excellency Mr. Tian Xuejun, Vice Minister of Education and Chairperson of the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, Chairperson of the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee.

The opening and closing ceremonies of the session will be held in Fuzhou and will be livestreamed for all participants (see below in point 4)

The extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee will be held **online** from 16 to 31 July 2021, with a break on 20 July 2021. The daily plenary sessions of the Committee will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Paris time); please note that Paris is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+2). The Bureau sessions will take place on 16 July 2021 from 3 to 4 p.m. and every day from 18 to 30 July 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Paris time). The Provisional Agenda as well as the Provisional Timetable, adopted by the 14th and the 15th Extraordinary sessions of the World Heritage Committee respectively, are detailed in documents WHC/21/44.COM/3A and WHC/21/44.COM/3B, available at the dedicated web page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM>.

The information document is hereby presented to give practical information and provide with protocols for the conduct of the online meetings to ensure that the participants have all the required information to conveniently participate. These protocols are suggested in conformity with the Committee's Rules of Procedure (hereinafter referred to as "RoP") and taking into consideration the relevant General recommendations adopted by the Executive Board in its Decision [209 EX/ 30](#) in June 2020.

2 PURPOSE

The World Heritage Committee is comprised of representatives from 21 States Parties to the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention.

The current composition of the Committee is as follows:

Australia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Hungary, Kirghizstan, Mali, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, South Africa, Saint-Kitts and Nevis, Thailand, Uganda.

Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Tian Xuejun (China)

Rapporteur: Ms. Miray Hasaltun Wosinski (Bahrain)

Vice-Chairpersons: Bahrain, Guatemala, Hungary, Spain, Uganda

For further information, please visit <https://whc.unesco.org/en/committee/>

The essential functions of the Committee are:

- i. To identify, on the basis of nominations submitted by States Parties, cultural and natural properties of Outstanding Universal Value which are to be protected under the Convention, and to inscribe those properties on the World Heritage List;
- ii. To monitor the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, in liaison with States Parties; decide which properties included in the World Heritage List are to be inscribed on or removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger; decide whether a property may be deleted from the World Heritage List;
- iii. To examine requests for International Assistance financed by the World Heritage Fund.

3 SESSION ORGANIZERS

The organizers of the extended 44th session of the Committee are ready to assist you for any questions you may have on the session.

Host country: Chairperson

H.E. Mr. Tian Xuejun

Vice Minister of Education and Chairperson of the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO

Chairperson of the extended 44th session of World Heritage Committee

Email: chair@44whcfuzhou2021.cn

Phone: +86 (10) 66096649

UNESCO: Secretary of the World Heritage Convention

Ms. Mechtild Rössler

Director

World Heritage Centre

Email: m.rossler@unesco.org

Phone: +33145681104

Postal address: UNESCO, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris, France

4 OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

The opening and closing ceremonies will be held at Fuzhou Strait Culture and Art Center and International Conference & Exhibition Center and will include cultural performances. All participants and observers are cordially invited to follow the Opening and Closing Ceremonies via the link which will be provided for the livestream.

The Opening Ceremony of the extended 44th session will be held on 16 July 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Paris time); the Closing Ceremony will be livestreamed on 31 July 2021.

Further details on the Opening and Closing Ceremonies can be found on the following website:
<https://live.44whcfuzhou2021.cn>

5 SIDE EVENTS

5.1 SIDE EVENTS REQUESTS

Due to the special circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and taking into consideration the format of the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee, please be informed that side events will be held in an online format. If you wish to organize a side event, kindly submit your request to the UNESCO Secretariat focal point, Ms Caroline Varnet (c.varnet@unesco.org) or Mr David Martel (d.martel@unesco.org), **by 18 June 2021 at the latest**. You will receive a form to fill in with details regarding the type of event your country would like to organize as well as the modalities for online attendance.

