



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World
Heritage
Convention



GERMANY 2015
39TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
39E SESSION DU COMITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL
ALLEMAGNE 2015

Media information: 39th session of the World Heritage Committee

1 Date and place

Time: 28 June to 8 July 2015

Place: World Conference Center Bonn (WCCB), Germany

2 Members and role of the World Heritage Committee

The 21 States Parties of the current World Heritage Committee are the following:

Algeria, Colombia, Croatia, Finland, Germany, India, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Serbia, Turkey, Viet Nam

According to the *World Heritage Convention*, a Committee member's term of office is for six years, but most States Parties choose voluntarily to be Members of the Committee for only four years, in order to give other States Parties an opportunity to be on the Committee. All Members elected during the two last General Assemblies (2011 and 2013) have voluntarily decided to reduce their period of term of office from six to four years.

The World Heritage Committee meets once a year. It is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon requests from States Parties. It has the final say on whether a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List. It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed properties and asks States Parties to take action when properties are not being properly managed. It also decides on the inscription or deletion of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

3 Members and role of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee

The Bureau consists of seven States Parties elected annually by the Committee: a Chairperson, five Vice-Chairpersons, and a Rapporteur. The Bureau of the Committee coordinates the work of the Committee and fixes the dates, hours and order of business of

meetings. The election of the new Bureau will take place at the end of the session of the World Heritage Committee.

Chairperson: Prof Maria Böhmer (Germany)

Rapporteur: M. Hicham Cheaib (Lebanon)

Vice-Chairpersons: Croatia, India, Jamaica, Qatar, Senegal

4 Sites nominated for inscription to the World Heritage List in 2015

Nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List this year include five natural sites, 30 cultural sites and one mixed site, i.e. both natural and cultural.

Natural sites:

1. Cape Floral Region Protected Areas [extension of the property Cape Floral Region Protected Areas] (South Africa)
2. Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay - Mukkawar Island Marine National Park (Sudan)
3. Landscapes of Dauria (Mongolia/Russian Federation)
4. Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand)
5. Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park [extension of Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park] (Viet Nam)

Mixed natural and cultural sites:

6. Blue and John Crow Mountains (Jamaica)

Cultural sites:

7. Thimlich Ohinga Cultural Landscape (Kenya)
8. Nyeru and other Hunter-Gatherer Geometric Rock-Art Sites in Eastern Uganda (Uganda)
9. Baptism Site “Bethany Beyond the Jordan” (Al-Maghtas) (Jordan)
10. Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia (Saudi Arabia)
11. Tusi sites (China)
12. Susa (Islamic Republic of Iran)
13. Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining (Japan)
14. Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain and its Surrounding Sacred Landscape (Mongolia)
15. Baekje Historic Areas (Republic of Korea)
16. Singapore Botanical Gardens (Singapore)
17. Cultural Landscape of Maymand (Islamic Republic of Iran)
18. Christiansfeld, a Moravian Settlement (Denmark)
19. Par Force Hunting Landscape in North Zealand (Denmark)
20. Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe (Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Norway)
21. Climats, Terroirs of Burgundy (France)
22. Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars (France)
23. Speicherstadt and Kontorhaus District with Chilehaus (Germany)
24. Naumburg Cathedral and the Landscape of the Rivers Saale and Unstrut Territories of Power in the High Middle Ages (Germany)
25. Bet She’arim Necropolis – A Landmark of Jewish Renewal (Israël)
26. Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral Churches of Cefalú and Monreale (Italy)

27. Rjukan – Notodden Industrial Heritage Site (Norway)
28. La Rioja and Rioja Alavesa Wine and Vineyard Cultural Landscape (Spain)
29. Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Turkey)
30. Forth Bridge (United Kingdom)
31. San Antonio Missions (United States)
32. Gelati Monastery [Significant boundary modification of “Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery”] (Georgia)
33. Routes of Santiago in Northern Spain [Extension of “Routes of Santiago de Compostela”] (Spain)
34. Ephesus (Turkey)
35. Aqueduct of Padre Tembleque Renaissance Hydraulic Complex in America (Mexico)
36. Fray Bentos Cultural-Industrial Landscape (Uruguay)

