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33rd Session of the World Heritage Committee to meet from 22-30 June in Seville, Spain

The World Heritage Committee is set to meet in Spain for the first time in the 1972 Convention's history this coming June. Seville, Andalusia and Spain are ready to welcome all those taking part in the Committee's thirty-third meeting.

The Ministry of Culture of the Spanish Government is working intensively, together with the Government of Andalusia and the Seville Town Council to ensure the smooth development of sessions. They are also endeavouring to complete the necessary meeting documents, both those of our advising bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM) as well as our Secretariat, the World Heritage Centre. Their work and the work of the delegations of the countries taking part shall make an intense and productive session a reality, bringing forward momentum to the great work developed by the 1972 Convention.

At UNESCO, the World Cultural and Natural Heritage Convention is often cited as an example of effective multilateralism and the Heritage Centre is known as the Organisation's flagship. My country shares this opinion and the high esteem for the work developed to identify, share and preserve this World Heritage that we must pass on to new generations. We hope that decades to come will see constant progress of the Convention in the world over.

Dear colleagues, the capital of Andalusia is famous in Spain for its hospitality, and I am sure it will live up to your expectations in June. I encourage you to enjoy its monuments and museums, savour its delicious cuisine and wander through its narrow streets under the spell of a Spanish guitar or Flamenco music. It is easy to understand why Seville was nominated City of Music within the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Our hosts shall organise visits to the buildings and World Heritage Sites in Seville and Andalusia and offer information on other sites in Spain. -I hope you enjoy yourselves.

My very best wishes for your meeting in Seville, and your stay in my country.

María Jesús San Segundo

Ambassador of Spain to Unesco

Chair, World Heritage Committee

Registration

All delegates and those who wish to attend the 33rd session as observers are strongly advised to register as soon as possible and no later than 22 May 2009. You can register on line [here](#) or using [this registration form](#) and returning it by fax to +34 91 701 73 81 or by e-mail to: sevilla2009@mcu.es

Registration will therefore take place in two steps. First, the registration form must be completed and submitted for review (on line, by fax or by mail) by all those who wish to attend the 33rd session. Once accreditation or approval has been given, applicants will be notified of the confirmation of their registration and provided with a personal access code. This code will be needed to complete other arrangements such as booking your accommodation, registering for any events to be held during the session, and for organizing any optional post-session excursions. For those who cannot use the on-line registration, the session organizers will provide assistance in order to help complete arrangements for the 33rd session. Please communicate with *Viajes El Corte Inglés*:

Phone number: +34 954 25 47 18 +34 954 25 28 75 +34 954 25 92 73

Fax: +34 954 25 11 18

E-mail: fibes@viajeseci.es

The session organizers will continue to process registrations and/or modifications made to existing registrations after 22 May 2009. However, it will not be possible to guarantee smooth processing of late registrations, and reserved hotel accommodation may no longer be available.

Passport, Visa and Other Travel Information

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Web site at <http://www.maec.es/en/Home/Paginas/HomeEn.aspx> provides helpful information for international visitors travelling to Spain. The site covers details about entry requirements such as who needs a visa and how to apply for one. It is strongly recommended that session participants examine this site prior to making arrangements for their trip to Spain.

Meeting Venue

The 33rd Session of the World Heritage Committee will be held in the Seville Conference and Exhibition Centre (FIBES), the business centre of the city. It is located at 1 Avenida Alcalde Luis Uruñuela, Seville. For a general overview of the facility, please see: <http://www.fibes.es/intro.php>

FIBES is located on the east end of Seville, approximately 20 minutes by car from the city centre.

Accommodation

For the convenience of session participants, session organizers have set aside up to 750 hotel rooms at nine different hotels in Seville for the duration of the meeting. The hotels are located in three different areas of the city:

- the FIBES area, which is adjacent to the venue,
- the city centre,
- the financial area, which is between FIBES and the city centre.

Participants who stay at any of the hotels specified [here](#) will be provided with a special transport service between the hotel and FIBES.