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Press Release

ICOM supports Tunisian civil society and Tunisian cultural heritage professionals

Following the recent events that have affected several Tunisian places of worship, such as the mausoleum of Sidi Bou Said, and the deterioration of these monuments, the International Council of Museums (ICOM) joins the international community in its concern regarding the protection of the country's cultural and historical assets.

ICOM deplores this destruction of national and international cultural heritage. The mausoleum of Sidi Bou Said, which dates from the 13th century and is part of the Archaeological Site of Carthage, was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979 and testifies to religious traditions that are essential to understanding Tunisian history and culture.

Julien Anfruns, Director General of ICOM, comments: "ICOM, alongside governmental and non-governmental organisations concerned with the conservation of heritage, supports Tunisian civil society in its efforts to protect the country's heritage."

International Council of Museums - ICOM

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ICOM in brief

Created in 1946, ICOM (International Council of Museums) is a non-governmental international organisation in formal association relation with UNESCO. It has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. ICOM is the only international organisation representing museums and museum professionals worldwide.

ICOM is:

- A diplomatic forum made up of representatives from 137 countries and territories
- Standards of excellence for museums, specifically regarding ethics, with its *ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums*
- A unique network made up of almost 30,000 museum professionals at an international level
- An international think-tank composed of 31 International Committees representing museum specialties
- International public service missions, specifically through its programmes aimed at fighting illicit traffic in cultural goods and the museum emergency programme in case of natural disasters or armed conflicts.

For any matter related to the global museum community and to interview the Director General of ICOM: Aurélie AUBOURG - Tel. + 33 1 47 34 91 63 – aurelie.aubourg@icom.museum