GENERAL ASSEMBLY
4 June 2014, 11:00am – 1:00pm
29th ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ICOM

Prof. Dr Hans-Martin Hinz, President of ICOM, opened the 29th Session of the ICOM Ordinary General Assembly and welcomed the participants.

Item 1: Approval of the Agenda

The President reminded participants of the items of the Agenda, which were all approved as presented.

Item 2: Minutes of the 28th Ordinary General Assembly, 17 August 2013

The President invited participants to approve the minutes of the 28th General Assembly of 17 August, 2013, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, or to raise their comments or suggestions to amend the text of the minutes.

Under Point 5, Professor Ki-Dong Bae of ICOM Korea commented that his proposal put forth on the creation of an international year of the museum is very important for the museum community around the world, and that government support must be obtained to ensure the continuation of museum activities in the future.

The Minutes were otherwise approved as presented.

Item 3: President's report

The President presented his annual report and invited members to raise questions or comments at the end of his presentation.
The President's report was approved by consensus. The complete version of the President's report is available in Appendix 1.

Item 4.1: Financial Statements 2012

The Treasurer of ICOM, Mr Peter Keller, presented the Financial Statements for 2013, which were part of the working documents made available to members of the General Assembly. He thanked Ms Isabelle Demangeot, Head of Finance and Human Resources, and Mr Florian Courty, Management Control, at the ICOM General Secretariat, as well as his predecessor, Dr Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine, the Statutory Auditor, Mr Dominique Gagnard, and the Finance and Resources Committee.

The Treasurer began with a Financial Statement, stating that 2013 income amounted to €3.5m, largely from membership fees. Operating expenses (called Overhead costs in the last report) amounted to €1.5m. Salaries, depreciation expenses and provisions came to more than €600,000 in 2013 due to the two cases which are still pending. Lawyers asked ICOM for a provision in 2013 and another in 2014, which leaves as a result a deficit of €150,000.

The scope of activities includes the ICOM head office and all 31 International Committees, which are now aggregated. In the Statement of Income, the aggregated result decreased by €140,000, while the increase of €26,000 in the beginning of 2013 is the effect of the aggregation of the last 3 International Committees, rising from 28 in 2012 to 31 in 2013.

The Treasurer mentioned that 80% of ICOM income comes from membership dues; 13% from subsidies; almost 5% from other income (publications, the ICOM Rio conference and other sources); the smaller portions are from financial and exceptional income. He noted that membership has grown and membership income increased by 8%, while subsidies have increased as well, mostly for projects: the French Ministry of Culture and Communication provides a subsidy for operating expenses, but subsidies from the U.S. State Department, the European Union and the Smithsonian are respectively for the Red Lists, the Observatory on Illicit Traffic and the Museum Emergency Programme.

In terms of expenses, the Treasurer noted that the largest portion of expenses is for salaries, social charges and taxes, at 35%. 11% is spent by the International Committees, visible because they are aggregated in the budget. 7.3% are operating expenses, covering maintenance, electricity etc. Smaller portions of 5.9% and 5.4% are fees for legal consultation, accounting services, the cost of missions, annual meetings and events. Support for the network represents 4.4%, and this will rise by 15% in 2014, according to this year's budget.

For the Red Lists, funds granted and used in 2013 amounted to €75,173, used for four Red Lists (Egypt, China, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, Syria) and translation costs.

The Treasurer stated that Support to the Network decreased from 2012 to 2013 because the cost of ICOMMUNITY decreased following the completion of its development phase. Annual subsidies amounted to €144,000 and subsidies for special projects for National and International Committees, €48,000. Following the aggregation process, Support to the Network in 2013 amounted to €164,000. The drop to this figure from €369,000 in 2012 is due to the cessation of internal flows between the ICOM Secretariat and the ICs, or €204,000 formerly representing annual subsidies, special projects and the Getty subsidy.

He analysed Support to the Network before and after aggregation, noting the disappearance of annual subsidies to the ICs and the decrease by €20,000 in funding for special projects, as this was the sum provided for International Committees.

The Treasurer concluded the Financial Report, noting that the Balance Sheet and Income Statement could be found in the Working Papers.

In response to the Financial Report, no questions and comments were raised.

Item 4.2: Management Report on Financial Statements 2013 and discharge

The Treasurer then presented the Auditor Report on Annual Accounts for 2013. The accounts were closed on 31 December, 2013, and were approved by the Executive Council on 31 May, 2014. The statutory auditor signed his report on 1 June, 2014. The Treasurer thanked Mr Dominique Gagnard for his contribution and his presence, and noted that the Auditor Report is available in the working documents. He read aloud the paragraph of the report in French certifying the accounts, and asked the General Assembly to approve the report.

