



**Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICOM Ordinary General Assembly  
17 August, 2013  
23<sup>rd</sup> General Conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

Prof. Dr. Hans-Martin Hinz, President of ICOM, opened the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICOM Ordinary General Assembly and welcomed the participants.

**Item 1: Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Item 2: Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of 6 June, 2012**

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The President invited participants to approve the Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of 6 June, 2012, held in Paris, France or to raise their comments or suggestions to amend the text of the minutes. The Minutes were approved as presented.

**Item 3: President's Report**

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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**

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The Treasurer of ICOM, Ms. Dominique Ferriot, presented the Financial Statements for 2012 which were part of the working documents made available to members of the General Assembly, and introduced Ms. Isabelle Demangeot, ICOM's Financial Accountant and Mr. Florian Courty, Management Accountant.

She thanked the Finance and Resources Committee (FIREC), its Chair, Mr. David Fleming (ICOM UK) and its members for their help. She also thanked Mr. Dominique Gagnard, the Statutory Auditor, who could not attend the General Conference.

The Treasurer began with a brief explanation of:

- The Statement of Operations, which presents the revenues and expenses over a period of a year; and

- The Balance Sheet, which reports the assets and liabilities at a specific point in time, generally at 31 December.

She mentioned that the Statutory Auditor certified the accounts, with a reservation regarding the absence of accounting for operations carried out by a number of International Committees.

In 2012, ICOM achieved a balanced result and aggregated the accounts of 28 International Committees out of 31; in 2011, only four accounts had been aggregated.

ICOM's income (taking into account the aggregation of 28 International Committees) in 2012 was €3,382,948; operating expenses amounted to €1,664,582; salary, social charges and taxes amounted to €1,583,478, and depreciation expenses and provisions amounted to €126,479. The operating result represented a surplus of €8,409.

The financial income amounted to €32,488 and financial expenses, such as instalments on the loan for the acquisition of the offices in *Rue de Palestro*, amounted to €105,671. The financial result reports a deficit of €73,182; however, there was an exceptional result due to the cancellation of the annual provision for MuseDoma, leading to a surplus of €65,671. The final result is therefore €797. In-kind contributions amounted to €128,967.

ICOM remains an organisation largely financed by its membership, with €2,680,868 of its income derived from membership fees, which represents a 9.8% increase in membership dues and a 3.6% increase in members. Other sources of income are ICOM publications and subsidies from other entities such as the European Union and in-kind support from UNESCO.

The total flow of income reached €3,481,007 in 2012. Membership dues counted for 77% of the total flow of income.

ICOM counted 30,624 members in 2012. The ICOM Foundation experienced a significant increase in its members in 2012.

In 2012, subsidies given by various organisations were reduced, although they increased in 2013.

A significant amount of ICOM's salary costs related to social charges and taxes. The Treasurer explained that in France, salary charges are considerably high; they represented 59% of the total mass salary costs in 2012. In 2012, ICOM Secretariat counted 22 full-time employees and an average of 10 full-time interns during the year.

The funding granted and used in 2012 for the Red Lists amounted to €77,001.

The budget allocated to the Support the Network programme increased by 11%, from €433,293 in 2011 to €482,971 in 2012.

The Strategic Allocation and Review Commission (SAREC) reported the following information:

- Annual subsidies to the ICs amounted to €142,500;
- Subsidies for special projects amounted to €52,943;
- Bursary programmes allocated by ICOM Secretariat amounted to €61,534;

- Getty bursary programmes amounted to €122,200; and
- Costs associated with ICOMMUNITY amounted to €103,794.

Finally, the Treasurer emphasised that ICOM must progressively aggregate all accounts of other ICOM bodies as they are not separate legal entities, as is the case of the International Committees. This would also be necessary for some National Committees, as requested by the Statutory Auditor, and in accordance with French accounting legislation.

The Treasurer thanked Isabelle Demangeot and Florian Courty for their input in the preparation of the working documents and the presentation. The President thanked the Treasurer for her presentation and invited the General Assembly to ask questions.

A representative from ICOM Serbia questioned the availability of the working documents. The Treasurer replied that the working documents were available online on the ICOMMUNITY platform prior to the General Assembly and within the deadline set by the ICOM Statutes. She stressed that it would have been very costly to send these documents by post.

Mr. Daniele Jalla said that members should thank the Treasurer, Isabelle Demangeot and Florian Courty for presenting for the first time such a clear budget to the General Assembly.

