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**FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, Room XII
14-15 October 2003**

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Progress report on the implementation of the Global Strategy for a credible, representative and balanced World Heritage List

SUMMARY

This document provides a progress report on the implementation of the Global Strategy for a credible, representative and balanced World Heritage List in four sections:

- I. BACKGROUND
- II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY, 1998-2003
- III. NEXT STEPS
- IV. DRAFT RESOLUTION 14 GA 8

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 18th session (Phuket, 1994), the World Heritage Committee examined recommendations presented in the Report of the Expert Meeting on the "Global Strategy" and thematic studies for a representative World Heritage List (UNESCO Headquarters, 20-22 June 1994)¹. The Committee decided to implement the Global Strategy for a balanced, representative and credible World Heritage List to include an equal emphasis on natural as well as cultural properties.²

2. The Global Strategy takes the form of an action programme designed to identify and fill the major gaps in the World Heritage List. It does this by encouraging more countries to become States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* and to develop tentative lists and nominations of properties for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

3. The origins of the Global Strategy and an overview of Global Strategy activities conducted between 1994 and 1998 can be found in document WHC-98/CONF.203/12.³

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY, 1998 - 2003

4. In 1997 a Consultative Body of the World Heritage Committee, which had been established by the 20th session of the Committee (Merida, 1996), examined a number of technical issues including "the imbalances of the World Heritage List"⁴.

5. At its 22nd session (Kyoto, 1998), the World Heritage Committee discussed the report of the Consultative Body at length and included, as part of its decision, a request that an item on "Ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List" be included on the agenda of the 12th General Assembly of States Parties in 1999. The Committee also examined and adopted prioritized regional action plans for the implementation of the Global Strategy⁵.

6. At its 12th session (Paris, 1999), the General Assembly of States Parties invited the **World Heritage Committee** to:

" ... 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" and,

"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."

7. Furthermore the General Assembly invited the **Secretariat** to:

¹ See WHC-94/CONF.003/INF.6

² See section X of the Report of the 18th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC-94/CONF.003/16)

³ This document and all documents presented to the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau from 1977 to 2002 may be found in the World Heritage Database of Statutory Meeting documents at <http://whc.unesco.org/req1.asp>. In addition, the Database includes thematic, regional and comparative studies carried out by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies as part of the implementation of the Global Strategy.

⁴ See Report on the work of the Consultative Body of the Committee (WHC-98/CONF.201/4Corr.) and Discussion papers prepared for the Consultative Body meeting, 29-30 April 1998 (WHC-98/CONF.201/INF.11)

⁵ See section X of the Report of the 22nd session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC-98/CONF.203/18)

*"submit to the General Assembly a progress report on the implementation of the regional and multi-year Action Plan" for the Global Strategy*⁶.

8. A report on activities undertaken in 1999 and regional action plans for implementation of the Global Strategy in 2001 and 2002 were presented to the 23rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Marrakesh, 1999). At that time the Committee decided to constitute a working group on "Ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List"⁷.

9. In January 2000, the Working Group on the Representivity of the World Heritage List was established. The Report of the Working Group made recommendations concerning the use of Tentative Lists, proposed a priority system for the examination of nominations (including a voluntary scoreboard) and proposed enhanced capacity-building for regions under-represented on the World Heritage List⁸.

10. The Special session of the Bureau (Budapest, 2000) further developed the recommendations of the Working Group in a series of recommendations to the 24th session of the World Heritage Committee (Cairns, 2000)⁹.

11. At its 24th session (Cairns, 2000), the World Heritage Committee examined the recommendations of the Special session of the Bureau and took a decision presented in five 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

12. This decision included a request for the Advisory Bodies (IUCN and ICOMOS) to prepare an analysis of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists in a regional, chronological, geographical and thematic basis. The analysis was to serve two purposes (i) for States Parties "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" and (ii) to determine "un-represented or less represented categories of natural and cultural properties" to be given priority "in the event that the number of nominations received exceeds the maximum number set by the Committee".

13. Furthermore the Committee decided to limit the number of new nominations to be examined each year by the Committee and to limit the number of nominations to be submitted by each State Party to one except for those States Parties that have no properties on the World Heritage List who would have the opportunity to propose two or three nominations.¹⁰

⁶ See WHC-03/14.GA/INF.8

⁷ See section VI of the Report of the 23rd session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC-99/CONF.209/22)

⁸ See WHC-2000/CONF.204/INF.8

⁹ See Section III (B) of the Report of the Rapporteur of the Special Session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, Budapest, Hungary (2-4 October 2000) (WHC.2000/CONF.204/03 Rev.)

¹⁰ See section VI (3) of the Report of the 24th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC-2000/CONF.204/21)

14. The Committee also examined a progress report on the implementation of regional actions as described in the Global Strategy Action Plan adopted by the Committee at its 22nd session (Kyoto, 1998).

15. Regional Action Plans were subsequently presented to the 25th (Helsinki, 2001)¹¹ and 27th (Paris, 2003)¹² sessions of the World Heritage Committee in 2001 and 2003.

16. At its 25th session (Helsinki, 2001), the Committee:

" ... concluded its examination of Global Strategy activities by reiterating the need for the Secretariat to focus on the analysis of the World Heritage List and the national tentative lists as a priority, as well as on assistance to States Parties for the establishment and revision of these tentative lists as a priority, as well as on assistance to States Parties for the establishment and revision of these tentative lists as required. The Committee however noted that a conceptual discussion is needed to provide a framework for such analyses and also recognized the need to identify methodologies to define under-represented categories of heritage".¹³

17. This was further emphasized by the Committee at its 26th session (Budapest, 2002) in the context of its examination of progress reports from ICOMOS and IUCN on the analyses of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists and the identification of underrepresented categories of natural and cultural heritage.¹⁴

18. At its 27th session (Paris, 2003), the Committee was presented with Regional Progress Reports (2002-2003) and Action Plans 2004-2005 for the Global Strategy and adopted the following two decisions concerning the implementation of the Global Strategy (Note: Decision **27 COM 13.2** not presented below specifically relates to the Qhapac Nan – Camino Inca road system for inscription on the World Heritage List).

