



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

World Heritage Committee

Comité du patrimoine mondial



World Heritage Centre
UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 PARIS 07 SP, France
Tel.: + 33 (0) 1 45 68 15 71
Fax: + 33 (0) 1 45 68 55 70
email: f.bandarin@unesco.org

Level 1
235 Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000
AUSTRALIA
Tel: (+61) 2 9232 4671
Fax: (+61) 2 9221 4951
DX 247 SYDNEY
AUSTRALIA
Peterking@qsclaw.com

Reference: CL/WHC.6/01

2 July 2001

To : All States Parties to the World Heritage Convention

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

Subject: Proposals for a new additional voluntary contribution by States Parties to the World Heritage Fund

Madam/Sir,

You will recall that at the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee in Cairns (November-December 2000), the Committee asked me to write to the President of the Executive Board and to the Director-General of UNESCO, "requesting that the relevance of the objectives of the Convention be recognized and resources of the World Heritage Centre, within the Culture Sector, be enhanced in the framework of the next biennial exercise."

The Committee approved the content of the letter which was subsequently sent on 10 January 2001 (copy attached). I am writing to inform you that I have received a reply from Mr Matsuura dated 13 March 2001 (copy attached). Mr Matsuura responded referring in general terms to the "visibility and maintenance of budgetary support to the Centre". The critical issues of concern to the Committee remain outstanding.

As suggested in Cairns, copies of this correspondence have also been sent to all Members of the Executive Board. Furthermore, as requested by the Committee I met with the President of the Executive Board and the Director-General of UNESCO to discuss these matters in more depth on 5 and 9 April respectively. I also met with the Assistant Director-General, and Director of the Executive Office of the Director-General, Mme Françoise Rivière on 2 April. These meetings were very constructive. It is now time to move forward.

With reference to the World Heritage Fund, in the long term I believe that the compulsory contribution by States Parties of 1% of the contribution to the Regular Budget indicated in Article 16 of the *World Heritage Convention* is outdated. There are also many other fiscal initiatives that must be examined to enhance the protection of World Heritage. As

an immediate initiative I would ask you to support a Draft Resolution to the Thirteenth General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention for a doubling of the contribution of States Parties, by a voluntary additional contribution to the World Heritage Fund.

After considering the financial statements as at 31 December 2000, the Comptroller of UNESCO has highlighted the World Heritage Fund's position in relation to cash reserves, indicating that during 2001 the financial resources of the Fund will be fully stretched. The only other resources are locked in the US\$2,000,000 outstanding debts from States Parties, a significant asset which is not available. The Comptroller welcomes and supports this proposal to double contributions via voluntary contributions, based on the comparatively undersized budget of the World Heritage Fund.

I have prepared a Draft Resolution (attached) that will achieve this result.

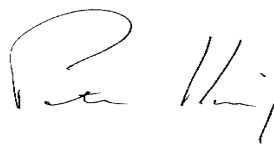
Of course, one advantage in expressing the Draft Resolution in this fashion is that it will achieve the objective without opening the *World Heritage Convention* for amendment. It is important that the Thirteenth General Assembly adopt the Draft Resolution in October 2001. The need for this immediate action is, I know you will agree, supported by the background to the Draft Resolution.

Please let me know before the forthcoming thirteenth session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO Headquarters 30-31 October 2001) whether you are in support of this initiative.

I count on your support to help strengthen the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* by increasing the resources of the World Heritage Fund.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter King', written in a cursive style.

Peter King
Chairperson
World Heritage Committee

Att. as stated

Proposed Draft Resolution of the 13th General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention

Background

1. Table 1 shows the current situation of the compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund.
2. In 2001 the total **compulsory** contributions to the World Heritage Fund will be only **US\$1 990 778**.
3. In 2001 the total **voluntary** contributions to the World Heritage Fund requested of 8 States Parties¹ will be only **US\$1 315 138**.
4. As a way of increasing the total contributions to the World Heritage Fund (US\$3 305 916 in 2001), it is proposed that an additional contribution be made by each State Party on a voluntary basis.
5. Table 1 shows the proposal for a new voluntary contribution to equal the existing 1% compulsory and voluntary contribution. If States Parties agree, this would result in a total contribution to the World Heritage Fund equal to 2% of their contribution to the Regular Budget of UNESCO.

Table 1: Proposals for a new additional voluntary contribution by States Parties to the World Heritage Fund

	1% - CURRENT SITUATION 2001 US\$	PROPOSED ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION OF 1% US\$	TOTAL US\$
Compulsory	1 990 778	1 990 778	
Voluntary	1 315 138	1 315 138	
CURRENT TOTAL	3 305 916	3 305 916	6 611 832

Text of Draft Resolution

Recalling Article 16 of the World Heritage Convention concerning States Parties compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund;

Considering the need to increase the resources of the World Heritage Fund to ensure the provision of International Assistance according to Articles 19 to 26 of the World Heritage Convention, especially in the case of emergency situations;

*Encourages all States Parties to make additional **voluntary** contributions to the World Heritage Fund;*

Invites all States Parties to make additional voluntary contributions of an amount equal to their compulsory contribution or of a sufficient amount to bring their total contribution up to \$300, whichever is the greater.