Dr. Viv Golding, the newly appointed Chair of ICME, wished to clarify if it would be possible for ICOM to allocate a specific percentage (5% or 10%) of its budget to International Committees, so their members could travel to certain events, for instance the ICOM June meetings in Paris. The President indicated that this should be an item included in the agenda of the new Executive Council, as ICME was not the only International Committee requesting this.

A member of ICOM Egypt inquired if it was possible to decentralise work from ICOM Secretariat, in order to reduce membership and posting fees, for instance by asking National Committees to print ICOM cards in their own countries. The Treasurer said that this point would be taken into account, but she was not sure if ICOM National Committees had the resources to do this.

Mr. Nicholas Crofts, Chair of CIDOC, referred to point “i) Mission and related expenses” on page 47 of the working documents, which only tackled external expenses for the President and members of Technical Committees. He asked where the figure for the travel expenses of the Director General could be found in the working documents. The Treasurer indicated that international missions are important for ICOM, and that in 2012 there had been a total of 91 international missions: 31 by the Director General, 18 by the President, 19 by other members and 23 by the staff of the General Secretariat. The Director General often made long-distance trips, which she confirmed to be costly.

As an ordinary member and not as ICOM Treasurer, Dominique Ferriot suggested that reports be written on these missions, in order to detail and present them clearly.

Ms. Janet Tee Siew Mooi, Secretary of ICOM Malaysia, referring to the expenses for *ICOM News*, stated that they were no longer receiving printed copies of *ICOM News*. The Treasurer answered that the budget for this item had been reduced remarkably due to the introduction of an electronic version. She advised her to contact Ms. Aedín Mac Devitt, ICOM Publications Officer, on this matter.

The Chair of ICOM Guatemala, Mr. Samuel Franco Arce pointed out that the Director General's trip to Guatemala was very important as they had been interested in creating a National Committee on the Blue Shield there.

Mr. Amareswar Galla, referring to the question from ICOM Malaysia, mentioned that when the question was asked if readers wished to continue receiving the print version of *ICOM News*, only a tiny percentage of members answered. He also commented on the questions of the Chair of ICME, saying that in 1988 it was decided that no member of the Executive Council was paid or refunded for his or her travel expenses. He mentioned that it was expensive for people living outside Europe to travel to the ICOM June meetings in Paris. At the moment the majority of ICOM members are European, but for those living in Africa, Latin America, Asia, even Eastern Europe, it is difficult for them to travel. Finally, he acknowledged that the Secretariat had done an excellent job in assisting members to get to the General Conference and other meetings.

Mr. Stephen Cannon-Brookes, former Chair of ICAMT thanked the Treasurer for her report and suggested the inclusion of a line in the table on *operating expenses* detailing *insurance costs*, mentioning that this was always included in the UK and that it would reassure ICOM members that insurance is being taken out by the institution. The Treasurer replied that his suggestion could be taken into account, but that it was already included in the salary charges. She said that this suggestion would be noted in order to accentuate this point in the next report to be prepared by her successor.

As there were no further questions, the President closed the discussion. He also informed participants that the quorum was reached, with 60% of voting members present in the room, and that the Financial Statements 2012 could be submitted officially for the vote.

The General Assembly approved, as presented, the ICOM Financial Statements as of and for the year ended 31 December, 2012.

#### **Item 4.2: Management report on Financial Statements 2012 and Discharge**

The General Assembly approved the discharge (*quitus*) of the members of the Executive Council and the Bureau. The President thanked the Treasurer for her work, as this was the end of her mandate as Treasurer of the organisation.

#### **Item 5: Resolutions procedure**

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The President invited Mr. Amareswar Galla, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, to present the Resolutions, which were part of the working documents made available to the General Assembly.

Mr. Galla thanked Ms. Hanna Pennock, acting Director General, and the President for asking him to chair this committee, and he invited to audience to consult the procedures for Resolutions in the working documents.

The text of all Draft resolutions was distributed to the General Assembly in the three official languages of ICOM, in hard copy, as additional working documents.

## **Item 5.1: Resolutions**

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### **Draft Resolution no. 1: Follow up and Intermediate Evaluation of Resolutions from the ICOM General Conference.**

Mr. Galla read the Resolution and the President invited the audience to ask questions.

Ms. Gina Barte, Chair of ICOM Philippines expressed her agreement with Draft Resolution no. 1 and wondered what would happen after approval of the Resolution and whether the Resolution Committee was supposed to follow up on International Committees and National Committees once they are approved. Mr. Galla explained that the Committee had been constituted as an *ad hoc* Committee and that he is not entitled to perpetuate the Committee he chairs for this General Conference. That is to the task of the new President and Executive Council.

