

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

**Culture Sector
World Heritage Centre**

Ref: CL/WHC-25/08

28 July 2025

Madam, Sir,

I have the honour to invite you to the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, which will meet for its 25th session on 11 November in Samarkand (Uzbekistan) during the 43rd session of the General Conference of UNESCO to examine the items of the provisional agenda relating to the opening of the General Assembly, the election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur and the adoption of the agenda and timetable, and on 24 and 25 November 2025 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, to consider the remaining agenda items, in accordance with Resolution 2 EXT.GA 3, adopted at the 2nd extraordinary session of the General Assembly of States Parties (UNESCO, 2025).

The General Assembly will be called upon, inter alia, to replace the outgoing members of the World Heritage Committee. Please note that the seats of the following 12 States Parties will become available: Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Zambia.

In accordance with Rule 35.1(a) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, I would be grateful if you would inform the World Heritage Centre, no later than **30 September 2025**, of your country's intention to present its candidature to the World Heritage Committee. A copy of your letter of application can be emailed to my colleague, Mr Richard Veillon of the Policy and Statutory Meetings Unit, r.veillon@unesco.org, with a copy to n.valanchon@unesco.org.

Please note that according to Rule 35.1(b) of the Rules of Procedure, members of the World Heritage Committee may stand for election after a gap of six years following the expiry of their previous mandate.

I seize this occasion to recall that Resolution **13 GA 9** of the General Assembly of States Parties invites the States Parties to voluntarily reduce their term of office from six to four years. Should you wish to present your candidature to the World Heritage Committee elections, I should be grateful if you could indicate whether your country will decide to voluntarily reduce its term of office to four years, if elected.

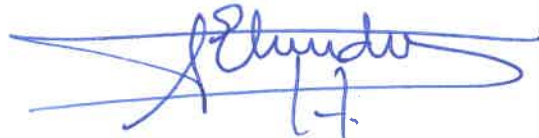
I would like also to draw to your attention that, for a State Party to be eligible as a member of the World Heritage Committee, the conditions set by Article 16, paragraph 5 of the *World Heritage Convention* must be met. That paragraph states that:

"...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 [...]"

The provisional list of candidates - including updated information on the status of all compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund - will be made available to all States Parties at least four weeks before the 25th session of the General Assembly, in line with Rule 35.1(c) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. Please note that for the sake of transparency, candidatures already received have been uploaded at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/25GA> on the website of the World Heritage Centre and that information related to the number of seats to be filled during the 25th session of the General Assembly is also available at the same address:

The modalities for the holding of the General Assembly as well as the working documents for this session will be made available in due course.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Assomo', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Lazare Eloundou Assomo
Director

CC: Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN)