



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

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Ref. : CL/WHC.04/04

7 June 2004

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

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

Subject: **Granting 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 inform you that the Nordic World Heritage Foundation has been granted the status of a Regional Centre under the auspices of UNESCO during the Organisation's 32nd General Conference.

The Foundation was established on 14 March 2002 by the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment by Memorandum of Association attached herewith.

This official status emphasises the importance UNESCO attaches to the commitment of the Government of Norway, and in particular the Ministry of the Environment, to the World Heritage Convention and UNESCO in general. The Foundation's work is supported by all the Nordic Governments and receives a generous basic grant from the Norwegian Government.

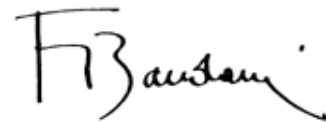
Please find enclosed the official agreement establishing the formal framework for the cooperation between UNESCO and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation.

The overall mandate of the Foundation is to support, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, the follow-up of the Global Strategy for a representative and balanced World Heritage List as adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 1994.

The Foundation will facilitate technical expertise, disseminate information and contribute to innovative projects, as well as mobilize funds and facilitate assistance for heritage conservation efforts in developing countries.

I wish to express herewith my gratitude to the Norwegian Government for their generous contribution to the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, and to stress the Centre's full commitment to continue its close cooperation with the Foundation in the future.

Yours sincerely,

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

Enclosure: Agreement between UNESCO and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation
 Memorandum of Association for the Foundation Nordic World Heritage
 Agreement between the Ministry of the Environment and the Nordic World
 Heritage Foundation concerning basic capital to the Foundation

COPY FOR INFORMATION

AGREEMENT

Between

**THE UNITED NATIONS
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION**

and

**THE NORDIC
WORLD HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**

(hereinafter referred to as "UNESCO")

(hereinafter referred to as "the Foundation")

Concerning cooperation activities, in particular on the implementation of the
Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

(hereinafter referred to as "the Convention")

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment of Norway established the Nordic World Heritage Foundation on 14 March 2002 in accordance with Norwegian legislation as a follow-up to the Evaluation Report of 30 March 2001 on the World Heritage Office, and as a continuation of the cooperation laid down in the Revised Agreement between UNESCO and the Kingdom of Norway of May 1999, concerning the Nordic World Heritage Office;

WHEREAS the General Conference of UNESCO at its 32nd session in October 2003 decided to grant the status of a Regional Centre under the auspices of UNESCO to the Nordic World Heritage Foundation;

WHEREAS the General Conference also authorized the Director-General to enter into a cooperation agreement with the Nordic World Heritage Foundation;

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:



received
[Signature]

Article 1
Role of the Foundation

- 1.1. The Foundation shall contribute to the medium-term strategies of UNESCO, in particular the implementation of standard-setting instruments in the field of culture and enhancing the linkages between culture, capacity-building and sharing of knowledge;
- 1.2. The Foundation shall support UNESCO's World Heritage Centre in the implementation of the Convention.
- 1.3. In order to realize this purpose, the Foundation shall focus its activities in the following main areas:
 - 1.3.1. Act as a focal point bringing Nordic countries together in their collective attempt to fulfil the requirements of the Convention and its implementation;
 - 1.3.2. Support UNESCO's World Heritage Centre by facilitating technical expertise, disseminating information and contributing to innovative projects, all in support of the Convention and the World Heritage Committee's Global Strategy;
 - 1.3.3. Mobilize funds from bi- and multilateral sources in a coordinated and transparent way and facilitate assistance for natural and cultural World Heritage conservation efforts in developing countries in support of the Convention, as referred to in Article 2.3.

Article 2
Coordination of activities

- 2.1. UNESCO shall be represented on the Foundation's Board of Directors by the Director of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, or his deputy;
- 2.2. The Foundation shall act as a regional and international centre, supporting the follow-up of the Global Strategy for a representative and balanced World Heritage List as adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 1994;
- 2.3. All the initiatives of the Foundation shall be coordinated with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, as Secretariat of the Convention, to avoid duplication of global efforts, and to ensure that the priorities set by the World Heritage Committee are addressed.

Article 3
Use of names and emblems

- 3.1. The Foundation shall use both the name and emblems of UNESCO and of World Heritage in conformity with the rules and regulations governing the use of UNESCO's name and emblem by its partners, indicating "under the auspices of", as well as the rules of the World Heritage Committee, as set out in its Operational Guidelines;

Article 4
Evaluation

- 4.1.1. The work and achievements of the Foundation shall be externally evaluated after an initial period of five years, in 2008.