Ms. Inkyung Chang from ICOM Korea expressed her concern that there is no Strategic Plan for the following three years. She asked Ms. Hanna Pennock, as acting Director General, to consider keeping this Committee in place to follow up on the Resolutions that would be implemented. Mr. Galla explained that the Committee does not have a mandate to ensure this type of monitoring. However, he agreed there should be follow-up because if the recommendations are approved, they will be integrated in the Strategic Plan 2013-2016, so the Executive Council should consider this issue.

The President confirmed that ICOM would have a Strategic Plan 2013-2016 next year and that a Working Group was already created with Mr. Michael Ryan as Chair. The Working Group on the Strategic Plan will start working immediately following the General Conference.

Ms. Emma Nardi, Chair of CECA, expressed her full support for the recommendation but, in light of the fact that National Committees should follow up on resolutions, she suggested that International Committees should also be included in the follow-up. Mr. Galla welcomed the suggestion. He stressed the importance of translating the resolutions into local languages to ensure the widest dissemination possible, and confirmed that the French version is the official text. Mr. Michael Ryan congratulated Mr. Galla on reducing the resolutions into a concise version. He said that he agreed with the format of the Resolutions Committee as it is: an *ad hoc* Committee that presents Drafts to the General Assembly. He believed the next stage should be monitored by the Executive Council.

The Draft Resolution no. 1 was approved by the General Assembly as presented.

### **Draft Resolution no. 2: Adoption of the Statement of Principles of Museum Documentation**

Before proceeding with Draft Resolution no. 2, Mr. Galla advised that when Committees adopted Resolutions, charters or other documents, they should put this information on their websites, as they were already instruments. He asked Committees to promote their work and to make use of ICOM-L, ICOMMUNITY and to contact Ms. Aedín Mac Devitt, Publications Officer, with a view to publishing items in *ICOM News* and the e-newsletter.

Resolution no. 2 was then read and adopted by the General Assembly as presented.

### **Draft Resolution no. 3: ICOM Secretariat and Recruitment of the Director General**

Mr. Galla read Resolution no. 3, explaining that this Resolution had been proposed by several committees. As so many Committees felt concerned by the current climate in ICOM, he said there was a discussion on how ICOM could move forward in a constructive way. He encouraged the adoption of this Resolution, but suggested that the President and Executive Council inform Members of any delay in the recruitment of the new Director General, and communicate on next steps. He suggested that the Resolution be passed, bearing in mind the short time frame.

Mr. Janrense Boonstra, Chair of ICOM Netherlands, confirmed that his Committee fully supported this Resolution even if they were not in the list of those who submitted it.

Mr. Ech-Cherki Dahmali, a representative of ICOM Morocco and Vice-President of AFRICOM, inquired on the criteria for the new Director General of ICOM. The President replied that this had been discussed previously in the Executive Council meeting and that the newly elected Executive Council would continue this discussion so that the information could be made available to all and applications could be submitted soon.

Mr. Stephen Cannon-Brookes, former Chair of ICAMT, mentioned that the Resolution contained the word *transparent*. However, he felt clarification was needed as to what *transparency* means. He had noticed a lack of transparency in the past three years.

The President said the Advisory Committee, National and International Committees would be informed of this process from the very beginning.

Draft Resolution no. 3 was adopted by the General Assembly as presented.

After the adoption of the Resolution, Mr. Douglas McDonald, a representative of ICOM US, asked to comment on Resolution no 3. He started by commenting that ICOM should be the world's most powerful advocate of museums and to do this ICOM needs to have an effective Executive Council, President and Secretariat. He said that he heard from the Advisory Committee that members felt irrelevant. Responsibilities and roles of different entities of ICOM should be described and defined. He therefore proposed the creation of a working group, which would reflect on possible improvements to ICOM's governance. The President thanked him for his proposal.

Mr. Galla asked if this was a new Draft Resolution. Mr. McDonald replied that it was a statement. Mr. Galla concluded that it would be over to the Executive Council and the President to take note of this and ensure the proper follow-up on Resolution no. 3 as presented and voted on by the General Assembly.

#### **Draft Resolution no. 4: Museums, Gender Mainstreaming and Inclusion: Benchmarking against the ICOM Cultural Diversity Charter, Shanghai 2012**

Mr. Galla read Draft Resolution no. 4.