The President stated that the report had to be approved by vote rather than consensus. The report was approved with 355 'yes' votes, zero 'no' votes and no abstentions.

Item 5: Voting System for the next Advisory Committee and General Assembly meetings

The President introduced the issue of the voting system, presenting the idea of changing from a show-of-hands system to an electronic voting system. He invited Ms Samia Slimani, Head of Legal Affairs Department at the General Secretariat, to present the possibilities. She stated that the idea came from observation of the voting process over the past few years, with different types of voting taking place at different events. She recalled that voting applies to the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee (at times), the elections of ICOM governing bodies (Executive Council, Chair and Vice-Chair of Advisory Committee every 3 years during the General Conference). She recalled that ICOM Committee votes and those of Affiliated Organisations and Regional Alliances are directly managed by these bodies themselves. She stated that as seen in observation since 2010, in electing ICOM governing bodies, an electronic voting system is usually used, with devices, while for General Assembly and Advisory Committee sessions like the ones held during the June Meetings, usually voting by show of hands or consensus is used. The selection of the General Conference host country is conducted by electronic voting.

She then outlined the differences between the two systems. The show of hands implies voting and proxy voting by raising cards for each item to be voted on. This calls for logistical support in the form of scrutinisers. The cost lies in internal staff resources, card boxes for storage and the printing of voting cards. For electronic voting, digital tablets or other devices are used, and buttons are pressed that correspond to different voting options. This system may be rented or purchased, and in terms of logistical support, the transportation of equipment must be overseen, which implies greater effort than for the paper voting system. Correct parameter systems must also be ensured, thus calling for IT support, electronic maintenance and the storage of the devices in secured boxes. The annual cost of renting such equipment comes to €6,500, while its purchase would amount to €35,000, maintenance costs excluded but estimated at €5,000 per year.

She presented the pros and cons of both systems. In terms of pros: lower costs and technical simplicity for paper voting; modernity, transparency, simplicity and increased security for electronic voting. In terms of cons: large number of staff support required for paper voting, as well as delays in counting and for the session; increased expense and need for a backup system in case the system fails for the electronic system, as well as the need for suitable storage. She concluded her report by stating that it was now up to members to decide for themselves.

The President invited questions and comments before proceeding to the vote.

Vinne Norskov, Chair of ICOM Denmark, commented that voting by hand is not anonymous but the electronic system is.

Michel Polfer, Chair of ICOM Luxembourg, recalled the huge problems with the electronic voting system in Brazil, which may have endangered the legitimacy of the results. He challenged the idea that electronic voting is transparent, as it is not possible to control whether your own vote has been taken into account correctly.

Stéphane Bezombes, Secretary of AVICOM, asked, as regards the electronic voting solution, whether a smartphone application could be used for electronic voting, with no cost and no storage needs incurred.

Samia Slimani stated that the intention was simply to put the question forth to the General Assembly as a principle, and that the next steps would be discussed by the Executive Council or other appropriate governance body.

Janrense Boostra, Chair of ICOM Netherlands, commented that it was unclear whether this takes into account election procedures.

Samia Slimani responded that as elections are always held in a host country during the General Conference, it is taken care of by the host country itself, technically speaking, with monitoring by the General Secretariat. She invited the General Assembly to share thoughts on whether it would be appropriate to leave elections procedures within the hands of host countries, or whether it might be

handled by the General Secretariat staff down the line. She invited discussion on ensuring anonymity, as raised by ICOM Denmark, stating that voting via electronic device does not necessarily guarantee the maximum level of anonymity.

Virgil Stefan Nigulescu, Chair of ICOM Romania, commented that for the elections of the Executive Council, the paper system is adequate, and that this is also the case in selecting the General Conference host country, as was the case up until six years ago. This would be less expensive.

Lamia Fersi, Chair of ICOM Tunisia, stated that anonymity is indeed desirable, but that voting via show of hands ensures transparency and is cheaper in times of economic crisis.

Léontine Meijer-van Mensch, Chair of COMCOL, commented that electronic devices are quickly obsolete, and that perhaps other technical possibilities could be explored, such as wifi and voting via smartphone.

