



**128th Session of the Executive Council
Paris, 4–5 April 2014**

Minutes and Records of Decisions

Members attending:

Prof. Dr Hans-Martin Hinz (Germany), President
Prof. Dr Tereza Cristina M. Scheiner (Brazil), Vice-President
Dr Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine (France), Treasurer
Inkyung Chang (Republic of Korea)
Dr Willem De Vos (Belgium)
Alberto Garlandini (Italy)
Goranka Horjan (Croatia)
Merete Ipsen (Denmark)
Peter Keller (Austria)
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:

Dr George H. Okello Abungu (Kenya)
Dr Ossama A. W. Abdel Meguid (Egypt)
Prof. Dr Laishun An (China)
Luisa de Peña Díaz (Dominican Republic)

Hanna Pennock was present in her capacity of acting Director General.
Margarida Ascenso and Aedín Mac Devitt were recording secretaries for the meeting.

The session began on 4 April 2014 at 10.00 am.

PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The President welcomed all members of the Executive Council present, and participants were informed that Dr George H. Okello Abungu, Vice-President, Dr Ossama A.W. Abdel Meguid, Prof. Dr Laishun An and Luisa de Peña Díaz could not attend this session. Proxies for these four colleagues were received by the Secretariat. The President also confirmed that the invitation and the agenda were sent out on the 17th February, and that the working documents had been sent to the members well before the meeting.

The President then moved with remarks concerning the political situation between Russia and Ukraine and mentioned that it is not only a political situation but it is also affecting museums and museum professionals in Ukraine. The council members exchanged information about the situation of museums and protection of cultural heritage in Ukraine and about discussions, actions and expectations of ICOM members in the two countries and abroad.

1/ Agenda

The agenda for this session was presented and Tereza Scheiner asked to add in other matters a report on the situation in Venezuela.

Decision 128-01

The Executive Council approved the agenda, including an item on the situation in Venezuela.

2/ Minutes of the 127th Session, 12-13 December 2013, Paris

The President informs that the Minutes of the December session were circulated to all members by e-mail and that comments were included in this version. The Minutes are also available in ICOM's website.

Decision 128-02

The Executive Council approved unanimously the Minutes of the 127th Session, with no further amendments.

3/ Appointment of the New Treasurer, as of 1 May 2014

The President introduced the item by explaining that ICOM needs a new Treasurer to replace Dr Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine who will take up new functions of Director General of ICOM starting on 1 May 2014, and confirms that he has received a letter of resignation by the current Treasurer. In accordance with the ICOM Internal Rules and Regulations art. 3.5 §3, the new Treasurer should be an elected member and appointed within the Executive Council. The President confirms that by the deadline of 31 January 2014, Peter Keller, from Austria, was the only candidate for the position of Treasurer.

Peter Keller left the room for a few minutes so that members could make comments or questions, before the vote. His place as ordinary member of the Council will remain vacant, according to the Statutes art. 11, section 1, §3 and the Internal Rules and Regulations art. 3.5, §4.

Decision 128-03

The Executive Council approved unanimously the appointment of Peter Keller as the new Treasurer of ICOM, from 1 May 2014.

4/ Final Financial Statements of the 23rd ICOM General Conference 2013, Rio de Janeiro

The Treasurer presented the final financial statements of the 23rd ICOM General Conference of Rio de Janeiro. She said that ICOM Secretariat received a letter and a table from the Board of ICOM Brazil. The tables indicate a surplus of €12,291.49, and it is a good result that ICOM Brazil can show a surplus after the General Conference. In the table, ICOM Brazil also indicates that they had a loan on the revenues and they ask to reimburse the loan before making a transfer to ICOM International related to 'ICOM licence fees', corresponding to €33,038.75.

The Treasurer said that this is not acceptable regarding the contract signed between ICOM and ICOM Brazil (20% of the fees go to ICOM Secretariat) and recommended to not accept this proposal. ICOM should ask ICOM Brazil to transfer as soon as possible the amount of €33,038.75 which is on the account of ICOM Brazil. The Treasurer mentioned that if ICOM International does not receive the transfer within two weeks, the accounts have to be reviewed and the Statutory Auditor will not accept the accounts. She also recommended that the €12,291 could stay in ICOM Brazil's account.