5.2 SIDE EVENTS MODALITIES

Organizers of side events are responsible for all organizational and technical matters related to their side events after receiving clearance from the Secretariat. Organizers are invited to select the platform that they deem most efficient for the purpose of holding their respective side events.

Online side events will be held out of plenary sessions and specific time slots will be allocated for each event. If you wish to participate in one of these, further information to access them will be provided to you by the organizers.

All information regarding side events, including online access, will be posted on the session dedicated webpage at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM> and <https://www.44whcfuzhou2021.cn/sideevents/>

6 INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

6.1 WEBPAGE

The dedicated webpages for the extended 44th session of the Committee can be found at <https://www.44whcfuzhou2021.cn/> and at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM>. All relevant information for the session - including the **registration page, documents, provisional schedules** for certain agenda items, **side events** access and the **technical note** to guide all participants in connecting to and attending the online meeting - will be regularly updated and can be found at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM>. The **livestream** will be also available from these webpages during the entire session of the Committee.

6.2 DOCUMENTS

Working and Information Documents corresponding to the items inscribed on the Agenda of the extended 44th session will be published and accessible on the World Heritage Centre's website as they become available starting from 4 June 2021, as per the statutory deadline; in the two working languages of the Committee (English and French) at the dedicated webpage <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM>.

As for any other session of the World Heritage Committee, the Decisions Report and Summary Records, as well as recordings, will be made available after the end of the session in conformity with Rules 46 and 47 of the RoP.

If you are unable to download some documents, you may send an e-mail to the World Heritage Centre at: e.esquivel@unesco.org.

7 PARTICIPANTS AND REGISTRATION

7.1 PARTICIPANTS

The main participants in the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee are the **21 members of the Committee**.

The **States Parties to the Convention**, which are not members of the Committee, may attend the sessions of the Committee and its Bureau as Observers.

Non States Parties to the Convention who are Member States of UNESCO or of the United Nations may also be permitted by the Committee, upon written request, to attend the sessions of the Committee and its Bureau as Observers.

Representatives of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will attend the sessions of the Committee in an advisory capacity.

The United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system as well as, upon written request and **at least 15 days** prior to the date of the session of the Committee, other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non-profit-making institutions having activities in the fields covered by the Convention, according to criteria defined by the World Heritage Committee, may be authorized by the Committee to participate in the sessions of the Committee as Observers.

The meeting will be held on the Zoom platform which can accommodate up to 1,000 active participants. Active participants are potential speakers who may request the floor during the debates and intervene in the name of the State Party / organization they represent, using camera/audio. Each State Party member of the **Committee** is guaranteed **five (5) active connections** simultaneously, and each **Observer State Party** will be guaranteed **three (3) connections**. The **Advisory Bodies** to the World Heritage Committee will be guaranteed **five (5) active connections**. **All other Observers**, as defined in Rules 6,7 and 8 of the Committee's RoP, will receive **one active (1) connection** upon request and within the above-mentioned capacity limit of the platform.

While the number of registered delegates per State Party / organization can be much higher than the number of active connections (no limitation *per se*), only the active participants will be allowed to access the Zoom platform at the same time. Therefore, it is up to each delegation to organize itself in order to access the meeting to ensure the full participation of its speaking members. In case more than the authorized number of active delegates from your country /

organization connect to the online platform at the same time, the Secretariat will need to contact you to identify the speakers to be allowed in the meeting. Hence, you are strongly encouraged to designate a contact person to whom the Secretariat may refer to in such case.

7.2 REGISTRATION

All those wishing to attend the extended 44th session of the Committee, whether as a delegate of a Delegation member of the Committee or as an Observer, are strongly advised to register **no later than 1 July 2021**. This is to allow enough time to process all the relevant information and to ensure that all online arrangements are in place before the opening of the session.

