

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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

First session

Nairobi, 26 November 1976

Summary Record

1. The first General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage (1972) met in Nairobi on 26 November 1976.
2. Of the twenty-six States Parties to the Convention at the date of 26 November 1976 and thus having the right to vote, the following States were represented :

Algeria	Morocco
Australia	Niger
Bulgaria	Nigeria
Canada	Pakistan
Ecuador	Poland
Egypt	Senegal
France	Sudan
Federal Republic of Germany	Switzerland
Ghana	Syrian Arab Republic
Iran	Tunisia
Iraq	United States of America
Jordan	Yugoslavia
	Zaire

3. Representatives of the following States also participated, as observers, in the General Assembly : Austria, Cameroun, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Mali, Portugal, Republic of Surinam, United Kingdom as well as representatives of the following international organizations : United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

4. The list of all the participants in the General Assembly is given in Annex III.
5. The Secretariat of the meeting was assured by the Secretariat of Unesco.
6. After the meeting had been opened by Mr. John E. Fobes, Deputy Director General of Unesco, the General Assembly adopted its Rules of Procedure, with the amendments to Article 12, paragraphs 3 and 6, proposed by the representative of the Director General of Unesco. The Assembly thereafter elected by acclamation His Excellency Ambassador Hamid Rahnama (Iran) as its Chairman, the representatives of Algeria, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Senegal and the United States, as Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. Michel Parent (France) as Rapporteur.
7. The General Assembly held two meetings devoted to the election of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage of Outstanding Universal Value, called "the World Heritage Committee" and to different questions relating to the establishment of the "World Heritage Fund".
8. Nineteen States Parties were candidates to the World Heritage Committee : Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria, Poland, Senegal, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United States of America, and Yugoslavia.
9. After explaining that the Committee was composed of 15 members, the Chairman pointed out that there were more candidatures than seats to be filled and he asked if the Assembly wished to proceed to a vote.
10. The Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic proposed, in view of the practice followed in the elections to various bodies of Unesco and considering the way in which the 26 States Parties to the Convention were assigned to the electoral groups set up for the elections to the Executive Board, that the fifteen seats be attributed in the following way :
 - 4 seats to Group I
 - 2 seats to Group II
 - 1 seat to Group III
 - 1 seat to Group IV
 - 7 seats to Group V
of which 3 to Africa
and 4 to the Arab States
11. This proposal gave rise to a wide exchange of views, in which nineteen delegations took part, on the principles to be applied in distributing the seats. Whereas certain delegations expressed their entire agreement with the proposal of the Syrian Arab Republic,

others pointed out that, according to Article 8, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the election of members of the Committee should ensure an equitable representation of the different regions "and cultures of the world" and that it was necessary to take into account the nature and purpose of the Convention in determining the geographical distribution of the members of the Committee.

12. At the close of the debate, the delegate of the Syrian Arab Republic announced that two of the Arab States would withdraw their candidature (Syria and Sudan), in order to leave four Arab candidatures (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia), if the Assembly accepted the geographical distribution that he had advocated.

13. After a suspension of the meeting proposed by the Chairman to permit the delegations to reach an agreement, such an agreement could not be reached and the delegation of Australia, seconded by the delegations of Ecuador, Switzerland, Zaire and France, requested a vote by secret ballot, in application of Rule 13.1 of the Rules of Procedure.

14. After the representative of the Director General had explained the voting procedure by secret ballot, the Chairman appointed the delegates of Bulgaria and Pakistan as tellers and the Assembly proceeded to a vote.

15. The results of the vote, announced by the Chairman, were as follows :

Number of States Parties present and voting	25
Number of valid voting papers	25
France	25 votes
Iran	23 votes
Nigeria	23 votes
Tunisia	23 votes
United States of America	23 votes
Egypt	22 votes
Ecuador	21 votes
Yugoslavia	19 votes
Australia	18 votes
Canada	17 votes
Federal Republic of Germany	17 votes
Ghana	17 votes
Poland	17 votes
Senegal	17 votes
Iraq	15 votes
Jordan	14 votes
Switzerland	14 votes

