

Minutes of the 81st and 82nd sessions of the Advisory Committee Meeting

ICOM 24th General Conference – Milan, Italy, 3 and 9 July, 2016

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3 July, 2016

Item 0: Agenda

0.1: Opening

Hans-Martin Hinz, ICOM President, opened the 81st session of the ICOM Advisory Committee and welcomed the attendees. He first mentioned that this would be his last introduction as President, and observed the remarkable growth of the network during his two terms. He then recalled the first time he joined the Advisory Committee – which he had always described as ‘ICOM’s Parliament’ – as a representative of ICOM Germany in 1999. He observed the change the Advisory Committee went through over the past few years, since emphasis is now made on more general topics and better communication within the network. As a concluding remark, he enjoined new members to participate actively in the Advisory Committee.

Suay Aksoy, Chair of the Advisory Committee, then gave her welcome address. She stated that this was her last session as Chair of the Advisory Committee. She then went on to explain how it is getting more and more difficult to keep pace with the speed of change the world is going through. She further added that, even as the world is getting more fragmented and polarised, we, as ICOM, are trying to embrace the world, bringing cultures together and sustaining their diversity in this inclusiveness. It is through art and culture that we respond to the challenges of change, that we enhance our global outlook on the planet and provide local solutions without compromising this outlook. The speaker then made two observations: a) there is an almost intrinsic time pattern in the way the ICOM committees communicate in the Advisory realm, much dependent on the SAREC work. However we need to see to it that the communication intensity of the Advisory Committee should spread throughout the year and not be limited to just two months; b) thematic workshops during annual meetings should continue to be organised around the ongoing works of the Standing Committees and topical issues. These are important means that allow for the participation and contribution of delegates and make the Advisory meetings the democratic forums for open discussion they aim to be. In her concluding remarks, she thanked the attendees, and Hans-Martin Hinz in particular, for his unwavering commitment to the organisation and for strengthening the global character of ICOM and making it a well-respected partner worldwide during his mandate as President.

Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine, ICOM Director General, then gave her welcome address. She highlighted the complexity of the Secretariat’s work, which strives to answer the needs of its membership, and went on to explain that ICOM remains unparalleled an organisation because of the international scope of its network. The Secretariat has contributed in the international dissemination of the network’s expertise through its publication activities, in particular, through *Museum International*. In addition, ICOM is committed to major issues at stake in the museum sector, such as the protection of heritage in danger, and training. The *Red Lists* thus contribute in reinforcing ICOM’s presence in the field, as does the publication, in December 2015, of a book entitled *Countering Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods: The Global Challenge of Protecting the World’s Heritage* (Paris: ICOM) by the ICOM Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods, thus bringing three years’ work to a close. ICOM is also committed to preserving heritage during natural disasters, as evidenced its presence in Nepal in a joint initiative with the Smithsonian Institution, and alongside foreign government representatives.

The Director General then focused on growing ICOM training initiatives, explaining that a number of fruitful projects had taken place over the past years. The Beijing seminar, in particular, proved successful in 2015, with 215 participants. The training proposed consisted of workshops and object analyses. The training project in Algeria was the occasion for ICOM to focus on matters related to practical training. The creation of a new membership database, the growing visibility and importance of social networks in terms of communication strategy, the transition to an exclusively digital edition of *ICOM News* and the success of International Museum Day altogether illustrate the organisation's endeavour to be present internationally.

In her conclusion, the Director General reminded the attendees that 2016 was an exceptional year, celebrating the 70th anniversary of ICOM. A series of events would be taking place in the next few days to mark this cornerstone date: the *Where ICOM From* exhibition, the publication of *Museum, Ethics and Cultural Heritage*, edited by Bernice Murphy (London: Routledge, 2016), and the launch of the new ICOM logo.

The Director General then proceeded to thank the Secretariat staff, ICOM Italy (the Conference organising committee and volunteers), and the members of the Advisory Committee.

Alberto Garlandini, Chair of the ICOM Milano 2016 Organising Committee, explained that 400 volunteers, and more than 3000 colleagues from 130 countries, would be attending the General Conference. He added that the conference theme, 'Museums and Cultural Landscapes', is a theme dear to Italian museologists, and the Sienna Charter their contribution to the field. Not only is the topic a scientific and professional one, but also political. He then remarked that the interdisciplinary discussions in the next few days would indeed reflect the diversity of points of view, and that it was his, as well as the Italian Committee's, hope that the resolution on cultural landscapes would be voted as the outcome of the General Conference.

Finally, Danielle Jalla, Chair of ICOM Italy, welcomed all participants.

0.2 In Memoriam

Recalling the colleagues and members that have passed away since the last session of the Advisory committee, Suay Aksoy, Chair of the Advisory Committee, requested a minute's silence *in memoriam* for:

Kwame Sarpong, Chair of ICOM Ghana;

Mayram Ajibekovna Yusupova, Chair of ICOM Kyrgystan;

Piet De Gryse, Chair of ICOMAM;

Simonida Miljkovikj, Chair of ICOM Macedonia;

Vinoš Sofka, Honorary President and Co-founder of ICOFOM in 1977;

Janusz Janusz Odrowąż-Pieniżek, Chair of ICLM from 1995 to 2001;

Herman Willem (Manus) Brinkman, Secretary General of ICOM from 1998 to 2004;

Rolf Gundlach, CIPEG Founding and Honorary Board Member, from 1983 to 2013;

Paul Philippot, *Ex-officio* Member of ICOM-CC from 1971 to 1977;

Jeanne Watson, DEMHIST Founding Member and Vice-Chair from 2005-2011;

Colin Pearson, Professor at Canberra University (Australia), and a Council Member of ICCROM from 1984 to 1995;

Zbyněk Zbyslav Stránský, ICOM President from 1971-1977 and Founding Member of ICOFOM in 1977.

0.3 Approval of Agenda.

Suay Aksoy, Chair of the Advisory Committee, first asked the attendees to approve the agenda by show of hands. The Agenda having been approved by majority, she then asked if there were any further questions. No questions were asked at this stage.

Item 1 Approval of the Minutes of the 80th session of the Advisory Committee meeting of June 2015

The Minutes were unanimously approved.

Item 2 Introduction of the new members of the Advisory Committee

Suay Aksoy, Chair of the Advisory Committee, read the names of the new members of the Advisory Committee.