Please complete and submit the online registration form at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM/>

In order to ensure their attendance at the session, Members of the Committee shall communicate to the World Heritage Centre the names (last name, first name), email addresses, designation and qualification of their representatives, alternates, advisers and experts (Rule 5.1 of the RoP). The list should also indicate the Head of Delegation. The other participants referred to in section 5.1 and in Rules 6, 7 and 8 of the RoP shall communicate the names and email address of their designated representative(s), also indicating the Head of Delegation, whenever relevant.

To register, please use the registration code provided in the invitation letter addressed to either the Permanent Delegation, National Commission or your organization. If you have not received the registration code, please contact your Permanent Delegation or National Commission. Contact details are available at: <https://en.unesco.org/countries>.

Once you have registered online and your registration has been confirmed, you will receive a notification email from Zoom with important information for accessing the online meeting (access link and passcode). This confirmation email should be kept throughout the session to access the online meetings.

Naming protocols will be applied by the Secretariat to all participants in order to identify them quickly and ensure a smooth management of access to the meeting as well as of the speakers' list. Therefore, all participants are kindly requested not to rename themselves.

Should you require any assistance for registration, please contact r.mohammad@unesco.org

8 LIVE STREAMING / BROADCAST

All participants as well as the general public can follow the daily working sessions throughout the duration of the extended 44th session via the **livestream** which will be aired through <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM> and the dedicated website <https://live.44whcfuzhou2021.cn>. There are no limits in the number of people who can follow the livestream nor registration of any kind required.

When following the debates on the livestream, there is no possibility to request the floor; participants will follow the debates as viewers only.

9 MEDIA

The meeting will be organized online, and journalists will be able to follow its proceedings at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM>

Journalists will however **need to register** with UNESCO's Press Service to receive press releases on the Committee's decisions and take part in online press briefings and press conference during the session.

Please register with Clare O'Hagan at c.o-hagan@unesco.org providing her with your full name and the name of your media.

An online Press Conference will take place on 18 July 2021 in the morning (Paris time) – exact time to be confirmed.

Press releases, photographs and b-rolls relating to the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee will be updated regularly and made available to download at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM>

UNESCO's press officers will be available throughout the session: Roni Amelan r.amelan@unesco.org (English and French) and Lucia Iglesias Kuntz (Spanish and French) l.iglesias@unesco.org

10 PROTOCOLS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE ONLINE MEETING

The World Heritage Committee at its 15th extraordinary session (online, 2021) has adopted the methods of work for the extended 44th session (Decision **15 EXT.COM 3**), which can be found in Annex 4 of document [WHC/21/15.EXTCOM/3](#) and which have been taken into account in the sections below:

10.1 ACCESSIBILITY OF THE ONLINE PLATFORM

In conformity with Decision **209 EX/30** of the Executive Board and the relevant general recommendations adopted, Statutory Meetings of the World Heritage Convention should be accessible to all States Parties when they are conducted via online platforms, regardless where they connect from. As a result, UNESCO has been granted authorization to use the Zoom platform for official meetings in all Member States. Regulatory restrictions have been lifted to allow participants to access UNESCO Zoom events from anywhere in the world (see also sections 7.1 and 7.2 above).

10.2 QUORUM

In accordance with Rule 17 of the RoP, the quorum for a meeting consists of a majority of the Committee Members. The quorum will be determined at the beginning of each daily session by verifying the online presence of representatives of Members of the Committee accredited as per section 5.2 above. In the event the quorum is lost, for example due to connectivity issues being experienced by a number of representatives, the meeting could be suspended until such time as a quorum has been re-established.

10.3 TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR ORAL INTERVENTIONS DURING THE ONLINE MEETING

Participants should follow a number of practices in the course of the meeting in order to ensure the smooth conduct of business. They should connect in advance, 15 to 30 minutes before the

scheduled start time of each daily session since the Secretariat of the Committee would grant access to the meeting after checking the identity of participants. Participants should also connect from a quiet location in order to avoid background noise. They should preferably use a headset with a microphone, to avoid any problems with the audio function of their device and improve sound quality. All participants who are not taking the floor should mute their microphones and turn off their video at all times. To respect the time allowed for each daily session and to ensure a quality interpretation, speakers are encouraged to be succinct and speak at a moderate pace. As a matter of fact, the Chairperson may limit the time allowed to each speaker if necessary (Rule 22.2 of the RoP). In this regard, a timer will be displayed during each intervention for indication purposes. All technical information on connecting to and attending the online meetings is detailed in the technical note which can be found at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM>.

