

DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE 48TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
(Busan, Republic of Korea 19-29 July 2026)

Decision: 48 COM 8B.29 The World Heritage Committee,

1-Having examined Documents WHC/26/48.COM/8B and WHC/26/48.COM/INF.8B1,

2-Defers the examination of the nomination of the **Bulwarked Fortresses of the Raia, Portugal**, in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:

- a) Reconceptualise the nomination to clearly define a conceptual framework and parameters that identify the essential features of the Raia system and how it is expressed and linked by relevant selected fortresses,
- b) Conduct further research on construction chronology, technological transfers, and cross-border military interactions to clarify historical significance,
- c) Reassess the serial approach and consider a more representative selection of fortresses to reflect typological diversity, geographical distribution, and strategic functions of the Raia system,
- d) Strengthen the comparative analysis with additional Raia fortifications and relevant European and global examples to substantiate claims relating to the potential Outstanding Universal Value,
- e) Document the attributes of each of the component parts that will be selected, in terms of their location, topography, typology, conservation state, authenticity, and integrity,
- f) Address management, conservation, risk management, and visitor interpretation issues to demonstrate long-term protection and sustainability;

3-Considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site;

4-Notes that ICOMOS remains available to provide advice, should the State Party wish to seek such guidance.

<https://whc.unesco.org/document/226969>