



Extended 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee

Oral statement on Item 7

Mr. Chairman,

may we also congratulate the People's Republic of China, and also the World Heritage Centre under the leadership of Dr. Rössler, for the successful organization of the 44th Session of the Committee under extremely difficult conditions.

We have observed that in 69 properties under examination by 44COM the Draft Decision states that the State Parties in question have not sufficiently followed their obligations under §172 of the Operational Guidelines.

We also observe that the Committee will decide on the inscription of no less than 45 properties on the World Heritage List, taking a full four days of its agenda, while not even all of the properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and other sites under imminent threat of destruction, such as the Acropolis of Athens and the Curonian Spit, will be on the agenda.

It is urgent that the Committee revise its priorities – away from inscribing ever more sites while being unable to sufficiently address the problems of sites already under its tutelage. It is also urgent to establish a mechanism to ensure as much as possible that States Parties cannot continue unhindered a strategy to ignore or defy their obligations under the Convention.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.