



Committee - United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

Country- The Commonwealth of Australia

Agenda - Protecting UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Conflict Areas.

Aims

- Australia aims to promote cooperation among nations to protect heritage around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations.
- It is intended that, unlike the seven wonders of the ancient world, properties on the World Heritage List will be conserved for all time.
- 'Adopt a general policy that aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programs'
- undertake 'appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures necessary for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of this heritage'
- refrain from 'any deliberate measures which might damage, directly or indirectly, the cultural and natural heritage' of other Parties to the Convention, and to help other Parties in the identification and protection of their properties.

In October 2007, Australia was elected as a member of the Committee for a four year term.

The Committee's main tasks are to:

- decide on the inscription of new properties on the World Heritage List
- discuss all matters relating to the implementation of the Convention
- consider requests for international assistance
- advise State Parties on how they can ensure States meet their obligations under the Convention to protect World Heritage Properties
- administer the World Heritage Fund.

Australia is a committed advocate for the protection of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, particularly through its adherence to international conventions like the World Heritage Convention and the 1954 Hague Convention. While Australia's direct involvement in conflict-affected zones is limited, it supports global efforts by funding UNESCO programs, promoting international heritage protection standards, and enacting strong national legislation such as the World Heritage Properties Conservation Act. Through these actions, Australia reinforces its role in safeguarding cultural and natural heritage, emphasizing the importance of preservation even amidst conflict.