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13th Session

Agenda Item: B

**Securing Natural World Heritage Sites
Maintaining Integrity of Natural World Heritage Sites**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization General Conference,

Deeply alarmed that 33% of Natural World Heritage sites are highly threatened by climate change, which results in them losing their Outstanding Universal Values (OUV),

Concerned about the vandalism created by tourists to Natural World Heritage sites,

Realizing that over-tourism is affecting the integrity of Natural World Heritage sites because one of the causes of harming the environment is caused by bad behavior,

Acknowledging tourists who destroy Natural World Heritage sites by drawing graffiti is prohibited since it affects the integrity of Natural World Heritage sites,

Considering invasive alien species which tourists bring from their own Member States results in harm to ecosystems of Natural World Heritage sites,

Recalling the main challenge of protecting and maintaining Natural World Heritage sites for many Member States is the lack of financial resources to initiate, prepare, sustain, and continue comprehensive long-term plans,

Reaffirming the need of technological application in the process of detecting and handling issues that arise regarding protection and management of Natural World Heritage sites,

Recognizing the lack of expert knowledge in relevant fields, including but not limited to geology, biology, marine life study, silvology, zoology, in identifying the damages in Natural World Heritage sites to develop a course of actions to remedy,

Deeply concerned about the lack of financial support for research on topics such as approaches to protecting the integrity of Natural World Heritage sites,

Greatly concerned that the gap of Internet penetration rate between Member States can result in low awareness towards protection among its citizens,

Calling attention to the fact that Member States with financial concerns and few foreign investments cannot introduce technical devices because of the high initial startup cost,

Further concerned that the lack of measurement on the illegal logging by local residents has resulted in deforestation,

Realizing the urgent need for financial support in most Latin American Member States to protect and maintain their Natural World Heritage sites,

1. *Calls for* all Member States to submit reports to share information about the current situation and policies regarding the effects of climate change on Natural World Heritage sites;
2. *Recommends* all Member States raise awareness of visitors by handing out guidelines before they enter Natural World Heritage sites in order to better maintain them such as:
 - a. Broadcasting;
 - b. Putting out signs;
3. *Suggests* more promotion for ecotourism to take the advantage of tourism effectively by minimizing environmental damage and at the same time receive profits from tourism so that Member States can use Natural World Heritage sites to help residents maintain the local ecological balance;
4. *Recommends* all Member States to welcome volunteers and young people to participate in maintaining educational systems such as holding workshops to address graffiti problems in order to create better tourist attractions;
5. *Encourages* all Member States to use more tourism profits in the cleaning process such as disinfecting visitors' shoes so that no invasive alien species can enter the sites;
6. *Recommends* all Member States to form and join a knowledge sharing platform on handling related damage to Natural World Heritage sites, by inviting experts who have better management skills and knowledge to share those skills and knowledge;
7. *Calls upon* Member States to develop educational systems for the local community especially the younger generation to address about vandalism and impact of production activities on natural heritage through programs such as internships;
8. *Encourages* the World Heritage Centre to provide financial and in-kind support for special programs for Member States, who have been cut off from sources of income because of COVID-19 and which has affected their Natural World Heritage sites, by:
 - a. Requesting the World Heritage Center to expand the scope of Member States to be supported as much as possible so that Member States who have the same problem can improve the actual condition;
 - b. Acknowledging that in-kind support includes information, knowledge, advice, original products (for the private sector), etc., and that the distribution of such support will be universal;

9. *Strongly recommends* relevant Member States to form a strategic financial plan to acquire necessary funds for maintenance activities by:
 - a. Keeping the goal of the project to help Member States with limited financial resources fulfill their plan to maintain Natural World Heritage sites' integrity;
 - b. Proposing the initial idea of the plan to acquire funds for maintenance activities from the income generated by opening Natural World Heritage sites for tourism;
 - c. Keeping in mind the principle of the project is to keep the sites safe during the process of using them for tourism purposes;
 - d. Promoting the recognition that development and profits gained from proper tourism is one of the key factors to succeeding in protecting, maintaining, and popularizing Natural World Heritage sites;

10. *Requests* international organizations and governments to utilize media such as newspapers or brochures, as well as digital media where appropriate, to raise the awareness of the value of Natural World Heritage sites;

11. *Recommends* government gain the understanding of local people by:
 - a. Holding meetings involving local communities where people whose interests align with the use of Natural Heritage Sites' resources can realize the importance of the protection of the Natural World Heritage sites;
 - b. Giving workshops and educational programs for future generations;

12. *Draws the attention* to the biodiversity in developing Member States to further shed light on the need for conservation by:
 - a. Promoting eco-friendly tourist agendas that maintain the activities in a limited program and time;
 - b. Acknowledging the local people who live around Natural World Heritage sites and are respectful towards the community and the people who live there;

13. *Welcomes* all Member States to cooperate to establish an inter-regional trade protectionism system to protect their own market from globalization in order to improve the domestic financial situation for the purpose of giving the government more funds to invest in tourism and nature conservation.