



132nd Session of the Executive Council Paris, 14 - 15 December, 2015

Minutes and Records of Decisions

Members attending:

Prof. Dr Hans-Martin Hinz (Germany), President

Prof. Dr Tereza Cristina M. Scheiner (Brazil), Vice-President

Peter Keller (Austria), Treasurer

Dr Ossama A. W. Abdel Meguid (Egypt)

Prof. Dr Laishun An (China)

In-kyung Chang (Republic of Korea)

Luisa de Peña Diaz (Dominican Republic)

Alberto Garlandini (Italy)

Goranka Horjan (Croatia)

Merete Ipsen (Denmark)

Diana Pardue (USA)

Prof. Dr Regine Schulz (Germany)

Suay Aksoy (Turkey), Chair of the Advisory Committee, *ex-officio* member of the Executive Council

Excused members:

Prof. George H. Okello Abungu (Kenya), Vice-President

Dr Willem De Vos (Belgium)

Prof. Dr Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine was present as Director General.

Aedín Mac Devitt was recording secretary for the meeting.

The session began on 14 December, 2015 at 09:00am.

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

The President reminded participants that this meeting would be the last session of the present Executive Council to take place in Paris.

He gave a special thanks to the Secretariat for their preparation of the meeting, and to Aedín Mac Devitt for compiling the minutes.

1/ Agenda

The President confirmed that all the Working Documents and the Agenda had been made available online on time.

He reminded members that the discussion of the ICOM Statutes, the Internal Rules and Regulations and the Strategic Plan would be of the utmost importance. He said that the objective was to have a final draft of the Statutes and Internal Rules and Regulations by the end of this meeting and that this draft could then be presented at the Extraordinary General Assembly in Milan.

He mentioned that other matters would include a discussion of a letter received from the Chair of ICMS.

Tereza Scheiner said she would like to inform members of a meeting she had attended in Panama, Regine Schulz wished to speak of a meeting in Beijing regarding World War II, Ossama Abdel Meguid wished to report on the meeting of ICOM Arab in Beirut, and Laishun An asked for a quick mention of the meeting of ICOM ASPAC in the Philippines.

The agenda was approved with the above extra items to be included under "other matters".

Decision 132-01

The Executive Council approved the agenda.

2/ Minutes of the 131st Session, 30 – 31 May and of the extraordinary session of 2 June, 2015,

Paris

One member suggested that in the item on Activities for Africa (Extraordinary Seminar ICOM-ITC Tanzania, Permanent ICOM-ITC for Africa in Angola), the comment that there were “some reservations on the project discussed” was a little superficial, given that human rights issues in the country and the project’s connection with the military rather than culture had been brought into question. The President replied that this point would be further discussed in Item 12 of the current agenda.

There was some discussion as to the general format of the Executive Council minutes, in particular whether those asking questions or commenting should be named. The President reminded members that this had been discussed previously and that a decision had been made not to include names unless there was strong opposition to something or information was being given.

One member also suggested that the Working Documents should be added as appendices to the minutes, rather than the content of each presentation being repeated.

The President asked members to relay their comments to Aedín Mac Devitt as soon as a draft was ready.

The Director General wished to convey to the EC members the work that compiling and writing the minutes involved, and thanked those involved for their work.

Decision 132-02

The Executive Council unanimously approved the Minutes of the 131st Session, 30 – 31 May and of the extraordinary session of 2 June, 2015, Paris, with no amendments.

3/ Revised budget 2015

The Treasurer, Peter Keller, presented the revised budget for 2015, as outlined in the Working Document.

He explained that “Other income” was higher as it included membership fees from the ICOM Foundation and a grant from the Getty Institute of 75,000 eur for Milan 2016. It also included some reimbursements from ICOM’s health insurance company, due to a member of staff being on extended sick leave since August.

He explained that overheads had been significantly lower, mainly due to the rent of the UNESCO offices having been paid for six months (rather than the provision for one year).

However, consulting fees were higher in the revised budget, mainly due to payment of the salary of Barbara Landi for her full-time work on the ICOM General Conference and payment of the services

of Human Resources (HR) consultant Marie Bardel, to replace Isabelle Demangeot, who was on extended sick leave.