Dorota Folga-Januszewska, Chair of ICOM Poland, voiced her agreement that it would be wise to postpone the decision because technology is moving so fast. It is senseless to spend money buying a large number of devices that may be obsolete quickly. It is best to stick with paper, as in Roman times.

Nicholas Crofts, Chair of CIDOC, voiced his gratitude that the question was even presented before the General Assembly.

Carina Jaatinen, Chair of ICEE and former Chair of the Elections Committee, stated that in terms of elections being held in the host country, she recommends that the ICOM Secretariat take a bigger role in handling these, which may call for more consequent planning.

Michael Ryan, Chair of ICOM Ireland, pointed out that voting systems are built into the desks at UNESCO, and may potentially be used for the June Meetings, at least.

The President suggested that rather than voting, the General Assembly should instead decide what to do next year in Paris. If it is possible to vote electronically here at no extra cost, he recommended that this be done, and that discussions be held over the course of the year about the future and what modern techniques may be on the market for the next General Conference. He invited the General Assembly to vote on this recommendation, and it was approved by consensus.

Item 6: Date and venue of the 30th Ordinary General Assembly

The President announced that the next General Assembly would be held during the ICOM June Meetings on 10-12 June, 2015 in Paris, and that the reception would be held at the Louvre in the new Islamic art wing. For several reasons this date had to be changed after the General Assembly and is now scheduled for 1-3 June, 2015.

The General Assembly was closed at 12:40pm.

Appendix 1

Dr Hans-Martin Hinz, ICOM President

President's Report on Activities 2013

ICOM General Assembly

ICOM Annual Meetings

Paris, France, 4 June, 2014

Dear members of ICOM,

In keeping with the French law of 1901 on Registered Associations and the Statutes that govern ICOM, as President of ICOM, it is my duty and privilege to present the 2013 President's Report to this General Assembly, detailing the principal activities of our organisation for the year that ended on 31 December, 2013. We are now nearly halfway through 2014, and so, I am also pleased to be able to present some of this year's achievements and objectives to date, as well.

I would first and foremost like to remark upon the incredible dynamism of our National and International Committees, Regional Alliances and Affiliated Organisations this year in organising conferences and workshops, sponsoring museums prizes and overseeing efforts for inclusion from all parts of the world. The multitude of projects and initiatives undertaken by the ICOM committees are detailed in the 2013 Annual Report that has been distributed to you here this week.

2013 notably saw the 23rd ICOM Triennial General Conference, a major event for the worldwide museum community that brought together 1,894 participants from 103 different countries for a week of stimulating intercultural dialogue in the beautiful city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This was also an opportunity for ICOM to determine its main lines of action for the next triennial period during the meetings of the Executive Council, the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly. For the first time, participants were able to benefit from registration rates adapted to their ICOM affiliation and countries of origin. Plenary sessions were broadcast live online for the very first time as well, and in yet another first, in 2013, the General Conference was open to museum professionals and amateurs from outside of ICOM, enriching the debate with new points of view.

Furthermore, in the wake of the General Conference, a meeting was held in the form of a South-South Dialogue, bringing tougher 100 or so participants from 33 African, Latin American and Caribbean countries. Organised by ICOM Brazil, this encounter aimed to promote collaboration, networking and professional exchange between museum professionals from the Global South. Also of note is the internship programme set up by the Organising Committee and offered to ICOM grant

recipients. This allowed 38 young professionals to spend the week following the conference acquiring hands-on experience in Brazilian museums, and was a great success.

Activities in compliance with the Strategic Plan 2011–2013 fit into four main development areas: developing museum and heritage expertise; supporting ICOM's strong and dynamic network; strengthening ICOM's global leadership in the heritage sector; and developing and managing resources to implement the Strategic Plan effectively. 2013 marked the culmination of three years of ICOM activities and priority actions, and the Executive Council has extended the validity of the Strategic Plan 2011-2013 for another year in order to ensure coherence while a Working Group on the Statutes, Internal Rules & Regulations and Governance is reviewing the governance and internal structures of ICOM for the June 2015 General Assembly.

Over the course of the year 2013, ICOM's membership continued to grow, reaching a high of 32,969 members (for growth of 7.7% compared to the previous year), with presence in 135 countries. I am particularly pleased to say that in terms of the national committees, category 4 membership experienced a boom, rising by 34%, while category 3 membership rose by 15%; category 2 by 4%; and category 1 by 6%. Meanwhile, 12,485 members were active in International Committees, or 9.5% more than in 2012. Additionally, institutional membership increased in every region.

