

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICOM'S 16TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Hague, The Netherlands
1989

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The Hague, The Netherlands, 5 September 1989



Resolution No. 1: Museums: Generators of Culture

Considering the theme of the 15th General Conference of ICOM, «Museums: Generators of Culture», and the ever-changing role of museums in the societies they serve,

Recognizing the potential contribution of museums:

To education,

By increasing the awareness of cultural heritage,

By transmitting the essence of the evolving culture to new generations,

By raising the awareness of other cultures;

To cultural innovation,

By encouraging new forms of artistic expression,

By researching new forms of communication between individuals, peoples, nations,

By presenting new findings on historic forms of social organization and its artistic expression;

To the preservation and shaping of cultural and environmental values within the parameters of local context,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOM, meeting in The Hague, The Netherlands, on 5 September 1989,

1. Encourages collaboration in museum activities between directors, historians, curators, conservator-restorers, sociologists, scientists, educators and others concerned;

2. Recognizes that the lending and exchange of exhibitions is essential for increasing understanding of culture in its different appearances (under

the most appropriate conditions for the preservation and security of these irreplaceable witnesses of the past), and

3. Notes that museums are linked with contemporary expressions of culture and must be institutions that allow, without restriction or limit, the exercise of creativity and do not attempt to determine the experience of the viewer.

Resolution No. 2: The Training of Museum Personnel

Considering the lack of trained museum personnel in many parts of the world and the changing social, cultural and economic situations in which museums increasingly are expected to contribute,

Having regard to the precedents already created by UNESCO and UNDP to contribute to the funding of training and the priority given by UNESCO to training,

Noting that in certain countries the employer is expected to contribute not less than a fixed percentage of employee costs for training purposes,

Recognizing that bi-lateral agreements and the twinning of cities can provide a framework in which the exchange and training of personnel can be provided,

Wishing to recognize the role that ICOM's National and International Committees and Regional Agencies can play in fostering and contributing to museum training programmes,

Bearing in mind the need for training to have regard to the socio-cultural requirements of the student, and preferably to be done at the regional level,

The 16th General Assembly, meeting in The Hague, The Netherlands, on 5 September 1989,

Recommends that:

1. Existing training courses be reinforced and new ones established for personnel at all levels of museum employment;
2. Training programmes be developed which ensure an understanding of all aspects of the museum operation, having regard to the rapid development of new technologies and the increasing number of skills involved;
3. Particular consideration be given to training needs in natural science preparation and conservation of biological specimens, and that
4. Research be encouraged into all aspects of the museum operation and its technology.

Resolution No. 3: Inclusion of Spanish as a Working Language and a Language for ICOM Publications

Taking into account the importance of the Spanish language to Spain, Latin America and the Caribbean and to many other countries,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOM, meeting in The Hague, The Netherlands, on 5 September 1989,

Reaffirms Resolution No. 12 of the 15th General Assembly of ICOM, meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 4 November 1986, and,

Recommends the Executive Council of ICOM continue to consider all possible measures for Spanish to be included as a working language and a language for ICOM publications.

Resolution No. 4: Documentation and Information

Recognizing that there is need for dissemination of information on museum objects and their context to increase understanding of cultural heritage,

Considering that the proper documentation of museum objects is essential for their safeguarding,

Realizing the value of information about legislation in different countries to protect and preserve the cultural heritage,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOM, meeting in The Hague, The Netherlands, on 5 September 1989,

Recommends that:

1. Museums in all countries be encouraged to develop and implement effective methods of bringing together and disseminating all manner of museum information;
2. ICOM encourage and promote the development of an international accord to facilitate the exchange of museum information among professionals, institutions and countries;
3. There should be closer collaboration between museum curators, conservator-restorers and educators in the production of publications on collections, exhibitions and objects so as to provide precise information about them;
4. Museums should make proper inventories and encourage the fullest documentation of objects reflecting both material and non-material culture;
5. ICOM promote the documentation and publication of information about legislation in different countries to protect and preserve the cultural and natural heritage.

Resolution No. 5: Communication Between Museums

Recognizing the importance of communication and the exchange of ideas and experience among museums, museum training centres and museum related institutions for improving the quality of museum work,

Noting that:

Such communication and exchanges are important agents for better understanding between peoples and for generating respect for different cultures, and that

Regional museums have a particularly important role to play in this respect,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOM, meeting in The Hague, The Netherlands, on 5 September 1989,

1. Encourages all governments and organizations concerned to make every effort to improve communication between museums, museum training centres and museum related institutions, including through:

Bilateral agreements between countries, provinces, local authorities and individual museums to establish programmes of mutual assistance and the exchange of museum experience,

The use by museums of twinning arrangements between cities as a practical means of implementing such programmes and exchanges,

The production of videos and other forms of audiovisual communication to assist in conveying the significance of objects and collections as testimonies to the cultural attainments of people everywhere;

2. Requests that ICOM be kept informed of such programmes and that the National and International Committees and Regional Organizations of ICOM bear in mind the importance of such communication and exchanges in formulating and carrying out their programmes.

Resolution No. 6: Cultural Dimension of Development

Noting that existing and new museums and related institutions in many countries are not accorded their due priority especially in the allocation of funds,

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Strongly urges all governments, especially those providing development assistance, to give a much higher priority to the cultural dimension of development, in particular to existing and new museums and related institutions.