He confirmed that 300,000 eur had been set aside for the ICOM Endowment Fund, which could be used for future projects.

When asked about the consulting fees for Human Resources, the Director General explained that Marie Bardel had been ICOM's HR advisor for years, but that since Isabelle Demangeot had fallen ill, she had taken on some extra work.

One member queried why ICOM had not been aware of the high expenses related to the collaboration with KIT Group, the Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) recruited to manage the General Conference in Milan, before making the budget. The Director General replied that KIT Group had been recruited as a PCO one year ago, that Barbara Landi was a salaried employee of KIT but was working on several other projects at the same time so ICOM made a deal with KIT that she would work for ICOM Milan 2016 exclusively and that ICOM would pay her salary. KIT would continue to pay her travel expenses, however. Alberto Garlandini confirmed the improvement that this arrangement had brought about.

The Treasurer recommended that *ICOM News* become a solely digital publication/communication tool in order to avoid the high costs associated with producing and shipping it.

The President concluded the item by explaining that the budget would be officially approved when the year 2015 was over.

4/ Budget 2016

The Treasurer presented the budget for 2016, as outlined in the Working Document.

He said that income would increase, primarily due to a higher number of membership fees, and funds to be received for the Algerian training programme. Overhead costs would be higher because the rent for the UNESCO offices would be paid for a whole year, he said. He explained that the new lines, II.8 Publications, and II.9b Programmes covered by ICOM, related to expenses for *Museum International* and the training programme in Algeria. He pointed out that the cost of missions and support to network (in the form of travel grants) would be higher due to the Milan General Conference, including the travel expenses of EC members. He said there would be no transfer to the Endowment Fund in 2016, unless the revised 2016 budget suggested otherwise.

One member commented that there was an imbalance between funds available for International Committees and Technical Committees, especially given that International Committees were not encouraged to use this funding for travel expenses.

The President responded that it was important to ensure that the International Committees' expenditure was balanced. Some of their funding could be used to pay for the Chair to attend a meeting as long as all funds were not used for this purpose. In many cases, having their Chair attend a meeting is good for a committee.

One member expressed his appreciation for the fact that the EC had decided to support the Regional Alliances, as they were in a difficult situation financially. He said that the amount provided was symbolic, but wondered if it was possible to support them further.

The President confirmed that all Regional Alliances were provided with 3,000 eur for operating costs. Some members raised concerns about the proper usage of the money provided, given that the Regional Alliances do not have a legal entity and can therefore not establish a joint account with ICOM. The Treasurer and the Director General suggested waiting for the next SAREC meeting to discuss this point.

EC members approved the 2016 budget, including the amount to be distributed by SAREC, and the amount to be transferred to the Endowment Fund for the revised budget 2015.

Decision 132-03

The Executive Council unanimously approved the budget for 2016, and that 300,000 eur be transferred to the Endowment Fund for the revised budget for 2015.

5/ Creation and dissolution of National Committees

Dora Peter, Head of the Membership Department at the Secretariat, presented the background to the National Committee creation request for Saudi Arabia, as outlined in the Working Document.

She mentioned that ICOM was still awaiting formal documentation from the Committee but that the Chair would provide this soon.

The President recommended that the EC approve the creation of this National Committee. Ossama Al Meguid also called on fellow-EC members to approve the creation.

The President made the point that as an NGO, it was important that ICOM remain representative of the museum profession, despite having government presence in some committees. Two members suggested that government presence on committees can have a positive influence on policies, etc.

Other members emphasised that it would be important to remind the new committee of the requirement to abide by ICOM's ethical rules, in relation to illicit traffic, etc., and that the committee could help ICOM to raise awareness of these issues in their region.

The EC approved the creation of ICOM Saudi Arabia.

Decision 132-04

The Executive Council unanimously approved the creation of an ICOM National Committee in Saudi Arabia.

6/ New membership policy for country classification

Dora Peter presented the new policy proposal for country classification, as outlined in the Working Document.

