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Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Delegate of the  
Republic of Estonia to UNESCO  
17, rue de la Baume  
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**Culture Sector  
World Heritage Centre**

Ref: CLT/WHC/ENA/25/15149

Dear Ambassador,

Firstly, I would like to extend my best wishes for the New Year.

Now that the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting has been completed in all regions, I would like to refer back to my letter of 15 April 2022 (ref.: CLT/WHC/EUR/22/13819) regarding the **World Heritage Online Map Platform** (WHOMP)<sup>1</sup> and renew my invitation to submit geospatial data for World Heritage properties on your territory to populate this innovative monitoring tool. If you visit this platform, you will notice that yours is one of the few States Parties in Europe and North America not to have submitted this data.

As you know, clear delimitations are essential for the effective conservation, management and protection of World Heritage. However, the World Heritage Centre still holds mainly non-digitised cartographic information, with varying degrees of quality and accuracy. In the day-to-day work of the Centre, Advisory Bodies and site managers, the effective use of these non-georeferenced maps for monitoring purposes presents several challenges. For example, locating potential threats to sites' Outstanding Universal Values (i.e., forest fires, flooding, etc.) using non-georeferenced maps is generally impractical and imprecise. The **World Heritage Online Map Platform**, developed thanks to the generous support of the Government of Flanders (Belgium), addresses this shortcoming and offers States Parties increased possibilities to monitor the state of conservation of World Heritage properties on their territory leveraging on geospatial technologies and paving the way for benefiting from more advanced Earth observation systems.

Following Decision 46 COM 5A<sup>2</sup>, by which the World Heritage Committee, at its last session (New Delhi, 2024), encouraged all States Parties to submit georeferenced data in order to fully benefit from the potential of this tool for monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties, I would be grateful if your competent authorities could provide the World Heritage Centre with the GIS layers of the property below **no later than 28 March 2025**:

- Historic Centre (Old Town) of Tallinn

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<sup>1</sup> <https://whc.unesco.org/en/wh-gis/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8453/>

Georeferenced data should preferably be provided using the following online submission forms:

- <https://survey.unesco.org/2021/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=549331&lang=en>  
(English)
- <https://survey.unesco.org/2021/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=549331&lang=fr>  
(French)

Guidelines on the provision of geospatial World Heritage data are provided to States Parties to assist, as needed, in the digitisation of World Heritage boundaries and buffer zones. They can be accessed via the following link: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000386781>.

GIS data of the boundaries of World Heritage properties is welcome in common formats<sup>3</sup> and must strictly conform to the most recent delimitation adopted by the World Heritage Committee. All GIS layers will be subject to verification prior to inclusion on the web platform. If discrepancies are found, the State Party will be contacted by the project team to correct the data. Data received before the above deadline will have a chance, after appropriate review, to be included in WHOMP before the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee in 2025.

Please note that the World Heritage Online Map Platform project relies on the voluntary participation of States Parties and is separate from and complementary to the Retrospective Inventory project, an exercise launched in 2004 and for which the World Heritage Centre reviews geographic and cartographic information on World Heritage properties. **Please note that maps have not been requested as part of the Retrospective Inventory for the properties listed above.**

I am confident that your competent authorities will share the wish of the World Heritage Centre to include georeferenced maps of the abovementioned World Heritage site in your territory as part of this digitisation process, which aims to integrate the latest available technologies into the monitoring of their state of conservation.

Should you have any questions or require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the project team at [wh-gis@unesco.org](mailto:wh-gis@unesco.org).

I thank you for your continuous collaboration and support in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and remain,

Yours sincerely,



Lazare Eloundou Assomo  
Director

cc: National Commission for UNESCO  
National Focal Point for World Heritage

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<sup>3</sup> For example, ESRI Shapefile, OGC GML, GeoJSON. Kindly avoid submitting .dwg files (AutoCad).