10.4 REQUESTING THE FLOOR

The working languages of the Committee are, pursuant to Rule 44.1 of the RoP, English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and French, as well as in Chinese and Spanish. Members of the Committee may take the floor in one of these languages.

Participants who have an active connection are able to request the floor by pressing the ‘raise hand’ button, which will display a yellow hand beside the participant’s name. This button can be found at the bottom of the list of participants on the right hand of the screen.

Once the yellow hand is raised, the participant will be added to the list of speakers. When the Chairperson calls on a participant to take the floor, they should unmute their microphone using the microphone button in the bottom left corner. The Secretariat may assist in unmuting the participant if need be. Ideally, as long as the internet connection allows, participants should also use their video. After the participant has finished their intervention, they should put their microphone on mute again to avoid background noise.

The list of speakers will be regularly drawn up and communicated via the chat box by the Secretariat. According to Rule 22.1 of the Committee’s RoP, speakers will be called in the order in which they have signified their wish to speak via the ‘raise hand’ button or via the chat box in case of difficulties. The floor will be given to speakers according to Rules 22 of the Rules of Procedure.

10.5 CHAT BOX AND PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

The chat box is located at the bottom right hand corner of your screen. It can be used to signal a technical problem to the Secretariat, either publicly or via private messages. Most importantly, it can also be used by Committee members wishing to signal procedural motions (Rules 28 to 33), such as a **point of order**. In this case, the participants should raise their hand to indicate they wish to speak and type ‘point of order’ in the chat box. The Secretariat will then immediately draw the attention of the Chairperson to the fact that such a motion has been raised to enable him to take action as prescribed under the RoP.

The chat box should not be used for submitting amendments (see point 10.8 below).

10.6 ORDER OF INTERVENTIONS

While every active participant can request the floor by virtually ‘raising the hand’, this does not exclude a certain order of speeches, in conformity with the corresponding RoP. The persons who may address the Committee include, in addition to representatives of the Members of the Committee, members of the Secretariat and of the Advisory Bodies, all participants referred to in section 5.2 and in Rules 7 and 8 of the Committee’s RoP.

As it is the case for *in presentia* sessions, during the debates of the Committee, the order of speech will follow Rule 22.

For the item on “Nominations”, after decisions for inscription made by the Committee, the submitting State(s) concerned may be invited by the Chairperson to give a speech. Regardless of the format of the intervention, submitting States will be allotted a total of two minutes. In the case of transboundary / transnational nominations, the duration of interventions (speech by one or more States Parties) shall also not exceed two minutes in total; the coordinating State for the nomination is asked to coordinate in advance the order and format of interventions that will be made. Due to the reduced duration of the session and the necessity to allocate a fair amount of time to all files, the cooperation of submitting States in respecting this time requirement would be appreciated.

10.7 SCHEDULE OF EXAMINATION OF ITEMS

The examination of the agenda items related to State of Conservation and Nominations will be conducted by region to accommodate the different time zones and to facilitate the active participation of all stakeholders. In addition to the general timetable of the session, a provisional schedule for those agenda items will be made available in due course on the dedicated webpage of the session.

10.8 AMENDMENTS

Considering that the extended 44th session will have an extended Agenda, the RoP will have to be strictly respected in order to ensure a timely and smooth processing of all Agenda items. Therefore, amendments to draft decisions shall be submitted by Committee members by email to wh-rapporteur@unesco.org, using the appropriate form available in English and French on the web page of the meeting at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM>.

The chat box should not be used for submitting amendments, hence amendments submitted into the chat box will not be considered.