Dr. Virgil Stefan Nitulescu, Chair of ICOM Romania, said that the English version of the title of Resolution no. 4 was not clear to him, with regard to the phrase: "Benchmarking *against* the ICOM Cultural Diversity Charter" compared to the French version, which was clear to him.

Mr. Galla reminded participants that the French version was the official one and that the English version would be edited accordingly.

As there were no more questions or comments, Draft Resolution no. 4 was adopted by the General Assembly as presented.

**Draft Resolution no. 5: Protection of Cultural Heritage during and after Armed Conflict, Revolutions and Civil Strife.**

Before reading the Draft Resolution, Mr. Galla stated that three recommendations were received from ICOMON, CIPEG and ICOM Morocco. All three agreed to propose the following Resolution: *Resolution no 5: Protection of the Cultural Heritage during and after Armed Conflict, Revolutions and Civil Strife.*

Mr. Galla read Draft Resolution no. 5. He said the wording ‘Southern Countries’ would be changed to “Developing Countries.”

As there were no more questions or comments, Draft Resolution no. 5 was adopted by the General Assembly as presented.

**Draft Resolution no. 6: Viability and Sustainability of Museums through the Global Financial Crisis**

Mr. Galla indicated that this Resolution was proposed by ICOM Europe, due to the precarious situation of museums in the context of a global economic crisis.

Ms. Lisa Pilosi, Chair of ICOM-CC, very much supported this Resolution. She said that climate control was important for the sustainability of museums. She mentioned ICOM-CC’s long-term project to hear voices all around the world and their intention to explore possibilities in this regard.

Prof. Ki-dong Bae, Chair of ICOM Korea, suggested that a new Resolution be proposed to UNESCO concerning the creation of an international year of the museum. He also said that he had the support and signatures of 19 committees and of some individual members who are also supporting this idea. Mr. Galla proposed that this idea be suggested not only to UNESCO but also to the United Nations in order to have a broader reach, as there are many bodies of the United Nations that are not under UNESCO’s umbrella. He also suggested passing this idea on to the new President and Executive Council.

Ms. Lucía Astudillo, Chair of ICOM Ecuador, commented that governments also need to support museums. She expressed her total support for this Draft Resolution.

Concerning Draft Resolution no. 5 a representative of ICOM Egypt asked if there was any hope for the creation of a new training centre on African and Middle Eastern heritage. The President said that the ICOM International Training Centre for Museum Studies in Beijing, China, which was inaugurated in July 2013, firstly needed to be evaluated and then it should be discussed whether this could be a good model for other regions.

With regard to Ki-dong Bae’s proposal, Mr. Galla suggested adding a point to Draft Resolution no. 6 as follows:

*As an integral part of the development of ICOM’s strategic leadership, ICOM advocates to the United Nations and UNESCO to declare a UN-UNESCO international year of the museum.*

The General Assembly agreed with the addition of Mr. Galla's proposal based on the recommendation read by Prof. Ki-dong Bae during the session, as part of Draft Resolution no. 6.

He thanked members of the Resolutions Committee and the Secretariat for their work and thanked all members present for their contributions.

Draft Resolution no. 6 as reviewed was adopted by the General Assembly.

### **Item 6: Ethics Committee: Approval of the new ICOM NATHIST Code of Ethics for Natural History Museums**

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Mr. Martin Schärer opened the discussion on the new Code of Ethics by ICOM NATHIST (Natural History), which was part of the working documents made available to Members of the General Assembly. He spoke about new programmes that had been launched by the Ethics Committee, including a tool kit on ethical issues to help museums communicate better with the public. The kit is intended to give a better understanding of ethical issues and the material will be published in all ICOM media in the near future. He mentioned the creation of a Working Group for a new training programme on ethical issues and also a training session for trainers. There are also plans to create a new glossary of appropriate terms and a Working Group had been established for this. He then thanked Dr. Eric Dorfman, Chair of ICOM NATHIST, for his work and invited him to speak about the new Code of Ethics for Natural History Museums.

Dr. Eric Dorfman indicated that this Code of Ethics was the result of six years of work by the ICOM NATHIST Ethics Working Group and that the idea came up at the National Museum of New Zealand in 2006. He explained the need to develop certain elements specifically for Natural History Museums and stressed the importance of identifying how Natural History Museums were defined and what was captured by this.

One of the questions raised was whether and how Natural History Museums should be thinking about human remains. Dr. Eric Dorfman responded that they took a best practice approach including a high level of consultation.

