



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

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11 March 2003

**To: Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee
Members of the World Heritage Committee**

**Cc: Permanent Delegations, Observer Missions of States Parties to UNESCO's
World Heritage Convention, Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Convention
(ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM)**

**Subject: 166th Session of UNESCO's Executive Board:
Proposal to grant the status of a Regional Centre under the Auspices of
UNESCO to the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF)**

Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to draw your attention to Article 17 of the Convention, which calls for the States Parties to the Convention to consider or encourage the establishment of national public and private foundations or associations whose purpose is to invite donations for the protection of cultural and natural heritage.

Since 1996 the former Nordic World Heritage Office has made important contributions to UNESCO in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. This Office has been recently transformed into a Foundation under Norwegian Law, and the auspices of UNESCO are now sought to assure its close cooperation with the Organization and to continue its close relations with the World Heritage Committee.

I am pleased to inform you that the forthcoming meeting of UNESCO's Executive Board, (4 to 16 April 2003), will discuss a draft decision aiming at granting the Nordic World Heritage Foundation the auspices of UNESCO. This document (166 EX/17) outlines the background and the nature of the proposal in its relation to UNESCO, together with its relevance to UNESCO's programmes, especially with regard to the benefits to developing countries. The document has already been sent to the members of the Executive Board. It is also electronically available at <http://www.unesco.org/exboard>.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Bandarin".

Francesco Bandarin
Director
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

cc: Nordic World Heritage Foundation