Item 3 Presentation by Stefano de Caro, Director General of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)

Stefano de Caro introduced ICCROM, an organisation made up of 135 Member States, and founded by UNESCO in 1956. He stressed that, when it comes to preservation, the topic of the General Conference was of particular relevance today, with damaged landscape and forced migration becoming more prevalent issues. He described the series of natural disasters that occurred in recent years. He cited the earthquakes in Nepal and Ecuador, the hurricanes and typhoons in the US and the Philippines, the floods in India and Bangladesh, South East Europe, and South Africa in 2015. He then mentioned the close collaboration between ICOM and ICCROM to provide responses to these disasters, by organising workshops to assist the museum community in Nepal or, in partnership with UNESCO, set up meetings with Libyan leaders in order to discuss illicit trafficking.

The second priority area is related to collections and storage, insofar as collections have grown exponentially over the last 60 years. Responses from 159 countries depicted the shocking situation of storage, particularly for small museums. And so, ICCROM designed RE-ORG training projects, based on a methodology that combines planning and practical implementation within the storage organisation. Workshops took place in 80 museums in nine countries (Iraq, Algeria, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Belgium, Canada, China). To sum up, he stressed the importance of strengthening collaboration with regional and national organisations, as museums are rediscovering their collections and storage, and brought to reconnect with their communities.

Item 4 Presentation by Vesna Marjanovic, of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

Vesna Marjanovic, member of PACE, gave a presentation on two topics: 'The Libraries and Museums of Europe in Times of Change' and 'Culture and Democracy'. She described the context, recalling that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe elaborated a report and that a resolution on *The Libraries and Museums of Europe in Times of Change* was passed in March 2016. Therein, emphasis is made on the role of museums in a changing world and the role of museums and libraries – as places where knowledge is created and transmitted to the public – in fostering social change and strengthening democracy and citizenship. The work was done in close collaboration with ICOM and the European Museum Forum, with which they have a strong partnership in the award scheme. The report also applauded the role of museum directors today, acknowledging the growing importance of their roles in terms of resource management; the social, cultural and political role of museums, the way in which they cope with times of economic austerity and reduced funding schemes. In this day and age, she observed, deep-rooted values must be upheld (such as human rights and democracy) because to invest in culture is to invest in the future (and security) of our communities. The proposal emphasised the need for greater government recognition of the role of museums, in order to adapt legislative frameworks for more autonomy and decision making. Greater international cooperation for the defence of culture and democracy is much needed in these troubled times.

Item 5 Presentation by Rina Pantalony, Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee

Rina Pantalony, Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee, pointed out that it has become necessary to find adequate ways to respond to rapid technological changes in museum communication. She emphasised museum professionals' need to deal with rights and interests associated with collections museums manage and to maintain the intangibles associated with museum collections in the context of new technologies. She explained that initially, new technologies were used to communicate outward, aimed at museum audiences and representing the museum's own view and interpretation of its collections. Nowadays, technology is used to develop complex, scholarly information, and museums are now striving to make collections accessible for educational purposes and documenting those at risk, she said.

She then broached the topic of copyright law, detailing the work done by ICOM in partnership with its partners WIPO, IFLA and ICA. Since 2005, the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights at WIPO has been considering certain specific exceptions for libraries and archives, to facilitate documentation flows at an international level regardless of medium, in terms of preservation and access. This step anticipated the evolution of scholarly communication harnessing new technologies. In 2013, ICOM was made aware of these discussions and the urgency required to actively represent museum interests as well. It had become necessary to advocate responsibly for copyright exceptions in limited circumstances.

ICOM was in favour of WIPO publishing a study about exceptions to copyright on its website, and working with IFLA and ICA to try and harmonise exceptions so that the three communities speak with one voice.

Item 6 ICOM Membership 2015 Report

Matteo Tassi, Head of the Membership Department, was invited to give a report on key figures in membership. He explained that ICOM now counted 35,299 members from 140 and that there had been a steady growth in membership (individual and institutional alike) in the past six years, from 2009 to 2015. He noted that the biggest increase to be observed was in Africa – followed by North America – with a 35 per cent increase in Category 4 countries. He explained that most ICOM members are from Europe and North America, as well as Latin America.

Suay Aksoy, Chair of the Advisory Committee asked the assembly if there were any questions.

Nuria Rivero Barajas, Secretary of ICOM Spain, commented that these trends fail to represent the reality of the situation country per country, and notably in Spain, as membership is decreasing contrary to what was presented in the report. Matteo Tassi added that his intention had been to give an overview of the membership trends, and that he was well aware that there would be gaps between the moment in which the data is captured and when it is presented.

Item 7 Presentation of the Work of the Technical Committees, Working Groups and other Committees

7.1. Strategic Allocation Review Commission (SAREC)

Peter Keller, Chair of SAREC, first presented the committee. He reminded the assembly of SAREC's composition: four members are nominated alongside four members from the Executive Council, in addition to the President and Director General, who attend the meetings without voting rights. He carried on to describe the application process and explained that SAREC proposed three programmes: travel grants for young members, Board members and Technical Committee members, special projects and subsidies. He explained that travel grants could only be offered to the three categories of members specified; pointing out that their purpose was to identify future ICOM office holders and to support those already in office.

He went on to explain the decision process for the year 2016. There were over 200 eligible applications, most of which came from board and young members. The overall sum to be distributed was €235,000, including a grant from the Getty Foundation and from the ICOM Foundation, representing an average of €1,800 per grant. A first selection of 103 grants and a waiting list of 36 applications were made, until the budget was confirmed to be sufficient. In total, 139 grants were awarded, which corresponds to 68 per cent of successful grant applications. As regards categories, most grants were awarded to Category 3 countries, corresponding to 38 per cent. Although this may not reflect the overall need for grants, it should be borne in mind that the number of grants depended on the number of applications in one category. Thirty per cent were given to Category 4 countries, and a few to Category 1 countries, in particular students or freelancers working for International Committee boards, he said. The overall sum of grants amounted to €166,000.

Among the criteria applied to evaluate reports and activities by International Committees (ICs) were the following: activity, communication, networking, communication with SAREC (i.e. the quality of the reports sent to SAREC), and project definition. The subsidies were divided into three rates: basic, membership and performance. The 2016 performance subsidy was raised from 50 to 60 per cent, so the membership subsidy was reduced to 24 per cent of the total subsidy since the basic subsidy fixed per committee is €850. Because of these arithmetical operations, some ICs might have received a lower subvention.

