

## **Running and Expanding the World Heritage Site *Frontiers of the Roman Empire***

### ***Joint Declaration***

The World Heritage Site – Frontiers of the Roman Empire (WHS FRE) is a serial transnational World Heritage Site (WHS).

The State Parties involved hereby declare their aim to conserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of this exceptional archaeological structure. They agree to collaborate in order to preserve this WHS, to develop knowledge about it and to transmit this to future generations.

The States Parties hereby declare their commitment to coordinate the management of the WHS. They

- look forward to continuing their cooperation for the benefit and success of the WHS FRE
- will be guided by the Operational Guidelines and decisions of the World Heritage Committee relating to the WHS FRE
- recognise the importance of – and need for – coordinated management and monitoring as the foundation for practical actions between and in all participating States Parties
- agree to continue collaboration in order to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit to future generations this common heritage of Outstanding Universal Value.

It is also the aim of the States Parties that the WHS FRE should be expanded to include as much of the preserved structures of the frontiers of the Roman Empire as feasible. The State Parties recognise that, as the former Roman border stretches over three continents, extending the WHS will be a complex process.

Each State Party is responsible for taking care of conservation and management of the property within its territory, in accordance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention, the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (“Operational Guidelines”) and the decisions of the World

Heritage Committee. This responsibility is managed by each State Party in its own right, in accordance with its legislative and management systems.

In line with section 135 of the Operational Guidelines, an Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) is established to coordinate at an international level the management and development of the whole of the WHS.

By joining the IGC, the respective national and regional governments, archaeological and heritage agencies declare their commitment to the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the site within their jurisdiction in accordance with the highest archaeological and heritage standards.

The terms of reference of the IGC are set out below.

### ***Terms of Reference of the Intergovernmental Committee***

#### **1. Intergovernmental Committee**

The Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) is established in order to coordinate overall management of the FRE WHS at an international level. Its Terms of Reference are approved unanimously by all the States Parties involved in the FRE WHS.

The current State Parties involved are the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom.

#### **2. Membership**

Membership of the IGC consists of the delegations of the States Parties which care for a section of the WHS FRE currently inscribed.

The delegations are composed of at least one member of the respective administrations in charge of the national sections of the WHS as well as at least one expert in archaeology or heritage. Delegations may not exceed 5 members.

### **3. Objectives**

The objectives of the IGC are

- to coordinate at an international level the management, monitoring and development of the WHS FRE
- to advise and support its members in their efforts to conserve and manage those parts of the WHS FRE which are under their respective responsibility, in accordance with the World Heritage Convention
- to promote best practice and common approaches to ensure the continuing World Heritage status of the component parts of the FRE WHS
- to develop further the management systems of the FRE WHS as an evolving instrument, based on the management principles contained in the WHS FRE summary nomination statement (2004).

### **4 Procedures**

#### **4.1 Chair of the IGC**

The IGC is chaired by one of the State Party members of the IGC. The Chair will provide secretariat support for organising meetings, disseminating information to IGC members, preparing documents for meetings, recording the IGC's discussions and coordinating common actions.

The Chairmanship changes each year on February 1. It is allocated according to the alphabetical order of the names of the States Parties in English.

#### **4.2 Meetings**

The IGC meets at least once a year. After consulting other members, the Chair of the IGC convenes the meetings and decides on the agenda.

An extraordinary meeting may be requested by any State Party member of the IGC at any time, in writing to the Chair. The Chair will then decide whether and when to convene an extraordinary meeting, after consultation with other members of the IGC.

### **4.3 Decisions**

Decisions of the IGC are taken by a two thirds majority of States Parties members of the IGC present, except where otherwise stated below.

The quorum for a decision is at least two thirds of all States Parties members.

Other members of the IGC and Observers participate without the right to vote.

### **4.4 Observers**

The Chair may invite observers to attend IGC meetings, after consultation with other members of the IGC.