She explained that the current method of updating the classification annually was time consuming, while the new proposal would see it updated every three years.

One member asked why ICOM did not have more institutional members. The President responded that in the future a campaign could be launched to increase institutional membership.

The new policy was accepted by the Executive Council.

Dora Peter then informed EC members that she would be leaving ICOM in January 2016, in order to pursue her original career path in the financial sector. The President and the rest of the EC members wished her well.

Decision 132-05

The Executive Council unanimously approved the new membership policy for country classification.

7/ Updates on the delegations of authority to International Committees

Samia Slimani, Head of the Legal Department at ICOM Secretariat, gave an update, saying that so far seven out of the 30 ICOM International Committees have signed a delegation of authority and the Secretariat is in contact with a further five to finalise their delegations. The objective is to have 30 signed by the General Conference in Milan.

She explained that this process will mean that the President will give up some of his power of representation in terms of signing contracts for International Committees, etc. The agreement signed with the International Committees on this basis describes the scope in which they are entitled to operate, for instance in monetary terms, to a limit of 5,000 eur, with the exception of ICOM-CC, which can go up to 8,000 eur.

Members queried whether these agreements would need to be signed again by the new elected president in Milan and the new elected Chairs of ICs.

It was confirmed that each delegation would need to be renewed and signed when a new Chair of a committee is elected.

8/ Request for the creation of a new Regional Alliance ICOM-CIMAO (International Council of Museums West Africa Alliance)

Samia Slimani presented the background to and nature of the request for the creation of a new Regional Alliance, ICOM-CIMAO (International Council of Museums West Africa Alliance), as outlined in the Working Document.

Although it was a great initiative that had garnered strong support, there were some reservations as ICOM had not been consulted in the initial stages. When ICOM requested further information, there was some confusion as to the committee's status and funding and it was difficult to assess the level of consensus among the other West African countries involved.

Although the creation had already been announced in the official journal of the Nigerian local authorities, she recommended postponing any official proceedings to create and acknowledge CIMAO as an ICOM Regional Alliance at this stage.

The President agreed that following the correct procedures was necessary.

Some members commented that although they had not followed the right steps, it was a bit delicate to stop this movement without them losing face, given that they had already announced the creation. They felt it was a good initiative for the museum community to have an active group of countries working together.

One member pointed out that this made the need for rules establishing Regional Alliances all the more important, with many agreeing.

The President asked Samia Slimani to draft a letter to the Chair of CIMAO saying that ICOM will accept their requirements as long as they follow ICOM's procedures.

Decision 132-06

The President will send a letter to Mr Mahamane SALEY TIM, Chair of CIMAO requesting that they follow ICOM's procedures consistent with the creation of a Regional Alliance.

9/ Presentation of candidates for honorary membership during the General Conference, Milan 2016

EC members were reminded of the procedure for the nomination of honorary members, and the candidates were presented and discussed.

10/ Activities for Africa (Item 12 on the agenda)

1. Report on ICOM-ITC Workshop in Tanzania.

Raphaël Roig, Senior Programmes Officer at ICOM Secretariat, gave a report on the ICOM-ITC workshop in Tanzania, as outlined in the Working Document.

He explained that the cost of this seminar had been higher than expected, with a large part devoted to travel expenses and human resources. He thought it would be a good idea to invite more lecturers from the region next time, and to work with a partner institution that could take on some of the workload.

The President agreed that it was important to think about how to reduce costs, but beyond the economic aspect, to also think about what the event did for Africa – it brought many professionals together who never would have had that type of exchange otherwise.

The Director General confirmed that the ICOM Endowment Fund was funding this event, so it was important to remember that the project is under French legislation for accounting purposes.

The treasurer compared the workshop in Tanzania to the CECA Southern Africa Regional Conference which in 2015 ICOM had supported by a subvention of 12.000 eur.

Some members queried the strategy behind ICOM ITC and wished to discuss what was achieved and the quality of the result.

Raphaël Roig said that if the programme was to have a more regional focus, more training sessions would be possible.