The President commented that during the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 2 April 2014, David Fleming, Chair of the Committee also recommended that ICOM International should get the amount of €33,038.75 immediately and that it should have already been done months ago. The Finance and Resources Committee recommended that the Executive Council should take a position on the €12,291, if this amount should remain in Brazil or not.

The Council discussed this item at length.

Decision 128-04

The Executive Council approved the following recommendations:

- a) The pending reimbursement to ICOM International of €33,038.75 should be done immediately by ICOM Brazil;**
 - b) In the table, Item 8.3.d. shown as loan should be written as grant;**
 - c) ICOM International is open to support ICOM Brazil with the surplus of €12,291.49.**
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5/ Report from the Treasurer and Approval of the 2013 Financial Statements

The Treasurer presented the item and indicated that the same documents were also presented during the Finance and Resources Committee meeting of 2 April 2014. Among other issues, the Treasurer highlighted the following points:

- Incomes are increasing for Membership;
- In regard to expenses, the depreciation and provision of €500.000, as explained during the Executive Council meeting in December, are mainly to cover legal costs with the three ongoing litigations;
- The case dating back to 2012 will come to a conclusion soon, ICOM is currently negotiating with the lawyer;
- The other two cases are not likely to come to an end this year;
- ICOM will close the accounts with a deficit, although this is still a virtual deficit.

Without the provision, ICOM would have had a surplus of €345,658. It should also be taken into account that ICOM has more staff members now, 24, but pays less for salaries in total than in the period up to April 2013 when staff consisted of 18 persons only.

ICOM is almost at the end of the process concerning the aggregation of the 2013 accounts for the Secretariat and the International Committees. In regard to CIMAM, ICOM expects to have the signature of CIMAM's accounts in the next ten days; this is a very important point for the Statutory Auditor. After the signature the financial situation will be stabilised with CIMAM and the Statutory Auditor will not ask for a provision. The Treasurer also pointed out that three International Committees - ICMS, ICOMAM, ICMAH - did not transfer all their accounts to the Paris based HSBC system. With the aggregation of all the International Committee accounts, ICOM will be able to show one single account in 2015.

After the Treasurer's presentation, Regine Schulz commented that she is happy to see that the problems of the past with the International Committees are over. The President informed that the meeting with the Board of CIMAM went very well and that they will attend the next annual meetings in June.

Peter Keller inquired on the costs of €26,000 for ICOMMUNITY and indicated that in his opinion this is a considerable sum. Hanna Pennock answered that an analysis is being done on the existing tools and what is really necessary for the communication within the Secretariat.

Alberto Garlandini expressed his appreciation for the Secretariat's work and said that as a member of the Advisory Committee he had never seen such transparent and detailed financial documents regarding the operating income and expenses of the General Secretariat. He suggested that during the next Advisory Committee meeting in June, the Treasurer should highlight the improvement of these tables with such clear figures. Inkyung Chang added that it should be also made clear *when* the decision was taken to present the finances in such a transparent way, to mark the new style of governance after April 2013. Goranka Horjan inquired if ICOM is continuing with the Mediation Programme to which the President responded that John McAvity, Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee was going to report about that in the report of his Committee. Finally, Tereza Scheiner congratulated the Treasurer, the Director General and the President for their work and for these clear documents.

Decision 128-05

The Executive Council approved unanimously the 2013 Financial Statements as presented by the Treasurer with a net loss of €154.342 for ICOM Secretariat and 31 International Committees, adding that they appreciated the transparency of the documents very much.

6/ Report on ICOM Secretariat and Final Report from the Director General

Hanna Pennock presented the report on ICOM Secretariat and her final report. She informed that the new structure of the Secretariat is in place since 1 February 2014 and that there were significant improvements in the working conditions for the staff, namely through the introduction of new procedures for working hours (all staff members now work 37,5 hours per week) as well as for holiday and leave. She also explained that the evaluations of all staff members have been done until the end of March. Part of these improvements was based on the Labour Inspector report of 2013 and followed his requirements.