5 Important dates for media representatives

Time	Place	Event
28 June, 17.45h	WCCB	Inauguration of the exhibition „Heritage Heroes“ in the presence of Maria Böhmer, Chairperson of the 39th Session and Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO
28 June, 18.00h	WCCB	Inauguration of the exhibition „Kulturwelten“ in the presence of Maria Böhmer, Chairperson of the 39th Session and Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO
28 June, 19h	WCCB, Plenary	Opening of the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee
29 June, 13h	WCCB, Plenary	Launch of the global coalition for the protection of cultural heritage “#Unite4Heritage” with the participation of the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, the Chair of the World Heritage Committee Maria Böhmer (Germany), and Adel Shirshab, Minister of Tourism and Culture (Iraq)
29 June, 14h	WCCB, Room Bonn	Press Conference with the UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova, the Chair of the World Heritage Committee Maria Böhmer, and Adel Shirshab, Minister of Tourism and Culture (Iraq)
29 June, 17h to 2 July, 18.30h	WCCB, Plenary	Discussion of State of conservation of World Heritage properties . On 30 June selected state of conservation reports of sites on the List of World Heritage in danger will be discussed. From 1 July to 2 July selected state of conservation reports of further sites will be discussed, also those proposed for inscription on the List of World Heritage in danger.
29 June, 19h	WCCB, Plenary	Side Event: Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees of Culture Conventions organized by the German Federal Foreign Office and UNESCO. A joint statement will be issued by the Chairpersons.
30 June, 13h	WCCB, Plenary	Side event: Reconstruction of the mausoleums of Timbuktu (Mali) organized by the UNESCO Bamako Office and the World Heritage Centre. Speakers include the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, the Chair of the World Heritage Committee Maria Böhmer, the Malian minister of Culture, Handicrafts and Tourism N'Diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo. Masons from Timbuktu will be awarded a medal for their work.
2 July	Deutsche Welle	World Heritage Partnerships for Conservation panel discussion . A Partners' event to discuss experiences around private sector support for World Heritage. Best practices in partnerships with private sector companies and foundations will be shared outlining their contribution to the promotion and protection of natural and cultural sites of outstanding universal value. Followed by a cocktail reception.
3 to 5 July	WCCB, Plenary	Discussion of Nominations to the World Heritage List . The Committee will examine the nomination of the sites, listed above in the order in which they are provisionally scheduled to be debated. The order may change during the session.
5 July, 18h	WCCB, Room Bonn	Press Conference on inscriptions to the World Heritage List.

The provisional timetable of the World Heritage Committee session is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2015/whc15-39com-3BRev-en.pdf>

Updated and further information on events during the Committee session will be provided to media representatives daily at the media center of the World Conference Center Bonn.

6 Technical questions

○ Will the session be livestreamed?

Yes, on www.whc.unesco.org and via <http://www.39whcbonn2015.de/livewebcast.html> in the original, English and French versions (minimum at 290 KB/s each, 384x288 pixels, streaming entry point 3MB) Videos of each half-day session will be uploaded to the World Heritage Centre's website and that of the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (1280 x 720 pixels) the day after the respective sessions. These videos may be used by media representatives.

○ Will pictures of the nominated sites be provided to the press?

Yes, after the inscription of a site pictures of the sites will be available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/newproperties/> They may be used for non-commercial purposes by media representatives.

○ Will videos of the newly inscribed sites be provided to the press?

Videos of some sites will be made available after the inscription of a site at www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/multimedia/news-videos/b-roll/

○ Where do I find important documents of the session?

All working documents are available online at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/39COM/documents>

Reports on the state of conservation of sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- Report #1 (WHC-15/39.COM/7A) <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2015/whc15-39com-7A-en.pdf>
- Report #2 (WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add) <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2015/whc15-39com-7AAdd-en.pdf>

State of conservation reports of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List:

- Report #1 (WHC-15/39.COM/7B) <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2015/whc15-39com-7B-en.pdf>
- Report #2 (WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add) <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2015/whc15-39com-7BAdd-en.pdf>

List of state of conservation reports proposed for discussion:

- List (WHC-15/39.COM/INF.7) <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2015/whc15-39com-inf7-en.pdf>

Evaluation of nominations, cultural and mixed properties:

- Report #1 (WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1) <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2015/whc15-39com-inf8B1-en.pdf>
- Report #2 (WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add) <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2015/whc15-39com-inf8B1-Add-en.pdf>

Evaluation of nominations of natural and mixed properties:

- Report #1 (WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B2) <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2015/whc15-39com-inf8B2-en.pdf>
- Report #2 (WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B2.Add) <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2015/whc15-39com-inf8B2-Add-en.pdf>

7 Media Contacts

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Curriculum Vitae of Irina Bokova



UNESCO/Bob Krasner
Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

Irina Bokova, born on 12 July 1952 in Sofia (Bulgaria) has been the Director-General of UNESCO since 15 November 2009, and was successfully reelected for a second term in 2013. She is the first woman and the first Eastern European to lead the Organization.

As Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova is actively engaged in international efforts to advance gender equality, quality education for all, and combat terrorist financing by preventing the illicit traffic of cultural goods. A leading champion in the fight against racism and anti-Semitism, Bokova has spearheaded UNESCO's activities on Holocaust remembrance and awareness and is the first Director-General of the Organization to appoint a Special Envoy for Holocaust Education.

She is a leading advocate for ensuring quality education for all and has championed gender equality, making this her own personal priority for the Organization. Other fields of action include enabling scientific cooperation for sustainable development, such as early warning systems for tsunamis or trans-boundary water management agreements and global advocacy for the safety of journalists and freedom of expression.

Having graduated from Moscow State Institute of International Relations, and studied at the University of Maryland (Washington) and the John F. Kennedy School of Government (Harvard University), Irina Bokova joined the United Nations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria in 1977. In charge of political and legal affairs at the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations in New York, she was also member of the Bulgarian Delegation at the United Nations conferences on the equality of women in Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985) and Beijing (1995). As Member of Parliament (1990-1991 and 2001-2005), she advocated for Bulgaria's membership in EU and NATO and participated in the drafting of Bulgaria's new Constitution.

Irina Bokova was Minister for Foreign Affairs, Coordinator of Bulgaria-European Union relations and Ambassador of Bulgaria to France, Monaco and UNESCO and Personal Representative of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria to the "Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie" (OIF). As Secretary of State for European integration and as Foreign Minister, Irina Bokova has always advocated for European integration. She is a founding member and Chairman of the European Policy Forum, an NGO created to promote European identity and encourage dialogue to overcome divisions in Europe. This is an example of her work to endorse the values of dialogue, diversity, human dignity and human rights. Irina Bokova is Executive Secretary of the Steering Committee of the UN Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) and co-Vice-Chair of the Broadband Commission.

Irina Bokova has received state distinctions from countries across the world and is Doctor Honoris causa of leading universities.

In addition to her mother tongue, she speaks English, French, Spanish and Russian. She is married with two grown children who live and work in the United States.

Curriculum Vitae of the Chairperson of the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee



Professor Maria Böhmer has been Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office since December 2013.

Her remit covers cultural relations and education policy, Germany's United Nations and global policies, external economic policy and sustainable development issues. In terms of world regions, her work focuses on the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as South and South-East Asia.

Areas of special interest to the Minister of State include the promotion of vocational training as a means of fostering economic development within and outside Europe, the incorporation of the post-Millennium Development Goals into the post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as strengthening and boosting humanitarian assistance.

One key political focus is strengthening the role of women as part of Germany's foreign policy. Böhmer is currently Chairperson of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, which is due to hold its annual conference in Bonn from 28 June to 8 July 2015. The aims of her tenure are conservation, the management of World Heritage Sites (also in crisis situations), their sustainable use as well as ambitious reforms to lend greater credibility to the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Since November 2014, Böhmer has been Chairperson of the Advisory Board of Tarabya Cultural Academy, which is developing new dimensions of German-Turkish relations with its residency programme for artists and culture professionals. Böhmer is thus continuing the work she did as Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration between 2005 and 2013.

During her time as the Federal Government's Integration Commissioner, considerable successes were achieved, including the Integration Summit, the National Integration Plan or the Assessment and Recognition of Foreign Professional Qualifications Act.

Böhmer is a member of the CDU. She sits on the party's National Executive Committee and is Chair of the national Women's Union of the CDU. Since 2014 she has been a member of the CDU Federal Committee on Foreign, Security, Development and Human Rights Policy.

