

## Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICOM General Assembly at the ICOM General Conference in Shanghai, China, on 12 November, 2010

### **Item 1: Approval of the Agenda**

---

The Agenda of the 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly was approved as presented.

### **Item 2: Minutes of the General Assembly of June 2009**

---

The minutes of the General Assembly of June 2009, held in Paris, France, were approved as presented.

### **Item 3: ICOM President's Report**

---

The President of ICOM presented her report to the General Assembly, in which she detailed the main activities of ICOM for the year ended 31 December, 2009 as well as a review of the 2010 results. The complete report text is available in Appendix 1. The General Assembly approved the President's report.

### **Item 4: Financial Statements 2009 and discharge**

---

The Treasurer presented the Financial Statements for 2009.

She expressed her satisfaction that the *Commissaire aux Comptes* (Statutory Auditor), Mr. Bensa, had certified the accounts in full with no caveats.

The Treasurer confirmed that in 2008, ICOM had a deficit of approximately €222,000, but that this year it has a surplus of €41,649.

She listed the reasons for the change as follows:

1. An increase in number of members and therefore an increase in membership dues
2. The reverse in the position of the reserve due to a favourable settlement achieved in the dispute with the former service provider of the membership database
3. Tight monitoring of expenses

The Treasurer pointed out that these changes had allowed significant achievements in 2009, such as the construction phase of the new membership database and website; an improvement in the quality and frequency of ICOM's communications tools; new information technology; and ICOM's presence at the 2010 World Expo.

She explained the approval process of the Financial Statements as follows: closure by the President, certification by the Statutory Auditor and approval by the Executive Council.

Following the presentation of the Financial Report 2009 and a reading of the Statutory Auditor's reports, the General Assembly approved the 2009 Accounts and the allocation of €41,649 of the 2009 surplus in the reserve account.

The General Assembly gave final discharge ("*quitus*") to the members of the Executive Council and the Bureau.

## **Item 5: Appointment of the Statutory Auditor for the period 2010 – 2015**

---

The Treasurer explained that the appointment of a Statutory Auditor for six years by the General Assembly is a statutory requirement of French accounting law.

The General Assembly is therefore required to consider the appointment of a Statutory Auditor for a period of six years. Following an analysis of bids, the Gagnard/Brossard firm's offer was the recommended choice and was then presented to the Executive Council. The Executive Council recommended that the General Assembly approve this decision.

The General Assembly approved the appointment of Dominique GAGNARD, 20 BIS RUE LOUIS PHILIPPE, 92200 NEUILLY-SUR-SEINE, in the capacity of Statutory Auditor for a six-year term of office (fiscals 2010 - 2015); and Olivier BOSSARD, 20 BIS RUE LOUIS PHILIPPE, 92200 NEUILLY-SUR-SEINE, in the capacity of Alternate Statutory Auditor for a six-year term of office (fiscals 2010 - 2015).

## **Item 6: Ratification of membership fee policies for 2011 and 2012**

---

The Director General presented the new membership fee policy for 2011 and 2012.

He cited the reasons for this proposal as establishing a more fair and realistic policy, one that would meet the Strategic Plan's objectives and that would be based on the updated purchasing power statistical data of four categories of countries.

He listed the follow-up actions as ongoing consultation with committees and a budgetary review as per the request of the last General Assembly.

He stated that efforts had also been made under the leadership of the Executive Council to give more support to the ICOM network, representing a 25% increase in the current year.

He presented the proposed policy for individuals as follows:

- no increase in fees for categories 2, 3, 4 for 2011, 2012
- an increase of €4 for regular members and €2 for students and retired members for category 1 in 2011 and 2012

And the proposed policy for institutions:

- a policy based on the institution's operating budget
- a larger number of cards determined on an incremental basis for institutions with a budget of more than €30,000 per annum
- the creation of a new level for institutions with a budget between €1 million and €5 million per annum
- a decrease in dues from €1,300 in 2010 to €800 in 2011 for institutions with an operating budget of more than €10 million per annum
- a slight increase of 4% for all other categories in 2011 and 2012

Following a vote by show of hands, the General Assembly adopted the membership fee policies for 2011 and 2012 validated by the Executive Council, as presented on page 35 of the working documents 'Appendix 1: INTERNAL MEMORANDUM DATED 3 JUNE, 2010' and on page 37 'Appendix 2: DEFINITION OF THE CATEGORIES OF COUNTRY & APPLICATION EXAMPLES' by majority vote.

## **Item 7: Resolutions**

---

The Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee explained that 31 recommendations of draft resolutions had been received from 23 individual members, National or International Committees. An Open Forum was held on 10 November 2010 to discuss the proposed draft resolutions. During the Forum, changes to the text of three resolutions were made. The Committee redrafted and integrated some of the draft resolutions, regrouped them by theme or subject, and established an order of presentation. The Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee stated that it was felt that six of the proposals required further consideration or analysis by the Executive Council. The full texts of the draft resolutions were distributed in three languages at the General Assembly.

