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Registration of Egyptian Heritage Sites on the World Heritage List

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1. Background:

Heritage is our legacy since the ancient eras. It encompasses what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. However, places as unique and diverse as Tanzania's Serengeti National Park, the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and the Lines make up our world's invaluable heritage.

Cultural and natural heritage are both priceless and irreplaceable; not only for each nation, but also for the entire humanity and the loss of this heritage, through deterioration or disappearance, is considered impoverishment of the heritage of all the peoples of the world. Parts of that heritage, due to their exceptional qualities, can be considered "outstanding universal value", and as such they are worth protection against the dangers which jeopardize them.

Consequently, based on the above-mentioned, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage all over the world; considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. Moreover, this is embodied in an international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972, which has proved to be an efficient and unique instrument of international cooperation in the protection of cultural and natural heritage. This is to be accomplished by raising public awareness and enhancing knowledge and capacity building in all signatory States. Nevertheless, what makes the concept of World Heritage exceptional is its universal application based on an international treaty forming a clear framework and guiding principle. World Heritage sites belong to all the peoples of the world, thus, lack of care where these sites are located, and their conservation is the shared responsibility of the entire mankind¹.

However, that does not mean that the country crowned by such heritage does not help in the conservation at all or even neglects any damage by leaving it for deterioration and pass all responsibilities to the world heritage convention because if they do so, the property will be on the world endangered heritage list and more deterioration will cause its deletion from the world heritage list for good. Therefore, the inscription of property in the world heritage list is not an end, it rather represents a challenge, and there are a lot of countries which preserve their heritage with all the methods and sources they have. Further, this is one of the important factors that affect the modern economy, because it affects tourism, which is one of the primary income sources and this is the most important benefit of World Heritage listing.

¹ Pierre Galland and Giorgio Andrian, Alessandra Borch, Andrea Burmester, Krešimir Culinovic, Vanja Debevec, Barbara Engels, Charlie Falzon, Sara Levi-Sacerdotti, Carla Maurano, Philippe Pypaert, Tobias Salathé;
PRESERVE WORLD HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EXEMPLARY QUALIFICATION CONCEPT FOR MANAGING UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE NATURAL SITES AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, SOUTH –EASTERN EUROPE AND ITALY – UNESCO – Germany – July 2008,P.7