The General Assembly approved the new ICOM NATHIST Code of Ethics for Natural History Museums as presented in the working documents of the General Assembly.

### **Item 7: Approval of the nomination of two new Honorary Members**

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The President reminded members that the Executive Council had nominated:

- Mr. André Desvallées from France; and
- Prof. Zhang Wenbin from China.

The President gave the floor to Prof. Dr. Tereza Scheiner and Prof. Dr. An Laishun, both members of the Executive Council, to present a brief summary of the professional careers of the nominated members.

The General Assembly approved and applauded the two new Honorary Members of ICOM.

## **Item 8: Approval of reduction of membership fees for countries from Category 4**

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Ms. Hanna Pennock, acting Director General, asked the General Assembly to approve the reduction of the individual membership fees for countries from Category 4. She explained that there was a decrease of 8.3% in members in Category 4 countries, which would represent 1% of ICOM membership overall. However, it would represent 27% of ICOM countries. The reduction was due to the fact that nearly 50% of the countries in this category were facing difficulties, had no members in 2010 and 2011 and had no National Committee. The proposed €5 reduction of regular individual membership to an annual fee of €15 represented a loss of €1,700 in membership dues, which represented just 0.06% of annual membership dues collected in 2012.

The reduction aims to increase the number of members in these countries.

The proposal was approved by the General Assembly.

## **Item 9: The dates and venues of the 24<sup>th</sup> General Conference (Milan 2016) and the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Paris, June 2014)**

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The President announced that the next General Assembly would be held during the ICOM June meetings on 2 - 4 June, 2014 in Paris and that the next General Conference would be held in Milan, Italy, from 2 - 9 July, 2016.

## **Item 10: Results of the election of the Executive Council and appointment of the President of ICOM for 2013-2016**

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Ms. Carina Jaatinen, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee and Chair of ICOM Finland, confirmed that the elections had been successful, despite a technical problem on the first day of voting. The voters who had already voted were then personally invited to vote again. She commended the high-quality and professional work of ICOM Secretariat and its Legal Department. She asked if there were any questions and invited Mr. Kwame Sarpong to present the election results.

Mr. Kwame Sarpong, Co-chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, thanked Ms. Carina Jaatinen and the ICOM Secretariat and explained that the participation rate was 72.66%: out of 779 potential voters, 566 participated and six abstained.

He then presented the following results for the election of the Executive Council 2013-2016:

**President:**

Prof. Dr. Hans-Martin Hinz was re-elected ICOM President.

**Vice-Presidents:**

Prof. Dr. Tereza Cristina Moletta Scheiner; and

Prof. Dr. George H. Okello Abungu were both re-elected as Vice-President

**Treasurer:**

Dr. Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine

**Ordinary members:**

Prof. Dr. Laishun An  
Mrs. Inkyung Chang  
Ms. Luisa de Peña Díaz  
Mr. Alberto Garlandini  
Ms. Goranka Horjan  
Ms. Merete Ipsen  
Dr. Peter Keller  
Dr. Ossama Abdel Meguid  
Ms. Diana R. Pardue  
Prof. Dr. Regine Schulz  
Dr. Willem de Vos

The re-elected President, Prof. Dr. Hans-Martin Hinz, thanked the General Assembly for voting him in for another three years and for the support and the work done during the last three years. He thanked Carlos Roberto Brandão for his willingness to stand as a candidate for the election. The President thanked all of the Members for their work over the last three years. He stressed the need to assist Members in underrepresented areas and to go beyond the ICOM network. He confirmed that the Executive Council would dedicate themselves to serving all ICOM Members. Finally, the President thanked the Brazilian Organising Committee for its work.

The General Assembly was closed at 1:30pm.

**Appendix 1**  
**President's Report 2012**

Dear members of ICOM, Caros amigos do ICOM,

In keeping with the Statutes that govern ICOM, as President of our organisation, it is my duty and privilege to present the 2012 President's Report to this General Assembly, detailing the principal activities of our organisation for the year that ended 31 December, 2012. As we gather here after several days of fruitful discussions and presentations on the occasion of the ICOM General Conference, a triennial highlight of the organisation, it is wonderful having seeing so many Latin American colleagues at the ICOM General Conference. Being in Rio de Janeiro today is significant for the organisation since it demonstrates ICOM's openness to the worldwide museum community and encourages museum professionals from other parts of the world to discover the achievements of colleagues from the region.