## **Draft Resolution 1, Shanghai Declaration on Museums for Harmonious Social Development, was presented.**

The President requested the General Assembly's approval. The Chair of the Ethics Committee requested an amendment to the text, which had been communicated to the Resolutions Committee. She requested the removal of the Preamble and Article 1, and the addition of the following sentence: "Reaffirming the 1998 UNESCO World Culture report framework, the breadth and pluralism of its vision of culture and ongoing work that promotes the indivisible connections between biodiversity and cultural diversity between tangible and intangible heritage".

The Chair of the Resolutions Committee confirmed this request had been received from the Chair of the Ethics Committee, but that due to the timing of the request, it had been impossible to integrate the change due to translation considerations.

At the request of the President, the Chair of the Ethics Committee agreed to accept the text in its current format and to receive the revised version later.

Some precision was requested regarding the wording of the resolutions. The President reminded the General Assembly that any major questions should have been addressed at the Open Forum, and asked if the Assembly was willing to adopt the resolution as amended. The draft Resolution 1 was adopted as amended.

### Final Resolution 1: Shanghai Declaration on Museums for Harmonious Social Development

Underlining the theme of the 'ICOM 2010' General Conference in Shanghai, *Museums for Social Harmony*, as a profound and resonant concept for global society;

Recalling the crucial change in ICOM's international definition of *museums* in 1974, introducing for the first time a clear statement of museums' social purpose: that museums exist '*in the service of society and its development*';

Noting that the concept of 'society' itself has undergone transformation in the decades since ICOM profiled museums' social responsibilities – and that all modern societies today are increasingly challenged by far-reaching changes internally and in their relations with the world, where values and ideas about future development are evolving dynamically in an ever more pluralistic environment;

Affirming the enlarged ethical responsibilities of museums, as set out under eight broad principles in the *ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums* (2004), which includes the following statements:

(Principle 1) *Museums preserve, interpret and promote the natural and cultural inheritance of humanity.*

(Principle 4) *Museums provide opportunities for the appreciation, understanding and management of the natural and cultural heritage.*

(Principle 5) *Museums hold resources that provide opportunities for other public services and benefits.*

(Principle 6) *Museums work in close collaboration with the communities from which their collections originate as well as those they serve.*

Reaffirming the frameworks of the 1995 and 2000 UNESCO publications, *Our Creative Diversity* and the *World Culture Report 2000*, the breadth and pluralism of their vision of culture and ongoing work that promotes the indivisible connections between biodiversity and cultural diversity between tangible and intangible heritage;

Fostering recognition and respect for diverse social and cultural practices, to build strong societies that include persons and groups from varied backgrounds;

Promoting openness, freedom of thought, conscience and belief, and wide access to knowledge generated by museums for all;

Celebrating the increasingly important and reflexive roles that museums play today in international affairs, including as ambassadors for intercultural awareness and informed relations between nations;

Warning that the positive recognition of difference and experience of intercultural communication with others cannot be passively assumed, but must be actively promoted by museums in their engagement with diverse audiences, to achieve greatest benefits to civil society in a global age;

Emphasising the growing need for museums to develop skills, capabilities and new models of collaboration to provide a structured platform for interactions between different peoples, cultures and forms of knowledge;

Members of the international museums community and ICOM delegates gathered in Shanghai for 'ICOM 2010' declare the important value of museums as agents for harmonious social development, in which individuals and diverse groups participate freely and actively – through museums' preservation and projection of the varied environments, histories and achievements that human beings share, affirming humankind's unique and irreplaceable legacy for future generations.

### **Draft Resolution 2, ICOM's Cultural Diversity Charter, was presented.**

Requests were made for electronic voting to be implemented, for more time to read resolutions and for a demonstration on the electronic voting. ICOM Secretariat provided a demonstration of the electronic voting system and technical assistance where necessary.

Draft Resolution 2 was adopted as presented with 343 votes in favour, 18 against and 22 abstentions.

#### Final Resolution 2: ICOM Cultural Diversity Charter

As an integral part of the outcomes of the activities of 2010 — The International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, The International Year of Biodiversity, and The International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding — the ICOM Cross Cultural Task Force recommends that consistent with the 1998 Cultural Diversity Policy Framework of ICOM, and in continuing to address the wide range of issues with cross cultural dimensions through intercultural and intergenerational dialogue and in developing inclusive approaches and guidelines for how museums should endeavour to deal with cultural diversity and biodiversity, that the 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the International Council of Museums meeting on 12 November 2010 in Shanghai, China, adopted the following set of principles as the ICOM Cultural Diversity Charter:

1. **DIVERSITY:** To recognise and affirm all forms of cultural diversity and biological diversity at local, regional and international levels, and to reflect this diversity in all policies and programmes of museums across the world.
2. **PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY:** To promote enabling and empowering frameworks for active inputs from all stakeholders, community groups, cultural institutions and official agencies through appropriate processes of consultation, negotiation and participation, ensuring the ownership of the processes as the defining element.
3. **COOPERATION AND COORDINATION:** To cooperate and coordinate in sharing projects and enhancing professional exchanges so as to maximise resources and expertise at regional and global levels.
4. **PEACE AND COMMUNITY BUILDING:** To promote the sense of place and identity of diverse peoples through appreciating their multiple inheritances — natural and cultural, tangible and intangible, movable and immovable — and fostering a shared vision inspired by the spirit of reconciliation through intercultural and intergenerational dialogue.