In regard to the Questionnaire on the working conditions, Hanna Pennock informed that in general there is an important improvement compared to the previous situation and she recommended to have this questionnaire filled out by the staff every year. She then proceeded by giving some results of the Questionnaire in general and mentioned that they were also discussed in detail with the staff.

The acting Director General said that there were still some pending issues concerning the ICOM offices in UNESCO and informed that a meeting of UNESCO Headquarters Committee was going to take place on 17 April where the housing of the NGO's was to be discussed. On the basis of what is decided there, ICOM can start making its own plans. The Treasurer added that having two locations for the staff is a problem and it is important for the Director General to share her time between the two offices (Palestro and UNESCO). Some members made comments that ICOM should find other solutions concerning office space, others also mentioned the need for ICOM to invest on technical equipment for the Secretariat, in order to organise more often teleconferences or videoconferences. To this Hanna Pennock mentioned that some time ago Skype was installed in the Secretariat.

The Director General put attention to the paragraph in her report which describes the many tasks that are being fulfilled in the Secretariat, and the fast and continuous working pace. Willem

De Vos thanked her for mentioning this, as it had opened his eyes for understanding how much work is being done by all members of the Secretariat.

Hanna Pennock expressed her many thanks for the support of the President and of the Executive Council during her mandate and highlighted the quality of the work done by all staff members. She also mentioned that the flexibility of the staff might reach its end soon and already at the moment extra staff would be necessary to fulfil all the tasks. She also informed that during the June meetings, the staff will be introduced to the ICOM network. Tereza Scheiner suggested that ICOM could publish on the website the photos of all the staff members.

The President concluded by expressing his and the Executive Council's appreciation for the many improvements of the last year and for all the work that has been done in an efficient way.

7/ Presentation of ICOM Departments

The Heads of ICOM Secretariat's Departments – Administration, Communications and Publications, Documentation, Finance and Human Resources, Legal Affairs, Membership, Organisation and Information Systems, Programmes and Partnerships – gave a presentation of their departments' work during the two days meeting.

In regard to the UNESCO-ICOM Information Centre the President and some members of the Executive Council exchanged on the need to have a plan for digitisation namely to preserve the memory of ICOM's Committees and of the whole organisation. Regine Schulz suggested that ICOM should make a renewed call to the network to get back some records of the years between 1960-1980 which are missing. Peter Keller added that the International Committee for Documentation (CIDOC) should be consulted on this issue. Tereza Scheiner commented that the International Committees should be able to send their materials to the Information Centre and that it would be also important to digitise archives of the Regional Alliances in specific countries or regions during the next three years.

Yu Zhang presented the department of Communications and Publications, emphasising the large amount of teamwork required and the multi-tasking abilities of each member of the team. She then spoke about the team's goals, stressing she was not presenting a communications plan, but working methods that allowed the team to identify objectives and ways of promoting the work of ICOM committees. She highlighted the team's work to improve communication (internal and external), membership development and publications. The various tools used to achieve this are committee websites, the ICOM e-newsletter, e-mailings, ICOMMUNITY, social networks, *ICOM News*, *Museum International* and other editorial productions.

Willem De Vos commented that in the evaluation of the Strategic Plan, four points related to communication, and he was happy to see that these expectations were being anticipated by the Communications and Publications department.

The President commented that it seemed to be more difficult to communicate with Chairs of committees as their e-mail addresses were not visible on ICOM's website for instance. Yu Zhang explained that the addresses were deliberately not visible in order to protect recipients from spam. She suggested that committees use a general e-mail address, specifically for ICOM matters.

Goranka Horjan wished to reiterate a point made by Yu Zhang about the potential to make International Museum Day more visible. She suggested that it was important to work with the press and send a strong message.

