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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
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**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-seventh session

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia
16 – 27 June 2013**

Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports

**10B: Progress report on the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting
exercise for Europe and North America**

SUMMARY

This document contains a summary of the activities undertaken for the implementation of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Europe and North America region.

The internet platform designed to assist in the implementation and follow-up of the second cycle is available at the following web address:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/EUR-NA>

Draft Decision: 37 COM 10B, see Point II

I. PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE FOR EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

1. At its 29th session (Durban, 2005), the World Heritage Committee approved the Report on the first cycle of Periodic Reporting for North America and at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting for Europe. Subsequently, steps were taken to implement the World Heritage Committee's Decisions **29 COM 11A**, **30 COM 11 A.1** and **30 COM 11 A.2**, and reports were submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) sessions.
2. At its 36th session in 2012, by Decision **36 COM 10B**, the World Heritage Committee launched the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise for the Europe and North America region and reiterated that it will take place on a two-year basis (Group A: North America, Western, Nordic and Baltic Europe sub-regions for the first year, and Group B: Mediterranean, Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe for the second year). A report on the outcomes of the Periodic Reporting exercise for North America as well as an Action Plan will be presented at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2014. An overall report and Action Plan on the Periodic Reporting exercise for Europe will be presented at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2015;
3. Since the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee, two sub-regional meetings have been organized in European sub-regions, in cooperation with States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, focusing on the implementation (Group A) and the preparation (Group B) of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise.
4. A meeting for the National Focal Points of Nordic, Baltic, Western and Mediterranean Europe and German site managers (Berlin, Germany, 24-26 September 2012) was generously hosted by Germany and co-organized by the World Heritage Centre. The meeting was designed as a practical training on the use of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire with an introduction to the online tools. The meeting aimed to train the National Focal Points of Group A for the organization of national workshops and acting as trainers in further workshops with national authorities and site managers. For more information: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/925/>.
5. A workshop for National Focal Points from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe (Tbilisi, Georgia, 14-16 November 2012) on the preparation of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting was generously hosted by Georgia and co-organized by the World Heritage Centre. The workshop confirmed that, while some progress has been made, the trends and challenges from the first cycle of Periodic Reporting persist and emphasised the need for new thinking and a better understanding of World Heritage concepts at all levels, for a more effective legal and institutional integration in management, as well as for enhancing community involvement in all activities. For more information: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/958/>.
6. Following the "training of trainers" approach applied in the preparatory meetings, where the Focal Points were requested to transmit the knowledge acquired to the site managers in their respective countries, many States Parties organized national or sub-regional consultations and workshops to discuss the implementation of the current Periodic Reporting exercise.
7. In addition, an informal Periodic Reporting Meeting of European and North American States Parties took place on the occasion of the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee, where the World Heritage Centre presented the online Periodic Reporting platform for the Europe and North America region, containing all relevant information in a structured and targeted manner with a view to facilitate the implementation of the

Periodic Reporting exercise. The Platform was developed with the support of the Principality of Andorra and is accessible at the following link: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/EUR-NA>. The *Handbook for Site Managers on Periodic Reporting*, prepared in collaboration with the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) with financial support from Monaco and Spain, and made available in English, French, Russian and Spanish, was also presented at the abovementioned informal meeting.