While Committee members are entitled to submit an amendment at any moment until the decision is made, oral amendments made during the examination of the item concerned should remain as far as possible as proposed changes to the wording of the draft decision. The submission of substantial proposals of amendment should be made **at least 24 hours before the discussion of the agenda item concerned**, in accordance with Rule 23.3 of the RoP. This would greatly facilitate the organization of the online debates and an informed decision-making process.

The Secretariat will upload written of the submitted proposed amendments on the web page of the meeting at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM> and will inform Committee members accordingly in a timely manner.

10.9 TEXT NEGOTIATIONS

Since negotiation of a text during an online session could be time consuming and complicated due to technological constraints, members of the Committee are strongly encouraged to convene informal meetings and negotiations as appropriate on draft decisions and amendments, as far as possible before the session of the Committee or not during the plenary sessions.

10.10 ADOPTION WITHOUT DEBATE

Given the limited time available for consideration of agenda items at a fully online session, the Committee has adopted at its 15th extraordinary session a Provisional Timetable with a number of items proposed for adoption without debate. The items concerned are listed in the Provisional Timetable presented in document WHC/21/44.COM/3B. It is to be understood that for these items, the Committee will only be asked to examine the related Draft Decisions.

Furthermore, introduction of these agenda items by the Secretariat will only take place if requested by the Chairperson and will be as concise as possible and limited to providing clarification and/or additional information.

10.11 WORKING GROUPS

During its sessions, the Committee can establish consultative or subsidiary bodies, as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions (Rules 20 and 21). The practice for several Committee sessions has been to constitute on the first day of the session the established consultative body on the **Budget** (item 14) and a consultative body on the **Operational Guidelines** (item 12).

Therefore, once constituted, meetings of these groups will be held in the format of separate online events. The usual practice has been for meetings of such groups to take place at a different timeframe than the plenary session. Their organization will be facilitated by the World Heritage Centre, which will provide a schedule and specific access links to the members of the groups for each of their meetings.

10.12 VOTING

The practice of the Committee is to take its decisions by consensus. Nonetheless, should a vote be necessary, all relevant information and details regarding voting are detailed below. These arrangements have been approved by correspondence by the Committee on 21 May 2021, as per Decision **15 EXT COM.3**.

According to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, each State member of the Committee shall have one vote in the Committee (Rule 35).

Voting in the Committee shall normally be by show of hands (Rule 40.1). Voting may also be by roll call if there is any doubt as to the result of a show of hands (Rule 40.2) or at the request of at least two members of the Committee (Rule 40.3). Roll-call voting if necessary will be conducted *in presentia* in the UNESCO Headquarters with the participation of the

representatives of the Member States to assure full transparency and compliance with the rigorous provisions of the Rules of Procedure.

The Rules also provide for the possibility of voting by secret ballot, whenever requested by at least two States members of the Committee, or if the President so decides (Rules 41-42). The technical means currently available to the Secretariat do not, however, allow for the organization of an online secret ballot.

Therefore, Committee members could consider the possibility of abstaining from requesting a secret ballot or deciding to suspend Rules 41 and 42 for the duration of the extended 44th session, in accordance with the procedure for suspending the application of the Rules of Procedure provided for in Rule 52 of the Rules of Procedure.

In accordance with Decision **15 EXT COM.3**, the Secretariat developed the following practical arrangements for voting, should it become necessary to hold a secret ballot.