Requests that the Director-General includes the relevant amount in the annual assessment letters.

¹ Brazil, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, and the United States of America.



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7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
Tel : +33 (0)1 45 68 10 00
Fax : +33 (0)1 45 68 55 55

The Director-General

Reference: DG/4/32/9

13 MAR 2001

Dear Mr King,

Thank you for your letter of 10 January 2001 and for the message it conveyed from the World Heritage Committee concerning the future role and visibility of the World Heritage Centre in UNESCO's next Medium-Term Strategy (2002-2007) and programme and budget (2002-2003).

I fully understand the concern of the Committee and of the States Parties of the *World Heritage Convention* as to the scope of the support provided by UNESCO to the World Heritage Centre.

I am keen, indeed, to maintain and extend support to the *Convention* and the Centre. In the draft Medium Term Strategy to be submitted to the 31st Session of the General Conference, the work of the Centre will be presented as one of UNESCO's flagship activities.

The activities of the Centre will be properly highlighted within Major Programme IV (Culture) in the draft Programme and Budget for 2002-2003 (doc. 31C/5). Furthermore, the budgetary allocations for the World Heritage Centre will be maintained at their 30 C/5 level.

I trust that this visibility and maintenance of budgetary support to the Centre, will provide a suitable platform for the Centre to continue to improve the provision of support to States Parties to the *Convention*, and most particularly to the World Heritage Committee. The Centre's work will, I believe, be further reinforced and streamlined through the implementation of the reform agenda agreed by the Committee at its recent meeting in Australia and the ongoing reorganization of strategies for technical assistance and information being conducted by the Centre.

.../

Mr. Peter King
Chairman, Australian Heritage Commission
Chairman, World Heritage Committee
GPO Box 787
Canberra, ACT 2601
Australia

Finally, may I take this opportunity to reiterate my congratulations to you for having been elected as Chairman of the World Heritage Committee and wish you and the Committee every success in the year to come. UNESCO is most appreciative of your unswerving dedication to the task of conserving the world's outstanding cultural and natural heritage.

Yours sincerely,



Koichiro Matsuura



Mr Koichiro Matsuura
Director-General of UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 PARIS 07SP
FRANCE

Dear Mr Matsuura

The World Heritage Committee has asked me to write to you about the work of the World Heritage Centre in regard to the current process for establishing UNESCO's medium term strategy and programme and budget.

The Committee recognises that UNESCO's budget is likely to remain severely constrained and that the resources available to the Centre will depend on:

- priorities within the cultural sector of UNESCO's programme;
- the scope for the Centre to participate in the interdisciplinary programmes which support UNESCO's cross-cutting strategic themes;
- access to extra-budgetary funds;
- increased efficiency and effectiveness.

The Committee wishes to draw attention to the high visibility and respect for UNESCO deriving from the effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention. There is a sharply increasing demand from the States Parties to the Convention for inscription, monitoring and technical co-operation in respect of World Heritage sites which is not matched by the resources available to the Centre. The Committee has introduced reform measures designed to focus its work on enhancing the representation of sites among under-represented States Parties, particularly developing countries, and has embarked on reform of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, intended to shift the balance of its work towards capacity-building and sustainable development.

The Committee has attracted significant extra-budgetary funds and recognizes the scope for **substantial additional** resources available to mobilize such funding in a way that ensures that it serves the core objectives of the Convention.

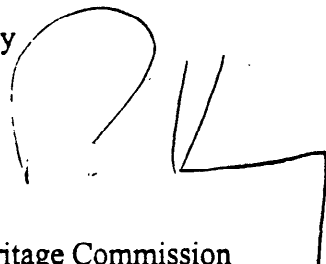
The Committee therefore invites the Executive Board and the Director-General to recognize the relevance of the objectives of the Convention to the preliminary strategy and priorities adopted by the Board and requests that they should:

- accord the objectives of the Convention high priority in the elaboration of UNESCO's medium term strategy;

- reverse the decline and enhance the resources of the Centre by giving top priority within the culture sector to the work of the Centre in the draft programme and budget for the biennium 2001-2003.

I look forward to progressing these issues with you. May I wish you and your staff a happy and prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by a series of vertical and horizontal strokes that form a unique, abstract shape.

Peter King
Chair
Australian Heritage Commission
Chair
World Heritage Committee

cc: Ms Sonia Mendieta de Badaroux, Chairperson, Executive Board of UNESCO