Board draft resolution to amend Articles 3 and 66 of the Rules of Procedure

Background
The Rules of Procedure were adopted by the General Assembly at an Extraordinary General Meeting in 2017. Since their adoption and implementation, the Board has observed a need for some amendments and clarifications of the Rules, in particular those relating to the election of the Board should the nomination and election process not achieve the objectives of the Statutes. Another issue has arisen in relation to the appointment of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel, where there is a discrepancy between the Rules and Annex 6 of the World Heritage Committee’s Operational Guidelines.

Article 3 World Heritage
Article 3-4 refers to the composition of the World Heritage Panel, and states:

The ICOMOS World Heritage Panel will comprise the elected Bureau members of the Board of ICOMOS, experts from ICOMOS International Scientific Committees, and other international experts chosen for their particular area of expertise based on the nominated properties, so that the Panel is gender balanced and represents all regions of the world and a wide range of skills and experience. Representatives from other Advisory Bodies may be invited to attend Panel meetings as observers.

This description does not match the wording of Annex 6 of the Operational Guidelines for the World Heritage Committee, which states:

The ICOMOS World Heritage Panel comprises individual ICOMOS members who collectively represent all regions of the world and possess a wide range of relevant cultural heritage skills and experience. Some of these members serve on the Panel for a fixed term while others are appointed for one year only according to the characteristics of the nominated properties to be examined.

In addition, the present Article 3-4 restricts the appointment of Panel members to some extent, and does not make it clear how the Panel is appointed.

Article 66 Elections for the Board and Bureau
Article 66 deals with a number of situations that may arise during elections (such as where two or more candidates from a single country are included in the 20 candidates receiving the highest number of votes), but does not deal with others, such as the possibility that only one candidate has indicated an intention to stand for the position of Treasurer and that candidate fails to be elected to the Board. In addition, the present Article 66-5 is irrelevant because the Statutes were not amended in this respect by the General Assembly.

Timing
In the Board’s view, these two amendments, which are largely procedural, should be addressed at the earliest possible opportunity, so that they are in place for the next sessions of the World Heritage Panel in 2019 and the elections to be held at the General Assembly in 2020. Accordingly, the Board has decided to ask the Annual General Assembly in 2019 to approve a resolution giving effect to the amendments below, which are self-explanatory.

A number of other amendments to the Rules have been proposed, notably to the Articles dealing with the classification and adoption of doctrinal texts which are currently under review by the Scientific Council. It is the intention of the Board to consult members on further proposed changes to the Rules and to prepare any amendments for adoption at the 2020 General Assembly.

Resolution
The Annual General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Marrakech on 16 October 2019:

Recalling Extraordinary General Assembly resolution EGA 2017/6;

Noting that the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure have been prepared by the Board in accordance with Article 10-d-10;

Having examined the proposed Rules of Procedure, as well as the Background report prepared by the Board;
Adopts by a simple statutory majority the amendments to Articles 3 and 66 of the Rules of Procedure as follows:

(a) Deleting the present Article 3-4 and inserting the following as Article 3-4:

4. The President will chair the World Heritage Panel or will appoint a Chair or two co-Chairs. The Panel Chair(s) shall appoint the World Heritage Panel on the advice of the ICOMOS World Heritage Units. The Panel shall comprise individual ICOMOS members who collectively are gender balanced, represent all regions of the world and possess a wide range of relevant cultural heritage skills and experience, chosen each year for their particular area of expertise based on the nominated properties.

(b) Deleting the present Article 66-5 and inserting the following as Article 66-5:

5 In the event that:
   a. fewer than twenty candidates are recommended by the Candidatures Committee as fulfilling the requirements to stand for election to the Board;
   b. fewer than twenty members are elected to the Board pursuant to Article 66-1;
   c. there is only a single candidate for the position of President, Secretary General or Treasurer, and that candidate is not elected to the Board, or receives less than a majority of votes cast for the position for which he is standing; or
   d. fewer than five candidates for Vice-President are elected to the Board;

   nominations for the vacant position(s) shall be called from the floor. The Elections Committee shall verify that any such nominations have the agreement of the member(s) nominated, and the support from the number of members, National Committees and countries required by Article 63. From among the eligible candidates, the election for the vacant position(s) shall then be held in accordance with the above procedures.