

Minutes  
of the  
*23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly*

*Tuesday 3 June 2008  
9.00 a.m.–11.00 a.m.  
Paris (France)*

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*The 23<sup>rd</sup> ICOM General Assembly was convened by electronic mail (via ICOM-L) and by announcement in ICOM News no.1/2008 (February 2008) The National and International Committees (five voting members per Committee) and the Affiliated Organizations (three voting members per Organization) were requested to use a form on the ICOM website to provide the names of those members who would be voting on their behalf (Article 10, Section 3).*

*The 23<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly was chaired by Alissandra Cummins, President of ICOM.*

*The President of ICOM noted that the quorum required to open General Assembly proceedings had not been reached and accordingly declared the meeting closed. In accordance with Article 10, Section 3 of the ICOM Statutes, another General Assembly was convened, at which decisions would be taken by simple majority of members present.*

1. Adoption of the agenda

The members of the General Assembly requested that the President of ICOM present a moral report on the Organization's activities during the preceding year and perspectives for the near future.

The President of ICOM remarked that the agenda presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly did not contravene the *ICOM Statutes* and reflected the Advisory Committee's wish to limit the number of presentations of administrative reports.

However, she indicated that this request would be considered for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly scheduled to take place in June 2009.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, 24 August 2007, Vienna (Austria)

The President of ICOM reminded members that the list of participants in the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly could be found on the ICOM website, and encouraged all members to consult the list on the website to make sure that their names were included. Any member whose name had been omitted should notify the ICOM Secretariat, which would then make the necessary changes.

The minutes were approved with the following changes:

- Marie-Claude Morand, of ICOM-Switzerland, requested that the text of the Resolutions approved during the General Assembly be included as an exhibit.

- Carlos F. Brandaõ, ICOM-Brazil, indicated that he, but not the President, had proposed the second amendment to Resolution no.4.
- Carlos F. Brandaõ, ICOM-Brazil, requested that Virgil Nitulescu's country of residence be corrected from "Hungary" to "Romania", (Item 7 of the minutes).

The members of the General Assembly adopted the minutes but requested that the Secretariat ensures that all those members present were included in the list of participants.

### 3. Operating Policies [OP]

Gary Edson explained that, since the purpose of these Policies was to clarify the workings of the Organization, they would be revised and adjusted as ICOM itself changed and developed. They would be made readily available to the 27,000 members who currently made up the Organization. The following OP were presented to the Advisory Committee at its 69<sup>th</sup> session in Vienna (Austria):

2006/DIV.01rev1:	Publications and Documents
2006/DIV02.rev1:	Sponsorship
2006/DIV.06rev1:	ICOM Name, Logo and Symbol
2006/DIV.11:	Organization of the International Council of Museums
2006/DIV.12:	Museums
2006/DIV.14:	Organizational Representation
2007/DIV.02rev:	Advisory Committee
2007/DIV.03rev:	Nomination and Selection of Honorary Members
2007/DIV.04rev:	Director General
2007/DIV.06rev1:	Charters, Declarations and Proclamations
2006/DIV.15:	Standing Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups.

Since August 2007, these latest policy had been adjusted to enable the Committees and Groups to seek the assistance of specialists in a particular field, including non-ICOM members, if they needed to do so.

Gary Edson reminded those present that the mandate to draft OP given to the Executive Council by the members of the General Assembly Vienna (Austria) would make it easier to alter the Policies. This new flexibility would enable ICOM to react as quickly as possible to any circumstances that might necessitate changes to the Policies.

Gary Edson added that all the Policies would be presented to the Advisory Committee, and explained that the Executive Council had decided to withdraw the Draft Operational Policy on *ICOM Fellows* so as not to create an additional membership category.

He appealed for members to help with the drafting of Operating Policies. At the request of the Vice-Chairperson of ICOM-ICEE, he explained that the OPs were scheduled to be revised to bring them in line with the revised ICOM Statutes adopted during the General Assembly in Vienna (Austria), in August 2007.

The members of the General Assembly took due note of this presentation.

### 4. Presentation and approval of the certified financial statements

Nancy Hushion, Treasurer of ICOM, submitted the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 31 December 2007, certified by a *Commissaire aux comptes* (auditor), to the

members of the General Assembly for approval. This document was not available prior to the start of the meetings; the Treasurer apologized for this delay and asked the members to review it.

The Treasurer explained the changes in the presentation of the 2007 Financial Statements over previous years with three columns:

- column 1: the 2006 actual data,
- column 2: the revised 2007 budget,
- column 3: the final figures for 2007 as of December 31, 2007.

This format allows for comparisons between three years. The Treasurer congratulated the Administration Sector staff on the tight management of the budget.