He also mentioned that within SAREC, discussions took place on i) the maximum age of young members and whether travel grants should be given to members older than 35 years, which was eventually decided against; and ii) what the maximum age for travel grants for board members should be, as some applicants are over 80. It was also pointed out that the involvement of International Committees in special projects was insufficient, as special project initiatives mostly come from National Committees, and oftentimes, subsidies given to International Committees are allotted only to board members instead of young members, which should not be the case. As regards the International Committees' assets, he said that some still had substantial sums in reserve in their bank accounts, so it was suggested that two annual subsidies should be enough. These are crucial points that should be discussed later on during the general conference, he said.

Peter Keller thanked the staff at the Secretariat and his colleagues at SAREC.

Terry Nyambe, Chair of ICOM Zambia, explained that one primary concern for grants, especially for Category 4 members, was that young members are only categorised as such until age 35, and that beyond that age, they were expected to have become board members for International or National Committees. In Zambia and its

neighbouring countries, once that age limit is passed, he said, many members in the region feel they are left out and that there is no opportunity to obtain grants to attend major ICOM meetings.

Peter Keller answered that the age limit will not be redefined this year, but perhaps the next. He encouraged that the question be asked next year, reminding members that funds were limited and that 139 grants had already been given.

Ian Jones, of ICOM UK, asked whether ICOM had thought of publishing a league table of International Committees based on performance, so that rather than granting subsidies to each International Committee regardless of their performance, the amount of the subsidies they are awarded would depend on their actual performance.

Peter Keller answered that this had not been done until now, but could be done in the future. However, it would require further discussion with those committees whose performance was low, he said.

7.2 Working group on Governance (WOG)

Per Rekdal, Chair of the Working Group on Governance, began his presentation by explaining the proposal for a revised version of the Statutes, in which the first step was to rename the bodies of the organisation. The new terminology adopted is the following (French, English, and Spanish):

comité exécutif	conseil d'administration	Executive Council	Executive Board	Consejo Ejecutivo	Consejo Ejecutivo
comité consultatif	conseil consultatif	Advisory Committee	Advisory Council	Comité Consultivo	Consejo Consultivo
secrétariat général	secrétariat	General Secretariat	Secretariat	Secretaría General	Secretaría

The main points worth mentioning are as follows:

The revised version stipulated that only could Individual Members be members of the Executive Board, Chair or Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee, or Chair of a National or International Committee or a Regional Alliance (Article 6, Section 2). This point is necessary to make clear that the designated representative of an institutional member cannot hold such a position and that holding such a position requires a personal commitment. A new and important element was then pointed out: the representatives of National and International Committees would become permanent officers in the Advisory Committee to facilitate the progress of International Committees' and National Committees' work (Article 13, Section 3).

With regard to voting rights for Regional Alliances who are already granted voting rights through the National Committees constituting the Regional Alliance, they will be given the right to vote in the Advisory Council, to nominate and vote at the elections to the Executive Board, and to vote at the General Assembly (Statutes Article 7, Sec 2; Article 10, Sec 2; Article 13, Sec 5, Article 17; and Internal Rules 3.2.1 and 3.2.6). In addition, at the Executive Board elections, Regional Alliances are given three (3) votes and the votes of Affiliated Organisations are reduced from three (3) to two (2). In brief, the proposal made is to give voting rights solely to the Regional Alliance Chair and voting rights for the Chair of the Advisory Council in the Executive Board (Article 11, Section 1).

One additional modification was highlighted: the new version proposes that the minimum number of members for establishing a National Committee be increased from 5 to 10 members, and that membership of Affiliated Organisations should comprise 50 per cent ICOM membership, although ensuring the balance is almost an impossible matter. It should be borne in mind that, in the new version, emphasis is also made on the fact that 'The Executive Board may grant affiliated status to an international organisation with the purpose of serving the interest of museums or the museum profession on an international level. It can be regionally or thematically defined (Article 18)'.

In explaining the changes made to the internal rules, the speaker reminded the assembly that the Statutes are the General Assembly's domain, while the Internal Rules and Regulations are the Executive Board's. Firstly, he pointed out terminology had been changed: 'Internal Rules and Regulations' would be changed to 'Internal rules'. Internal Rules are to apply to all bodies.

He then explained that members of the Executive Board can apply for participation and travel grants. The difference between former and new statutes is the following: while the current rule is that every member of the Executive Board is obliged to pay for their attendance at meetings, the Executive Board has recognised the need to change the current system. It has therefore been decided that members of the Executive Board are entitled to seek participation and travel grants from SAREC as do members of other bodies.

Then, the speaker gave a description of the revisions made to the elections procedure for the Executive Board: the essential modification implemented is that bodies with nominating rights can again designate any eligible ICOM member to run as a candidate for the Executive Board. This means that a body with nomination rights may nominate (and co-nominate) ICOM members from outside their own committee as well.

On a concluding note, Per Rekdal stressed that perhaps the major challenge after the Milan General Conference would be to make the interplay of functions work optimally. One way would perhaps be to merge the Advisory Council into the General Assembly. He then recommended attendees vote for the new proposal, and use the next three years to put it into practice and make amendments in the next Extraordinary General Assembly meeting at the latest, so that designated inconsistencies be pointed out and corrected later.

The President of ICOM then addressed the floor. He pointed out, firstly, that this was a very important moment that represented the work of several years and that, secondly, the discussion on each different step included comments and feedbacks from the past two previous years. In addition, the translation was verified by French lawyers in that ICOM falls under the French law for associations (association de loi 1901). He recommended that the final draft version be approved during the Extraordinary General Assembly, mentioning that a quorum was needed, with a two-third majority.

7.3 Ethics Committee (ETHCOM)

As a point of departure to his presentation, Martin Schärer, Chair of the Ethics Committee, recalled that the Committee was celebrating 30 years of existence. He referred back to the history that eventually led to the adoption of the current ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums. The question of preserving museums from defining their activity through commercial purposes is one that is, more than ever, of primary importance nowadays, as summarised in the following principle 'the laws of the market cannot be the laws of museums'.

He then articulated the main issue at stake discussed by the committee: must the ICOM Code of Ethics be entirely revised? In his opinion, caution is required in this regard, since the Code had become part of many legislative frameworks, whether national or international. The intention is to elaborate guidelines for core issues that will be included as annexes to the Code, mainly on acquisitions and deaccessioning – elements essential to cultural history museums and natural museums altogether. The speaker added that other guidelines on sponsoring may follow the afternoon's International Committee debates and that the glossary of relevant terms should be improved, and an attempt made to include new definitions – as well as the new museum definition.

