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Press release

ICOM signs Memorandum of Understanding with AFRICOM

On 1 May, 2012, the International Council of Museums (ICOM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with International Council of African Museums (AFRICOM) during the 2012 AAM Annual Meeting and MuseumExpo in Minneapolis, USA.

Originally a Regional Alliance and subsequently an Affiliated Organisation of ICOM, with the signing of the MoU, AFRICOM will represent ICOM positions and actions in Africa, in consultation with ICOM Secretariat. ICOM and AFRICOM agree to cooperate with each other through their appropriate bodies; both parties will ensure communication and exchanges on shared subject areas and encourage participation in their respective meetings.

They will strive to develop collaborative actions in the following areas of common interest: the establishment of documentation standards; the fight against illicit trafficking in heritage programmes and/or projects, accompanied by a campaign aimed at raising awareness among the public and local authorities on illicit traffic, fraud and the forging of documents in Africa, as well as seminars and training sessions; the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue addressed by cultural policies in Africa; the promotion of African regional integration through museum events; the promotion of exchanges, the unity of museum and heritage professionals across Africa in order to share knowledge and experiences; the undertaking of action for the promotion of the role of African museums in the areas of sustainable development, cultural tourism, tangible and intangible heritage; and the encouragement of African international cooperation through regional approaches in different parts of the African continent.

Other forms of collaboration include joint meetings to be organised during the respective General Conferences of the parties; the participation of one member of AFRICOM in the ICOM Disaster Relief for Museum Task Force (DRTF); and the funding of cooperative activities, to be decided by the parties on a case-by-case basis. ICOM President Dr Hans-Martin Hinz and AFRICOM President Mr Nath Mayo Adediran expressed their great satisfaction at the signing of this agreement, which marks a significant step in the joint involvement of both organisations in the revitalisation of the museum sector, particularly in Africa.

International Council of Museums - ICOM

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ICOM in short

Created in 1946, ICOM (International Council of Museums) is an international non-governmental organisation maintaining formal relations with UNESCO. Within the United Nations, ICOM has a consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. ICOM is the only international organisation representing museums and museum professionals on a global level.

ICOM is:

- A diplomatic forum made up of representatives from 137 countries and territories
- Standards of excellence for museums including ethics (*ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums*)
- A unique international network of more than 30,000 museum professionals around the world
- A think tank made up of 31 International Committees representing diverse museum specialties
- Missions of international public service, notably in the fight against illicit traffic of cultural property and emergency programmes in the event of natural disasters or armed conflicts.

For all questions concerning the world museum community and for interview requests with ICOM's Director General, please contact the press office:

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