Conduct of the secret ballot

- Once a secret ballot has been requested by at least two States members of the Committee or decided by the Chairperson, and in order not to disrupt the plenary meetings and the continuation of the examination of subsequent agenda items, it is proposed that the ballot be held on the morning of the day following the request or decision to hold the secret ballot so that the results can be announced immediately at the resumed plenary meeting.
- Since the logistical arrangements for the extended 44th session will be made from UNESCO Headquarters, the Member States of the Committee will have to ensure that their representatives in Paris are available to come to UNESCO Headquarters to vote according to a schedule drawn up by the Secretariat following the English alphabetical order of the Member States of the Committee.
- A room with a ballot box and a polling booth will be provided by the Secretariat.
- Each member of the Committee will be given an envelope and a ballot paper on arrival in the voting room.
- Two tellers from among the Delegations of Committee members who can be physically present will be appointed by the Chairperson with the assistance of the Secretariat.
- The two tellers, together with members of the Secretariat, shall be present during the voting and counting of the ballots.
- The conduct of the vote will be in accordance with Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure and, as is customary, in the presence of a representative of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs.

Identification of representatives

- Member States of the Committee, in the context of the designation of their representatives, may wish to designate at least one representative based in Paris in order to participate in the secret ballot.

- The information related to these representatives must reach the Secretariat electronically before 12 July 2021 at the following address: n.valanchon@unesco.org
- At the time of voting, the representative of the State member of the Committee will be asked to present a photo ID and to sign a voting list.

10.13 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

As mentioned in section 8 above, the livestream will ensure that all participants as well as the general public can follow the debates of the World Heritage Committee. According to Rule 18 of the RoP, meetings of the Committee are held in public, unless the Committee decides otherwise. Public access via a broadcast has been the practice for all Committee sessions since 2012. Nonetheless, the Committee may also decide to hold private meetings (Rule 19). In this case, the Committee will ensure the confidentiality of such meetings by organizing online private meetings accessible only to participants authorized to attend.

11 WORLD HERITAGE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FORUM

As an integral part of the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee, and in the framework of the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme, the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2021 will be held online under the theme of 'World Heritage and sustainable livelihoods', **from 5 July to 9 July 2021**.

The overall aim of the Forum is to highlight the key opportunities and challenges of heritage management in the twenty-first century. The Forum will highlight the importance of heritage for societies and livelihoods, and explore its great potential to contribute towards social, economic, and environmental goals, ensuring sustainable livelihoods across various dimensions. Accompanied by local and international experts, and through a variety of presentations, roundtables, virtual visits etc., participants will gain in-depth knowledge of the processes and working practices of the *1972 World Heritage Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*. At the end of the Forum, the young professionals will present outcomes of their work to the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee.

Detailed information and call for participation for the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2021 are available on the dedicated web page: <https://www.44whcfuzhou2021.cn/en/youth.html>

12 WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGERS FORUM

Considering that the World Heritage List includes over 1,000 properties and a global territory of over 276 million hectares under its protection, increased understanding of the World Heritage decision-making processes among Site Managers has become crucial in order to achieve more effective protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties. It will allow the Convention to fulfill its potential as a tool and catalyst for World Heritage protection and heritage protection in general. At the same time, future improvements to the World Heritage decision-making procedures must build on and respond to greater engagement of those dealing with World Heritage on a day-to-day basis. Stronger bridges

should be built between the procedural core of the World Heritage system and its outer segments – those in the field whose ongoing work to safeguard OUV constitutes the real expression of the Convention. In this context, the Host Country will continue the worthy initiative of the “World Heritage Site Managers Forum”, to unite representatives from World Heritage properties with those at the heart of World Heritage procedures.

The Site Managers Forum will be held online **from 7 to 13 July 2021**.

Detailed information and call for participation for the World Heritage Site Managers Forum are available on the dedicated web page of the session: <https://www.44whcfuzhou2021.cn/en/manager.html>

13 INFORMATION ABOUT THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

13.1 THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

China is located in the east of Asia and on the west coast of the Pacific Ocean. The land area is about 9.6 million square kilometers, the coastline of the eastern and southern continents is more than 18,000 kilometers, and the water area of the inland sea and the border sea is about 4.7 million square kilometers. China has 56 ethnic groups with a population of about 1.4 billion. There are 34 provincial administrative divisions in China, Beijing is the capital of China.