The structure of the Committee was then explained: there were 14 members for the 2014-2016 period. The topics that were discussed are illicit traffic of cultural goods – with the creation, in 2013, of the ICOM Observatory on the Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods, providing a permanent platform and global network of specialists on such issues as clandestine archaeological excavations, the destruction of cultural goods, in addition to the restitution and repatriation of cultural goods to their original communities, and conservation. Other questions include the presence of charity activities within museums, the unethical behaviour of museum professionals, deaccessioning, the closure of and financial pressure on museums. It was brought to the assembly's attention that the revision and distribution of ethics tools from International Committees had been discussed. These exchanges led, in turn, to the elaboration of codes of ethics by CIDOC, NATHIST, the ICOM-affiliated International Association for Corporate Collections of Contemporary Art (IACCCA).

The function of the ICOM Ethics Committee was then reiterated. Its purpose is mainly to observe, advise, inform and educate and it therefore holds no legal power. It elaborates training programmes, especially case studies, so as to establish locally adapted curricula and promote the code through many endeavours, especially in northern European countries. For instance, the much appreciated workshop on ethics issues during the Advisory Committee meeting in 2014 may well be repeated in the future. Martin Schärer then encouraged the assembly to look at the improved ICOM website concerning the Code; and announced the publication of an academic publication on the subject entitled *Museums, Ethics and Cultural Heritage*, edited by Bernice Murphy. He

concluded his presentation by observing that the ICOM Ethics Committee has gone through many developments during the three years of its existence. It thus remains a highly important body as it actively participates in defining ICOM's fundamental vision. Lastly, he announced that a new team would soon be appointed.

7.4 Museum Definition Working Group

Bernice Murphy, Chair of the Museum Definition Working Group, began her presentation by explaining it was necessary to re-articulate the ICOM definition of museums. She evoked the organisation's first constitution that had already comprised a definition of the museums, albeit pluralised. She then observed that during the revision process, different opinions were expressed: some felt, and rightly so, that the museum definition had served ICOM well. Indeed, it became an international reference that some national legislations, e.g. Italy and the Republic of Korea. As such, the definition of the museum has powerful presence as a critical foundational document.

The speaker then pointed out an inconsistency: no connection has ever been made between the full ICOM *Code of Ethics for Museums*, adopted in 1986, and the museum definition. The Code has a certain structure that today seem somewhat outdated, insofar as the last modification was made in 1974, stipulating that museums work 'in the service of society'. There are those who believe that the definition as it currently stands may not correspond to the reality of today's world.

Hence, a tool (in the form of a questionnaire) was developed and the answers of the members of the Committee were adapted to fit a dialogical pattern. Doubtless, new elements *can* be brought to the definition without altering the original vision behind it. The work thus needs to be re-mandated by the Executive Council so that a reflection on the achievements made during the year can take place. She also stressed the importance of opening up the definition to the widest frame of reference, encompassing all opinions, in order to report it back to the next General Assembly in Kyoto. She also proposed a note be attached to the Code explaining that, were a new definition adopted, it would not revoke the previous one.

7.5 Committee for Education and Cultural Action (ICOM-CECA)

Marie Clarté O'Neill, Board member of CECA, presented the committee, which is the second-largest and one of the most active ICOM committees. She explained that the Chair, Emma Nardi, had led a survey to learn about members' needs and expectations. Since the results were strongly oriented towards the need to concentrate on museum education projects; the Committee's first initiative was to publish a tool that describes all the steps required for an education or cultural action programme. Furthermore, to ensure members' investment in the project, an award was created to incite members to adopt a critical and systematic approach to the programmes. That participative approach towards museums practices eventually fostered discussion.

She then presented the results, stipulating that only ICOM CECA members were able to participate. Twenty-five programmes were evaluated. In 2013, at the Rio de Janeiro General Conference, five awards were given. The Best Practice winners were invited to present their programmes, and to concentrate on one specific type of programme, e.g. research programmes.

In addition, the speaker explained that priority went to publications (print or digital), adding that digitised publications could now be downloaded on the website. In addition, annual conferences and regional conferences and workshops around best practice tools, or more regional events (as the Zagreb conference illustrates), are organised on a regular basis. Priority is also given to research development, for which a network of researchers was launched around the theme of education, whose numbers have increased on a yearly basis; in 2016, there are 108 researchers.

To conclude, she pointed out that there was a strong increase in membership, a 66% increase between 2010 and 2016.

Item 8 Progress report on ICOM International Training Centre for Museum Studies in Beijing (ICOM-ITC)

Meixia Guo, Head of the ICOM-ITC Secretariat at the Palace Museum, Beijing, and Claude Faubert, the ICOM-ITC Coordinator, were invited to present their progress report.

Meixia Guo presented ICOM-ITC, reminding the assembly it had been officially created three years ago, and that it aims to provide training programmes for international museums professionals. It is the result of the

cooperation between ICOM-ITC and ICOM China, and relies on the Beijing Palace Museum for its operations venues. The programme covers areas of emerging countries mainly in the Asian Pacific region and takes place twice a year, in August and November, at the Palace Museum, Beijing. She ensured that ITC keeps to the ICOM ethical and professional codes in its development of training programmes.

Claude Faubert then specified that since November 2013, seven workshops in Beijing, China, and Arusha, Tanzania had been held, consisting of a cycle of four general themes: museum management, museum collections, education and interpretation, and exhibitions. At the beginning of the 2015 autumn season, a fifth component was added: a workshop on a specific theme, which was either independent of these four main themes or encompassed all of them. In November 2015, it was the 'engaging museum' theme, which addressed the issue of museum engagement in its different forms, i.e. programs, exhibitions and outreach activities and how collections can be used in an engaging way.

Meixia Guo explained that each training workshop consisted of 30 to 35 participants, half of which were Chinese; the rest mainly came from the Asia-Pacific region. In the past three years, 218 participants from 52 Asian countries, and overall 60 countries from the rest of the world had attended the course. Nine programme lecturers were selected, corresponding to the number of workshops. Around 63 museum experts participated in the workshops; from many related ICOM bodies such as the Secretariat, the ICOM Ethics Committee, ICOM-CC, ICOM-CECA, INTERCOM, ICOM Japan and ICOM China, as well as other National Committees. The training model combined nine days of participatory and interactive activities such as lectures, events and workshops. In particular, the small group work was very much appreciated by participants, insofar as it added a cultural and social component that allowed varied exchanges. One of the keys to the success of these workshops was a one-day meeting workshop within the workshop in which more experienced participants could meet and work on one specific aspect.