5. INNOVATION AND INSPIRATION: To foster creativity and to develop challenging approaches to stimulate inclusive heritage consciousness in culturally and linguistically diverse museum contexts.

6. CAPACITY BUILDING: To make directed and sustained endeavours to increase the operational capacity of museums to respond with vigour and insight to transformation and change in culturally and linguistically diverse societies.

7. PRODUCTIVE DIVERSITY: To maximise approaches that will encourage the diversification of resources to address and reconcile the competing demands of cultural diversity and biodiversity with economic imperatives.

8. STANDARD SETTING: To discuss and debate various UN and UNESCO international heritage law instruments, both soft law recommendations, charters and declarations and hard law conventions and treaties, providing strategic professional leadership, especially with reference to the cultural suite of international legal instruments.

9. SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE: To locate culture as the fourth pillar along with economic, social and environmental sustainability and to address the cultural and creative dimensions of climate change.

10. DIGITAL DOMAIN: To understand the differences between digitisation, digital access and digital heritage, to support digital access in all activities, and to recognise that digital access is not a substitute for return, restitution and repatriation.

#### **Draft Resolution 3, Inclusive Museum Knowledge Communities, was presented.**

Draft Resolution 3 was adopted as presented with 343 votes in favour, 19 against and 37 abstentions.

Final Resolution 3: Inclusive Museum Knowledge Communities

As an integral part of the outcomes of the activities of 2010, *International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures*; and *International Year of Youth – Dialogue and Mutual Understanding*;

The ICOM Cross Cultural Task Force recommends that building on the 1998 Cultural Diversity Policy Framework of ICOM and continuing to address the wide range of issues with cross cultural dimensions through intercultural and intergenerational dialogue; developing inclusive approaches and guidelines concerning the way that museums should endeavour to deal with cultural diversity;

That the 25<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the International Council of Museums meeting in November 2010 in Shanghai, China, support continued participation of ICOM in the Inclusive Museum Knowledge Community beyond 2011, so that the Inclusive Museum Knowledge Community could become a valuable resource for the museum and the wider heritage community.

#### **Draft Resolution 4, Promoting Community Museums, was presented.**

Draft Resolution 4 was adopted as presented with 319 votes in favour, 31 against and 49 abstentions.

#### Final Resolution 4: Promoting Community Museums

Bearing in mind the importance of museums in promoting harmony, mutual understanding and exchanges between communities locally, regionally and nationally;

Recognising that museums can contribute to breaking down barriers between people and communities and to promoting respect and understanding and tolerance of social and ethnic diversity and the preservation of human rights;

The General Assembly commends the creation of appropriate museums intended to preserve and reflect the varied heritages of different communities.

#### **Draft Resolution 5, Museums and Cultural Tourism, was presented.**

Three amendment proposals were made:

- to add the word “preservation” after “cultural understanding” at the end of the third paragraph
- to add the term “in search of” before “training”
- to address the resolution’s significance, for instance in relation to negative problems posed by cultural tourism

The President asked whether the General Assembly would be prepared to adopt Draft Resolution 5 as amended by the three proponents.

Draft Resolution 5 was carried as amended with 319 votes in favour, 41 against and 38 abstentions.

#### Final Resolution 5: Museums and Cultural Tourism

Conscious that museums play an important role in the promotion of cultural tourism;

Noting the fact that museum collections contain objects of great artistic and heritage value;

The General Assembly commends all appropriate museum initiatives which make museums more attractive to the public and which enhance their ability to contribute to education, in search of training, cultural understanding and preservation;

The General Assembly encourages the integration of museums into national development programmes through the promotion of appropriate cultural tourism.

#### **Draft Resolution 6, Heritage and Legacy, was presented.**

Some points were raised in relation to terminology ambiguity, and some translation issues in Spanish. The President emphasised the need to accept that the wording of the resolutions is not always how we would anticipate it to be. The Chair of the Resolutions Committee added that the translation was not always perfectly accurate given the timing involved, but that translations with professional corrections would be integrated into the final text of the official resolutions presented.

Draft Resolution 6 was adopted with 329 votes in favour, 49 against and 97 abstentions.

#### Final Resolution 6: Heritage and Legacy

Recalling that the cultural heritage of the world is important for mutual understanding between peoples;

Noting that our cultural heritage is vulnerable to many threats and that its protection demands united efforts informed by professional experience and by continuing research and development in conservation and in documentation of heritage objects and monuments;

Considering the vital importance of continual improvement in public access and presentation;

The General Assembly notes that amongst ICOM's most pressing tasks are

Sustainable development of museums,

Support for dialogue amongst museum professionals and the museum public internationally,

Support for all forms of positive and respectful cooperation with the various social, ethnic and confessional communities of museum stakeholders nationally and internationally with a view to promoting and preserving our common cultural heritage and passing it on as legacy to future generations.