However, the President commented that the idea behind having a seminar in Tanzania was to allow African museum professionals from all regions (English-, Portuguese- and French-speaking) to come together in the spirit of ICOM's international focus.

One member suggested getting the International Committees involved, while others agreed with the proposed regional focus.

A suggestion was made to establish a 'training for trainers' programme with the help of ICOM-ITC, and to involve universities.

Another member suggested evaluating the Tanzania seminar to determine whether Africa needs its own ITC in conjunction with ICOM-ITC in Beijing. Many stressed the need to distinguish between museology training as an academy and more practical professional training. To this, one member commented that museology professors should not be excluded as they also come from life training in museums.

Some members felt that it would be difficult to replicate the ICOM-ITC in Beijing elsewhere given the different social, political and cultural contexts in other countries. Raphaël Roig commented that the popularity of ICOM-ITC is not down to the number of participants, but to the content. He reiterated the need to involve more local organisations. He also mentioned that they lacked potential lecturer names, and that people could now register to be part of a pool of lecturers. He said he had been in contact with Lynne Teather about that and was waiting for an answer.

In terms of a long-term model and strategy, he said he could make several proposals, which the EC could then discuss.

A member commented that many International Committees do a wonderful job on training, and that they should be taken as an example.

Suay Aksoy said that the Advisory Committee was planning on creating a Working Group that would examine the training strategy. In response to this, the Director General said that the Secretariat would need clear indication on where this Working Group was going and what their role would be.

2. Update on the Permanent ICOM-ITC for Africa in Angola

The President began by informing members that a letter had been sent to the Minister of Culture of Angola asking them for more details on the proposed project. In October, the Minister replied asking for the Terms of Reference for the establishment of the Centre.

The President said he would write again to the Minister with guidelines on what was expected in terms of infrastructure and personnel, and providing them with details on the budget for the ICOM-ITC in Beijing. He said that they would then need to wait and see how the government would react, given that Angola is currently experiencing a financial crisis.

3. Algeria project

Raphaël Roig presented the background to and methodology for the training project between ICOM, a partnership consortium and the Algerian government, as outlined in the Working Document.

He said that for each day of training delivered, ICOM would receive 600 eur.

When asked how the overheads would be covered, the Treasurer confirmed that this project would be financed, where necessary, by the Endowment Fund.

Decision 132-07

The President will send a letter to the Minister of Culture of Angola with guidelines on what is expected in terms of infrastructure and personnel, and providing them with details on the budget for the ICOM-ITC in Beijing.

11/ Report on the 5th Seminar of the ICOM International Training Centre, Beijing, 2 – 10 November, 2015 (Item 13 on the agenda)

Laishun An presented this item. He confirmed that the September seminar in Beijing had been another great success and that the work plan for 2016 was in progress.

He explained that the theme was *The engaging museum* and that nine lecturers had participated from China, Europe and Canada.

He said that the ICOM-ITC workshops would follow a basic series of four general themes in the upcoming years: management, collections, education and exhibitions. The next meeting will take place from 10 – 19 April, on the theme of *Current practices in museum management*. The seventh will be in November 2016 on the theme of *Collections and curatorship*.

He concluded by saying that several meetings concerning ICOM-ITC would take place at the ICOM General Conference in Milan, including a meeting of the governing board.

12/ Report on the Organisation of the 24th ICOM General Conference 2016, Milan (Item 14 on the agenda)

Alberto Garlandini presented the item as outlined in the Working Document. Following the preliminary conference in Brescia, he wondered if some members of the Executive Council could join him, Francois Mairesse, Daniele Jalla and Luigi di Corato in writing a Draft Resolution on Museum and Cultural Landscapes to discuss at the General Assembly in Milan. They were open to suggestions, he said. He felt it had been a good idea to organise a preliminary conference to allow discussion of the theme in advance and suggested that this format be followed for future General Conferences.

Regarding the keynote speakers planned for the conference, he informed members that Orhan Pamuk had cancelled his participation. He said that the Organising Committee would ask him to make a shorter speech by video.