Finally, the attendees were reminded that the deadline for applications was imminent.

Item 9 Progress report on the training programme for Supporting the protection and promotion of cultural heritage in Algeria

Raphaël Roig, Senior Programmes Officer at the General Secretariat, began his presentation by recalling the first mission of ICOM, which is to serve museum professionals. As such, training is among ICOM's first duties to its members. He then explained that in May 2015, the ICOM Endowment Fund obtained a contract from the Algerian government to train local museum professionals in a partnership with the European Commission. The ICOM Endowment Fund joined a partnership consortium with IBF International Consulting, Hydea SPA, ENA, the Ecole d'Avignon and Ecole de Chaillot. The two training programmes would focus on museums, collections management and inventory, and its beneficiaries come from a wide range of institutions. The first training programme consisted of 24 modules divided into 10 themes:

- Introduction – Terminology
- Collection management I
- Collection management II
- Exhibition
- Security - Safety
- Conservation – Restoration I
- Conservation – Restoration II
- Development - Communication
- Scientific and cultural project
- Training of lecturers

The training was provided by 24 francophone lecturers for a period of 134 days, in varied locations throughout the country: seven sites in four cities, and hundreds of participants. The difficulty of selecting lecturers within the network was highlighted as a challenge and he pointed out that an online form can be filled out on the ICOM website. To date, 10 of the 29 training sessions have already been held. The second training programme, which is to start in October 2016, will solely focus on inventory, for an overall duration of 60 days.

The last point addressed was the question of the benefits of such an initiative for ICOM, which were given as follows:

- to develop an extensive training course that can be improved and duplicated in other areas,
- to reinforce expertise and experience in the sector,
- to disseminate ICOM's model of training programme (hands-on practical experience).

Suay Aksoy, Chair of the Advisory Committee, asked if the assembly had any questions.

Dominique Ferriot, member of ICOM France, enquired about selection criteria, in particular if lecturers were required to be native French speakers. She also asked whether the French, Belgian and Swiss committees had been contacted during the recruitment process, to which Raphaël Roig replied that they had been.

Lynne Teather, Chair of ICTOP observed that better communication between the Secretariat and the different committees was needed concerning the work being done, because some members of ICTOP would have been likely to participate. She also pointed out that the basis to museum studies is to encompass each aspect of teaching, theoretical and practical both, and theory should be taught systematically.

Raphaël Roig replied that it had been necessary to comply to the Algerian government's expectations, which demanded emphasis be made on practical teaching. Thus, little flexibility had been possible in the curricula definition. He added that although the ICOM Secretariat was well aware that within these technical sessions, all key elements should be addressed, ICOM's initial proposal, which was intended to present both the theoretical and technical aspects of museum studies, had been refused by the Algerian government, who wanted a more traditional training programme.

Kristiane Strætkvern, Chair of the ICOM Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC), observed that there were 24 working groups also speaking French within ICOM and recommended that ICOM-CC be contacted in the future.

Item 10 Museums in Dangerous Times: ICOM's global efforts and work in Cultural Property Protection

France Desmarais, Director of Programmes and Partnerships at the ICOM Secretariat, explained that ICOM had a long-standing engagement and responsibility towards Cultural Property Protection (CPP) since 1947, the main activities of which are: the protection of heritage during armed conflict and natural disasters and fighting illicit traffic in cultural goods. The work is carried out, to date, by the Disaster Relief Task Force – which, she announced, had just been renamed Disaster Risk Management Committee (DRMC) to better reflect its current mandate. The DRMC monitors, assesses and assists colleagues, as was most recently the case in Mali, Egypt and Nepal; this assistance is carried out in different contexts and ways. Professionals from the ICOM network were sent on the ground, while colleagues from Egypt for instance were sent to Washington to be trained.

She reminded members that ICOM is a member of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS), which would announce its programme in the days to come.

Speaking of ICOM's Red List programme, she said that many institutions had sought to translate these tools, which are elaborated with the support of national governments. This interest evidences the recognition of the tool's use and value. The speaker announced that new Red Lists on Yemen and West Africa will be published soon.

Finally, the speaker reminded the assembly that the ICOM Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods had been created three years ago and drawn to a close with the termination of the European Union funding in December 2015. Its outcomes include the creation of a website aggregating numerous resources on the subject, communication between partner institutions, the publication of a book entitled *Countering Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods: The Global Challenge of Protecting the World's Heritage* (ICOM: Paris), containing 16 articles from different experts.

Item 11 Presentations by Affiliated Organisations and other organisations

11.1 Catherine Cole, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM)

Catherine Cole, Secretary General of Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) first presented the association. She announced that the next General Conference would take place in Calgary, in 2017, at the Glenbow Museum. For that occasion, there will be a series of roundtables on Blackfoot heritage sites in South

Alberta, on Indigenous Heritage on National Aboriginal Day (Canada), and on heritage and nation building. The programme is to include visits to significant places such as Blackfoot crossing, and Buffalo Jump among other, as well as opportunities to meet elders and communities and learn about their tradition.

The speaker then specified that during the Indigenous Heritage roundtable, a discussion of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was passed in 2008 but only adopted in Canada in May 2016 would be discussed. She added that the 20th anniversary of Museums and First Peoples Task Force would be celebrated, taking up the 1995 Canada conference theme, 'Curatorship, Indigenous Perspectives and Post-Colonial Societies' and focusing on the evolution and steps needed to further the cause.

11.2 Association of Mediterranean Maritime Museums (AMMM)

Maria Paola Profuma, President of the Mediterranean Maritime Museums (AMMM), presented the association, composed of 45 members. She then articulated its proposal to share with ICOM not only landscape but also seascape communities, and explained that it was hoped that the Milano Carta would include a section on seascape communities. The relationship with ICOM is long-standing engagement and the association's purpose is:

- to preserve maritime history and improve professional standards promote research related to maritime issues and history by facilitating cooperation between institutional members,
- to promote, wherever possible, the legislation of member countries and their goals,
- to promote the diffusion of maritime museums their activities and programs related to maritime heritage and history.

Requesting to join ICOM as an Affiliated Organisation, the association aims to work in accordance with ICOM objectives and principles. As such, it shall collaborate with the International Congress of Maritime Museums (ICMM) and UNESCO, she declared.