First of all, I would like to dwell a moment on the ICOM Strategic Plan 2011-2013 since it is the basis for actions implemented throughout the network during this period. The achievements in 2012 were led by this Strategic Plan, which will come to an end in December 2013, leaving room for new objectives and guidelines for the organisation. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all International Committees, National Committees, Regional Alliances, Technical Committees and Affiliated Organisations who have helped to implement the ICOM Strategic Plan 2011-2013.

ICOM is a member-based organisation and I am delighted to confirm that the organisation counted 30,624 active members in 2012, corresponding to an increase of 3.7%. Indeed, membership increased by approximately 9% in the three-year period from 2010 to 2012. The current number of members exceeds the symbolic figure of 30,000 members, demonstrating that ICOM continues to be an international reference for the international museum community. This increase is all the more symbolic as it incorporates a large number of new institutional members, representing an increase of 8.2% in 2012. Through their membership, these museums are participating in the dissemination of standards promoted by ICOM, and especially the *ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums*. It is a great pleasure to welcome members from countries that were not represented within ICOM last year, such as Zimbabwe, Chad, Swaziland, Central African Republic, Curaçao, Qatar, Nepal and Pakistan, and to support a significant increase in the number of ICOM members in countries such as Brazil, Haiti, Spain, the United Arab Emirates and Singapore. This increasing diversity is what enriches our international community of museums.

As part of its quest for greater inclusion, the ICOM travel grant scheme funded 125 bursaries, amounting to €61,534, enabling professional researchers and young members to attend conferences in 2012. Besides, ICOM Committees also offered financial assistance to members to attend annual meetings, workshops and other important museum events. I would like to express my thanks to the Getty Foundation, which allowed ICOM to provide such opportunities to its members.

I am also proud to announce that this year, COMCOL, the International Committee for Collecting, obtained permanent status as an ICOM International Committee. I welcome you officially to the ICOM network and look forward to collaborating with you on many future projects.

On 1 May, 2012, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with AFRICOM to develop collaborative actions in areas of common interest and to strengthen communication and exchanges between the two organisations to better serve African museum professionals.

Indeed, Africa played an active role in International Museum Day 2012, with events organised in many countries across the continent.

Worldwide, more than 32,000 museums participated in International Museum Day 2012, in 129 countries. On this occasion, conferences, free guided tours, night-time visits, concerts, workshops, educational programmes and innovative activities for all ages related to the theme *Museums in a Changing World, New Challenges, New Inspiration* were organised by museums and also by ICOM National Committees in collaboration with local cultural institutions all around the world. The 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IMD was a high point in ICOM's history, and this occasion was marked by a photo contest called "*Me in My Museum*", inviting museum visitors around the world to take pictures of themselves displaying the event's official badge. This creative initiative was warmly supported by many museums.

During the year 2012, the International Committees organised a total of 32 annual conferences in 21 different countries, gathering in total more than 2,200 participants. Many seminars, workshops, meetings and training programmes were also organised by National Committees for museum professionals of their countries, and the diversity of the events has been impressive.

The committees also made several efforts to foster partnerships and advocacy in the museum field. I know for instance that ICOM Andorra organised joint conferences with the UNESCO National Committee of Andorra, that ICOM Argentina worked closely with ICOMOS Argentina, and that ICOM Georgia collaborated with the ICOMOS National Committee and the National Library Association. In addition, several National Committees worked with governmental bodies to incorporate *The ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums* into legislation in their countries or on a larger scale, to collaborate in

national cultural policies. The example of ICOM Costa Rica comes to mind, as it helped to constitute the General Culture Law by participating in workshops organised by the Ministry of Culture and Youth. Meanwhile, National Committees continue to translate the Code into their own languages. The year 2012 saw new editions in Czech, Estonian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian and Russian. International Committees engage in extensive publishing activity, including conference proceedings of their meetings, often published with the cooperation of the host museums institutions or other cultural organisations. ICOM's committees collectively publish around 165 publications per year. To assist with this activity, ICOM General Secretariat also produced a publishing manual with guidelines and basic remarks designed to help committees with their publishing efforts.

With a view to increasing communication and transparency across the organisation, ICOMMUNITY, a professional collaborative platform for members, was launched in June 2012. News, events, thematic reports and other content are displayed online and can be updated by members themselves. This is an excellent tool for our museum community, which will facilitate dialogue on specific issues and help to foster professional development. Some 10% of ICOM members connected to ICOMMUNITY in 2012, and hundreds of events were shared on the platform. The features were improved and developed during the first half of 2013, providing committees with their own private spaces. We hope that ICOMMUNITY will be a source of inspiration for all projects within ICOM and for all professionals who want to share their experience with their colleagues.