He explained that there would be six keynote speakers from outside the museum world, but that there would also be keynote roundtables/panel discussions with major museum directors, and that he needed some suggestions as they were looking for 10/15 people in total. One member suggested that it would be good to have directors from smaller museums also, whose challenges are different to those from the Louvre and the MET, for instance.

Tereza Scheiner suggested the Director of the Imperial Museum in Brazil, as she said the museum has a specific approach to cultural landscapes.

Alberto Garlandini mentioned that it had been brought up during the Brescia conference that there would be additional time needed for the Advisory Committee meeting, so that needed to be further discussed. In terms of the preliminary programme to be available in January, he confirmed that he was waiting for details from some International Committees.

He said he had been all over the world promoting the conference and that feedback had been positive. He regretted not being present at the ASPAC meeting, which was not possible at the last moment because of overlapping events.

He said that 100 participants had already registered for the conference. Members asked some practical questions about possible late reservation and group rates. Alberto Garlandini replied that the procedure outlined by KIT Group would need to be followed but that there should be some flexibility.

13/ New ICOM website (Item 15 on the agenda)

Yu Zhang, Head of the Communications Department at the Secretariat, presented the proposal for the new ICOM website, as outlined in the Working Document.

She said it would be a good idea to develop a new website, with the integrated *ICOM News* platform, as ICOM was developing its branding strategy.

Many members expressed their agreement with the proposal in line with the new branding strategy.

Yu Zhang then informed members that she would be leaving ICOM at the end of January after almost seven years with the organisation. She plans to start her own business working with museums and Chinese museums in particular.

The Director General explained that she may work on specific projects for ICOM on a consulting basis. She said she hoped to still see her in Milan but in another capacity.

The President thanked her for her contribution to ICOM and hoped she might collaborate with the organisation again in the future. The Executive Council members also wished her the best of luck.

14/ Update on the preparations for the 70th anniversary of ICOM (item 18 on the agenda)

First, Aedín Mac Devitt, Head of the Publications and Documentation Department at the Secretariat, gave a short summary of the publication planned for ICOM's 70th anniversary, as outlined in the Working Document. She expressed her gratitude to Bernice Murphy for her dedication, patience and hard work in developing the manuscript.

François Mairesse, curator of the exhibition for ICOM's 70th anniversary, then presented the background to the exhibition. He explained how he was asked to prepare a small exhibition to display the history of ICOM and to focus on its membership and network, concentrating on interviews of people that would reflect the history and diversity of the organisation. He complimented Bastien Noël on the great job he did with the ICOM archives. He said the idea was to focus on ICOM's role in the present and future.

He explained that 25 students from the Sorbonne were working on preparing the exhibition, and that professional scenographers, a French company called Scenorama, had been recruited to design the exhibition. Representatives from Scenorama were invited to the meeting and they provided a visual presentation of the planned exhibition format and design.

The President asked whether any original objects would be displayed. François Mairesse replied that it would be more based on ideas. They had discussed using some small objects, which might still be possible, but they preferred to think about images, videos, etc., he said.

Bastien Noël mentioned that goodies and paraphernalia from former General Conferences would be displayed.

One member asked whether the color scheme, which appeared to be based on current ICOM colors, would be rethought. François Mairesse replied that the color chosen was deliberately neutral as a dark background was required for videos.

When asked how visitors would be managed, François Mairesse explained that there would be a meeting room that would hold about 30 people.

When asked about the communication and presentation of the exhibition, Alberto Garlandini confirmed that it would be presented at the conference opening ceremony. One member suggested that the exhibition might open during registration as many felt there would only be a short time to visit the exhibition.

Bastien Noël explained that they had a very short time to build the exhibition, and they would lose a half day of building it if they were to have it ready for registration. They would also have to pay for the extra time in the room.

Alberto Garlandini reassured members that the exhibition would be in a prominent position and everyone would pass by it several times a day.

