



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
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To:

- **National Commissions to UNESCO of all States Parties to the World Heritage Convention**
- **Permanent Delegations and Observer Missions of all States Parties to the World Heritage Convention**

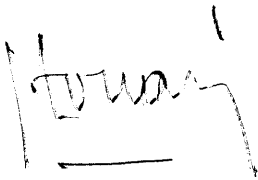
During its 23rd session held in Marrakesh, Morocco from 29 November to 4 December 1999, the World Heritage Committee noted that there is an ever increasing number of international assistance requests being submitted by States Parties, in particular those received after the prescribed deadlines indicated in paragraph 112 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, and adopted the following decision:

“The Committee urged States Parties to respect the deadline for submission of international assistance requests, as indicated in paragraph 112 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to ensure that the Secretariat, Advisory Bodies, and Committee have adequate time to evaluate and examine requests. Taking note of the growing number of international requests submitted by States Parties and the increasing amounts being requested, the Committee encouraged States Parties, to the extent possible, to plan activities well in advance and in close co-operation with the Advisory Bodies and the Secretariat, in order to plan projects which have a “catalytic effect” and are likely to generate contributions from other sources than the World Heritage Fund, per paragraph 113 of the *Operational Guidelines*.”

.../..

I would be most grateful if you could inform the authorities concerned in your Government of this decision by the World Heritage Committee. For your information, please find attached, the relevant paragraphs within the *Operational Guidelines* concerning international assistance referred to in the Committee's decision. Please be assured that the World Heritage Centre is at your disposal to provide information concerning international assistance requests.

Please be assured of my highest consideration.



Mounir Bouchenaki
Director
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Attachment: *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* Paragraphs 112-113.

Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

EXCERPT - Paragraphs 112-113

B. Deadlines for presentation of requests for International Assistance for consideration by the Bureau and the Committee

112. All requests for international assistance which are to be examined by the Bureau, with the exception of requests for emergency assistance, should be submitted before 1 May and 1 September respectively for consideration by the following session of the Bureau. Large-scale requests (that is those exceeding US\$ 30,000) will be forwarded, with the Bureau's recommendation, to the following session of the World Heritage Committee for decision-making.

C. Order of priorities for the granting of international assistance

113. Without prejudicing the provisions of the Convention, which shall always prevail, the Committee agreed on the following order of priorities with respect to the type of activities to be assisted under the Convention:

- emergency measures to save property included, or nominated for inclusion, in the World Heritage List (see paragraph 96 above);
- preparatory assistance for drawing up tentative lists of cultural and/or natural properties suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List as well as nominations of types of properties under-represented on the list and requests for technical co-operation;
- projects which are likely to have a multiplier effect ("seed money") because they:
 - . stimulate general interest in conservation;
 - . contribute to the advancement of scientific research;
 - . contribute to the training of specialized personnel;
 - . generate contributions from other sources.