As a final point, the speaker announced that AMMM's Forum had taken place on 1st and 2nd of July to promote the Sea Charter 2.0.

11.3 World Federation of Friends of Museum (WFFM)

Elsa Amatriain, Vice-President (Europe) of the World Federation of Friends of Museum (WFFM), presented the organisation, which is composed of over two million people who work *pro bono* for the heritage they love around the world. It is committed to maintaining cultural landscapes alongside ICOM. WFFM works in bringing together those who are passionate about museums and heritage, bearing in mind that the quotidian reality differs from one country to another. She then proceeded to explain that there were disparities that figures clearly illustrate. In Spain, for instance, there are 126 'Friends' association. Argentina counts 120 associations corresponding to 5000 'friends', and Italy, 51 associations corresponding to 20 000 friends. What they all have in common is their commitment through crowd-funding campaigns (as was recently the case in Portugal); fundraising (in Korea); tending to the museum to make its premises more attractive to the public (in Argentina), among others. Finally, she announced the venues of the next forum: Verona and Mantua.

Item 12 Election of the Executive Council

12.1 Voting procedure and organisation

Renata Kaminker, Institutional Procedures Coordinator, explained the voting procedure to the assembly.

Item 13 Election of the Advisory Chairperson

13.1 Procedure and organisation

Renata Kaminker, Institutional Procedures Coordinator, explained the voting procedure to the assembly.

13.2 Presentation of the two candidates

Suay Aksoy, Chair of the Advisory Committee, invited the two candidates to take the stand and present themselves. The first candidate, Nazan Olcer (Turkey) was absent. Regine Schulz (Germany) came to the stand to introduce herself to the assembly and spoke of her long-standing commitment to the museums and heritage sector, through her discipline and participation within ICOM.

Item 14 International Journal of Intangible Heritage

Kiwon Yi, Deputy Head of the Cultural Exchange and Education Division at the National Folk Museum of Korea, explained that the publication is supported by ICOM, was first published by the National Folk Museum of Korea in 2007 to address the varied interests of the international community in intangible heritage issues, promote all international heritage-related aspects, and communicate research and examples of professional practice. It has an online visibility (published articles are referenced through the H-index, Scopus and the Korean index).

It should be noted that the number of papers has increased, as 36 papers from 22 different countries were submitted for Vol.11 (2015), dedicated to natural, sacred and vanishing traditions bridging past and present. The Editorial Board is composed of ICOM members and 14 scholars from around the world. The speaker invited all attendees interested in the field to submit abstracts for the new issue. Lastly, the speaker announced that the call for papers for the forthcoming issue had just been published on the website.

Item 15 Presentation of the joint ICOM LAC-ICOM Europe project

Karen Brown, Board member of ICOM Europe, was invited to take the stand to present the ICOM LAC-ICOM Europe joint project. She explained that during the 2014 Paris June meetings, ICOM Europe discussed new funding call issued by EU Horizon 2020 program, which focused on a strong culture-related content. This was an opportunity to bring ICOM Regional Alliances together to elaborate a research proposal and a project that would last 48 months. The theme that was decided upon was 'Museums and Community: Concepts, Experiences and Sustainability'. Participant institutions made up a consortium of eight partners, i.e. Costa Rica, Jamaica, Peru, Chile, Scotland, France, Portugal, and Spain. Online and in-person meetings were held in Lisbon and an Advisory Committee was selected for their lifelong commitment in the Steering Committee.

The speaker then explained that the activities would span over the next four years in the form of different initiatives: the creation of a virtual museum of migration histories (with the University of the West Indies), a research project on women's migration across the Caribbean islands and models of sustainability and integral management (between institutions in Peru, Chile, and the University of Valencia); a bi-regional research into cultural heritage sustainability issues, environmental sustainability and social inclusion. In addition, an academic publication will be available on a project concentrating on community consultation and integration in the Isle of Skye, led by the University of St Andrews and Museos Comunitarios (Costa Rica). Overall, this is a four-year ambitious project that will be essentially disseminated through the web portal by the National Museum of Archaeology in Lisbon, Portugal.

Item 16 Report of the Strategic Plan and Resolutions Monitoring Committee (MOCO) and Information on Resolutions Procedure

Dorota Folga Januszewska, Chair of MOCO and Chair of the Resolutions Committee, and Amareswar Galla, Member of the Resolutions Committee, were invited to give their presentation.

Dorota Folga Januszewska first presented MOCO. She then explained that six resolutions had been presented at the Rio de Janeiro General Conference, and that the MOCO Report 2013-2014 had been based on annual reports from National Committees, International Committees and Affiliated Organisations. She pointed out that four resolutions had been adopted at that time: Resolution no. 2, a statement of principles of museum documentation; Resolution no. 4 on gender mainstreaming and inclusion in museums, benchmarking against the ICOM Cultural Diversity Charter; Resolution no. 5 on the protection of cultural heritage during and after armed conflict, revolutions and civil strife; and Resolution no. 6 on the ability and sustainability of museums through the global financial crisis.

She addressed her particular thanks to the five participating members of MOCO and in particular Luis Raposo, who examined *ICOM News* from 2013 to 2015, as well as e-newsletters issued in 2014-2015 and the International Committees' e-newsletters. Altogether, the committee evaluated 21 International Committee reports, and observed that 13, for instance, had taken initiatives that were directly related to the Rio resolutions, particularly Resolutions 5 and 6. Overall, the committee examined 1,000 documents in order to develop the resolutions that would be presented in forthcoming days. In conclusion, she observed that the resolutions presented in Rio de Janeiro had not been effectively used to build new insight or create new initiatives.

Amareswar Galla explained that this year was the first time the Committee decided to do a follow up of the 2013 Rio resolutions, and thanked Dorota Folga Januszewska for setting up a methodology that, he recommended,

should be refined in the next few years, to which she added that the committee's work benefited from the support of the Secretariat and the President.

Dorota Folga Januszewska then explained the Resolutions Committee's working procedure during the Milan Conference, provided deadlines for receiving resolutions and invited all participants to the Open Forum.

Item 17 Presentation by the American Alliance of Museums

Laura L. Lott, President of AAM, began her presentation by explaining that it was her first time at an ICOM General Conference, and stressed that the museum community is stronger when collaborative efforts are made to forward the voice and cause of museums. She pointed out that a memorandum of understanding would be signed between AAM, ICOM and ICOM US shortly, and then presented the association, which has been the voice of museums since 1906 in the United States, and regroups 32,000 museums today, about two per cent of which are outside the US.

