

WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION 1972

**FOLLOW UP AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
GOVERNANCE**

Item on Governance

- On the agenda of the World Heritage Committee and the General Assembly of States Parties since 2016.
- Also addressed by the intersessional ad-hoc working group established by the World Heritage Committee

Status of implementation of general recommendations

- **Efficiency:** most of recommendations implemented or implementation is ongoing
- **Mandate:**
 - Coherence of the mandates of the Governing Bodies with the approved C/5 priorities
 - Global issues such as Sustainable Development and Climate Change properly addressed
 - Gap between mandates of World Heritage Committee members to promote diversity and inclusivity

Status of implementation of general recommendations

- **Effective information-sharing**

- World Heritage Centre website enhanced both as an information-sharing and knowledge management tool

- most visited website of the Organization (1 million visit/month)

- “WH-states” email address ensure good communication States Parties and Committee Members

Status of implementation of general recommendations

- **Methods of work:**

- working documents, notably Agendas and Timetable, prepared and disseminated well in advance
- All working and information documents posted online, in a timely manner
- Use of Hyper-links to Documents, Decisions, Reports, Webpages, QR codes
- Consultations facilitated to ensure inclusive decision-making

Status of implementation of general recommendations

- **Harmonization:**

- most of the recommendations are implemented or implementation is ongoing, in conformity with the Rules of Procedures in alignment with overarching priorities of UNESCO

Status of implementation of general recommendations

- **Transparency:**

- substantive dialogue between Member States and the Governing Bodies via notably the institutionalization of Information and Orientation sessions for Committee Members and States Parties
- Coherence in the preparation and planning of the different meetings of the Governing bodies

Status of implementation of general recommendations

- **Modification of Structure and composition** of the Governing Bodies of the 1972 Convention would entail a revision of the Rules of Procedure or in certain cases a revision of the Convention itself

Status of implementation of general recommendations

- **Need to reduce and manage politicization**

- Major topic of discussion within the Governing bodies of the Convention since several years notably through Intersessional ad-hoc working group since 2014
- Concrete actions undertaken: Launch of a Reflection on reforming the World Heritage Nomination Process in view of enhancing the credibility of the Convention and reducing the politicization

Status of implementation of Specific recommendations for Culture Conventions

- **Harmonizing Rules of procedure and infusing more coherence in the decision-making:**
 - Major revision of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties in 2014 and 2015 to achieve equitable geographical and cultural representation in the World Heritage Committee
 - Transparency and accountability have been enhanced in the context of organization of strategic reflection meetings and dissemination of working and other relevant documents

Status of implementation of Specific recommendations for Culture Conventions

- Strengthening of the **Capacity-building and common training on all cultural conventions**
 - Capacity building recognized as one of the 5 strategic objectives towards the implementation of the Convention
 - Enhancement of coordinated training on all cultural conventions through UNESCO Regional Offices

Status of implementation of Specific recommendations for Culture Conventions

- **Visibility and impact:**

- Fundraising
- Roadmap for the Sustainability of the World Heritage Fund adopted in 2017
- Resource Mobilization and Communication Strategy adopted in 2018
- Common actions and efforts in providing financial support for the implementation of the Convention should be one of the priority of all States Parties

CONCLUSION

- Recognition of the good practices and appropriate working methods of the Governing Bodies of the 1972 Convention
- The work of the intersessional ad-hoc working group of the Committee was specifically addressed as a good model
- Expression of appreciation for the work of the Secretariat of the Convention
- Willingness and commitment by the Governing Bodies of the World Heritage Convention to pursue the reflection and the efforts towards implementation of all relevant recommendations