8. By March 2013, 15 out of 20 National Focal Points from Group A had started to fill in Section I of the questionnaire and more than half of the Section II questionnaires had been completed beyond 90% by the site managers.
9. The World Heritage Centre provides continuous desk support to the National Focal Points and site managers for technical and content-based questions concerning the questionnaire. The feedback received in this process contributes to the constant improvement of the electronic tools of Periodic Reporting and confirms that the Periodic Reporting platform and its guidance tools are widely used in the process of completing the questionnaires. The Nordic World Heritage Foundation also provides desk support to the relevant stakeholders from the Nordic and Baltic countries.
10. Further collaboration with the NWHF in the implementation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting includes technical assistance for the preliminary analysis of the outcomes from the Periodic Reporting for the Group A countries.
11. Several States Parties reiterated their intention to host Periodic Reporting meetings: Italy (meeting for Mediterranean Europe, Florence, 16-19 September 2013), Azerbaijan (meeting for Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, October 2013) and Luxembourg (Western Europe and Nordic-Baltic Europe, 2014/2015).
12. In 2011-2012, the World Heritage Centre's Europe and North America Unit launched an initiative to elaborate an integrated and targeted strategy addressing the priority needs in training and capacity building for the preservation of World Heritage properties in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, further to the outcomes of the first cycle of Periodic Reporting. A Blueprint document, prepared by the Secretariat, sets out an overall vision for the sub-regional capacity-building strategy and makes some preliminary proposals and ideas for the development and implementation of the strategy, on the basis of input from the States Parties concerned. The Blueprint document serves as a basis for the discussions of the Steering Group created at one of the Periodic Reporting Workshops (Tbilisi, November 2012) which includes Focal Points of countries from the region, assisted by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in particular ICCROM. The Steering Group will continue to work on the elaboration of the strategy and present the outcomes of the consultations at the forthcoming sub-regional meetings.
13. In Decision **35 COM 10C.2**, the World Heritage Committee requested the States Parties to submit draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by 1 February 2012. 375 draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value were expected for Europe and North America. Out of the 355 drafts received, 324 have been considered complete following the completeness check by the World Heritage Centre. The evaluation of the drafts by the Advisory Bodies is currently on-going and has been made possible by funds from the World Heritage Fund and the contributions of the Flemish, Portuguese and Andorran authorities. 17 draft Statements are still expected to be submitted and 26 incomplete drafts should be revised by the States Parties.
14. The World Heritage Centre would like to draw the attention of the States Parties to the fact that it does not have adequate financial and human resources for the implementation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Europe and North America region. Compared to other regions, the Europe and North America

Unit does not benefit from extra-budgetary assistance, with a few exceptions. Currently, no funds are allocated by the Regular Budget for the Europe and North America region and the funds allocated from the World Heritage Fund are not sufficient to ensure the preparation and implementation of the Periodic Reporting exercise. Capacity-building is still a challenge and will need to be addressed appropriately in the relevant sub-regions.

15. In this regard, the World Heritage Centre reiterates its gratitude to Andorra, the Flemish authorities, Monaco, the Netherlands and Portugal for their financial contributions made since the 35th session to support the Europe and North America Unit in the implementation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in 2012 and 2013, and recommends that the Committee invite other States Parties to contribute with financial or human resources.

II. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 37 COM 10B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/10B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 10B** adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012),*
3. *Recalling furthermore that the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America takes place on a two-year basis (Group A: North America, Western, Nordic and Baltic Europe sub-regions for the first year 2012-2013, and Group B: Mediterranean, Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe for the second year 2013-2014), provided that a report on the Periodic Reporting exercise for North America will be presented at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2014, and an overall report on the Periodic Reporting exercise for Europe will be presented at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2015,*
4. *Takes note of the activities implementing the second cycle of Periodic Reporting for Group A and preparing the launch of Periodic Reporting for Group B;*
5. *Thanks the German authorities and the Georgian authorities for having hosted preparatory meetings in the framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise;*
6. *Also thanks the Nordic World Heritage Foundation for its collaboration in the preparation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting;*
7. *Reiterates its sincere appreciation to the Italian authorities, the Azerbaijani authorities and the Luxembourg authorities for their proposals to host future meetings in the framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise in 2013-2015;*
8. *Welcomes the progress made with the initiative to prepare an integrated and targeted strategy addressing the priority needs in training and capacity-building for the preservation of World Heritage properties in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and commends the Steering Group for its commitment to carry forward this work;*

9. Commends the States Parties which have submitted draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value before the official launch of the Periodic Reporting exercise as requested in Decision **35 COM 10C.2**, and urges the States Parties to submit the pending retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value as soon as possible;
10. Reiterates its gratitude to the Andorran, Monegasque, Portuguese and Dutch authorities, as well as the Flemish authorities for their financial contributions to the implementation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America, and encourages further support and collaboration in the future;
11. Requests the World Heritage Centre to report back to the World Heritage Committee on progress made with Periodic Reporting at its 38th session in 2014.