Having gone through over 5,000 years of vicissitudes, the Chinese civilization has always kept to its original root. As the unique cultural identity of the Chinese nation, it contains our most profound cultural pursuits and provides us with abundant nourishment for existence and development. The Chinese civilization, though born on the soil of China, has come to its present form through constant exchanges and mutual learning with other civilizations.

China ratified the *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* in 1985. At present, China has 55 cultural, natural and mixed World Heritage properties including 37 cultural heritage properties, 4 mixed heritage properties, and 14 natural heritage properties. China boasts of complete categories of World Heritage, including the world-renowned Great Wall, Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Beijing and Shenyang, Mogao Caves, the Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an-Tianshan Corridor and other cultural World Heritage properties, as well as mixed heritage properties such as Mount Taishan and Mount Wuyi, as well as natural heritage properties including Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries, Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area. China’s number of natural World Heritage properties ranks first in the world, and it is among the top countries in terms of the number of mixed World Heritage properties.

The Chinese government has attached great importance to the protection of World Heritage, and has combined heritage protection with the improvement of people's livelihood and economic development to bring benefits to the people and improves people's livelihood through various means. China has played an active role in supporting and participating in the protection of the World Heritage. So far, it has served as a Member of the World Heritage Committee four times, and hosted the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee, the ICOMOS 15th General Assembly and other important international conferences. Also, China

has made positive contributions to the global World Heritage protection by making donations to the UNESCO, and promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

13.2 FUZHOU CITY

Fuzhou, as the capital city of Fujian Province, locates on the southeast coast of China. Fuzhou is a city with beautiful mountains, clear waters, beautiful ecological endowments, a long history, and a gathering of talents, for which it is known as a Land of Blessings.

Fuzhou has been endowed with a good ecological environment and rich natural resources. The optimal temperature and warm and humid weather in Fuzhou have led to the wide plantation of banyan trees which are evergreen with lush branches and leaves all year round. Legend has it that the prefect named Zhang Boyu advocated "organizing each household to plant banyan trees" during the Northern Song Dynasty, which made it possible that "Fuzhou city is full of green shades, and no umbrella is necessary in the summer", for which Fuzhou was named "the city of banyans". According to historical records, during the Five Dynasties Period, Wang Shenzhi the King of the Min Kingdom expanded the scope of the Fuzhou City, and enclosed the beautiful sceneries of the Yushan Hill, Wushan Hill and Pingshan Hill in the city to form a unique pattern of "hills in the city and the city surrounded by mountains", for which Fuzhou is also known as the "Three Hills (Sanshan)". Minjiang River, the largest river in Fujian Province and the mother river of Fuzhou City, runs through the city like a green belt. This is why the title of "Three Hills and One River" has become the main symbol of the city. Today, Fuzhou is one of the cities with the best air quality and the greenest environment in China. It is also the most representative city of hot springs in China, and the urban districts contain extremely rich hot spring resources for tourism development. "Ecological and Green" has become a gorgeous name card of Fuzhou City.

Fuzhou City has a long history and profound cultural heritage. It has a history of more than 2,200 years as a city and is a National Famous Historical and Cultural City with 25 major monuments protected at the national level. The Three Lanes and Seven Alleys Culture, Tanshi Mountain Culture, Shipbuilding Culture and Shoushan Stone Culture are the four cultural name cards of Fuzhou's history and culture. In particular, the Three Lanes and Seven Alleys has been awarded the honorary title of "China's Top Ten Famous Historical and Cultural Streets" where more than 200 ancient buildings are preserved here, covering a total area of 45 hectares and divided into three lanes, seven alleys and a central axis street with rigorous layout and ingenious craftsmanship, for which it is known as a rare "Ming and Qing architecture museum". This city was the place of birth for a number of historical figures such as Lin Zexu, Shen Baozhen, Yan Fu, Lin Juemin, Bing Xin, to name a few. The Tanshi Mountain Cultural Relics, with a history of more than 5,500 years, are the most well-preserved prehistoric ancient human cultural site in China with the largest number of material objects as evidence and have the unique and distinctive features of marine civilization. Mawei Shipbuilding site was founded in 1866 and is the cradle of modern Chinese navy. Shoushan Stone is known as one of the highly collectable "Four Major National Stones" in China. Shoushan stone carvings, bodiless lacquerware, and cork paintings are known as the "Three Wonders of Fuzhou". The ten item of State-level Intangible Cultural Heritage such as Min Opera, the art of storytelling, and Chichang Opera also have a long history. The rich and colorful traditional skills embody the nostalgia of Fuzhou and convey the memories of Fuzhou.