#### **Draft Resolution 7, Clarification of Conservation Terminology, was presented.**

Draft Resolution 7 was adopted as presented with 343 votes in favour, 9 against and 123 abstentions.

#### Final Resolution 7: Clarification of Conservation Terminology

The General Assembly welcomes and endorses the clarification and definition of conservation terminology including “preventive conservation”, “remedial conservation” and “restoration” as the preferred terms characterising the various forms of action to conserve tangible cultural heritage which were adopted by ICOM-CC at its 15<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference in New Delhi 22-26 September 2008. The terms are defined as follows:

Conservation – all measures and actions aimed at safeguarding tangible cultural heritage while ensuring its accessibility to present and future generations. Conservation embraces preventive conservation, remedial conservation and restoration. All measures and actions should respect the significance and the physical properties of the cultural heritage item.

- Preventive conservation – all measures and actions aimed at avoiding and minimizing future deterioration or loss. They are carried out within the context or on the surroundings of an item, but more often a group of items, whatever their age and condition. These measures and actions are indirect – they do not interfere with the materials and structures of the items. They do not modify their appearance.

*Examples of preventive conservation are appropriate measures and actions for registration, storage, handling, packing and transportation, security, environmental management (light, humidity, pollution and pest control), emergency planning, education of staff, public awareness, legal compliance.*

- Remedial conservation – all actions directly applied to an item or a group of items aimed at arresting current damaging processes or reinforcing their structure. These actions are only carried out when the items are in such a fragile condition or deteriorating at such a rate, that they could be lost in a relatively short time. These actions sometimes modify the appearance of the items.

*Examples of remedial conservation are disinfection of textiles, desalination of ceramics, deacidification of paper, dehydration of wet archaeological materials, stabilization of corroded metals, consolidation of mural paintings, removing weeds from mosaics.*

- Restoration – all actions directly applied to a single and stable item aimed at facilitating its appreciation, understanding and use. These actions are only carried out when the item has lost part of its significance or function through past alteration or deterioration. They are based on respect for the original material. Most often such actions modify the appearance of the item.

*Examples of restoration are retouching a painting, reassembling a broken sculpture, reshaping a basket, filling losses on a glass vessel.*

Conservation measures and actions can sometimes serve more than one aim. For instance

varnish removal can be both restoration and remedial conservation. The application of protective coatings can be both restoration and preventive conservation. Reburial of mosaics can be both preventive and remedial conservation.

Conservation is complex and demands the collaboration of relevant qualified professionals. In particular, any project involving direct actions on the cultural heritage requires a conservator-restorer (ref. ICOM-CC definition of the profession, Copenhagen, 1984, and the *ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums*).

#### **Draft Resolution 8, Professional Development for Future Museum Personnel, was presented.**

Draft Resolution 8 was passed, with 327 votes in favour, 22 against and 124 abstentions.

Final Resolution 8: Professional Development for Future Museum Personnel

Whereas CIPEG has recognised that many students no longer receive object- and materials-based training in Egyptology and consequently do not have an appropriate professional knowledge to enable them to work in museums with ancient Egyptian collections and that this tendency has been identified in many other museum-relevant disciplines from the sciences to art-history;

Accordingly the General Assembly resolves to urge ICOM members and supporters to appeal to their university colleagues and those in other appropriate institutes and organisations to intensify art-historical and objects-focused teaching as an essential part of the curriculum for the relevant sciences, social sciences and humanities disciplines.

#### **Draft Resolution 9, Continuous Professional Development for Museum Personnel, was presented.**

A suggestion was made that in the last paragraph emphasis should be placed on formal qualifications (*formations diplômantes*) because if no formal qualification is awarded at the end of the training period, it is not recognised by museums.

The President responded by stating that she would not recommend an amendment on that basis, but that she would take the point as advice.

Draft Resolution 9 was passed with 372 votes in favour, 11 against and 92 abstentions.

Final Resolution 9: Continuous Professional Development for Museum Personnel

Bearing in mind the ICOM Code of Ethics 2006, Section 1.15 and ICOM Statutes Article 2, Section 2, The General Assembly resolves that as museums evolve as institutions, driven by ideas of sustainability and social inclusion, continuing education and professional development assume even greater importance. During the joint annual conference of ICR and ICTOP in Mantova (Italy) from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2009, this position was supported in presentations and discussions. Therefore, the General Assembly urges its members to include training for all museum personnel in all strategic and, where relevant, operational plans.

#### **Draft Resolution 10, Partnerships for Capacity Building, was presented.**

Comments from the floor included the need for a global approach to address concerns in developing countries, an emphasis on the spirit of exchange and sustainability of implementation, and cooperation and aid for specific regions in the world.

The President took the comments on board and asked people to vote in that spirit.

Draft Resolution 10 was passed with 362 votes in favour, 23 against, and 90 abstentions.