Maria Böhmer has been a Member of the German Bundestag since 1990, initially for the Frankenthal-Donnersberg constituency. She subsequently succeeded former Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the Ludwigshafen-Frankenthal constituency and was Deputy Chairperson of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group (education and research, family and women's affairs) from 2000 to 2005.

Since August 2014 Böhmer has been Senator of the Leibniz Association, which connects 89 independent research institutions. She is Deputy Chairperson of the ZDF Television Council, a member of the Central Committee of German Catholics, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the St. Martinus-Schulstiftung (St Martin School Foundation) in the diocese of Mainz, member of the Board of Trustees of the German Foundation for Integration and Deputy Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Caritas St Elisabeth Foundation in the diocese of Speyer. Furthermore, she is an active member of the Board of Trustees of the Reading Foundation.

Böhmer was born in Mainz, studied mathematics, education, physics and political science and gained a doctorate in education. She was awarded the international prize "Zur Pädagogik der Gegenwart" (Education of the Present) in Vienna for her dissertation. Following research posts in Cambridge and Augsburg, she gained a post-doctoral qualification in Mainz in 1982. Since 2001 she has been Professor of Education in Heidelberg. From 1982 to 1990 she was the first Gender Equality Representative of Land Rhineland-Palatinate.

World Heritage Basic Facts

1 What is World Heritage?

World Heritage is the designation for places on Earth that are of outstanding universal value to humanity and as such, have been inscribed on the World Heritage List to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. Places as diverse and unique as the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, Galápagos Islands in Ecuador, the Taj Mahal in India, the Grand Canyon in the USA, or the Acropolis in Greece are examples of the 1007 natural and cultural places inscribed on the World Heritage List to date.

More about World Heritage <http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=160>

2 What does it mean for a site to be inscribed on the List?

Once a country signs the Convention, and has sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, the resulting prestige often helps raise awareness among citizens and governments for heritage preservation. Greater awareness leads to a general rise in the level of the protection and conservation given to heritage properties. A country may also receive financial assistance and expert advice from the World Heritage Committee to support activities for the preservation of its sites.

3 What is the World Heritage Convention?

The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage is an international agreement that was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972. It is based on the premise that certain places on Earth are of outstanding universal value and should therefore form part of the common heritage of humankind. The countries who ratify the Convention (States Parties) have become part of an international community, united in a common mission to identify and safeguard our world's most outstanding natural and cultural heritage. While fully respecting the national sovereignty, and without prejudice to property rights provided by national legislation, the States Parties recognize that the protection of the World Heritage is the duty of the international community as a whole.

For the whole Convention text please visit <http://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>

4 What are the legal implications of the Convention?

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention is a treaty that has become, over the past 40 years, the foremost international legal tool in support of the conservation of the world's cultural and natural heritage. Today, 191 countries (called States Parties) have ratified the Convention, making it an almost universally accepted set of principles and framework of action.

For more information about the Convention please visit <http://whc.unesco.org/en/convention/>

5 How is a site inscribed on the List?

A site goes through a nomination process before being considered for inscription by the World Heritage Committee. A site can be proposed for inscription only by the country in which the property is located.

For more information about the nomination process please visit <http://whc.unesco.org/en/nominations>

6 Who nominates sites?

Countries (or States Parties) submit nomination proposals to the World Heritage Committee. If the Committee determines, based on the recommendations of its Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS and IUCN), that the nomination meets at least one of the necessary criteria, then the property proposed by the State Party is inscribed on the World Heritage List. In general, the Committee adds about 25-30 sites per year to the list. Today there are 1007 sites on the list, located in 161 countries around the world.

For more information please refer to the Operational Guidelines <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>

7 What are the criteria for nominating a site?

To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of the following ten selection criteria.

Selection criteria

1. to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
2. to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
3. to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
4. to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological
5. to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
6. to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
7. to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
8. to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;

9. to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
10. to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

8 Who owns a site once it's inscribed on the World Heritage List?

The site is the property of the country on whose territory it is located, but it is considered in the interest of the international community to protect the site for future generations. Its protection and preservation becomes a concern of the international World Heritage community as a whole.