16. The Chairman declared elected the first fifteen States mentioned above which had obtained the majority of votes required.
17. At the opening of the second meeting, the representative of the Director General recalled the procedure foreseen for the renewal of members of the "World Heritage Committee" designated at the first election. In conformity with Article 9 of the Convention, the term of one-third of the members of the Committee shall cease at the end of the first ordinary session of the General Conference following that at which they were elected, and the term of office of a further third of the members designated at the same time shall cease at the end of the second ordinary session of the General Conference following that at which they were elected. The names of the outgoing members shall be chosen by lot by the President of the General Conference after the first election.
18. The choice by lot took place in Nairobi on 30 November 1976. The official record thereof is set out in Annex I.
19. In introducing the information document concerning the "World Heritage Fund", the representative of the Director General explained that the draft financial regulations set out in Annex I of the document, were communicated to the General Assembly to enable the Director General to take into consideration any comments made by the Assembly before he reported thereon to the Executive Board, in conformity with Article 6.7 of the Financial Regulations of the Organization.
20. With respect to the amount of the compulsory or voluntary contributions that States Parties will make to the "World Heritage Fund", the delegations of Switzerland and Poland proposed that it be fixed at 0.75% of the contribution to the Regular Budget of Unesco, whereas the delegations of Zaire, Nigeria, Algeria, Syria and Australia proposed 1%. Since no objection was lodged when the Chairman asked the General Assembly if it accepted this latter percentage, this was adopted without recourse to a vote. The delegation of Switzerland stated that, had a vote occurred, it would have abstained.
21. The Assembly took note without discussion of the method and procedure for payment set forth in the information document on the "World Heritage Fund" and did not formulate any comments concerning the draft financial regulations of the Fund.

ANNEX I

Official record

of the choice by lot of the members
of the World Heritage Committee
whose term of office will cease in 1978 and 1980

In conformity with Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage, a choice by lot has been made, on November 30, 1976, at the opening of the 38th plenary meeting of the 19th session of the General Conference of Unesco, held at Nairobi, on the terms of office of the Members of the Intergovernmental Committee elected on November 26, 1976, by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention.

The President of the 19th session of the General Conference, His Excellency Mr. Taaita Towæett, first proceeded to the choice by lot of the names of five members, constituting one third of the Committee, whose term of office shall cease at the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference to be held in 1978 :

- France
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Canada
- Poland
- Senegal

He then proceeded to the choice by lot of the names of five members constituting another third of the Committee, whose terms of office shall cease at the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference to be held in 1980 :

- Nigeria
- Iran
- Yugoslavia
- Ecuador
- Ghana

As a consequence, the following members shall hold their office, in conformity with Article 3, paragraph 1, until the end of the third ordinary session subsequent to their election, that is until the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference to be held in 1982:

- Tunisia
- United States of America
- Egypt
- Australia
- Iraq.

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In witness thereof, the present has been signed by the President and by the Secretary General of the 19th session of the General Conference of Unesco.

Done in Nairobi, on November 30, 1976.

Taaitta Toweett
President of the 19th session
of the General Conference
of Unesco

Amadou Mahtar M'Bow
Director-General of Unesco
Secretary General of the 19th
session of the Conference

A N N E X II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Representatives of States Parties to the Convention

Algeria

M.A. Annabi
Technical Advisor
Ministry of Information and Culture
119, rue Didouche Mourad
Algiers

Australia

Mrs. B. Barry de Longchamp
Australian Permanent Delegation to Unesco
Paris

Bulgaria

Mr. L. Dramaliev
Vice-President of the National Commission of the
Popular Republic of Bulgaria for Unesco
Sofia University, Department of Philosophy
Sofia

Canada

Mr. D. Bartlett
Secretary-General
Canadian Commission for Unesco
222 Queen Ottawa
Canada

Mr. W. Langford
Secretary of State Dept.
66 Slater Street
Ottawa
Canada

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Ecuador

H. Exc. Mr. A.L. Paredes
Ambassador
Permanent Delegate of Ecuador to Unesco
Paris

Egypt

H. Exc. Mr. C.E. El-Wakil
Ambassador
Permanent Delegate of the
Arab Republic of Egypt to Unesco
Paris

France

M. Michel Parent
Inspecteur général des Monuments historiques
Palais de Chaillot
Paris

Germany (Federal Republic of)

H. Exc. Dr J. Petersen
Ambassador
Permanent Delegate of the
Federal Republic of Germany to Unesco
Paris

Ghana

Mr. E. Lomötey
Secretary
Ghana National Commission for Unesco
Ministry of Education
P.O.Box 2739
Accra

Mrs. E. Sutherland
University of Ghana
Institute of African Studies
Legon

Iran

Mr. C. Elian
 Department of the Environment
 P.O.Box 1430
 Tehran

Mr. A. Moghaddam
 Lawyer
 Legal advisor to the
 Ministry of Arts and Culture
 Tehran

H. Exc. Mr. H. Rahnema
 Ambassador
 Permanent Delegate of Iraq to Unesco
 Paris

Iraq

Mr. A.A. Hidar
 Permanent Delegate of Iraq to Unesco
 Paris

Jordan

H. Exc. Dr. K. Salim
 Ambassador
 Permanent Delegate of Jordan to Unesco
 Paris

Morocco

Mr. M. Abu-Talib
 Professor
 University of Rabat
 3, Zankat Sala
 Rabat

Niger

Mr. G. Abdou
 Secretary General
 Nigerian National Commission of the
 Republic of Niger for Unesco
 P.O.Box 557
 Niamey