To this, the President added his feeling that ICOM is not very present in the media, especially on an international level. This led to a general discussion on ICOM's presence, image and branding.

The majority of members felt that ICOM had a general branding problem and was not sufficiently well known on an international scale, often being overshadowed by UNESCO. There was a general consensus that ICOM would have to pursue the media more actively and draw attention to itself and its programmes, by inviting well-known celebrities as ambassadors for instance.

More specifically in relation to the International Observatory Project, many members felt that this should be publicised as an ICOM project. However, there was some uncertainty as to whether it could be called the ICOM International Observatory, given the involvement of the European Commission and other partners.

In conclusion, the President confirmed that the contract would be checked to see if it would be possible to change the name by adding ICOM, and the prominence required for other logos, etc.

The President thanked all the Departments for their clear presentations and for their hard work.

8/ Report from the SAREC Meeting of 24-25 February 2014

Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine presented this item and began by thanking Claude Faubert, the rest of the committee members, and staff members at the Secretariat for their hard work.

She spoke of some of the issues facing the commission and recommendations presented in the report. One of the major points of discussion was the situation with the International Committees. Some committees were not sending their annual report or were sending it with incomplete details, and it was not always clear what funding was used for.

Some members stressed the need to take into account the diversity of ICs but that if some were inactive, it was necessary to investigate this and assist them rather than judge.

As a general rule, members agreed that proper reporting was essential, and a suggestion was made that grantees, for instance, could write an article for *ICOM News* on events or conferences they attended thanks to ICOM funding. All members agreed with this suggestion. Goranka Horjan added that SAREC decisions do not need final approval by the Executive Council.

Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine recommended initiating a discussion in the form of a face-to-face meeting with a couple of the ICs that were in particular need of assistance.

This suggestion was approved and the President also confirmed that the recommendations of SAREC would be taken up by those SAREC members who are part of the Executive Council.

9/ Report on the Strategic Plan 2014-2016

The President opened the discussion on this item by thanking Michael Ryan and the members of the Strategic Plan Committee for preparing the draft Strategic Plan.

He expressed his opinion that it would be better to extend the current strategic plan for another year until consensus was achieved on the next one, as there seemed to be a general feeling that this draft, although it contained many good points, was too internal to be an effective strategic plan.

He suggested that the Strategic Plan Committee and the Working Group on the Statutes, Internal Rules and Regulations and Governance, which will prepare a full review of ICOM's governing structure in June 2015, meet in June 2014 to discuss how to cooperate in order to have documents which should be consistent.

Members supported the idea that both groups would work together. They also felt that the Strategic Plan needed to be more outward-looking, focusing on ICOM's values, missions and philosophy, but also providing outsiders with a brief positive overview of what ICOM is and what it stands for.

The Council agreed that the current Strategic Plan should be extended for another year, meaning that a new Strategic Plan would be valid from 2015 until 2019 instead of 2016. The two committees (Strategic Plan Committee and the Working Group on the Statutes, Internal Rules and Regulations and Governance) would meet during the upcoming June meetings in Paris.

The President said he would inform the committees of this decision.

10/ Report on the Working Group on the ICOM Membership Database

Dora Eszter Peter, Head of the Membership Department and Marie Claverie, Project Manager Organisation and Information Systems gave an updated report on the Working Group on the ICOM Database and the improvements in procedures and the database that are in course. Dora Eszter Peter confirmed that at the moment only 15% of the Chairs and Secretaries use the Webservice, the online database for committees. Following a question by Alberto Garlandini, some members expressed the need for improvement of communication by the Executive Council to the ICOM members to make them aware of the possibilities offered by the database and the importance of address updates.

Dora Eszter Peter confirmed that if there is a need for the Board members of National and International Committees to modify data of its members directly, this function needs further developments. She also added that several (e-mail) addresses can be included in the database for each member.

11/ Report on MUSEDOMA – Museum Domain Management Association

Hanna Pennock presented the report on Musedoma, explaining that it was an association created first in the US in 2001 by the J. Paul Getty Trust, the Swedish Museum of Natural History and ICOM. It was created to manage the domain *.museum*, which enables museums, museum associations and museum professionals to register *.museum* websites and addresses.