Other tools were implemented and distributed in order to better promote the network. These include a presentation flyer on the "Three good reasons to join ICOM"; a document on "How to promote an ICOM event"; an emailing sent to new members on a weekly basis providing information on membership; an institutional brochure; and finally, documents to better promote International Committees. In 2013 these tools will be consolidated and adapted, and I invite and encourage all members to make good use of them. All these documents can now be found on ICOMMUNITY.

The ICOM membership database was also reworked and improved in 2012 in order to allow members to change and update their information online. This new version was effective at the beginning of 2013. The General Secretariat is still working on improvements and will be pleased to receive any feedback you may have in order to carry out future developments.

In 2012, the first ICOM annual report was produced for 2011, integrating the committees' activities. In addition, the International Committee annual reports were distributed to the Chairs of other International Committees and a summary of the annual reports of National Committees was sent to the Chairs of all National Committees. This enhances transparency and communication and facilitates collaboration on specific activities.

Later on in this meeting, ICOM's budget and financial statements will be presented so I will not go into details now, but would just like to emphasise the smooth management of ICOM accounts and one major change in ICOM's finances this year: banking facilities were negotiated with HSBC allowing for autonomy at International Committee level and for aggregation in the general ICOM accounts. In 2012, transactions from 28 of the 31 International Committees have been aggregated. I realise that this new bank account and aggregation process was a problem for some of the International Committees but I am confident that we will be able to find solutions that will suit all specific restrictions related to the Committees' activities that have not been addressed for the moment.

Successful fundraising is essential to the continuation of ICOM's activities and it holds great potential for expanding programming. Many partnerships were created or enhanced in 2012:

- As I mentioned already, the Getty Foundation is a long-term, key partner of ICOM for bursary programmes and thanks to them, many grantees participated in the General Conference this past week;
- The European Commission provided funding for three years for the International Observatory of Illicit Traffic on Cultural Goods project, implemented since the beginning of 2013;
- The U.S. Department of State, the European Union, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the Federal Office of Culture in Switzerland contributed to the production of Red Lists;
- An in-kind partnership with the French National Library was signed in order to digitise the whole collection of ICOM News magazine;
- And finally, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication granted ICOM a generous subsidy in 2012, which will more than likely be renewed in 2013 and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ministry warmly for their support.

In 2012, ICOM reinforced its commitment to leading world policies on the fight against illicit traffic in cultural goods. The *Emergency Red List of Egyptian Cultural Objects at Risk* was published with the aim of helping art and heritage professionals and law enforcement officials identify Egyptian objects that are protected by national and international legislation. The Red List was first launched in Cairo, Egypt in February and then in May at a European ceremony held in Hildesheim, Germany. In addition, three new Red Lists were prepared: one for the Dominican Republic, which was recently launched, one for West Africa and an Emergency Red List for Syria, the latter two set to be published at the end of 2013.

Thanks to the Red Lists, some important artefacts were restituted to their countries of origin in 2012: 10 Nok statues and one carved tusk were returned to Nigeria by officials from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency in the wake of an investigation carried out by the agency, in which

ICOM was invited to participate and contribute its expertise. In addition, 13 Iraqi archaeological objects were recovered and returned; the French central office for the fight against illicit traffic in cultural goods (OCBC) specifically stated that ICOM's *Emergency Red List of Iraqi Antiquities at Risk* played a major part in the recovery.

In this context, in December 2012, ICOM launched its International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods project to ensure continuous, extensive research and reporting, in close cooperation with a wide range of international partners. The International Observatory will consist of daily monitoring, gathering and compiling of information in relation to illicit traffic in cultural goods, which will enable ICOM to act as an activity hub for the organisation and its partners in this fight. This three-year project will lead to the first Global Report on the issue. With these programmes, ICOM is reinforcing its presence as a major player in the fight against illicit traffic.

The year 2012 was unfortunately marked by various natural and human-made disasters. In 2012, ICOM responded actively to situations in Senegal and Maldives following conflict; in Taiwan, Chile, Mexico, Indonesia, Italy following earthquakes; and in Syria and Mali, with dedicated actions implemented during the year. The ICOM Disaster Relief Task Force is the cornerstone of this monitoring work and we are all very grateful for the commitment of its members.

