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(Original)**

**International Council of Museums
Operating Policy**

OP 13.02

SUBJECT: Charters, Declarations, and Proclamations

DATE: June 2007

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Operating Policy is to ensure understanding and a standardized approach in the drafting, inscribing, proclaiming, or declaring of charters, declarations, and proclamations, and their endorsement and distribution.

REVIEW: This Operating Policy (OP) will be reviewed by October 1 of each third year by the Director General or a representative group appointed by the ICOM President, with recommendations for revisions forwarded to the ICOM Director General by November 15.

POLICY:

The drafting, inscribing, proclaiming, or declaring of charters, declarations, and proclamations is an important opportunity for ICOM to make and endorse a perspective or view of an important issue or concern to the international museum community. Therefore, careful consideration must be given to all such documents that profess the core values and beliefs of ICOM as the representative body of the international museum community.

The name and identity of ICOM have a unique position in both the museum community and the larger heritage sector, and to ensure organisational endorsement, all charters, declarations, and proclamations must be reviewed and authorized by the Executive Council prior to dissemination.

Charters, declarations, and proclamations in any form, for any purpose, or originating from any source should not be circulated, published, distributed or made available in print or by any other media as "ICOM Documents" or in the name of "ICOM" without approval by the Executive Council.

General Statement about Charters, Declarations, and Proclamations

ICOM recognises the value of charters, declarations, and proclamations as a means for promoting certain ideals, values, and beliefs; however, it also recognises that the circumstances and conditions that may generate such

documents may be charged with special interests that, although meaningful, may not advocate the worldview or the museological values embraced by ICOM.

The required scrutiny makes no presumption about the merits of the proposed charters, declarations, or proclamations, it does however, affix an enhanced level of creditability on the name and purpose of ICOM.