27 COM 13.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Noting the Regional Progress Reports (2002-2003) and Action Plans 2004-2005 for the Global Strategy presented in document WHC-03/27.COM/13;*

2. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, working in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies and States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to continue to implement the Global Strategy as a contribution to strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List;*

3. *Further requests the Centre to prepare summaries and assessments of the results of the Global Strategy meetings and the thematic studies.*

¹¹ See WHC-01/CONF.208/11

¹² See WHC-03/27.COM/13

¹³ See Report of the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee (Helsinki, 2001) (WHC-01/CONF.208/24)

¹⁴ see Decision **26 COM 13**

27 COM 13.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Noting with concern the continuing disparities between regions and States Parties in their capacity to prepare Tentative Lists and nominations of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List;*
2. *Noting the progress made in the analyses of the World Heritage List being undertaken by ICOMOS and IUCN for submission to the 28th session of the Committee in 2004;*
3. *Recognizing the progress in the preparation of studies to promote the revision of national tentative lists through regional consultations and the periodic reporting exercise;*
4. *Recommends the States Parties to link the revision of the tentative lists with the cycle of the Periodic Report;*
5. *Invites the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to reinforce the links between the first Strategic Objective (1st C – reinforce the Credibility of the World Heritage List), “Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List”, the Periodic Report on the implementation of the Convention and the Regional Programmes;*
6. *Bearing in mind Articles 11 and 12 of the World Heritage Convention, considers that the status of the tentative lists should be enhanced so that the inclusion on this list would already entail, for the State Party, a form of international recognition;*
7. *Recalling the spirit of the Resolution of the 12th General Assembly of States Parties in 1999, notably in encouraging bilateral and multilateral cooperation for the benefit of States Parties whose heritage is under-represented in the List; and to promote their capacity-building and training;*
8. *Invites States Parties whose heritage is well represented on the List to voluntarily space new nominations and to assist the under-represented States Parties requiring technical cooperation to enhance conditions for the preparation and updating of Tentative Lists and the nomination of their cultural and natural heritage;*
9. *Recalling its decision 26 COM 13 regarding the analyses of the World Heritage List and the Tentative Lists and the presentation of the results of these analyses at the 28th session;*
10. *Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to support the States Parties in (1) implementation of the Global Strategy for a credible, balanced and representative World Heritage List and Tentative Lists, and (2) elaboration of practical and operational actions within the Regional Programmes to enhance the representivity of the World Heritage List in view of the world's cultural and natural diversity, as part of the implementation of the Strategic Objective to strengthen the credibility of the World Heritage List.*

19. Furthermore, the 27th session of the Committee (Paris, 2003) discussed the application of the Cairns decision. The Committee decided to retain the limit of one new and complete nomination per State Party with properties already on the World Heritage List (see decision 27 COM 14 below).

27 COM 14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Decides to retain the limit of one new and complete nomination per State Party with properties already on the World Heritage List, as the best means of managing the workload of the Committee, the Advisory Bodies, and the World Heritage Centre, and of improving the geographic distribution of properties on the World Heritage List; States Parties that have no properties inscribed on the World Heritage List will have the opportunity to nominate two or three properties;*
2. *Decides to continue to exempt from this limit transboundary and emergency nominations, changes to the boundaries of properties already inscribed, as well as those nominations which have been deferred and referred by previous sessions of the Committee;*
3. *Invites States Parties nominating properties 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, July 2002);*
4. *Decides to set at **40** the annual limit on the number of new nominations it will review, exclusive of nominations deferred and referred by previous sessions of the Committee, changes to the boundaries of properties already inscribed, transboundary nominations and nominations submitted on an emergency basis;*
5. *Decides to maintain the deadline for the receipt of complete nominations as 1 February and encourages States Parties to submit draft nominations by 30 September to ensure that nominations have the maximum opportunity of being complete on 1 February (Decision **6 EXT.COM 5.1 Annex 3.9**).*
6. *Requests States Parties to send comments and proposals on the Cairns Decision to the World Heritage Centre by 31 December 2003. Comments, sent by post, by facsimile to +33 (0)1 4568 5570, or by e-mail to cairns@unesco.org, will be made available on the World Heritage web site at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/cairns/>.*
7. *Decides to establish, at the beginning of the 28th session of the Committee in Suzhou, China (2004), an **open-ended working group** to review the comments of States Parties, documents (including the results of the Advisory Bodies' analyses of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists, and the Report of the 1999/2000 working group on the Representativity of the World Heritage List) and statistics relative to the operation of the Cairns Decision, and to make recommendations to the Committee. For this purpose, the World Heritage Centre will distribute the necessary documentation as early as possible prior to the 28th session to be held in June-July 2004.*

III. NEXT STEPS

20. The Provisional Agenda of the 28th session of the Committee (28 June -7 July 2004) includes the following item:

Evaluation of the Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List (1994-2004)

- A Analyses of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists by ICOMOS and IUCN
- B Assessment and effectiveness of Capacity-Building for the Global Strategy
- C Evaluation of the Cairns Decision

IV. DRAFT RESOLUTION 14 GA 8

DRAFT 14 GA 8

The General Assembly,

1. *Notes the progress report on the implementation of the Global Strategy for a credible, representative and balanced World Heritage List presented in document WHC-03/14.GA/8.*