In addition, the Treasurer drew attention with respect to three main aspects of the statements.

The section on financial returns (lines 187 – 195) indicate that the deficit composed of the provision for losses [-151,650 €] due to exchange rate fluctuations primarily from the US\$ to the € and back, has been further reduced to [-106,650€] due to various financial instruments and a small operating surplus of 11,711€.

The Treasurer also mentioned the impact on ICOM's financial management of the continued use of the US\$ as one of the eligible currencies for the payment of membership dues. As the vast majority of the Secretariat's expenses are in euros, this creates addition expenses due to exchange rate fluctuations. It is strongly recommended that the US\$ account be reduced to the minimum needed as soon as possible.

In closing, the Treasurer noted that while the Organization's overall income had fallen by 7%, expenditure were closely monitored and reduced by 10%.

The members of the General Assembly asked the Treasurer several questions about specific aspects of the 2007 Financial Statement. At the request of Pascal Makambila (Congo), the Treasurer said that the rise in expenditure in 2007 was due to a number of factors including the cost of reprinting the *ICOM Code of Ethics* and various other publications and mailings of *ICOM News*.

The Chairperson of the Benin National Committee, Casimir Degbey, requested that a workshop on new technologies similar to the one held in 2007 on the Pacific islands be held in Africa.

The members of the General Assembly requested that the financial statements be submitted in advance of the meeting. The Balance Sheet and the Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 31 December 2007, as certified by the *Commissaire aux comptes*, were approved by a majority of votes cast; there were 21 abstentions noted.

## 5. Organization of the General Assembly

### 5.1 ICOM Decision-making process

The members of the General Assembly expressed a desire for more information and closer involvement in decision-making processes concerning the Organization's finances and activities. In particular, they asked for more detailed explanations of the ongoing recruitment procedures for a new Director of ICOM.

They said that they wished to propose items for the agenda and requested that a FAQ page be added to the ICOM website. Silvia Singer, Chairperson of the Mexican National Committee, emphasized the

need to receive proposals in advance so that Committee Chairpersons who attended annual meetings could seek and properly reflect their members' opinions.

The Chairperson of the Italian National Committee, Daniele Luppo Jalla, requested that a debate be launched about what ICOM stood for. He said he wanted an in-depth discussion of the new challenges ICOM would need to take up in a constantly changing environment.

Patrick Boylan, Chairperson of the Legal Affairs Committee, reminded members of the changes that had already been made and remarked that the Organization now had bodies which allowed scope for adaptation and a genuinely flexible decision-making process.

Some members asked to be sent documents in advance to facilitate study and if necessary communication between Committees. They felt that communication between National and International Committees was not as efficient as it might be.

Alissandra Cummins, President of ICOM, duly noted all these questions and assured members that they would be taken into account in arrangements for the 24<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2009. All the suggestions for the agenda of the 2009 General Assembly had also been heard. The President asked members of the Assembly to be so good as to communicate their suggestions.

## 5.2. Activity and moral report

The Chairpersons of the French, Italian and Swiss National Committees, backed by the Assembly, requested that an activity report and moral report be presented by the President and the Director General at the start of the General Assembly. These reports would provide an overview of the Organization's activities during the preceding year, and could include a series of proposals or orientations for the year ahead.

Alissandra Cummins, President of ICOM, approved the request in principle but indicated that no report of this kind was immediately available.

The members of the General Assembly approved the proposal, which will be implemented at the 24<sup>th</sup> ICOM General Assembly in June 2009.

## 6. Miscellaneous

The Chairperson of the Togolese National Committee, Angèle Aguigah, reminded those present that Internet access remained very costly for members in developing countries. She requested that the President tour African countries to meet African museum professionals and hear their concerns.

## 7. Date, time and place of the 24<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (date proposed: June 2009)

The members of the General Assembly agreed to the proposed date of June 2009 for the 24<sup>th</sup> session. They emphasized that the General Assembly should take place before the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the Advisory Committee. The President took note of this proposal and indicated that this would be analyzed in the context of planning the next General Assembly.

In addition, the Chairperson of the Dutch National Committee, Albert Scheffers, requested that the meetings scheduled to take place in June 2009 be held in Paris (France) rather than in another

country as indicated in the 2008 budget. He said that this would allow substantial saving. The members of the Assembly felt that the main concern should be to hold meetings in a central location to encourage more members to attend and to enrich discussions. The Chairperson of the Mexican National Committee, Silvia Singer, suggested that overseas locations should only be considered in a longer term.

These suggestions were favorably received by the members of the General Assembly.

There being no other subjects, the President declared the meeting closed and thanked members for their close attention.