

GEMUN 2018

UNESCO Committee

Topic 3: Improving measures to strengthen international cooperation between countries in the preservation of world heritage sites

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I. Definition of Key Terms

World Heritage Site : a natural or man-made site, an area or structure whose importance has been recognised internationally and which therefore deserves special protection. Sites are nominated and designed by the World Heritage Convention, which is part of UNESCO.

World Heritage Convention: it is committed to protecting the World Culture and Natural Heritage, by encouraging the cooperation between countries for the maintenance of the sites in need of preservation.

States Parties: countries adhering to the World Heritage Convention which can submit sites on their national territories for eligibility as part of the World Heritage List. When submitting a site for eligibility, the concerned States Parties must provide details on how said site needs to be protected and maintained. States Parties are also encouraged to periodically report on the conditions of their site(s).

Site: natural or an-made areas, possibly having an internationally recognised historical value.

A World Heritage Site represents the cultural and historical heritage of a specific population, providing an explanation of their current lives, a legacy for future generations and a concrete representation of their deeply rooted interpretation of the world. Quite often World Heritage Sites cannot be properly maintained due to lack of funds and supervision, and consequently progressively fall apart. Their loss does not affect merely a single community, but rather the entire world. For this reason, this committee actively operates to encourage the maintenance and preservation of every World Heritage Site.

(World Heritage Sites List: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>)

II. Background Information

Among the many countries involved in the preservation of World Heritage Sites, some are referred to as “States Parties ”: they are those nations who have adhered to the World Heritage Convention, thus acquiring the power to submit a site as eligible for consideration by providing details on how to manage and protect said sites through specific plans; they are encouraged to report on WHS conditions periodically.

(States Parties List: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/>)

Secondly, one of the greatest and most common problems concerning WHS is their endangerment: as a matter of fact, since most of these sites were built, created or born in ancient times, time and natural causes slowly fall apart them, and could lead to severe and irreversible damages. For this reason, the World Heritage Convention’s main target is to avert such a possibility and protect all the sites in need preservation.

III. Major Countries Involved

The major countries involved are the so-called “States Parties”, which adhered to the World Heritage Convention and have the power to submit sites for eligibility, provided they establish plans for the preservation and maintenance and of the sites.

IV. UN Involvement

Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania) Meeting

This

meeting dealt with the preservation systems of Middle-Eastern sites as applied to local communities.

(UN Involvement on this issue: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>)

The World Heritage Convention is part of UNESCO. Its main target is the prevention and maintenance of every World Heritage Site present on Earth.

v. Useful Links

2 [_ HTTP://WHC.UNESCO.ORG/EN/LIST/](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/)

<http://whc.unesco.org/>

<http://www.un.org/en/index.html>