She spoke of the Board meetings that ICOM and the Swedish museum organised in Stockholm, March 2014, which she attended together with Marie Claverie and Samia Slimani, in order to address and solve the major administrative, financial and technical issues. She clarified that Musedoma would remain a French Association and that the ICOM President and Treasurer would be the only members of the Board. The association's Statutes had been revised and were in the process of being signed.

Marie Claverie told members that a workshop would take place in ICOM Secretariat on 12 May with Cary Karp and other companies that are involved, and that the daily operations have been transferred to the ICOM Secretariat.

Hanna Pennock expressed her hope that Musedoma, which has the potential to be profitable, might fund the salary of the ICOM member of staff working on it. She said that the Swedish museum hired Cary Karp, after his retirement, as a consultant to help with further questions ICOM might have on Musedoma. One of the benefits, she said, was that *.museum* can provide museums around the world with a certain status or certification. She stressed that ICOM must now develop a strategy for the use of the *.museum* domain. Some members suggested that it be integrated into the Strategic Plan, and that institutional members be encouraged to use the *.museum*.

12/ Final Report on the Legal Affairs Committee 2011-2013

John McAvity, Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee 2011-2013 thanked the President for allowing his participation at this session and to give a report. He said he would focus his presentation on two areas:

- ✓ Recommendations for future activities of the Legal Affairs Committee;
- ✓ Recommendations for the ICOM-WIPO Cultural Property Mediation Programme.

John McAvity informed members of the Executive Council that the Mediation Programme was an important tool to deal with conflicts that can arise in the cultural field. He also mentioned that WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) will be happy to collaborate with ICOM in a broader manner and that ICOM is a partner of the programme but not fully at the present moment. Goranka Horjan questioned about the finances being used for the mediation programme and if there is another mediation seminar planned, which is not the case at the moment. To a question raised by Willem De Vos on the practical case of violation of copyright, John McAvity indicated that usually one approaches WIPO in Geneva and they will appoint a mediator and the fees are paid to the mediator. John McAvity also feels that the ICOM Mediation programme does not need to be restricted to cultural property and that all the information about this programme is available on ICOM's website under: <http://icom.museum/programmes/art-and-cultural-heritage-mediation/>.

Goranka Horjan inquired if there has been any cooperation with the European Programme Europeana, to John McAvity's knowledge there hasn't been any until now. Some members talked about the cases of museums which have problems with architects who design new museum buildings and others also mentioned cases related to access to museums and to culture, what one can call 'inclusive museum'.

John McAvity also explained that he and Samia Slimani attended the WIPO Special Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCRR) held in Geneva from December 14-19, 2013 and were very active in interventions and talks with several member states and NGO's. A major workshop on museum issues with various speakers and delegates was also organised in Geneva with the full collaboration of WIPO. He gave the example of IFLA which is well organised and effective in lobbying near WIPO and its member states. In his opinion it is important for ICOM as well to be present and consistent in advocating for museums in policy matters that affect museums worldwide.

As for the funding of ICOM's participation in Geneva, Hanna Pennock had asked the Legal Affairs Committee to find funds. The Legal Affairs Committee is in contact with a potential sponsor.

In what concerns the work of the Legal Affairs Committee, John McAvity said that during the last years he was asked by the previous Director General to write reports to the Executive Council meetings, but he never got any feedback and probably these reports were not tabled during the

Council meetings. Alberto Garlandini mentioned that he was not aware of recommendations put forward by John McAvity to the Executive Council and that the same were never discussed during the Advisory Committee meetings.

Regine Schulz added that in the past there was a close collaboration between the Legal Affairs and the Ethics Committee and she thinks it is essential that the Technical Committee Chairs address their reports to the Executive Council. Suay Aksoy supports the recommendations by John McAvity and suggests that in the future the name of the Legal Affairs Committee should be changed to Legal Affairs and Intellectual Rights Committee. John McAvity also thinks that the word 'Technical Committee' might not be the most appropriate for the Legal Affairs and for the Ethics Committee and should be perhaps changed in the future. Finally, he informed that the next meeting of the Legal Affairs Committee would probably take place in October 2014.