These may include observers from those States Parties which care for a section of the WHS FRE which is not yet inscribed, particularly of those states which are in the process of developing a nomination.

They may also include third party observers, such as the World Heritage Centre, World Heritage Advisory Bodies and others with special competences in specific subjects to be dealt with at a meeting in order to make a contribution on a consultative basis.

### **4.5 Publications**

Members of the IGC are consulted before publication of any document or statement in the name of the IGC. All publications in the name of the IGC are agreed unanimously by all State Party members.

### **4.6 Languages**

The working language of the IGC is English.

### **4.7 Expenses**

The costs of participating in IGC meetings are met by the participants.

### **4.8 Advisory groups**

The IGC may seek advice from advisory bodies such as the Management Group and the Bratislava Group.

#### **4.8.1 Management Group**

The Management Group is made up of those directly responsible for the site management of the currently inscribed sections of the WHS FRE. The Management Group provides the primary mechanism for sharing best practice in relation to WHS FRE.

#### **4.8.2 Bratislava Group**

The Bratislava Group is an international scientific advisory body with expert members from States Parties containing inscribed or potential parts of the WHS FRE. The Bratislava Group aims to share knowledge and experience of Roman frontiers and their identification, protection, conservation, management and presentation, leading to the distillation of a common viewpoint. Through technical and professional advice the Bratislava Group provides a scientific framework for the whole of the Roman frontiers. The group supports States Parties by:

- advising on the significance of the Roman frontiers and on the development of best practice guides for their management and improving their understanding
- developing support structures such as an overall research strategy, an international Roman frontiers database and websites.

### **5 Tasks**

#### **5.1 Coordination**

The IGC coordinates the management of the WHS FRE at the international level. It coordinates responses to the World Heritage Centre for all questions which relate to the whole of the WHS FRE. This task is managed by the Chair, which obtains and coordinates information from the States Parties. Individual State Parties will continue to make notifications to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The IGC is guided by management principles first set out in the WHS FRE summary nomination statement (2004). The common management principles deal with those aspects of the WHS FRE management which concern more than a single national segment of the WHS FRE.

## **5.2 Extensions to the WHS FRE**

### **5.2.1 Proposals to extend the WHS FRE**

Any prospective State Party which on its territory does preserve a part or parts of the FRE is invited to prepare a proposal to join the transnational serial WHS.

At the request of a State Party member of the World Heritage Convention, the IGC will consider proposed extensions to WHS FRE.

In accordance with the Operational Guidelines, the member States Parties of the IGC must agree unanimously on any proposal for extension to WHS FRE before the nomination is formally submitted to UNESCO.

### **5.2.2 Acceptance of this Declaration and Terms of Reference**

Any prospective State Party has to accept this Joint Declaration and Terms of Reference.

## **5.3 Monitoring / Evaluation**

The IGC supports States Parties in the UNESCO Periodic Reporting. Through its members it coordinates all matters of evaluation of the serial property relating to WHS FRE issues.

## **5.4 State of conservation**

It is noted that, according to the Operational Guidelines, if part of the property is at risk the whole property can be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

States Parties commit themselves to inform the IGC of proposed changes of the WHS FRE with significant impact on the OUV.

The IGC may consider the state of conservation of any component part of the WHS FRE as well as planned developments or operations that could potentially damage parts of the WHS FRE or its surroundings. The IGC may discuss with the State Party issues relating to the conservation of parts of the WHS FRE and its surroundings.

## **5.5 Presentation and research**

The IGC promotes the presentation of the WHS FRE. It encourages initiatives intended to contribute to the international recognition of the archaeological and historical value of the WHS FRE. It encourages scientific research in the WHS FRE.

## 6 Commencement and amendments

The IGC and these Terms of Reference come into effect on the date of the signing of this Joint Declaration.

The Terms of Reference may be amended at any time, subject to unanimous agreement of the State Party members.

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed five years from the date of signature of the Joint Declaration.



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