Fuzhou City boasts of rich tourism resources, a developed economy and a high degree of openness. Fuzhou is an excellent tourist city in China and has 52 scenic spots of Grade 3A and above. Fuzhou's natural resources and human resources complement each other and have created four major tourism brands of "Rich Mindu Culture Tour, Therapeutic Hot Spring Tour, Refreshing Landscape Tour, and Beautiful Coastline Tour", which have attracted many tourists from home and abroad. Fuzhou is also the well-known hometown of overseas Chinese with more than 4 million overseas folks from Fuzhou distributed in more than 160 countries and regions in the world. It is one of the first Chinese coastal port cities to open to the outside world, the gateway to the Maritime Silk Road, and one of the three areas of China (Fujian) Pilot Free Trade Zone. With its trading partners spreading all over the world, Fuzhou has witnessed its total import and export volume continuing to grow, and the comprehensive strength continuing to grow accompanied by a booming economy.

14 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further information about the World Heritage Committee and the World Heritage Convention, please see the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's website at the following link: <https://whc.unesco.org>

ANNEX: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BEFORE THE MEETING	
<p>Should I register before the meeting?</p>	<p>All participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Registration should be done online at: https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM</p> <p>Participants are requested to register no later than 1 July 2021. If you encounter any technical problems registering, please contact the Secretariat at r.mohammad@unesco.org</p>
<p>What is an ‘active connection’?</p>	<p>An active connection is for those participants who will speak during the debate. They may intervene in the meeting using camera/audio.</p>
DURING THE MEETING	
<p>How many people can participate in the meeting?</p>	<p>The maximum number of online active participants who may take the floor is 1,000.</p> <p>Due to technical limitations, no more than 5 connections per Committee member and 3 connections per Observer State Party can be supported simultaneously.</p> <p>There is no limit on the number of people who may follow the livestream.</p>
<p>If I am registered, will I be able to take the floor during the meeting?</p>	<p>The priority given to Committee Members, then Observer States Parties, and then all other observers (intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, etc.).</p> <p>Due to technical constraints, members of a Delegation are encouraged to coordinate themselves prior to the beginning of a daily work session. Access would not be granted should the limit of active connections be reached.</p> <p>For the adoption of decisions, only Committee Members may intervene. However, observers from States Parties to the Convention may be invited to answer specific questions of the Committee within a limited time, and other observers may also intervene if time allows.</p>

<p>How can I submit an amendment?</p>	<p>Only Committee members can submit amendments. Amendments to a draft decision shall be sent in advance, and as soon as possible to wh-rapporteur@unesco.org with the names of the co-sponsors.</p> <p>Please do not submit amendments via the chat box during the meeting. They will not be taken into account.</p>
<p>How can I raise a point of order?</p>	<p>Committee members wishing to make a point of order should raise their hand and indicate 'Point of Order' in the chat box.</p>
<p>When are the files of my country going to be presented?</p>	<p>A tentative schedule with estimated timeslots will be made available in due course, for informational and organizational purposes to accommodate time differences. This tentative schedule will be also available on the webpage of the meeting at https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM</p>
<p>AFTER THE MEETING</p>	
<p>Where can I find the recordings of the meeting?</p>	<p>The recordings of the meeting will be added on the webpage of the meeting at https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM after the event has finished and as soon as they are available.</p>