Final Resolution 10: Partnerships for Capacity Building

Noting that the limited means, infrastructure and staffing of Arab and African museums prevent the accomplishment of their missions;

The General Assembly resolves that ICOM shall establish effective partnerships between museums from developed countries and those from developing countries, in order to permit the latter to benefit from the expertise of the former, by means of:

- The organisation of training programmes in conservation, documentation, and digitisation of collections,
- The encouragement of the holding of specialist meetings on museum management, in order to facilitate communication and sharing of knowledge, as well as the transfer of technologies to museums in developing countries,
- Training in the sourcing of financial and in-kind support.

#### **Draft Resolution 11, Flow of Information and Opinion within ICOM, was presented.**

The President emphasised the fact that the exchange of information and opinion within ICOM had always existed and is necessary. She presented ICOM's legal advisor's guidelines on this resolution as follows:

The implementation of the rule suggested in the resolution must respect two fundamental principles:

- The respect of the lawful use of personal data: only a member who has given his agreement may have his/her contact information disseminated and this solely within the context of which he/she has given his/her authorisation
- Forums organised by ICOM must include a moderator, who ensures the legality of the discussions (absence of any discriminatory comments, defamatory utterance...) and their conformity within ICOM's purpose

Draft Resolution 11 was passed taking these points into account for future reference. The vote was 368 votes in favour, 20 against and 87 abstentions.

#### **Final Resolution 11: Flow of Information and Opinion within ICOM**

Bearing in mind the importance of the free flow of information and debate within ICOM, the General Assembly resolves to maintain ICOM-L as a free and open discussion list for all matters relating to ICOM and the museum community and further resolves to promote the exchange of ideas, encourage the membership to participate in such exchanges, and resolves to facilitate the flow of knowledge and ideas within the organization.

#### **Draft Resolution 12, Working Papers for General Assembly, Executive Council and Advisory Committee, was presented as follows:**

*Noting the necessity for time to read and analyse working papers for, and draft minutes of, meetings of the General Assembly, Executive Council and Advisory Committee, the General Assembly resolves that a clear and unambiguous time limit of one month be fixed and enforced for working papers as well as for minutes and lists of decisions.*

The President informed the General Assembly that the Executive Council adopted on 8 November, 2010, the following resolution:

*The working documents which members of the Advisory Committee, Executive Council, and General Assembly of ICOM need to discuss and/or adopt shall be sent or made available within a reasonable timeframe taking into account their significance, complexity and the translation timeframe before the meeting. Except in exceptional circumstances, the timeframe principle is set to no less than two (2) weeks before the meeting.*

*Furthermore, the record of decisions of a meeting will be complete within one (1) month of the meeting in order to disseminate them rapidly once translation is complete. The normal timeframe for publication of the record of decisions will be within the subsequent two (2) weeks.*

The President wished it be noted for the record that the above resolution, adopted by the Executive Council, is very similar to the current draft resolution 12. She noted that the Council had no objection to the resolution.

Draft Resolution 12 was passed with 369 votes in favour, 17 against and 89 abstentions..

Final Resolution 12: Working Papers for General Assembly, Executive Council and Advisory Committee

Noting the necessity for time to read and analyse working papers for, and draft minutes of, meetings of the General Assembly, Executive Council and Advisory Committee, the General Assembly resolves

That a clear and unambiguous time limit of one month be fixed and enforced for working papers as well as for minutes and lists of decisions.

### **Draft Resolution 13, ICOM Internal Rules and Regulations, was presented.**

The President stated that the draft resolution could not be voted because, after detailed analysis, it is judged irregular by ICOM's legal advisor and it contravenes current French legislation, notably for the following reasons:

- It is not possible to revoke decisions retroactively if they were adopted by the Executive Council in conformity with the Statutes
- The ordinary General Assembly cannot adopt a resolution that contravenes Article 25 of the Statutes adopted in 2007

The content of the draft resolution will be communicated to the new Executive Council, who may in turn communicate with whomever they wish in order to discuss the evolution of the Rules and Regulations.

The following suggestions from the floor ensued:

- That the General Assembly first vote on the resolution, and then hand it over to the Executive Council
- That the resolution be revised by the legal team before passing it on to the Executive Council
- That the General Assembly has the right to exercise its vote if it so wishes
- That the Executive Council report on this matter by the June meetings in 2011

The President responded by reiterating her belief that these concerns needed to be addressed by the Executive Council and she would ensure that this was done.

### **Draft Resolution 14, Role and Impact of International Committees, was presented.**

The Chair of the Standing Committee on International Committees raised the possibility of adding a membership application form.

Draft Resolution 14 was passed with 371 votes in favour, 7 against and 97 abstentions.

Final Resolution 13: Role and Impact of International Committees

Bearing in mind the importance of the work of the International Committees for the achievement of ICOM's Strategic objectives for the enhancement of professional practice and exchange of information, the General Assembly resolves:

- To encourage improved communication by and about the International Committees.
- To recommend to the Executive Council and Advisory Committee the establishment of an Open Forum on the International Committees at the time of the annual meeting of the Advisory Committee and at the Triennial Conference to promote the work of the International Committees and to answer the questions of ICOM members and receive feedback about their activities.
- To recommend the use of the ICOM Website and *ICOM News* to publicise the work of the International Committees.
- That an evaluation of the Standing Committee on International Committees be

undertaken with a view to including in its mandate the improvement of its support for the work of the International Committees.