Article 5
Duration and Amendment

- 5.1. This Agreement shall become effective on the date on which it has been signed by both parties thereto. In the event that this Agreement is not signed by the parties on the same day, the last party to sign this Agreement shall promptly inform the other party of the date on which it has been so signed, and this date shall be the date on which the Agreement becomes effective;
- 5.2. This Agreement may be amended or terminated by mutual agreement by an exchange of letters between the signatories;
- 5.3. This Agreement shall be in force for the period 2004-2008, with the intent that it be reviewed and renewed before the end of 2008. The renewal will be subject to a decision of UNESCO's Executive Board to renew the grant of auspices of UNESCO to the Foundation before 2008.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto, acting through their respective representatives duly authorized, have caused this Agreement to be signed in their respective names.

**FOR
THE NORDIC WORLD HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**

**FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

Name *Siri Eust Ste*
Title
*Chairman
Nordic World Heritage Foundation*

Date *31. mar 2004*

Name *T. Zaudani*
Title *DIRECTOR,
WORLD HERITAGE
CENTRE*

Date *25 May, 2004*

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION
FOR
THE FOUNDATION NORDIC WORLD HERITAGE

1. Establishment of the Foundation

The Government of the Kingdom of Norway represented by the Ministry of the Environment hereby establishes the Foundation Nordic World Heritage (the Foundation).

2. Background

The establishment of the foundation is a specific follow-up of the recommendations given in The Evaluation Report of the Nordic World Heritage Office, dated 30 March 2001 and is a continuation of the co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) based on The Revised Agreement concerning The Three Years Pilot Project of the World Heritage Office in Norway, dated 4 May 1999.

The Norwegian Government's establishment of and support to the Foundation is based on article 17 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which calls for the state parties to the convention to support establishment of foundations whose purpose is to work for protection of cultural and natural heritage.

3. Object

The object of the Foundation is to work towards implementing and living up to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (hereafter called the "Convention") in co-operation and understanding with UNESCO.

As part of the work in achieving this objective, the Foundation shall

- 1 Act as a focal point bringing Nordic countries together in their collective attempt to fulfil the intentions and requirements of the Convention.
- 2 Support the World Heritage Centre by facilitating technical expertise, disseminating information and contributing to innovative projects, all in support of the Convention and the World Heritage Centre's Global Strategy.

- 3 Mobilize funds from bi- and multilateral sources and facilitate assistance for natural and cultural World Heritage conservation efforts in developing countries in support of the Convention.

The Foundation may also conduct other activities related to implementing and living up to the Convention.

4. Basic capital

As the Foundation's basic capital, the Government of the Kingdom of Norway represented by the Ministry of the Environment transfers to the Foundation the operations in the present Nordic World Heritage Office, including associated assets and rights. The net value of this transfer is estimated to be NOK 58.825.

As basic capital, the Government of the Kingdom of Norway represented by the Ministry of the Environment also transfers to the Foundation a cash amount of NOK 100.000.

The basic capital of the Foundation on establishment is then NOK 158.825, cf. the enclosed auditor confirmed opening balance.

5. Articles of Association

The Foundation Nordic World Heritage shall have the following articles of association:

§ 1 Name of the Foundation

The name of the Foundation is "Stiftelsen Nordic World Heritage".

§ 2 Registered address

The registered address of the Foundation is in the municipality of Oslo.

§ 3 Basic capital

On establishment the basic capital of the Foundation is NOK 158.825.

§ 4 Object

The object of the Foundation is to work towards implementing and living up to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (hereafter called the "Convention") in co-operation and understanding with UNESCO.

As part of the work in achieving this objective, the Foundation shall

- 1 Act as a focal point bringing Nordic countries together in their collective attempt to fulfil the intentions and requirements of the Convention.

- 2 Support the World Heritage Centre by facilitating technical expertise, disseminating information and contributing to innovative projects, all in support of the Convention and the World Heritage Centre's Global Strategy.
- 3 Mobilize funds from bi- and multilateral sources and facilitate assistance for natural and cultural World Heritage conservation efforts in developing countries in support of the Convention.

The Foundation may also conduct other activities related to implementing and living up to the Convention.

§ 5 The Board of Directors of the Foundation

The Board of Directors consists of six members with six personal deputies.