The popularity of International Museum Day was confirmed yet again in 2013, with nearly 35,000 museums in 143 countries participating in what has become a key celebration on the international cultural and museum agenda, with conferences, free guided tours, night cultural events, concerts, educational workshops and games for visitors of all ages. The theme "Museums (Memory + Creativity) = Social Change" proved highly inspiring, and was the occasion to join forces with a number of international partners (UNESCO Memory of the World, ART HOPPING, The Google Art Project), leading ICOM to salute the enthusiasm and involvement of the museum community.

ICOM's communication possibilities expanded and met with increased success in 2013. Institutional website traffic rose by 7.2% compared to 2012, coming to 396,608 unique visitors. Nine new committee websites hosted on the ICOM server were created in 2013, bringing the total to 39 committee websites in 14 different languages, with regularly updated features, a harmonised interface and permanent technical support. ICOM additionally opened an official Twitter page in order to increase its visibility, strengthen its relationship with its members and intensify communications with the international museum community. Meanwhile, ICOMMUNITY saw increased success in 2013, with 6,675 unique visitors and 237 events posted and a number of new features added to make this tool even more appealing and useful to members.

Under the coordination of the Secretariat, ICOM strengthened its commitment to enhance the management and quality of membership information, in the wake of the webservice launched in 2010 allowing national and international committee board members to access the ICOM membership database online. The number of users has increased substantially, and starting in the autumn of 2013, more resources have been devoted to checking, correcting and updating member information.

Another working group on criteria and acceptance procedures for ICOM members was created in April 2013, focusing on ensuring greater coherency within the network through the harmonisation

of these criteria and acceptance procedures. Preliminary findings were presented to the Executive Council in December 2013, and reflection on this ongoing issue has continued over the course of our Annual Meetings this week.

With regard to budgetary monitoring (which will be developed in greater detail later on today's agenda), the current budget amounted to slightly more than €3.5 million in 2013. In terms of subsidies, the search continued for funding to support the implementation of ICOM programmes and those of its network, with a level of external monetary resources amounting to €479,665. In 2013, ICOM membership dues increased by 8.33%, compared to 2012, coming to a total of €2.9 million. This was largely driven by an increase in the number of members, from 30,624 in 2012 to 32,969 in 2013, or a rise of 7.7%.

In terms of funding strategy, ICOM consolidated existing partnerships (with the Getty Foundation, the US Department of State, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication); and secured continued European Union participation, notably in the framework of a three-year EU support programme for ICOM's International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods.

New strategic partnerships have been established. A formal partnership agreement was signed with the European Museum Forum, entrusting ICOM with the coordination of the European Museum of the Year Award, recently held in Tallinn, Estonia; a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Smithsonian Institution, which led to the organisation of a weeklong training session for West African Museum Professionals; and another MoU was signed with the World Federation of Friends of Museums, setting the conditions for cooperation in the field of educational activities in museums, outreach to the public, and the safeguarding of cultural heritage.

ICOM's commitment to fighting illicit traffic in cultural goods was reinforced in 2013 with the publication of two new Red Lists: the *Red List of Dominican Cultural Objects at Risk* and the *Emergency Red List of Syrian Cultural Objects at Risk*. 2013 also marked the first operating year of ICOM's International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods, started in December 2012, and intended to serve as a permanent international cooperative network involving international organisations, law enforcement agencies, research institutions and other stakeholders.

ICOM thus worked to maintain the organisation's status as the only heritage organisation recognised as an international expert in the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural goods. Through strategic partnerships with expert organisations such as INTERPOL and with its proactive approach, ICOM uses all resources at its disposal to affirm its leadership in this regard, reinforced by participation in a number of conferences organised both within and beyond the ICOM network.

2013 was sadly marked by a high number of emergency situations, many of which were the consequence of armed conflict. ICOM therefore committed itself to efforts for the protection of museums and cultural heritage through the implementation of mechanisms for preparedness and emergency response, mainly through active monitoring of emergency situations and assessment missions in affected areas of the world, including Egypt, Mali and Syria, hand in hand with the Blue Shield and its Disaster Relief Task force for museums. ICOM has thus strengthened its position as one of the main organisations active in the protection of cultural heritage in emergency situations.

Among ICOM's core missions is thus the commitment to providing cultural institutions with support in the face of challenges, which may also include financial difficulties. In keeping with this mission, ICOM Europe released the Lisbon Declaration to Support Culture and Museums to Face the Global Crisis and Build the Future, presenting action priorities for addressing the crisis and proposals for the sustainable management of museums and cultural heritage. This document was addressed to the Presidents of the European Commission and the European Parliament on the occasion of International Museum Day 2013.