**Draft Resolution 15, Disaster Relief Programme, was presented.**

Draft Resolution 15 was passed with 383 votes in favour, 2 against and 90 abstentions.

A request was subsequently made to replace the word “reaffirm” (*réaffirmer*) with “strengthen” (*renforcer*) in light of recent catastrophes.

The President noted the point and hearing no objection said it would be reflected in the amended version.

Final Resolution 14: Disaster Relief Programme

The General Assembly strengthen ICOM’s commitment to assisting museums and heritage institutions facing the consequences of natural and man-made disasters.

**Draft Resolution 16, Heritage Restitution, was presented.**

It was requested that attention be drawn to the important legal terms of “return”, “restitution” and “repatriation”, and that the differentiation be made clear.

It was also proposed that the role of the Ethics Committee be reinforced, and that the ICOM Mediation Programme be referred to in the resolution in addition to the Ethics Committee.

Some translation issues were raised, which the President said would be addressed and corrected in the amended version.

Draft Resolution 16 was passed with 328 votes in favour, 27 against and 120 abstentions.

Final Resolution 15: Heritage Restitution

Recalling that documents and objects have in the past been confiscated from colonised countries;

Noting that these documents and objects form an integral part of their historical heritage;

The General Assembly resolves to encourage all the parties concerned who are in dispute to enter into dialogue with a view to resolving the issues of restitution and draws attention to the *ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums* and to ICOM's adherence to International conventions governing such matters.

**Draft Resolutions 17 to 18.5 were presented.**

The President proposed that draft resolutions 17 to 18.5 be transmitted for consideration by the Executive Council.

Questions were raised as to the format and timeframe in which a report would be received. The President agreed that a report should be available for the General Assembly in June 2011. The Chair of the Resolutions Committee recommended that the following resolutions be referred to the Executive Council.

The recommendation to refer draft Resolutions 17 to 18.5 to the Executive Council was adopted by 325 votes in favour, 37 against and 113 abstentions.

## **Item 8: The dates and venue of the 23<sup>rd</sup> General Conference and the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

---

The General Assembly decided that the 23<sup>rd</sup> General Conference and the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly would take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2013. The Director General confirmed that the 26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly would take place in Paris, France. The date was yet to be specified.

## **Item 9: Results of the election of the Executive Council and appointment of the President of ICOM for 2010 – 2013**

---

The Chair of the Advisory Committee read the results of the election of the Executive Council as follows:

**President:** Hans-Martin Hinz

**Vice-Presidents:** George Abungu, Teresa Scheiner

**Treasurer:** Dominique Ferriot

**Ordinary members:**

Ossama Abdel Meguid

Laishun An

Carlos Roberto Ferreira Brandão

Luisa de Peña Díaz

Marie-Françoise Delval

Claude Faubert

Goranka Horjan

Merete Ipsen

Daniele Lupo Jallà

Hanna Pennock

Regine Schulz

The Advisory Committee Chair confirmed that there had been 549 voting ballots, and that 546 were valid. The breakdown of the votes is available in Appendix 2.

On behalf of the General Assembly, outgoing President Alissandra Cummins congratulated all of the new Executive Council members and invited the new President to address the Assembly.

The newly elected President, Hans-Martin Hinz, gave an address to the General Assembly, in which he thanked the electorate for voting for him and outlined his vision of ICOM's future. Please refer to Appendix 3 for the full text.

## **Item 10: Closure of the General Assembly and the General Conference**

---

Outgoing President Alissandra Cummins, addressed the General Assembly for the final time, thanking the Chinese hosts for their warm hospitality and expressing the view that ICOM was now firmly positioned to continue its active process of development. She recalled the words of Alpha Oumar Konaré who called on the museum community to offer its support to those regions of the world where the museum field requires particular care and nurturing, referring especially to colleagues and institutions on the African continent. Please refer to Appendix 4 for the full text.

The General Assembly was then adjourned.

## Appendix 1

### President's Report 2009

Dear Members of ICOM,

In compliance with the 1901 law on Registered Associations and the Statutes that govern ICOM, it is my duty but also my pleasure to present to this General Assembly the President's Report, which describes the main activities of our Association for the year ended 31 December, 2009, and as we have already reached the end of 2010, I will also review the 2010 results.

I had the opportunity last Sunday, 7 November, to present to the Advisory Committee a triennial review of the activities of ICOM. This overview and the content of this report are described in more detail in the Triennial Report 2007-2010, of which you received a copy and which I invite you to read.

The activities of ICOM in 2009 and those of its Executive Council which met on two occasions that year, include the implementation of the actions outlined in the Strategic Plan 2008 – 2010, approved at the General Conference in Vienna in 2007. These actions are based on the consolidation of member services, the deployment of our communication tools, the development of international partnerships and the careful management of resources.

