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CALL FOR PAPERS

In conjunction with this year's meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee,
and in partnership with our network of civil society organizations,
World Heritage Watch is organizing an

International NGO Conference

The UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Development

8-9 July 2016

at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Istanbul, Turkey¹

The Conference follows an International NGO Forum held in St. Petersburg in 2012, and an International Conference on World Heritage and the Role of Civil Society in Bonn 2015.

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly has adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030 by all countries in the world (Agenda 2030). Sub-goal 11.4 reads: "Strengthen the efforts for the protection and safeguarding of the world's natural and cultural heritage".

Having now been named explicitly as a factor in sustainable development for the first time gives the world's natural and cultural heritage a significant increase in importance and appreciation - they are treated equally with other "global challenges" such as health care, education and poverty reduction.

With the implementation of this goal, new challenges arise both for the actors of natural and cultural heritage preservation and of socio-economic development. On one hand, the actors of natural and cultural heritage preservation are now called upon to widen their perspective from mere conservation measures and consider World Heritage properties in the context of their socio-economic environment. On the other hand, the actors of socio-economic development are required to understand and promote the preservation of natural and cultural heritage as a genuine contribution to sustainable development.

The Conference shall examine, based on case studies from the perspective of civil society,

- what action is needed in order to secure both the sustainable protection and sustainable development in the context of World Heritage properties;
- how progress toward sustainability in the protection and development of World Heritage properties can be monitored and measured through indicators;
- which changes in institutional structures and processes are required in order to achieve those goals;

¹ Depending on the security situation, the conference may be moved to another location.

- what challenges the governmental, non-governmental and international actors are facing in this context;
- how World Heritage properties can in turn contribute to sustainable development;
- what contributions civil society can make; and
- how more bottom-up processes can be established in the management of World Heritage properties and more people can be engaged for the World Heritage.

The conference will break up into five sessions on Natural Properties, Cultural Landscapes, Historic Cities, Buildings and Sites, and Indigenous Peoples.

The Specific Outputs of the conference will be

1. A **Methodology and Indicators** for measuring the sustainability of conservation and development of World Heritage properties.
2. An **Evaluation** of the situation of selected World Heritage properties from the perspective of civil society, particularly with regard to the sustainability of their protection and/or development.
3. A **Recommendation** to the international donor community how to implement Agenda 2030 with respect to the World Heritage.
4. **Information** of the international public about progress and challenges in implementing the World Heritage Convention from the perspective of civil society.
5. **Establishment** of a national civil society network for the World Heritage in Turkey.

We invite any and all persons of any occupational background - except officials involved on state or international level in decision-making on world heritage sites - to submit to us papers which you believe could contribute to reaching the Conference's objectives.

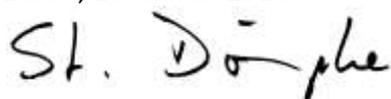
Please be as specific, concise and detailed as possible, and make clear suggestions for action. We also suggest that you consult the Final Document of the WHW 2015 Bonn Conference, and the "Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention".

Please send your full paper by 1 May 2016 to contact@world-heritage-watch.org in English, German, Russian or Spanish language. The paper must not be longer than 3 pages of text written in Arial 11pt, 2,5cm margins, single-spaced, with minimum formatting (bold, italics, underline). No abstract needed. Photos and maps must be sent in individual files (jpg of not less than 1MB or pdf) each. Papers not observing these guidelines will not be considered.

In addition, please also send us a portrait photo (jpg, min. 1MB) and a short biography explaining your age, profession and livelihood, membership in a civil society organization (if any), and the type of your involvement in the UNESCO World Heritage.

The papers will be selected until 15 May 2016. In case your paper will be selected for presentation, you will receive an official invitation, and we will try to support your travel expenses. No honorariums will be paid for the presentations.

Berlin, 20 March 2016



Stephan Doempke

Chairman of the Board, World Heritage Watch