



Extended 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee

Oral statement on Item 7 (Closing of the Item)

Thank you Mr. Chair,

on behalf of 33 civil society actors we conclude on Item 7:

1. Restricted to interventions after decisions were adopted, civil society was unable to contribute to the decision-making process as the Operational Guidelines require. Decision-making would benefit from civil society contributions to safeguard World Heritage in the spirit of the 5Cs.
2. Some members of the Committee have made unfounded political allegations against civil society representatives, Discussion should be based on facts alone.
3. Some Committee members have disregarded science-based recommendations of the Advisory Bodies and Secretariat, giving priority to unrelated considerations, eroding the credibility of the Convention and, at times, failing to meet the task of protecting the World Heritage.
4. We fully support the demands of indigenous peoples as rights-holders for their participatory, prior and fully-informed consent to all decisions that could affect them.

Thank you Mr. Chair.