During 2009, the number of ICOM members increased from 24,800 to 26,300. Following the decision of the General Assembly in June 2009, both individual and institutional members now benefit from a more equitable membership policy, one that takes into account the reality of economic discrepancies in member countries.

ICOM, under the coordination of the Secretariat and in collaboration with several national and international committees, launched its member database, which will facilitate both the work of our Secretariat and that of the National and International Committees, who will have access to member data.

ICOM has also developed a new website which has many features such as providing better access for members to the ICOM-UNESCO museum documentation centre as well as access to mini-sites reserved for the Committees. Similarly, the new version of ICOM News now offers special reports on topical items, and communications tools such as ICOM's monthly e-newsletters have been adapted to provide information on the activities of the committees and working groups of ICOM.

On an international scale, ICOM has successfully undertaken the renewal of various framework agreements including its agreement with UNESCO. It also established new cooperation agreements in particular with the World Federation of the Friends of Museums (WFFM) and ICOMOS. ICOM is also holding discussions with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), discussions that should soon lead to an agreement to implement a mediation programme. New Red Lists were produced for several countries including Haiti, China, Colombia, Cambodia, Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. ICOM has also enhanced the promotional tools available to National Committees for the organisation of events surrounding International Museum Day. The number of participating countries was 91 in 2009 and 96 in 2010.

In addition, over the past year, the Executive Council reiterated its commitment to intensify the presence of ICOM in various parts of the world where it is less present. While various approaches have been undertaken in this respect in Latin America, Africa and the Arab territories, it is important to highlight the fact that this General Conference is the second to be held in Asia in six years. Together with ICOM's participation at the World Expo in Shanghai, these events have helped ICOM increase its presence and the development work of its National Committees in Asia.

I would like to conclude this report by outlining the work undertaken to consolidate the management of ICOM during the past year. The Secretariat completed in 2009 its plans to restructure the organisation, which had begun in late 2008. It also upgraded the processes for managing its resources. In this regard, following a request made at the General Assembly in June 2009, the General management of ICOM conducted a review of operations, which led to a decrease in operating expenses with an increase in services provided, while during the same period, ICOM's own resources increased by 53% between 2008 and 2009 and 20% between 2009 and 2010. These achievements have resulted in a balanced financial position, on which the Treasurer and Director General will report shortly via the 2009 Financial

Statements. Finally, in relation to Objective 4 of the Strategic Plan, in 2009 the Executive Council approved the acquisition of office space, which will house the largest share of the Secretariat, which will also retain its current offices in the UNESCO premises.

This is the final report that I present as my term as President of ICOM has almost come to an end. I wish to start by thanking the members of the Executive Council and members of various committees and working groups that have supported me throughout my tenure. I would also like to thank the staff of the Secretariat and the Director General for the dedication and efficiency that they have shown to the ICOM members.

ICOM is above all an invaluable pool of resources and expertise within the museum community. I look to ICOM's future with optimism and wish the next President and the Executive Council a successful mandate.

Alissandra Cummins

## Appendix 2

### Executive Council election results

<b>Results of the election of the Executive Council 2010-2013</b>		
<b>President</b>		
Hans-Martin HINZ	<b>Germany</b>	<b>291</b>
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>		
George OKELLO ABUNGU	<b>Kenya</b>	<b>389</b>
Teresa C. MOLETTA SCHEINER	<b>Brazil</b>	<b>440</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>		
Dominique FERRIOT	<b>France</b>	<b>302</b>
<b>Members</b>		
Carlos Roberto FERREIRA BRANDÃO	<b>Brazil</b>	<b>365</b>
Luisa de PEÑA DÍAZ	<b>Dominican Republic</b>	<b>277</b>
Goranka HORJAN	<b>Croatia</b>	<b>268</b>
Laishun AN	<b>China</b>	<b>265</b>
Regine SCHULZ	<b>United States of America</b>	<b>265</b>
Claude FAUBERT	<b>Canada</b>	<b>257</b>
Ossama ABDEL MEGUID	<b>Egypt</b>	<b>247</b>
Daniele LUPO JALLÀ	<b>Italy</b>	<b>243</b>
Hanna PENNOCK	<b>The Netherlands</b>	<b>241</b>
Marie-Françoise DELVAL	<b>France</b>	<b>236</b>
Merete IPSEN	<b>Denmark</b>	<b>233</b>

## Appendix 3

### Address by the newly elected ICOM President to the General Assembly

Dear colleagues from all over the world,  
Chers hôtes de la Conférence générale,  
Estimados amigos del ICOM,

First I would like to thank those of you who voted for me, thus appointing me to lead ICOM, for the coming three years.

I feel indebted to you for your trust in me. I will strive to gain the trust of those who did not vote for me as well. I see it as a challenge facing all of us to strengthen ICOM's mission in the world and to further ICOM's societal and cultural impact.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the opposing candidate, Dr. Richard West, for our relation of mutual respect and regard.

