



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

World Heritage

35 COM

Distribution Limited

WHC-11/35.COM/5D

Paris, 6 May 2011

Original: English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-fifth session

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters
19 -29 June 2011

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Reports of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

5D: Roles of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

SUMMARY

This document is a follow-up to the working document WHC-10/34.COM/5C, which examined the roles of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies as outlined by the *Operational Guidelines* and how the tasks and workloads are divided in practice. Specific recommendations from the expert meeting on decision-making procedures of the statutory organs of the *World Heritage Convention* which was held in December 2010 in Bahrain are contained in Document WHC-11/35.COM/12B.

Draft Decision: **35 COM 5D**, see point II.

This Document should be read in conjunction with Document WHC-11/35.COM/12B

I. Respective roles of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

Background and reference texts

1. Following the Management Audit of the World Heritage Centre in 2007, the World Heritage Committee had requested the Director of the World Heritage Centre (Decision **31 COM 19, paragraph 12.d**) *inter alia* to delineate the respective roles of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. On the basis of this decision, a result-based action plan for implementing the recommendations of the Management Audit was prepared and presented to the 16th General Assembly of States Parties (Resolution **16 GA 5**) and to the 32nd session of the Committee (Decision **32 COM 17**). The World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009) took note of the outline presented in Document *WHC-09/33.COM/5A* and agreed that this topic should be further discussed in 2010.

2. A working Document *WHC-10/34.COM/5C* on the respective roles of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies was prepared, which contained the references to the *Operational Guidelines* concerning the Secretariat's main tasks and the roles of the Advisory Bodies, as well as specific issues such as the organization of joint missions, the drafting of state of conservation reports, the management of studies and analysis, the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. At its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), the Committee took note of the document and reaffirmed the division of the tasks between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on the state of conservation of the properties, International Assistance requests, and the evaluation of nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List.

3. The Committee also decided to refer this subject to the expert meeting on decision-making procedures of the statutory organs of the *World Heritage Convention* which was held in December 2010 in Bahrain, and requested the Director of the World Heritage Centre to report back on this issue at the 35th session (UNESCO, 2011), which will take place done under Agenda Item 12B.

4. The working Document *WHC-11/35.COM/12B* presents the results of the meeting held in Bahrein and specific recommendations, including those to improve the efficiency of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. *Inter alia*, the expert meeting felt that, based on Document *WHC-10/34.COM/5C* and on Decision **34 COM 5C**, these roles were now sufficiently clear, but needed to be put into practice. Furthermore, the experts recommended that the various actors to the *Convention*, including the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, should now follow in practice their mandated roles under the *World Heritage Convention* and its *Operational Guidelines*.

5. Finally, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies continue their bi-annual meetings which include the discussion of work processes in September and in January, as well as one additional meeting prior to the yearly session of the World Heritage Committee.

II. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 35 COM 5D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-11/35.COM/5D and WHC-11/35.COM/12B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **33 COM 5A**, and **34 COM 5C** adopted at its 33rd (Seville, 2009), and 34th (Brasilia, 2010) sessions respectively;*
3. *Takes note of the above-mentioned document and further notes the discussions at the expert meeting on decision-making procedures of the statutory organs of the World Heritage Convention (Bahrain, December 2010);*
4. *Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue to evaluate their division of roles and responsibilities and workload in line with the proposals made to improve the efficiency of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.*