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ICOM signs a Memorandum of Understanding with ALECSO

ICOM renews its collaborative actions with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) and signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).



ICOM President Prof. Dr Hans-Martin Hinz and ALECSO Director General Dr Abdullah Hamad Muhareb at the signing ceremony of MoU; Chedlia Annabi, former Chair of ICOM Arab and ICOM Tunisia meeting at ALECSO Headquarters; Meeting with the Minister of Culture of Tunisia Mr. Mourad Sakli;

During a visit to Tunisia of ICOM President, Prof. Dr. Hans-Martin Hinz, the [Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation \(ALECSO\)](#) and ICOM have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 14 April, 2014, in order to develop collaborative actions in areas of common interest to the extent possible, to be developed with the support of ICOM Arab.

The MoU signed in Tunis between the two organisations sets a new framework for cooperation, including establishing documentation standards

and combating illicit traffic in cultural goods from and to countries of the Arab world. In addition, both institutions will work together to introduce cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue in cultural policies in the Arab world; to foster Arab regional integration through museum events and to promote the unity of museum and heritage professionals across the Arab world.

The partnership between ALECSO and ICOM is a long standing tradition which was revived in 2011 with the signing of a second MoU. ICOM was subsequently invited to two ALECSO congresses on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in Arab countries in 2012 and 2013, with the latter focusing on underwater heritage, a theme shared by both organisations. Also upon the invitation of ALECSO, ICOM organised a workshop on ICOM-WIPO Mediation Programme which proved to be a success.

ALECSO, with its headquarters in Tunis, Tunisia, is a regional intergovernmental organisation within the Arab League, gathering 22 Arab countries. It aims to bring about unity of the Arab world through education, culture and science and to enhance the level of culture in the region to keep up with and contribute to universal civilisation.