And I would like to extend my particular gratitude to the outgoing president of ICOM, Alissandra Cummins. In Seoul in 2004 she became the first woman voted to the office of president, and for very good reasons.

Alissandra, you served in the office of president with creativity, inspiration and effectiveness. You were the ideal ambassador for the museums in international cultural policy. For your great dedication and service for the International Council of Museums and especially for these six years of your presidency we owe you many thanks, which I wish to express today in the name of all members of ICOM.

Let us look to the future. What could ICOM look like in three years when we meet at the general conference in Rio de Janeiro? The number of members will certainly have surpassed the impressive milestone of 30,000, thus underlining the significance of ICOM as one of the large cultural actors in the world.

Even now ICOM's presence already covers almost the entire surface of the globe across all continents. In fact, in cultural policy, ICOM has already for quite some time become a global player, representing common ethical and professional values all over the world.

For as I see it, the strength of ICOM is that it can rely on the support of the network of national committees and international committees as well as of the regional alliances and affiliated organisations.

This horizontal work within the organization whereby the members can help each other is of fundamental importance for ICOM as an inclusive organisation and for the achievement of its internal goals.

The work of the committees has created a worldwide forum for international, transcontinental and intercultural dialogue. It is the core of ICOM's work and has to be reinforced and strengthened. Thank you all of you for your tremendous voluntary work you did and you do for your committee and for ICOM.

Moreover, the irregular distribution of ICOM members worldwide reveals a distinctly European preponderance. We all know this.

Yet as a worldwide organisation we must strive to give a voice to those under-represented regions with fewer members and to support them such that they can collaborate and contribute more intensively on the world stage of museums.

On the other hand, a balanced support must also take in account the needs of those regions with the greatest density of museums. In the past ICOM was not sufficiently well-known in the public awareness outside of the world of museums. Thankfully, the President and the Director General and the Secretariat in Paris were working intensively on improving the international visibility of ICOM. And we should continue. In presenting ourselves to a wider public we must continue to increase the awareness of our issues and highlight the significance of museums as sites of social encounter.

The members of the newly elected Executive Council are at your service, ladies and gentlemen. We wish to dedicate ourselves to your concerns. Please see us not as functionaries but as colleagues who have

been drawn from the midst of ICOM members. Otherwise that which we see so often in politics could all too easily happen: whoever governs disappoints.

By means of participation, motivation, direct communication and flat hierarchies we hope to make it easier to approach one another so as to ensure that our work within the structures of ICOM is well-balanced.

Thank you very much, merci beaucoup, muchas gracias and vielen Dank

Hans-Martin Hinz

## Appendix 4

### Address by the outgoing President at the Closing Ceremony

Dear guests, friends and colleagues of the international museum community,

It is with great pride and emotion that I address all participants here today as the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Conference of the International Council of Museums draws to a close.

I wish to sincerely thank our Chinese hosts, and particularly Mr Zhang Bai, Chair of ICOM China, for his investment and involvement in making this triennial conference a staggering success.

There is no doubt that this highly significant event has put the Shanghai Museum community, and indeed the entire Asian museum community firmly on the world museum map.

The success of this conference should serve to inspire our community to continue making determined efforts to develop collaboration and cooperation between museums in all four corners of the world. And by doing so, we will help to create a more socially harmonious environment for future generations.

I would like to pay special tribute to our keynote speakers for their sophisticated and insightful contributions and for setting the pace for this 22<sup>nd</sup> General Conference.

In his inspiring address, Mr Alpha Oumar Konaré called on the museum community to offer its support to those regions of the world where the museum field requires particular care and nurturing, referring especially to our colleagues and institutions on the African continent.

The impressive developments we have seen arising in the Asian museum community came about precisely due to this type of support, from Seoul's General Conference in 2004 to six years later here in Shanghai. Each General Conference has moved forward within increasing sureness in achieving the huge potential that is Asia's museums. Each General Conference has left a legacy of critical importance for the international museum community.

I am certain that you will all agree that with the success of this General Conference the Asian museum community is now strongly positioned to share its knowledge and resources, not merely at the regional level but with other nations where museums are in need of attention, most particularly the African museum community.

Let this be the legacy of Shanghai 2010! May ICOM support the United Nations in its International year for people of African descent in 2011 and UNESCO in its Priority Africa programming especially as it relates to museum development and intangible cultural heritage, by helping to promote a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritages and cultures of the African continent and its Diaspora.

I believe that, in the context of the resolutions you have endorsed, that you as ICOM members, share these hopes and aspirations, and that you will leave Shanghai empowered with the tools and the drive to lead the development of our international museum community.

I would finally like to thank all those who have contributed to making this General Conference a success, including ICOM's Advisory Committee, the Executive Council, the Chairs and members of all the Standing Committees, of the Resolutions Committee, and the Evaluation and Strategic Planning Committees, and it goes without saying the Director General and the General Secretariat. Together, you have helped make our dreams of a fruitful, collaborative and innovative conference a reality here in Shanghai.

I salute you all and wish our international museum community steady and forward progress towards the next General Conference in Brazil in 2013 and beyond!

Alissandra Cummins