15/ Update on Advisory Committee activities (Item 16 on the agenda)

Suay Aksoy presented the item, stating that two Working Groups would be created: one on ICOM's training (capacity building) policy, and one on the future of museums, International Committees and ICOM. She said that the idea was that these Working Groups would become Technical Committees in time. For the second Working Group she said it would be important to think about developments and challenges that National and International Committees could address. For instance, the constant threat of terrorism and how to improve relations with stakeholders. Committees could then be asked to work on different projects. She said she would appreciate any names that members could suggest for these two Working Groups.

The EC members agreed that these topics were very important, as the future held many challenges. Many felt that it would be important to identify what is crucial for museums today, like a trendwatch giving insight that would inform decisions. When asked how the Working Group on capacity building would function, Suay Aksoy responded that a strategy for training would first need to be established. One member emphasized that fundraising was an important training issue nowadays.

She also gave an update on the progress of the Working Group on the museum definition. Bernice Murphy is chairing the group and they are currently carrying out a survey. She explained that there had been some discussion as to whether the definition of a museum should change when new Statutes were about to be voted. She said that there would be no decision in July, but a report would be presented, and during the next Executive Council mandate there would be some concrete proposals.

16/ Draft of the new Strategic Plan (Item 11 on the agenda)

Regine Schulz and Diana Pardue explained that Michael Ryan would first give an introduction to the draft plan, and then Diana Pardue would present another more detailed document that would

outline the challenges that ICOM would have to face. This would be discussed by members, and then Michael Ryan would join the discussion again to answer any questions.

Michael Ryan joined the discussion via FaceTime. He presented the plan, as outlined in the Working Document, explaining that it was a simple plan that would build on the strengths ICOM already has and reinforce some of the most important work the organisation has already carried out. He said that the plan highlighted a limited number of core values, including independence (especially when members were working in difficult environments), integrity (emphasising the importance of adhering to ICOM's Code of Ethics for Museums), and professionalism (relating to the work carried out through ICOM's National and International Committees). In terms of equalisation of membership value, he said that with so many members, it was difficult to create equal value. He said the group felt that an emphasis on capacity building would be helpful in doing this.

He said the group felt that as ICOM lacks resources to do its work, that it should innovate and find new sources of support. ICOM's position in the world needed to be enhanced, he said, for instance in line with the new branding proposal underway.

The group also felt that ICOM could review its needs in terms of staff, and seek support for an increase in personnel. For an organization with 35,000 members, the staff numbers are small.

He said he would be happy to respond to comments where possible once the EC members had discussed this draft among themselves.

Diana Pardue then presented the new document (see Appendix 2) to EC members.

The President said it was a good plan, but wondered what exactly is expected from the members. Regine Schulz responded that the members would speak through their committees that they would come up with ideas and work on them.

Some members felt that the draft was very focused on the Secretariat, and it was unclear what members could take from it. Others felt that it was too long and detailed and lacked indicators and specific goals. The Director General said that although she agreed with these comments, she felt it was an important step forward from which leading ideas could be taken.

One member commented that the document was not a strategic plan, but a strategic vision, giving an overview of the plan that will follow. This vision would be supported by a strategic plan that will be much more detailed, with objectives and targets that are to be realized.

Several members indicated a preference for developing regionalization rather than increasing travel grants, and many agreed that capacity building was an important emphasis. One member commented that resources should not be confused with missions, and that goals should be achievable and measurable.

In terms of staff increases, the Director General pointed out that there was already a member of staff working on development.

Regine Schulz summarised the points discussed by EC members to Michael Ryan as follows:

- Museums and their impact on society
- Strategic vision vs strategic plan
- Strategic plan with detailed action plan
- Regionalisation vs travel grants
- Plan too detailed

- Already a staff person in the Secretariat working on development
- Capacity building would be a necessary addition
- Strategic steps must be achievable and measurable to evaluate the outcome

The Director General wished to clarify if there was a difference between the terms “Secretariat” and “Headquarters” in the document as they were both used. Michael Ryan confirmed that in this context headquarters was used to mean the President, Executive Council and Secretariat.

She also asked how he would like the Secretariat to work with the group. He said he imagined a distribution of tasks among the Secretariat with Committees to be consulted. Objectives could be broken down and reviewed on a two-year basis.