ICOM sought to continue to enhance expertise and knowledge in the museum sector, developing research programmes and publications throughout the year, notably via the *Support to the Network Programme*, which provides financial help for a number of projects within the network. In 2013, SAREC, the Strategic Allocation Review Commission, allocated funding to international committees (not including Special Projects funding) amounting to 144,380 EUR, or 1.3% more than in 2012. These funds allowed international committees to expand the scope of their research work, release publications and set up major events gathering international museum professionals from their respective fields of expertise.

Notably in 2013, an ICOM International Training Centre for Museum Studies, located at the Palace Museum in Beijing, China, was launched, a cooperative effort between ICOM, the Palace Museum and ICOM China, which aims to foster research and exchange among professionals on an international level and develop museum expertise among professionals. The first training workshop was held from 4 to 12 November, 2013, gathering 32 trainees.

2013 saw ICOM continue with another one of its core missions, the definition and promotion of ethical standards in the museum field. Translations of the *ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums* continued, notably with a translation into Estonian in 2013. ETHCOM, the ICOM Ethics Committee, created a *Toolkit for basic articles on the Code of Ethics and the Ethics Committee* in the three official languages, providing basic content on museum ethics and ICOM's work in the field, which was sent to all of ICOM's national committees in December 2013. In collaboration with ETHCOM, NATHIST, The International Committee for Museums and Collections of Natural History, published a new key document in this field: the *ICOM Code of Ethics for Natural History Museums*, the fruit of six years of work and research.

ICOM's publishing activity witnessed further dynamism in 2013, particularly with the takeover the publishing rights of the journal *Museum International* following UNESCO's decision to stop publishing this journal. A novation agreement setting the terms for the transfer was reached in 2013, and hand in hand with ICOM, English publisher Wiley-Blackwell will continue to co-publish this important journal, which reflects contemporary issues in the museum field. The first double issue published under ICOM, dedicated to the Brazilian museum landscape, will be out very shortly, with a second one, dedicated to the theme of International Museum Day 2014, to be published later in the year. Meanwhile, thanks to a partnership with the National Library of France, all French issues of ICOM News published between 1948 and 2010 have been digitised and can be openly consulted on the Gallica digital library.

Under Acting Director General Hanna Pennock, the ICOM General Secretariat was modernised and restructured, with the assistance of a Working Group on the Management of the General

Secretariat, formed at the 125th Executive Council session in April 2013. The organisation chart of the Secretariat was notably transformed to be more horizontal, with a structure comprised of eight units. Effective as of 1 February, 2014, this is intended to allow for better circulation of information among the different departments and between staff and management, and lay the foundation for a stable structure so that in the future, the organisation may best serve the worldwide museum community and reinforce its leadership in the heritage sector.

Currently ICOM is facing three court cases. The first one is almost resolved. Ms Tavares claimed moral harassment against the former management, and she was dismissed. She went to court against ICOM, and has accepted an offer of an agreement, which we will sign soon.

Moving ahead, since the beginning of 2014, a number of projects have come to fruition for ICOM: a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between ICOM and ALESCO, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation; a training seminar for West African museum professionals has been held in Mali; the website of ICOM's International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods was officially launched; and two Red Lists, concerning West Africa and Libya, are set for release before the end of the year. ICOM is also continuing to work closely with WIPO, the World Intellectual Property Organisation, which in December 2013, voted in favour of carrying out a special study of museum issues, expected to produce recommendations that could lead to the inclusion of museums in the future international treaty on exceptions and limitations to copyright and related rights.

The impressive community of experts represented by ICOM has achieved a great deal over the past few years. I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to all chairpersons and board members of the various committees, and notably, those who have completed their term. The importance of the individual Committees' work cannot be overstated, and their efforts to implement the Strategic Plan at their particular level have reaped substantial rewards. And finally, I wish to extend a special thank you to both the former Acting Director General and to the new Director General, alongside all of our colleagues at the Secretariat General for the tremendous work that they carried out in 2013.

I greatly look forward to continuing to work together in order to enhance and promote ICOM's presence around the globe. As the voice of museums and museum professionals worldwide, we now seek to move ahead into the future with the help of our substantial and ever-growing expertise, multiplying our accomplishments in the months and years to come.