



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France

① +33 (0)1 45 68 15 71
Fax +33 (0)1 45 68 55 70

Ref.: CL/WHC.3/01

18 June 2001

To: All States Parties to the World Heritage Convention

cc: Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN)

Subject: Equitable Representation in the World Heritage Committee - follow-up to the Resolution adopted by the Twelfth General Assembly of States Parties, (1999) including amendment to *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly (Rules 13.1 and 13.8)*.

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing to inform you that during its twenty-fourth session in December 2000, the World Heritage Committee adopted a decision concerning the equitable representation of the Committee. The decision was developed following examination of a report of a working group that had worked in 2000 under the leadership of H.E. Ambassador Jean Musitelli, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of France to UNESCO, and recommendations of the Special Session of the Bureau (October 2000). The Committee decided to:

- recommend a Draft Resolution for adoption by the thirteenth General Assembly (30-31 October 2001); and
- amend its *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly* relating to electoral procedures.

A copy of the Draft Resolution and proposed amendments to the *Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly* are contained in Annex 1.

The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly organise the agenda of its thirteenth session so that the measures foreseen by these amendments may enter into force at that same session.

In order to implement the new rule to be inserted following Rule 13.1, the Committee decided that one seat be reserved for a State Party not having a site inscribed on the World Heritage List at the date of the thirteenth session of the General Assembly (30-31 October 2001).

Please take careful note of these amendments, particularly those States Parties which may fulfil the conditions to be candidates for the reserved seat, referred to in the proposed revision of Rule 13.1.

Furthermore, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare with the involvement of interested States Parties and the advisory bodies, a proposal for the twenty-sixth session of the World Heritage Committee for further amendment to Rule 13 of the *Rules of Procedures of the General Assembly* relating to the election of members of the World Heritage Committee in order to ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world. This proposal is to be based on a thorough analysis of the consequences of the proposed changes and the adjustments that would be required to the election procedures.

I suggest that this proposal be developed following the thirteenth General Assembly.

If you have any queries relating to the Draft Resolution and amendments to the *Rules of Procedures*, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please be assured Madam/Sir, of the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Francesco Bandarin
Director
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Attachments: Annex I

ANNEX I

DECISION OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (CAIRNS, 2000) ON "EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE"

The Committee noted the proposals on the equitable representation of the Committee developed following the Special Session of the Bureau session (WHC-2000/CONF.204/6) and decided to recommend the following Draft Resolution for adoption by the 13th General Assembly:

The General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,

Recalling Article 8, paragraph 2, of the Convention which stipulates that "Election of members of the Committee shall ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world";

Recalling Article 9 of the Convention which stipulates that "The term of office of States members of the World Heritage Committee shall extend from the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference during which they are elected until the end of its third subsequent ordinary session";

Recalling the Resolution of the 7th General Assembly of States Parties (1989);

Considering the representivity of the World Heritage List could be enhanced through the increased participation in the work of the Committee of States Parties whose heritage is currently unrepresented in the List;

Considering that the strong interest of States Parties in participating in the work of the World Heritage Committee could be addressed by a more frequent rotation of Committee members;

Invites the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, to voluntarily reduce their term of office from six to four years;

Encourages States Parties that are not members of the Committee to make use of their right to participate in meetings of the World Heritage Committee as observers;

Discourages States Parties from seeking consecutive terms of office in the World Heritage Committee;

Decides that before each election of Committee members, the President of the General Assembly of States Parties will inform States Parties of the situation of the representation of regions and cultures in the World Heritage Committee and World Heritage List;

Decides to amend its Rules of Procedure as follows:

New Rule to be inserted after Rule 13.1

A certain number of seats may be reserved for State Parties who do not have sites on the World Heritage List, upon decision of the World Heritage Committee at the session that precedes the General Assembly. Such a ballot for reserved seats would precede the open ballot for the remaining seats to be filled. Unsuccessful candidates in the reserved ballot would be eligible to stand in the open ballot.

Amendment to existing Rule 13.8 (new text in bold)

13.8 Those States obtaining in the first ballot the required majority shall be elected, unless the number of States obtaining that majority is greater than the number of seats to be filled. In that case, the States obtaining the greatest number of votes, up to the number of seats to be filled, shall be declared elected. ~~If the number of States obtaining the majority required is less than the number of seats to be filled, there shall be a second ballot, followed by a third and, if necessary a fourth, to fill the remaining seats.~~ **If the number of States obtaining the majority required is less than the number of seats to be filled, there shall be a second ballot. If the number of States obtaining the majority required is still less than the number of seats to be filled there shall be a third and, if necessary a fourth ballot, to fill the remaining seats. For the third and fourth ballots,** the voting shall be restricted to the States obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, up to a number twice that of the seats remaining to be filled.

Decides that this resolution should be implemented immediately.

The Committee also decided to revise the *Rules of Procedure of the World Heritage Committee*¹ as follows:

New Rule 4.3

“In determining the place of the next session, the Committee shall give due regard to the need to ensure an equitable rotation among the different regions and cultures of the world.”

New Rule 20.4

“In appointing consultative bodies, due regard shall be given to the need to ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world.”

New Rule 21.3

“In appointing subsidiary bodies, due regard shall be given to the need to ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world.”

¹ The revised Rules of Procedure of the World Heritage Committee (April 2001) are attached.