Decision 128-6

The Executive Council approved unanimously the recommendations by John McAvity as follows:

- a) Acknowledge the advocacy role and activity of ICOM to WIPO, within the framework of the ICOM –WIPO partnership;
 - b) Allot the relevant amount of budget to support the participation of two representatives of ICOM to SCCRR and IGC WIPO session meetings;
 - c) Entrust the Legal Affairs Committee, in accordance with the Director General, with the mission of exploring the fundraising opportunities to support such activity of ICOM.
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13/ Appointments for the Editorial Committee of *Museum International*

Aedín Mac Devitt presented the background to ICOM's involvement in *Museum International*, which came about following UNESCO's decision to stop publishing the journal in 2011. She explained that ICOM had taken over the publishing rights to the journal, granting ICOM exclusive responsibility for the editorial policy and content. The journal will be published in collaboration with Wiley Blackwell, UNESCO's traditional publishing partner.

She explained that certain delays in the publishing schedule had been inherited in the handover. For instance, the last issue produced by UNESCO for 2011 was not published until 2013. ICOM was now trying to catch up with this backlog and for this reason, two transition issues (without a permanent editorial board) were being produced this year. The first was about Brazilian museums and the second would be on the theme of International Museum Day 2014.

The President then told members that he had asked Tereza Scheiner to take on the role of Editor in Chief for the three year period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017, and that she, the President and Aedín Mac Devitt had come up with a list of members for the editorial board for approval by Executive Council members.

Willem De Vos commented that one of the requests in the Strategic Plan had been for an academic journal, but that the compromise that was reached was a request for a research journal.

Tereza Scheiner responded that although her original idea was to transform *Museum International* into a high-level academic journal, she realised that that would break with the journal's tradition. She was therefore ready to incorporate any suggestions and ideas for the format, with potentially a section for research papers.

Members agreed that this was a good opportunity for ICOM, although one member expressed frustration at the lack of communication on the subject. Aedín Mac Devitt explained that now that the list of editorial members had been agreed, the appointment letters would be sent out and ICOM would communicate extensively on the fact that it was now publishing *Museum International*.

The President and Tereza Scheiner also expressed the need for an advisory panel and asked the Council members if they would be willing to form this. Willem De Vos, Alberto Garlandini, Inkyung Chang, Diana Pardue, Hanna Pennock and Merete Ipsen agreed to be part of this panel.

14/ Final List of Members of Technical Committees

The President confirmed that the final list of Technical Committees reflects the responses of members who were invited and that have accepted to be part of a Technical Committee.

Willem De Vos asked and got permission to invite colleagues from the 2013 Working Group on Resolutions to be part of the Committee on the Strategic Plan and Resolutions Monitoring Committee.

Goranka Horjan asked to be withdrawn from the Strategic Plan and Resolutions Monitoring Committee.

15/ Report and Recommendations on the Composition of the Different Bodies for the ICOM International Training Centre

Yu Zhang gave a summary of progress on the 2014 training sessions at the ICOM-ITC and the composition of the different bodies. She confirmed that the theme of the next training session would be the theme of International Museum Day 2014, Museum Collections make Connections. Following a call for participants sent out, 15 members were awarded travel grants for the event, including two participants from Africa. The theme of the next session was likely to be museum education, with the involvement of CECA.

She then presented the different bodies of the ICOM-ITC, specifying that names needed to be finalised for the Programme Committee. The President explained that after discussion with the Chinese colleagues, it was decided that the Chair of the Programme Committee should be part of the Executive Council. George Abungu had accepted to occupy this function, with Claude Faubert appointed as scientific advisor.

The Council therefore approved the lists, with the condition that Yu Zhang would check that there was no overlap with members in the different committees. The President confirmed that the meeting of the Governing Board would take place on 5 June following the ICOM June meetings.

