

**13th Session**

Agenda item: C

**Securing Natural World Heritage Sites  
Assisting in Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change**

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

*Reaffirming* the Monitoring Natural World Heritage sites document (1983) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources states that every Member State should be responsible for the safeguarding, caring, presenting, and conveying of their respective Natural World Heritage sites, and in accordance with this, the indigenous peoples who live in or near the Natural World Heritage,

*Remembering* indigeneous peoples know their respective Natural World Heritage sites better than anyone and have the capacity and expertise to monitor and guard them,

*Noting* that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) addresses the relevant concerns on Natural World Heritage sites, and mentions two main categories which are, actions to focus on cutting net emissions of greenhouse gasses in order to reduce climate change effects, and actions to support communities and ecosystems for coping with changing climate conditions,

*Being aware of* smaller partnerships between developing Member States that can share scientific data, research, knowledge, and information more easily to lower the risk of various environmental damage compared to larger scaled partnerships,

*Deeply concerned* that developing Member States have not been able to participate or hold workshops because of a lack of experts who have skills in mitigation and adaptation to climate change in order to protect Natural World Heritage sites,

*Reaffirming* World Heritage partnerships for conservation range from public to private sectors, and Natural World Heritage sites need a large number of people for their protection,

*Nothing* that the threat of climate change is so serious that the World Heritage Centre still needs more types of partnerships,

*Reaffirming* that climate change impacts Natural World Heritage sites, in various ways such as sea level, sea temperature, air temperature rising, and ocean acidification, which negatively impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Natural Heritage sites,

1. *Recommends* that all Member States, especially developing nations with high climate change vulnerability, with the advice of UNESCO, establish their own independent immediate recovery fund system from the UNESCO World Heritage Fund, exclusively for the recovery from climate change damage in Natural World Heritage sites in order to quickly respond to climate change and protect the integrity of sites;
2. *Suggests* local entities, such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), in charge of managing Natural World Heritage sites start crowdfunding projects for the purpose of raising awareness of the threat of climate change on Natural World Heritage sites and mitigating existing issues caused by climate change;
3. *Further suggests* Member States with UNESCO create three scales of partnerships which are:
  - a. Among Member States experiencing similar problems in order to share technical support and cooperate, exchange expert opinions to discover challenges and solutions, and share information and best practices to protect Natural World Heritage sites from threat of climate change;
  - b. Regional partnerships to help monitor Natural World Heritage sites to find damaged sites quickly and easily by using patrol boats or drones for faster recovery so that there will be less climate change damage to these sites;
  - c. Smaller scale partnerships within regions to establish smoother information exchange, such as scientific data, knowledge, research, and resources;
4. *Recommends* Member States collaborate with UNESCO to provide and create a new program similar to the Business Skills for Natural World Heritage Site Managers programme to train the locals and indigenous people to give proper skills and knowledge to help their communities perform their duties better;
5. *Suggests* Member States collaborate with UNESCO to organize more educational events so that local people can build their knowledge for adaptation and mitigation of climate change to protect Natural World Heritage sites by dispatching professionals or researchers from developed Member States which have previously held workshops;
6. *Recommends* Member States collaborate with UNESCO to educate local people who live near Natural World Heritage sites, local companies and local experts, through workshops about global warming topics, such as rising sea levels and temperatures, which affect Natural World Heritage sites to raise awareness.