

**To: States Parties to the World
Heritage Convention
(Non-Committee Members)**

**Culture Sector
World Heritage Centre**

Ref.: CLT/WHC/PSM/26/117

20 May 2026

**Subject: Invitation to the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee, Busan,
Republic of Korea, 19-29 July 2026**

Dear Madam/Sir,

On behalf of the Director-General and in accordance with Rule 8.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee which states that "*States Parties to the Convention which are not Committee Members may attend the sessions of the Committee as observers*", I have the honour of inviting you to participate as an observer in the **48th session of the World Heritage Committee**. The Committee session will take place in Busan (Republic of Korea), at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Center (BEXCO), from **19 to 29 July 2026**.

I would be grateful if you could send to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, at the following address wh-states@unesco.org, the list of name(s) and title(s) of the person(s) designated to represent your Government at the forthcoming session of the Committee. Participants from your country not mentioned in this list will not be confirmed in the registration system even if they have the registration code. Allow me also to recall Decision **34 COM 2A** (Brasilia, 2010), by which the Committee "*encourages Observer States Parties to limit the size of their delegations to the World Heritage Committee sessions to a maximum of 15 persons*".

1. Meeting documents

Please find enclosed the Provisional Agenda and Timetable for the session. The General Information document containing complete details of all the arrangements made for the session is also enclosed herewith.

Working and information documents for the 48th session can be consulted in both English and French at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/48COM> starting from **5 June 2026**, and as they become available. In an effort to minimize environmental impact and reduce costs, hard copies of the documents will not be provided.

The working languages of the Committee are English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in both languages. Thanks to the generosity of Spain, interpretation in Spanish will be also available during the session. Please also note that the debates of the meeting can be followed in real time by webcast and without registration at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/48COM>.

2. Registration of participants and logistics

All participation requests shall be submitted online and will follow a 2-step process. To register, please follow the instructions at the following address:

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/48COM>

In order to register as an **Observer State Party Non-Committee Member**, kindly note that your access code is **BUSAN48SP**.

All delegates who wish to attend the 48th session are strongly encouraged to register as soon as possible and preferably before **19 June 2026**. This will enable the speedy processing of the information and prevent any inconvenience for the participants.

Should you require any assistance, encounter any difficulties with the online registration process, or if you have not received a confirmation e-mail, please reach out by using the contact form available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/48COM>.

Participants are encouraged to book their hotels as soon as possible. Further information on hotels is available in the General Information document and on the Host Country's dedicated website at <https://48whcbusan2026.kr>. Please note that the travel, accommodation, subsistence expenses and all insurance costs of participants are their own responsibility. Please also note that any information or requests sent to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre regarding hotel reservations or travel will be considered for information purpose only and will not be processed.

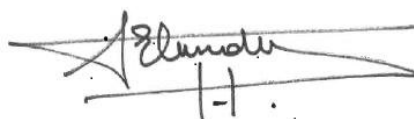
Should you wish that some entities/institutions from your country attend the session without being part of your official delegation, please ask them to send a request for observer status to the Secretariat at wh-info@unesco.org. Such letter, which will explain how the activities of this entity/institution relate to the World Heritage Convention and will specify the name(s) and title(s) of the person(s) designated to represent it, must be received **by 3 July 2026** at the latest. Please note that individuals and for-profit organizations are not eligible for observer status.

3. Visas

For all enquiries concerning visas and other formalities required to enter the Republic of Korea, please refer to the General Information document enclosed herewith.

To ensure visas are issued in time for the meeting, all participants are strongly encouraged to take the necessary steps to obtain their visa as soon as possible. I would like to inform you that no individual letter will be provided to support your visa application process, nor will the UNESCO World Heritage Centre be able to intervene regarding decisions taken by the Host country on visa applications.

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



Lazare Eloundou Assomo
Secretary, World Heritage Convention

Enc. Provisional Agenda of the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee
Provisional Timetable of the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee
General Information document
Rules of Procedure of the World Heritage Committee