



**Extraordinary session of the
Executive Council
Paris, 2 June, 2015**

Minutes and Records of Decisions

Members attending:

Prof. Dr Hans-Martin Hinz (Germany), President
Prof. George H. Okello Abungu (Kenya), Vice-President
Prof. Dr Tereza Cristina M. Scheiner (Brazil), Vice-President
Peter Keller (Austria), Treasurer
Prof. Dr Laishun An (China)
Prof. Dr Regine Schulz (Germany)
Luisa de Peña Diaz (Dominican Republic)
In-kyung Chang (Republic of Korea)
Alberto Garlandini (Italy)
Goranka Horjan (Croatia)
Diana Pardue (USA)
Suay Aksoy (Turkey), Chair of the Advisory Committee, *ex-officio* member of the Executive Council

Excused members:

Dr Ossama A. W. Abdel Meguid (Egypt)
Dr Willem De Vos (Belgium)
Merete Ipsen (Denmark)

Prof. Dr Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine was present as Director General.
Samia Slimani was recording secretary for the meeting.

The session began on 2 June, 2015 at 6.30 pm.

1/ Agenda

The agenda for the session was presented. The President informed members that Nick Crofts would be invited to present recommendations from the Working Group on Membership Processing. In-kyung Chang suggested that the Strategic Plan and Resolutions Monitoring Committee (MOCO) be discussed. Regine Schulz said she would like to comment briefly on her attendance at the International Tutankhamun Conference in Cairo, Egypt.

Decision 1

The Executive Council approved the agenda.

2/ Recommendation on the candidate cities to host the 25th ICOM General Conference in 2019

The President recalled the results of the vote by the Advisory Committee:

26% for Cincinnati, US;
72% for Kyoto, Japan; and
2% Abstentions.

Decision 2

The Executive Council unanimously decided and confirmed that the 25th ICOM General Conference will take place in Kyoto, Japan in 2019.

3/ Themes for International Museum Day in 2017 and 2018

The theme proposed for IMD 2017, Museums and hard history, was debated in order to come up with a final reworded proposal.

One member commented that 'hard history' is an expression that has negative connotations for many, and that in Spanish it would translate as remembering major events such as genocide and terrorism, as 'hard history' is not a universal expression. Others suggested reformulating it to The memory of history, Museums and victims or Museums and taboo. These suggestions were followed by many others including Contested narratives or Contested history; Painful memories, Painful histories or Painful narratives; Untold stories for individuals who have not been acknowledged; and Memory of silence. Finally, it was decided that the theme of IMD 2017 would be *Museums and contested histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums*.

The theme proposed for IMD 2018, Museums and the digital world, was then discussed. Alternative suggestions included Museums and the digital age and Digital museums. Others suggested that younger members of the Secretariat could be asked to come up with contemporary wording in order to maximize the potential of this theme. Luisa de Peña Diaz indicated that there was a problem with the current translation of the proposed theme, and corrected it as follows: Museos y la era digital. It was eventually decided that the theme of IMD 2018 would be formulated as follows: Hyperconnected museums: new approaches, new publics.

Decision 3

The Executive Council decided to recommend the following wording for themes of IMD 2017 and 2018 respectively: *Museums and contested histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums.* and *Hyperconnected museums: new approaches, new publics.*

4/ Other matters

4.1 Strategic Plan and Resolutions Monitoring Committee (MOCO)

It was suggested that another member of MOCO would chair the committee following Wim de Vos's resignation. This suggestion was unanimously accepted.

Following the meeting, the President asked Prof. Dorota Folga-Januszewska, Chair of ICOM Poland, to chair MOCO, and she accepted.

4.2 Membership Processing

The President welcomed Nick Crofts, who gave a short overview of the progress of the Working Group on Member Processing.

He explained that some members needed financial assistance to attend the meetings; he suggested that 50% of their travel costs be covered, to a maximum of EUR 1,000.

He also recommended that external experts would need to be recruited to carry out an audit of the ICOM database, as well as identifying and analysing the National Committees' requirements.

The Director General replied that the issues related to the membership database would not be resolved in the short term, and that the Membership Department at the Secretariat would be fully responsible for working to resolve these. She reminded members that she was responsible for monitoring the Secretariat's work and that no external expertise was required. She added that it would take a year to improve conditions and work processes in the membership department.

One member agreed that ICOM should rely on its paid staff to manage membership issues, but that any advice was of course welcome. The treasurer reminded members that the EC had received a similar proposal from the Working Group on the ICOM database last year and that it had been decided not to invest extra money in carrying out an audit, especially because this would overlap with the membership department's mission. Other members commented that such an audit would be micro-management and interfere with the Director General's management of the Secretariat.

Decision 4

The Executive Council unanimously agreed that the Director General should continue to administer and improve the membership department's work processes, and would report on this progress to the EC and the Working Group on Membership Processing.
