



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
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**10 Oct 2003**

Ref. CL/WHC.13/03

**To:** All States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*

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

**Subject:** Updated list of candidates for the election of members to the World Heritage Committee, to be held during the 14th General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* (Paris, 14-15 October 2003)

Madam/Sir,

By my letter CL/WHC.8/03 of 29 July 2003, I invited States Parties to inform me whether they intended to stand for election to the World Heritage Committee at the 14th General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* (Paris, 14-15 October 2003).

During the 14th General Assembly, **eight new members**<sup>1</sup> of the World Heritage Committee will be elected.

**One of these eight seats** will be reserved for States Parties with no properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. In this regard, I would like to draw your attention to Rule 13.1 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly which establishes that "unsuccessful candidates in the reserved ballot [for States Parties with no World Heritage properties] would be eligible to stand in the open ballot". Rule 13 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly (on the election of members of the World Heritage Committee) is reproduced in Annex I.

Furthermore, as I have received several enquiries concerning the procedures for the election of members to the World Heritage Committee, I have consulted with the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs who has provided the following information:

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<sup>1</sup> The outgoing members of the World Heritage Committee are Belgium, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Zimbabwe.

a) In the **ballot for reserved seat(s)** (see Rule 13.1 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly) the candidates elected are those obtaining more than half of the votes cast.

b) In the **first four open ballots** (see Rules 13.8 - 13.10 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly) the candidates elected are those obtaining the required majority (i.e. more than half of the votes cast).

c) In the **fifth and final ballot** (see Rules 13.9 and 13.10 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly) the candidates elected are those obtaining the greatest number of votes, up to the number of seats to be filled.

The Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs will be available during the session of the 14th General Assembly for any further clarification on this matter you might require.

The **updated list of States Parties** (as of 8 October 2003) that are candidates for election to the World Heritage Committee is as follows:

<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>ARAB STATES</b>	<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>	<b>EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA</b>	<b>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>
Benin	Algeria	Japan	Bosnia and Herzegovina*	Chile
Gabon*	Bahrain*	Kazakhstan	Georgia	Dominica
Kenya	Kuwait*	New Zealand	Lithuania	Dominican Republic
Madagascar	Syrian Arab Republic		Netherlands	
Mali			Norway	
Namibia*			Slovakia	
Togo*			Spain	
Uganda			Turkey	
United Republic of Tanzania			Ukraine	

\* States Parties with no properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

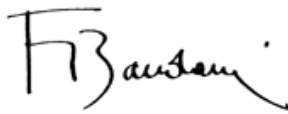
If your country's name is not included in the above list or if your country has decided to withdraw its candidacy, I would be grateful if you could inform me of this, in writing, as soon as possible. This will enable us to prepare an accurate final list of candidates for the election of members to the World Heritage Committee. This final list will be presented during the General Assembly.

Candidates are reminded that "any State Party to the Convention which is in arrears with the payment of its compulsory or voluntary contribution for the current year and the calendar year immediately preceding it shall not be eligible as a Member of the World Heritage Committee [...]" (Article 16.5 of the *World Heritage Convention*).

In this regard, please note that the World Heritage Committee, at its 27th session (Paris, 30 June-5 July 2003), recommended to the General Assembly that a Rule be included in its *Rules of Procedure* indicating that the list of candidates to the World Heritage Committee shall be finalised 48 hours before the beginning of the election. No other candidates nor payment of compulsory and voluntary contributions (for the purpose of presenting a candidate to the Committee) will be accepted after this time (see Decision **27 COM 18A.2**).

I look forward to seeing you at the General Assembly and thank you for your collaboration in this matter.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Bandarin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Francesco Bandarin  
Director  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

ANNEX I - RULE 13 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

**Rule 13 - Election of members of the World Heritage Committee**

13.1 The election of members of the World Heritage Committee shall be conducted by secret ballot whenever five or more delegations having the right to vote so request, or if the Chairperson so decides.

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.

13.2 Before the election begins, the Chairperson shall appoint two tellers from among the delegates present; he/she shall hand to them the list of States entitled to vote and the list of States candidates. He/She shall announce the number of seats to be filled.

13.3 The Secretariat shall distribute to the delegations a voting paper in the form of a list of all the States which are candidates.

13.4 Each delegation shall cast its vote by encircling the names of those States for which it desires to vote.

13.5 The tellers shall collect from each delegation their voting paper and shall proceed to count the votes, under the supervision of the Chairperson.

13.6 Voting papers on which all names of States have been circled shall be considered to be abstentions.

13.7 Voting papers on which more names have been circled than there are seats to be filled shall be considered invalid.

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. 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.

13.9 After the fourth ballot, the candidates obtaining to the greatest number of votes, up to the number of seats to be filled, shall be declared elected.

13.10 If, in the fifth ballot, two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes, the Chairperson shall decide between them by drawing lots.

13.11 The Chairperson shall announce the results of the election.