Many other ICOM Technical Committees have carried out thorough and essential work this year. I would therefore like to thank all members of the Ethics Committee, the Finance and Resources Committee, the Legal Affairs Committee, the Nominations and Elections Committee, the Strategic Allocation Review Commission and the Working Group on Statutes.

The year 2013 started out well with many projects in the works. In addition to those already mentioned, I am delighted to confirm that ICOM has signed a contract with UNESCO to take over the publishing rights of the scientific journal, *Museum International*. The new edition of the journal, under ICOM's aegis, will be published in partnership with Wiley-Blackwell, an international publishing company based in the United Kingdom. Each issue of *Museum International* will be distributed in hard copy and in digital format to thousands of subscribers. ICOM members will benefit from a significant discount. ICOM will rely on the expertise of the network to produce a quality publication thus sharing the knowledge of the entire international museum community. The Intangible Heritage Journal – Volume 8 was successfully published in 2013 and I draw your attention to the call for papers for Volume 9, which is already open on the dedicated website.

We have developed many key partnerships over the years, including fruitful collaboration with the Inclusive Museum Conferences and The Best in Heritage platform, as well as long-term partnerships

with organisations that contribute to ICOM's missions, and particularly, the World Federation of Friends of Museums (WFFM), AFRICOM, the *World Intellectual Property Organization* (WIPO), INTERPOL and a new partner in the field of museum emergency situations, the Smithsonian Institution.

A very important milestone in ICOM history's is the preparation and launch of the ICOM International Training Centre for Museum Studies in Beijing, China which we prepared during the last years. It was launched officially during a four-day event organised jointly by ICOM China and the Palace Museum from 30 June to 3 July, 2013, an event I had the honour to attend. The aim of the Centre is to promote research and exchange among museums on an international level and to develop museum expertise among professionals from developing countries, especially those from the Asia-Pacific region. The Centre will study the current situation and future trends of museums and the development of models for museums through the organisation of training programmes targeting ICOM members from developing countries specifically.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the dedication of Mrs. Hanna Pennock, former member of the Executive Council, who stepped down from the Executive Council to assume the position of Acting Director General since 13 May, 2013 until the end of this year. Hanna has been involved in ICOM for many years and I am fully confident that she is managing operations in the best interest of the organisation. I also thank the General Secretariat for their hard and committed work in challenging times.

I also thank the Organising Committee of this 23<sup>rd</sup> ICOM General Conference, and in particular Mr Carlos Roberto Brandão, for their involvement and preparation work for this event in Rio. We would not be gathered here today without their dedication throughout 2012 and during the first part of 2013. In June 2012, during the ICOM General Assembly, Milan was chosen as the host city for the ICOM General Conference 2016. The Italian Organising Committee worked hard to prepare their bid and is already putting measures in place to guarantee the success of the next General Conference. The webpage for the 2016 ICOM General Conference is already online.

I thank you all for your attention, and for participating in this General Conference, an important event for the international museum community and a unique opportunity to engage in dialogue with museums professionals of diverse backgrounds and disciplines.

Thank you. Obrigado.

**Appendix 2**  
**Executive Council elections results**

<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTION</b>		
Total Participation		566 Voters
Participation Rate		72,66%
Abstention		1,06%
<b>NEWLY ELECTED BUREAU</b>		
<i>President</i>		
Carlos Roberto BRANDÃO	174	Not elected
Hans-Martin HINZ	372	Elected
<i>Vice Presidents</i>		
George ABUNGU	334	Elected
Vinod DANIEL	274	Not elected
Tereza SCHEINER	292	Elected
<i>Treasurer</i>		
Claude FAUBERT	240	Not elected
Anne-Catherine ROBERT-HAUGLUSTAINE	293	Elected
<b>Ordinary Members</b>		
Ossama ABDEL MEGUID	300	Elected
Laishun AN	380	Elected
Andrey BUSYGIN	225	Not elected
In-Kyung CHANG	373	Elected
Marie-Françoise DELVAL	190	Not elected
Luisa DE PENA DIAZ	262	Elected
Frans FOX	160	Not elected
Alberto GARLANDINI	384	Elected

Goranka HORJAN	271	Elected
Merete IPSEN	329	Elected
Peter KELLER	242	Elected
Renée KISTEMAKER	233	Not elected
Virgil NITULESCU	179	Not elected
Diana PARDUE	297	Elected
Regine SCHULZ	347	Elected
Willem DE VOS	366	Elected
Knut WIK	209	Not elected