She stressed that methods and resources for institutional excellence are elaborated through good practice and standards as the Association strives to provide museum professionals resources. For instance, among the association's initiatives, is the promotion of peer-to-peer networking to bring museums together on a specific topic. Trends are forecasted through the Center for the Future of Museums, and resources provided to help museums professions.

AAM's Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 stressed the need to strengthen thought on leadership, excellence, advocacy, global thinking – with a particular focus on diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion, as well as financial sustainability. An emphasis on pre-12 education system will be made in the US, as the role of museums may become even more crucial in a time when the public education system is in peril.

Item 18 Report of the Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC)

Dominique Ferriot, Co-Chair of NEC, first presented the Committee, explaining that it had originally been created in 2007 as the Applications Committee by the Advisory Committee in Vienna, Austria. It was initially chaired by the Advisory Chair, but is now co-chaired by the NEC Chair or their legal representative, designated as 'Elections Officer', and an ICOM member nominated by the Executive Council and Advisory Chair. She went on to explain that the NEC is composed of five to nine members who, she added, are not running for election in the Executive Council, and whose mandate cannot exceed two mandates of three consecutive years and no more than 12 consecutive years overall – all mandate types included. The maximum duration of their mandate is, to date, still to be defined, but it will be specified in the new Internal Rules.

The second point addressed was the structural changes within NEC: Suay Aksoy, Chair of the Advisory Committee, resigned on 30 November, 2015, following her candidacy as President of ICOM, and Nicholas Crofts resigned in April for 'personal reasons'. Stéphanie Wintzerith was therefore appointed Elections Officer. The Director General, whose mandate is defined in Art. 2.3 of the Internal Rules, can attend the meetings. He/she organises the elections for the Advisory Committee which is not in NEC's mandate. The NEC validates the eligibility of the applications within three months after their reception and the list of candidates is then published.

The third point was a reminder of the voting procedures. A formal meeting was organised on 18 December 2015, with all NEC members attending. The speaker then pointed out a lack of precision in the internal rules concerning eligibility of former ICOM staff, as regards the two-year lag after having been employed by ICOM. During the deliberation process, a new element occurred in mid-February 2016 and members of NEC were consulted online to decide upon the eligibility of certain candidates. The exchanges that followed did not alter the decision taken by committee in December 2015.

The final deliberation results are as follows:

For the role of President: 2 candidates for 1 role

For the role of Vice President: 4 candidates for 2 roles

For the role of Treasurer: 1 candidate for 1 role

For Ordinary Member positions, there were 23 candidates overall, with 12 women and 11 men different countries, and holding diverse positions in the museum sector.

Lastly, it was specified that a written report would be provided to all ICOM members after the General Conference by the Co-Chair and other members of NEC, formulating recommendations to avoid problems the Committee had been confronted to in the future.

Item 19 Presentation of the candidates for the President and Executive Council Elections 2016-2019

The President invited all candidates for Ordinary Membership, for the position of Treasurer and for Vice-President to introduce themselves in a one-minute presentation. One candidate was missing (Carlos Brandão), but the President introduced him as President of the Organising Committee of Rio 2013. He then invited the two candidates for the position of ICOM President to present themselves in a four-minute statement.

Kathy Southern, co-Chair of ICOM US, requested that a minute of silence be taken to remember the role of museum professionals in representing, protecting, and standing for humanity.

Suay Aksoy, Chair of the Advisory Committee, closed the meeting at 5:30 pm.

**Minutes of the 81st and 82nd sessions of the Advisory Council Meeting
ICOM 24th General Conference – Milan, Italy, 3 and 9 July, 2016**

**Minutes of the 82nd session of the Advisory Council
9 July, 2016**

Item 0 Presentation of the new Advisory Chair

Item 0.1 Former Chair's introduction of the new Chair

Suay Aksoy, former Chair of the Advisory Council (formerly named 'Advisory Committee'), introduced Regine Schulz, who was elected new Chair of the Advisory Council by majority vote.

Item 0.2 Inaugural speech by the new Chair of the Advisory Council

Regine Schulz, Chair of the Advisory Council, gave her inaugural speech, in which she stressed the importance of the Advisory Council. She invited the assembly to reflect upon their needs and expectations and communicate them to her in advance by email (Regine.Schulz@icom.museum) so that the new Advisory Council may study them.

She then announced that the Chair of ICOM Andorra, Lourdes López Montanya, had passed away and requested a minute's silence in her memory.

Item 1 Election of the Vice Chair

Item 1.1 Explanation of the electronic vote system

Renata Kaminker, Institutional Procedures Coordinator, explained the voting procedure to the assembly.

Item 1.2 Vote and Election of the Advisory Vice-Chair

The two candidates for the position, Luisa de Peña Díaz, Chair of ICOM Dominican Republic, and Gustavo Adolfo Ortíz Serrano, Chair of ICOM Colombia, were invited to present themselves.

The results of the voting were as follows:

- Luisa de Peña Díaz 41.77
- Gustavo Adolfo Ortiz Serrano 58.23

Item 2 Catania Declaration and proposal on the role of museums on sites of the World Heritage List

Danielle Jalla, Chair of ICOM Italy, was invited to present the Catania Declaration on Museums. He began by explaining that, while the World Heritage List includes a large variety of museums that differ in terms of size, type and features, the Catania Declaration reflects a more general separation between museums, archives, libraries, archaeological and natural sites, and monument sites. This diversity requires different preservation and conservation practices and interpretation methods.

Hence, an effort to harmonise specialised management methods and practices is needed to restore the identity of heritage, integrating all heritage types – cultural, natural, tangible and intangible. He added that the ICOM Code of Ethics states that museums must participate in the protection of cultural and environmental heritage. This is done by disseminating knowledge concerning that same heritage, engaging local communities to participate actively in the protection of heritage. Thus, the primary objective advocated in the final Declaration is to increase the museological and institutional functions of museums, and motivate museums and institutions to have an active role in the protection, interpretation, and presentation of the surrounding environment.

Danielle Jalla then articulated the details of the proposal as follows:

- That the Advisory Council adopt this final declaration;
- That all ICOM National Committees analyse the characteristics of the museums encompassed within the sites listed in the World Heritage List;
- That an International Working Group be set up;
- That conclusions be submitted to UNESCO.