The Board of Directors' members are appointed as follows:

- 1 UNESCO appoints one member with a personal deputy; and
- 2 The Government of the Kingdom of Norway represented by the Ministry of the Environment appoints the other board members and deputy members in appreciation with the other Nordic countries. The Ministry of the Environment appoints the chairman and deputy chairman of the Board of Directors.

Appointment applies for a period of four years.

At the time of the establishment of the foundation the Government of the Kingdom of Norway represented by the Ministry of the Environment appoints a board with three members, which will be in function until a board in accordance with this article 5 first to third paragraph is appointed.

§ 6 The rules of procedure for the Board of Directors

The chairman of the Board of Directors convenes the Board of Directors. Each board member and the general manager may require that the Board of Directors be summoned to deal with a specific matter. The Board of Directors shall meet at least two times a year and otherwise when this is necessary to deal with relevant matters.

The Board of Directors forms a quorum when more than half of the members are present. Unless otherwise specified, the majority decision will apply as the resolution of the Board of Directors. In the event of a voting tie, the chairman or deputy chairman of the Board of Directors will have the casting vote.

§ 7 The duties of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the supreme body of the Foundation. Administration of the Foundation belongs under the Board of Directors, which shall ensure that the object is taken care of.

The Board of Directors shall adopt the Foundation's annual Work Plan and budget and send this to the World Heritage Centre and the Ministry of the Environment for their information.

By 1 May each year the Board of Directors shall adopt an annual report of the Foundation's activities in the previous year. The annual report shall be sent to the World Heritage Centre and the Ministry of the Environment for their information.

The Board of Directors shall work, among other things, towards ensuring involvement and participation of authorities and organizations in the Foundation's activities.

§ 8 Advisers to the Foundation in individual projects

The Foundation may associate with the World Heritage's advisory bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN), other international or national institutions and interest groups, or international or national authorities, to participate as advisers to the Foundation in individual projects.

§ 9 General Manager

The Board of Directors shall appoint a general manager for the Foundation and stipulate the general manager's salary.

§ 10 External representation

The Chairman of the Board of Directors or two board members together bind the Foundation externally. The general manager represents the Foundation in matters concerning the daily management of the Foundation.

§ 11 Audit

The Office of the Auditor General shall audit the accounts of the Foundation.

§ 12 Conversion (amendments to articles of association, dissolution, etc.)

The Board of Directors has the authority to amend the Foundation's articles of association. The Board of Directors also has the authority to dissolve the Foundation, merge the Foundation with other foundations or to divide the Foundation into two or more foundations.

Resolutions as mentioned in the previous clause require the unanimous support of all members of the Board of Directors. Amendment of the Foundation's object, dissolution, merger with other foundations or division of the Foundation must be approved by the Government of the Kingdom of Norway represented by the Ministry of the Environment.

6. The Board of Directors of the Foundation

In accordance with article 5 of the articles of association, the following have been appointed as members of the Board of Directors:

Siri Frost Sterri
Svein Wilhelmsen
Birgitta Hoberg
Sven Koefoed Hansen
Francesco Bandarin
Margret Hallgrimsdottir

7. Audit

The Office of the Auditor General shall audit the accounts of the Foundation.

Oslo, March 14, 2002

Appendix: Auditor confirmed opening balance

Agreement between the Ministry of the Environment and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation concerning basic capital to the Foundation

The Ministry of the Environment has of today established the Nordic World Heritage Foundation.

The establishment of the Foundation is a specific follow-up of the recommendations given in The Evaluation Report of the Nordic World Heritage Office, dated 30 March 2001, and is a continuation of the co-operation between the United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) based on the Revised Agreement concerning the Three Years Pilot Project of the World Heritage Office in Norway, dated 4 May 1999.

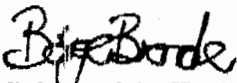
The object of the Foundation is to work towards implementing and living up to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in co-operation and understanding with UNESCO.

Conditioned on approval from the Parliament, the Ministry of the Environment will transfer a minimum of NOK 2.5 million per annum as basic capital to the Foundation, to ensure that the Foundation is capable to realise its objectives in accordance with the regulations of the Memorandum of Association for the Foundation.

The Memorandum of Association, dated and signed, is enclosure to this agreement.

This agreement is binding until terminated by one of the parties with 12 months notice.

Oslo, 14 March 2002


Ministry of the Environment


Nordic World Heritage Foundation