16/ Report on the ICOM International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods

France Desmarais and Raphaël Roig made the presentation of the three-year project ICOM International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods, which started on the initiative of ICOM and with the financial support of the European Commission's Directorate-General Home Affairs. They also presented, for the first time, the official website and platform which contains a global report on the worldwide issue of illegal traffic in cultural property. France Desmarais confirmed that the Programmes Department always checks the sources of information before

publishing it on the Observatory's website. She also informed that this project is funded by the European Union until 2015 and after that other sources of funding should be found, but the EU is very supportive of these kinds of projects.

Regine Schulz mentioned that this project will be an excellent tool to work with students and with the museum community worldwide. Inkyung Chang and Suay Aksoy highlighted the fact that ICOM's name and logo should be more visible in the Observatory's webpage so that this project can be recognised worldwide as an ICOM project.

Several members of the Executive Council addressed their congratulations to the Programmes Department for achieving this project which will contribute to expand ICOM's name and probably will attract more members to the organisation in the future, as communication is also going to be online via Facebook and Twitter.

17/ Report on the ICOM/UNESCO/Blue Shield Mission to Cairo of 30 January–2 February 2014

Regine Schulz spoke about the emergency mission that took place in Cairo, led by representatives of ICOM, UNESCO and the Blue Shield 30 January to 2 February, 2014, following a car bomb that caused extensive damage to the building housing both the Islamic Museum and the National Library of Egypt at Bab el-Khalq Place.

The mission delegates met with H.E. Professor Dr Mohammed Ibrahim, Minister of State for Antiquities, as well as the directors, curators and conservators of both institutions. They carried out an in-depth assessment of the damage to the building itself and to the collections.

She explained that there had been 24 million dollars worth of damage, partly due to water as they could not shut down the sprinkler system for three days.

She said that the damage was a catastrophe for Islamic arts. As some objects are gone completely with no chance of recovery, a priority list is needed. She said that a plan on how to go forward had been developed with international help, and wished to acknowledge UNESCO for their great cooperation during the mission. Regine Schulz also mentioned that the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington offered help for restoration.

She finished by suggesting to the President that a letter could be written to the Minister of State for Antiquities outlining the range of expertise required to restore the damaged objects.

18/ Programme of the ICOM Annual Meetings, 2-4 June 2014, Paris

Suay Aksoy presented the preliminary programme of the ICOM Annual Meetings 2014.

Following a request from Affiliated Organisations to be more involved, she proposed to invite them to the separate meetings of the International Committees, which was accepted.

She also highlighted that there would be presentations from Regional Alliances, Technical Committees and Working Groups at this year's meetings.

The President added that Francesco Bandarin, Assistant Director-General for Culture at UNESCO, would speak a word of welcome in Irina Bokova's name, and that a keynote speaker had been invited but hadn't yet confirmed her presence.

19/ Report on the Organisation of the 24th General Conference 2016, Milan

Alberto Garlandini presented this item, detailing the progress of the conference organisation to date, including the programme and logistic planning, sponsorship, events related to the theme and communication materials.

He said that he didn't foresee any difficulties if the framework agreement between ICOM and ICOM Italy was adhered to. He also clarified that the budget was the responsibility of the Professional Conference Organiser, so in the case of an unlikely deficit, KIT-Group would be responsible for this.

Alberto Garlandini stressed the need to promote the conference and the theme extensively through word of mouth with colleagues and by presenting the theme at various events. As most of the funding will be generated by participation, rather than sponsorship, he said it was vital to invest in promoting the event.

The conference fees were then discussed, and Alberto Garlandini confirmed that they had not yet been fixed. The President stressed the importance of keeping the fees at a reasonable level. Alberto Garlandini replied that the Organising Committee would do its best to make sure this was the case and would make efforts to offer reasonably priced accommodation. He said there would be more information on the fees before the Executive Council meeting in December 2014 in Milan.