The Chair of the Advisory Council, Regine Schulz, asked the assembly if there were any questions.

Amareswar Galla pointed out that an analysis of world heritage sites had been made in the past, and shown that many of these sites are museums that are members of ICOM. He then suggested that updating that list might be a relevant first step.

Item 3 Proposal for the United Nations' Year of the Museum

The Chair of the Advisory Council, Regine Schulz, announced that Suay Aksoy, the former Chair of the Advisory Council, would read the proposal on behalf of Kidong Bae, spokesperson of the National Committees (see Appendix in the 81st and 82nd Advisory Meeting Working Documents).

Item 4 Recommendations from the Separate Meetings of the National and International Committees

Item 4.1 Recommendations from the Separate Meeting of the National Committees

The Chair of the Advisory Council, Regine Schulz, announced that Yuji Kurihara (ICOM Japan) would read the proposal on behalf of Kidong Bae, spokesperson for the National Committees. The main points brought forward are as follows:

- National Committees recommend that the ICOM membership process be clarified by providing a clear explanation by the Membership Department of the ICOM Secretariat.
- National Committees encourage ongoing cooperation projects among museums across borders and social-cultural boundaries, and recommend that such regional and international activities be undertaken with the involvement of ICOM bodies. Thus, collaborative work between National Committees should be enhanced, with support from the ICOM Secretariat.
- In relation to exhibitions and museums that address sensitive themes and topics, the National Committees recommend that the concerned communities be involved, and their needs be taken into account.
- National Committees applaud the work of the DRMC, and recommend that ICOM mandate this body to produce a manual or guidelines for emergency preparedness and response for both natural and human-made disasters; as well as some founding members of ICOM on their efforts to collection of archives.
- Finally, it was brought to the assembly's attention that there should be a follow-up on how these recommendations have been applied.

Item 4.2 Recommendations from the Separate Meetings of the International Committees

Kristiane Straetkvern, spokesperson for the International Committees, explained that the proposal is based on previous International Committee recommendations, the discussions that took place in the separate meetings of the International Committees on July 3, 2016, as well as the Future Development Summary for the International Committees. She suggested that the work be therefore continued with the coordination of the new spokesperson for the International Committees, in collaboration with the chair of the Advisory Council and the ICOM Secretariat.

The main points brought forward to the assembly and addressed to both the ICOM Secretariat and the Executive Board are as follows:

- That the process of formal delegation of authority to the Chairs of International Committees should be concluded by the end of 2016,
- That International Committees be formally invited to participate in the Pilot Project on the Membership Database in order to contribute to the analysis of the structure and solutions,
- That the ICOM Legal Office be staffed with a full-time permanent legal advisor or lawyer,
- That the plan for publications be communicated.

In addition:

- The International Committees will elaborate a new working method with the Chair of the Advisory Council and the Secretariat in order to implement different work methods for the next triennial General Conference, in order to allow the International Committees to hold more joint sessions and to enhance ICOM's interdisciplinary approach.

Regine Schulz, Chair of the Advisory Council, thanked the speaker and asked if there were any questions.

The Chair of ICOM Costa Rica commended the recommendations proposed by National Committees and International Committees alike. She also suggested that some recommendations from the International Committees be applied to National Committees as well, and that both should be integrated in the process of the renovation of the membership database and process.

Regine Schulz, Chair of the Advisory Council, thanked him and asked if there were any questions.

Eric Dorfman, Chair of NATHIST, observed that the communication between International Committees and National Committees must include the Secretariat, to coordinate information between different ICOM entities. For instance, NATHIST had not been aware that the NATHIST Code of Ethics had been translated into Greek, reflecting a lack of transparency.

Amareswar Galla explained that there are 53 Small Island Developing States (SIDS), some of which are disappearing with climate change, or have a National Committee with only five members. In this respect, he felt it was impossible that these countries would reach 10 members as is stipulated in the new Statutes. Given that one part of the Strategic Plan is to maintain and encourage geographical diversity, a plan focusing on the situation of SIDS would need to be elaborated in the near future.

Regine Schulz, Chair of the Advisory Board, thanked them and asked if there were any questions. No further comments were made at this stage.

Item 5 Other Matters

Item 5.1 Database pilot project

Matteo Tassi, Head of the Membership Department and Sonia Agudo, Information Systems Project Manager at the Secretariat, gave a short presentation on the database pilot project. They explained that much work had been done with members of those committees that had expressed doubt or formulated criticism towards the project. Further, there is need to stress the importance of said project, which should facilitate the development process, especially for current payment methods and the sticker system that is bound to change in the coming years. The debate is ongoing, with the aim of encompassing all National Committee needs, followed by the launch of a pilot project. They stressed the importance of the project, as it aims to modernise membership, under the auspice of the new ICOM President and Advisory Council chair.

Regine Schulz, Chair of the Advisory Council, thanked the speaker and asked if there were any questions.

Gaël de Guichen, Special Advisor to the Director General of ICCROM, observed that, considering the slow change since 1971, he hoped that practical solutions would be employed in the future instead of the continuous display of empty rhetoric. To which the Chair replied that she understood his frustration but pointed out the difficulty of the work involved. She reminded members that comments from National Committees, International Committees, Regional Alliances and Affiliated Organisations were welcome in order for the Advisory Council to respond to the reality of museums, and ensure the organisation's relevance for its members nowadays.

Item 5.2 Report on the Forum of Ecomuseums

Alberto Garlandini was invited to give his report on the Forum on Ecomuseums, which was chaired by Hugues de Varine and had proven quite successful.

No questions were asked at this stage.

Item 6 Date and place of the next Advisory Council meeting

Regine Schulz, Chair of the Advisory Council, announced the date and place of the next Advisory Council meeting, which would occur during the next June meetings on 7 and 8 of July, 2017.

She then asked attendees if there were any last comments. No comments were made at this stage.

She therefore invited members to watch the film of the new logo, which was part of the branding process. After the film, a delegate from ICMA asked if committees could get special funding to change their logo, and if there was a timetable by which the logo should have been changed by all committees.

Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine, Director General of ICOM, replied that the committees were free to adopt it following their own schedule, and reminded the assembly that the material had been made available on a USB key to facilitate the changes independently. The Chair of the Advisory Council closed the session by saying that the logo had been discussed in previous Executive Board meetings, and the final result seemed to be a good compromise for all countries.

The Chair of the Advisory Council closed the meeting at 5:30 pm.