To the suggestion that there should be a plan for committees also as it was too focused on the Secretariat, Michael Ryan responded that this was actually presented in the new document under “Reanimating the Committees”.

The President said that a Strategic Plan would have to be ready for the ICOM General Conference in Milan, and so a final version would be needed by the end of March. He said that the Working Group and the Secretariat should work on this final draft until then. The Executive Council would then have an online discussion about this and come to a final decision before it is sent to the General Assembly.

Michael Ryan added that as far as the vision was concerned, it was finalised, and that they were now talking about details. He said that the discussion points raised would be circulated to the Working Group members.

The President mentioned that a meeting would need to be set up between the Working Group and the Secretariat with perhaps someone from the Executive Council, possibly after the SAREC meeting.

The Director General said she would see who among the staff members could collaborate with the Working Group.

17/ Draft of the new ICOM Statutes and Rules and Regulations (Item 10 on the agenda)

The President welcomed Per Rekdal and reminded EC members that the new Statutes needed to be ready for voting at the Extraordinary General Assembly in July. He hoped that they could come to a final version today, and asked therefore that the discussion remain focused on the latest draft.

Per Rekdal presented members with a new draft with additional corrections. This was following consultation with Bernice Murphy and Michael Ryan on English language matters. He said the Working Group’s mandate was to examine parts of the Statutes that are ambiguous.

There was some confusion among members as to which was the most recent draft. The Director General explained that the Secretariat had worked with a legal translator accredited to the French courts to produce the best version possible that would be compatible with French legal terminology. She reiterated the fact that the French version was the one that was legally binding.

Many members agreed that the translation proposed by the official translator to the French courts should be the final version as it was important that the organisation be protected, while some felt that the improvements suggested by native speakers should be integrated.

The Articles were discussed one by one, and the proposed changes will be available separately.

The President thanked everyone for their hard work on this subject. Given the length of the discussion, he felt it would be too much to discuss the Rules and Regulations also.

Members then discussed whether it would be possible to present the Statutes only at the General Assembly in Milan, saying that the Rules and Regulations are in preparation. However, Samia Slimani informed members that legally speaking, changes proposed and adopted in the Statutes would impact the Internal Rules and Regulations.

A suggestion was made to come to an agreement on the Internal Rules and Regulations by electronic communication, but many felt that this would be too difficult.

It was therefore decided that another meeting of the Executive Council would be held on 13 February 2016 to discuss the Internal Rules and Regulations, and to adopt a final English version of the Statutes.

Decision 132-08

The Council confirmed, as discussed during the last two years, to invite members for an Extraordinary General Assembly on 9th July, 2016, in Milan.

18/ Update on the preparations of the elections for 2016-2019: candidates and procedure

Dominique Ferriot, Co-Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, gave an update on the preparations of the elections for 2016-2019. She said that the applications received had been examined by the committee and a list would be available shortly, in addition to a brochure with the candidates' profiles and their statement of objectives to be available in March. She then listed the candidates for the posts of President, Vice-President and Ordinary Member.

The President confirmed that the Nominations and Elections Committee, chaired by two co-chairs, is an independent body. Neither he nor any member of the Executive Council (as an elected body of ICOM) will intervene or comment on the decisions of the Nominations and Elections Committee during its meeting on 18 December and beyond.

The Director General informed members that the voting system would be improved. She understood that the former system was not as transparent as it might have been. She said a voting company was to be hired under the responsibility of Dominique Ferriot, Samia Slimani and herself. At the end of the voting process, a sealed envelope with the result would be given to Dominique Ferriot and kept confidential until the result was announced. The Director General and Samia Slimani would not be aware of the result, she said, until it was announced at the General Assembly.

19/ Update on the ICOM Foundation (Item 19 on the agenda)

Mrs Christine Boël, Chair of the ICOM Foundation, presented this item. She gave some background to the Foundation's creation, saying that it had been created in Zurich in 1965, and that their first

mission had been to source funds for ICOM. The Foundation now has a small board, consisting of five members, and they have members from 34 countries.