Nigeria

Mr. E. Eyo
Federal Director of Antiquities
Nigerian Museum
Lagos

Pakistan

Mr. A.A. Khan
Ministry of Education
Islamabad

Poland

Mr. C. Wisniewski
Permanent Delegate of Poland to Unesco
Paris

Senegal

Mr. M. Ka
Cultural Counsellor
Ministry of Culture
P.O.Box 4002
Dakar

Mr. D. Diene
Chargé d'Affaires
Permanent Delegation of Senegal to Unesco
Paris

Sudan

Mr. N.M. Sherif
Director General of Antiquities and National Museums
P.O.Box 178
Khartoum

Switzerland

Mr C. Hummel
Permanent Delegate of Switzerland to Unesco
Paris

Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. A. Lajami
Deputy Minister of Culture
Ministry of Culture
Damascus

Tunisia

Mr. A. Zmerli
Deputy Permanent Delegate of Tunisia to Unesco
Paris

United States of America

Mr. R. Kamm
Member of the Executive Board of Unesco
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater
Oklahoma 74074

Mr. R. Garvey Jr.
Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1522 K St.
Washington D.C. 20005

Yugoslavia

Mr. R. Andjelic
Counsellor
Yugoslav National Commission for Unesco
8 Mose Pijade
Belgrade

Mr. B. Lukovac
Secretary General
Yugoslav National Commission for Unesco
8 Mose Pijade
Belgrade

Zaire

Mr. D.Y. Pendje
Deputy Permanent Delegate of Zaire to Unesco
Paris

ObserversAustria

Dr. J. Foramitti
Federal Service of Historic Monuments
Arsenal, OBJ. XV
A-1030 Vienna

Cameroun (United Republic of)

Mr. J.M. Egsombra
Professor
Deputy Chief of Conservation
Ministry of Culture and Information
University of Yaoundé
P.O.Box 755

Cuba

Mr. F. Martinez Hinojosa
Director de Organismos Internacionales del
Consejo Nacional de Cultura
Habana

Czechoslovakia

H. Exc. Mr. M. Gregas
Ambassador
Permanent Delegate of Czechoslovakia to Unesco
Paris

German Democratic Republic

Mr. R. Erben
Chief of Section
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Liebknecht-Str. 11
102 Berlin, K.

Indonesia

Mr. F. Amir
Secretary, Indonesian National Commission for Unesco
Department of Education and Culture
Jalan Jenderal Sudirman - Senayan
Jakarta

Italy

Mrs. R. Massaruti
Italian National Commission for Unesco
Piazza Firenze 27
Roma

Japan

Mr. S. Ilizawa
Deputy Director
Planning and Coordination Division
Ministry of Education, Science and Culture
3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyodaku
Tokyo

Kenya

Mr. M. Sandhu
P.O.Box 43005
Nairobi

Korea (Republic of)

Mr. H. Lee
Korean National Commission for Unesco
P.O.Box Central 64
Seoul

Mr. B. Chun
P.O.Box 30455
Nairobi

Mali

Mr. O. Konare
Chef du Patrimoine
Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture
Bamako

Portugal

Mr. J.M. Bairrao Oleiro
Inspector General
Ministry of Education and Scientific Research
Rua Cidade Joao Belo
88-5° - Edo - Lisboa 6

Surinam (Republic of)

Mr. E.G. Derks
 c/o Ministry of Education and Community Development
 117-119 Verlengo Molenpad
 Paramaribo

United Kingdom

Mr. R.L. Stone
 Ministry of Overseas Development
 Eland House, Stag Place
 London, SWE 5 DH

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Mr. G. Witzsch
 External Relations Officer
 P.O.Box 30552
 Nairobi
 Kenya

Mr. J. May
 Consultant - Environment Law
 P.O.Box 30552
 Nairobi
 Kenya

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES (ICOMOS)

Professor Raymond Lemaire
 President
 Hôtel Saint-Aignan
 75, rue du Temple
 75003-Paris
 France

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS (IFLA)

Mrs. E. Mann
 Arch. Town Planner, Kenya
 Physical Planning Dept.
 Ministry of Lands and Settlement
 Kenya Government
 P.O.Box 20360
 Nairobi

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (IUCN)

Mr. Jacques Berney
 International Conventions
 CH-1110 Morges
 Switzerland

Secretariat of Unesco

Mr. John E. Fobes
Deputy Director-General

Mr. A. Kaddoura
Assistant Director-General
for Natural Sciences and their Application to Development

Mr. M. Makagiarsar
Assistant Director-General
for Culture and Communication

Mr. M. Batisse
Deputy Assistant Director-General
for Natural Sciences and their Application to Development

Mr. G. Bolla
Deputy Assistant Director-General
for Culture and Communication

Mr. G. Perrenoud
Chief, Division of Legals Affairs

Mr. G. Pasetti
Chief, Division of International Standards

Mr. J. Kusi
Division of International Standards

Mrs. A. Raidl
Division of Cultural Heritage

Mrs. M. Vallet
Division of Cultural Development