Inkyung Chang suggested that the meetings of the Regional Alliances would be a good opportunity to promote the conference to a wider, non-European public. Alberto Garlandini agreed that it was indeed very important to present the conference and theme around the world.

20/ Approval of the Bidding Process and Confirmation of the PCO for ICOM General Conference in 2019

Yu Zhang presented the suggested timeline for the bidding process for the 2019 General Conference. She added that some interested parties would like to present themselves at the ICOM June meetings without yet having sent an official application. She stressed that it would not be an official presentation but that they would be allowed to provide some information on the destination, etc. Some members of the Executive Council disagreed with this idea as they felt it would put unfair pressure on other interested countries ahead of time.

The President confirmed that no official presentation would be allowed at the June Meetings, although interested parties would be free to discuss the matter with colleagues informally.

Yu Zhang then asked members if they were willing to continue with the current Professional Conference Organisers (PCO) for the 2019 conference. She stressed the importance of continuity given that the PCO would already be familiar with the workings of an ICOM General Conference. However, some members felt it was unfair to impose a particular PCO on the hosts and that it would be good to evaluate how it worked out for the Milan conference.

It was agreed that the PCO could be given the task of evaluating the new candidates for 2019, which would coincide with an evaluation by ICOM of the PCO itself.

It was confirmed that a bidding process for a PCO for the 2019 conference would be launched in 2015.

21/ Role and Voting Rights of the Regional Alliances

The President said that the point of this item today was to open the discussion rather than making a decision on voting rights for Regional Alliances.

He said that one argument against granting voting rights to the RAs is that they are more like working groups of National Committees rather than being committees themselves. He said that Alliances could also be created for International Committees, which would raise the question again about voting rights.

Tereza Scheiner said that she saw RAs more as networks and if they were given the right to vote, this would duplicate the votes for some specific countries inside the regions.

Inkyung Chang suggested we may grant voting rights to regional alliances, but with a limited number of proxies.

The President suggested that this be further discussed by the Working Group on Statutes, Internal Rules and Regulations and Governance and that he would contact the Chair with regard to this.

22/ Request to Create a National Committee for Puerto Rico

Samia Slimani introduced the item, confirming that the request had come from the Chair of ICOM Panama at ICOM Rio 2013 as no Puerto Rican representative had been able to attend the conference.

Following some legal research, she confirmed that Puerto Rico has a particular status because it is an organised but unincorporated territory in the United States. Its inhabitants are US citizens and do not have voting rights at presidential elections, for instance.

She confirmed that as Puerto Rico cannot be considered a State according to the ICOM Statutes it is not eligible for the status of National Committee.

23/ Other items

The President spoke about the 70th anniversary of ICOM, which would take place in two years. He said that a committee should be created for the event, and that this would be put on the agenda of the next Executive Council meeting.

Tereza Scheiner spoke of her concern for colleagues in Venezuela, given the country's troubled political situation. She said she had no information about the situation of museums there and cannot contact colleagues because of her position as a federal Brazilian officer. She wondered whether ICOM should write to the National Committee of Venezuela.

Hanna Pennock said she would also like to put the Working Group on Membership Criteria on the agenda for the next meeting. She said that the different categories of membership were confusing and that advice was needed.

The acting Director General mentioned that, since she was also acting President of the Blue Shield, ICOM had organised a meeting of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS), in which it was decided that ICBS and the Association of the National Committees of the Blue Shield would merge. She also told members that, although as Director General she held the position of acting President of the Blue Shield, which was confirmed by the members of ICBS, her predecessor continues to claim this position on his Wikipedia page. She asked the Council if they

agreed that this should be withdrawn from said Wikipedia page. The members agreed unanimously.

Finally, Hanna Pennock wished to thank the Executive Council members, and in particular Hans-Martin Hinz, as this would be her last Council meeting. She said that last year, following a difficult period, the President had taken serious and far-reaching decisions that paved the way to improve working methods and the atmosphere in ICOM immensely. She wished to acknowledge this and to pay tribute to the President and Council members as it had been a great pleasure to work with them all.

The meeting was concluded at 4.40pm.