She said that the Foundation had supported many of the organisation's projects. She said it would be funding the travel grants for the ICOM General Conference in Milan, and if there is some money left over, she said the Foundation would help with the ICOM 70th anniversary celebrations and the Red List on South East Europe.

Alberto Garlandini added that he was delighted that the Foundation was planning specific activities for members in Milan, and said that the Organising Committee would be delighted to help them with that.

20/ Report on ICOM Archives and their transfer to the French National Archives (Item 24 on the agenda)

The Director General introduced Benjamin Paradis to the Executive Council members. She explained that unfortunately the Secretariat would not be able to extend Benjamin's contract. Although it would be great to have an in-house archivist, she said it would be difficult to justify a full-time position at the moment.

Benjamin Paradis then presented the item as outlined in the Working Document. Some members expressed concerns about archives that would be disposed of. Benjamin Paradis explained that there had to be rules and that there were most often duplicates of the documents in question.

Another member asked if the archives would be digitised. The Director General explained that if the archives were transferred, it would be easier to digitise them on the premises of the National Archives. She explained that the documents in question were historical, not administrative.

Some members expressed concerns as to the access ICOM members would have to the French National Archives. The Director General said that nothing would be lost; the archives would just become part of a bigger programme that will give members access. Otherwise the archives might disappear within five years due to poor storage conditions.

She explained that Benjamin Paradis had convinced her that a donation was better than a deposit because ICOM would not lose access and if the organisation decided to digitise content, it would be part of the package, whereas a deposit would mean having to pay each time digitisation was requested.

Tereza Scheiner expressed her shock at the proposal and said she was completely against the transfer of the archives. She felt that transferring archives to any national archive would be to give away something that is international and that belongs to the ICOM members. She wondered what would happen if some countries were not on good diplomatic terms with France, whether researchers from those countries would be allowed to do research in the National Archives building. She recommended that no decision be taken yet, and suggested that it be brought forward at the next meeting.

Diana Pardue said that, on the contrary, she was totally in favour of the transfer. She gave the example of a similar situation with the Ellis Island museum, whose archives were transferred to the

National Archives at New York City. She said it had been an excellent solution as it was now easier for people to access the archives.

Benjamin Paradis then explained his point of view. He said that when he arrived at ICOM, the archives were in a very poor condition and stored in an insecure environment. In addition, there was no qualified archivist at ICOM to ensure their protection. He said this had been his mission at ICOM, to protect the endangered archives, and that he would have concerns for their future if they were left in these conditions.

The President recommended that, given some strong opposition to this proposal, no decision be taken on the matter until further discussion. He suggested putting it on the agenda for the EC meeting in July 2016.

21/ Next meeting of the Executive Council, 2 July, 2016, Milan (Item 25 on the agenda)

The President informed members that items 20, 21, 22 and 23 would be postponed to the EC meeting in Milan.

He confirmed that an additional EC meeting would take place on 13 February to discuss the Statutes and Internal Rules and Regulations.

Many EC members also felt that they would need to meet for more than one day in Milan, and spoke of the possibility of meeting on 1 July also.

22/ Other matters (Item 26 on the agenda)

The President distributed a letter received from the Chair and Secretary of ICMS requesting authorization that the current Chair of ICMS, Willem Hekman, be elected for a third consecutive mandate. This was due to the fact that Willem Hekman had been ill throughout 2014, and thus unable to perform his duties during this period. For this reason the board wished to extend his mandate.

Ossama Abdel Meguid spoke of the ICOM Arab meeting he had attended in Beirut. He said many countries were to be represented including Syria and Iraq. However, many Iraqi representatives could not attend as the airports were closed. Ten museum directors from Syria attended, most of them working in very difficult conditions, and concerned about their museums and collections. He said they needed ICOM's support, and asked that the EC send them a letter praising them for the great job they do. The President agreed and asked Ossama Abdel Meguid to draft a letter.

Tereza Scheiner thanked Aedín Mac Devitt, Melanie Foehn and Elisabeth Jani for their hard work in publishing the latest issue of *Museum International*, entitled, *Key ideas in museums and heritage*.

The meeting was closed at 6:00pm.