

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICOM'S 28TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
2013

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Resolution No. 1

Follow up and Intermediate Evaluation of Resolutions from the ICOM General Conference

Considering the long tradition of Resolutions issued during the Triennial General Conferences and General Assemblies of ICOM;

Given that the purpose of the resolutions from the General Conference is to identify the major cultural orientations and policies of the Organisation;

Noting that the Rules of Procedures for Resolutions do not provide a framework to periodically assess their implementation during the three-year period following their adoption;

Given the repeated requests of ICOM Members taken at large regarding the implementation and evaluation of the Resolutions;

The General Assembly requests that the Executive Council establishes and implements, at the 29th General Assembly, an intermediate annual evaluation of ICOM resolutions assigned to the Resolutions Committee of the 23rd General Conference of ICOM.

It is recommended by the 28th General Assembly of ICOM, meeting on 17 August, 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, that the Executive Council:

Establishes Rules of Procedure by June 2014 to follow up on the implementation of Resolutions from the 29th General Assembly of ICOM;

Ensures periodic evaluations of the implementation of Resolutions with a detailed draft report made available to the ICOM membership at least three months before the next General Conference in Milan; and

Encourages all National Committees, to the best of their abilities, to translate from now on, all new Resolutions into the working languages of their Committees and make them available through the different means of communication available to them. (These translations are not meant

to be official texts, but working texts to enhance the implementation of the Resolutions worldwide.)

Resolution No. 2

Adoption of the Statement of Principles of Museum Documentation

Noting that:

According to Article 4 of the ICOM Statutes, respect for the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums is a sine qua non condition for membership of ICOM;

The ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums requires that museum collections be adequately documented, that this documentation respect professional standards, be kept securely and be made available to legitimate users (§2.20, p. 5);

The Code of Ethics further recommends that documentation be shared amongst institutions as a contribution to the promotion of knowledge and co-operation between museums and cultural organisations (§6.1, p. 9);

Adequate documentation is critical for ICOM, UNESCO, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization as a key vehicle in the fight against illicit traffic in cultural property;

The Advisory Committee of ICOM, at its 75th session in Paris, acknowledged the need to give greater prominence to the importance of adequate documentation.

It is recommended by the 28th General Assembly of ICOM, meeting on 17 August, 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to acknowledge:

The work initiated in Zagreb in 2005 by CIDOC, highlighting the necessity for further details in section 2.20 of the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums, providing a clear and explicit statement of a museum's legal, ethical and practical obligation to maintain adequate documentation of its collections;

The Statement of Principles of Museum Documentation adopted by CIDOC at its 2012 General Assembly in Helsinki, held on Wednesday, 13 June, 2013; and

That the Statement of Principles of Museum Documentation are considered a complement to Articles 2.20 and 6.1 of the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums.

Resolution No. 3

ICOM Secretariat and Recruitment of the Director General

Given that the General Secretariat of ICOM is the operational body of

the Organisation and its Members;

Recognising the essential role of the Secretariat for the implementation of the Strategic Plan and Resolutions from the governing bodies of ICOM;

Noting that in the light of recent events affecting the management of the Secretariat, a working group dedicated to the organisation of the Secretariat was established simultaneously with the hiring of an Interim Director General in office until 31 December, 2013;

Keen to restore and consolidate the conditions to enable effective functioning of ICOM and the success of its projects;

It is recommended by the 28th General Assembly of ICOM, meeting on 17 August, 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, that the newly elected President and the Executive Council:

Continue the process of rebuilding the Secretariat, ensuring that it is undertaken in a transparent manner with any further actions fully endorsed by the Executive Council; and

Appoint the ICOM Director General as soon as possible, with the hiring process to be completed by the end of December 2013.

Resolution No. 4

Museums, Gender Mainstreaming and Inclusion: Benchmarking against the ICOM Cultural Diversity Charter, Shanghai 2010

Noting that:

ICOM adopted the ICOM Cultural Diversity Charter during the 25th General Assembly in Shanghai, in November 2010;

ICOM also adopted during the 25th General Assembly ongoing support to the Inclusive Museum Knowledge Community;

The International Symposium on Inclusion and Gender Mainstreaming in Copenhagen as part of the Inclusive Museum Knowledge Community conference in April 2013 (Co-chaired by the President of ICOM, Paris) expressed strong concerns about the inadequate engagement with gender and women's issues in museums ;

Gender mainstreaming and other cultural borders of diversity such as race, ethnicity, class, faith, age, physical ability, economic status, regionalism and sexual orientation are important for the development of the principle of inclusiveness in museums;

ICOM must continue to expand and encourage the inclusion of its Members and their communities and countries across the world, with the aim of becoming a globally representative INGO;

It is recommended by the 28th General Assembly of ICOM, meeting on

17 August, 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, that the newly elected President and the Executive Council:

Develop a systematic approach to assessing the extent to which its programmes and activities, including various Committee deliberations, address cultural and linguistic diversity benchmarked against the ICOM Cultural Diversity Charter, and as part of this agenda;

Develop a Gender Mainstreaming policy and actively ensure its implementation as an integral part of ICOM's strategic directions.

In addressing Gender Mainstreaming:

1. We recommend that museums analyse the narratives being told from a gender perspective.
2. In order to have a gender policy, we recommend that museums work with audience, staff and programmes from a gender perspective and at the same time with the embodiment of ideas.
3. We recommend that museums use the analysis of inter-sectionality (race, ethnicity, gender, class, faith, sexual orientation and so on) to realise the idea of inclusiveness in museums.

Resolution No. 5

Protection of Cultural Heritage during and after Armed Conflict, Revolutions and Civil Strife

In view of the current historical events in the Arabic world, such as in Syria, Egypt and other countries, ICOM expresses its deepest concern regarding the loss of unique cultural heritage resources due to violence, vandalism and ongoing looting of archaeological sites and museums. ICOM condemns the looting and vandalism suffered by museums, historical buildings and sites, and consequently the destruction of cultural heritage and the illicit traffic in artifacts.

ICOM alerts the worldwide community to this irretrievable loss to human history and culture and calls upon the worldwide museum community to raise awareness about the ongoing destruction of cultural heritage and cultural identity.

Noting that the 19th and 21st General Assemblies of ICOM, in Melbourne, Australia (16 October, 1998) and Seoul, Korea (8 October, 2004), had already emphasised the significance of the Hague Convention of 1954 and its Protocols (1).

It is recommended by the 28th General Assembly of ICOM on 17 August, 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, that the newly elected President and the Executive Council:

Explore ways in which the damaging impact on museums, monuments and archaeological sites could be mitigated or minimized, and supports any actions that could be taken to protect the tangible and intangible

heritage in museums and heritage sites.

Further appeal to its Members and network partners to intensify the efforts and cooperation with partners in the endangered countries in protecting their heritage, museums and archaeological sites.

Renew the appeal to all governments to ratify The Hague Convention of 1954 and its First and Second Protocols.

Welcome the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) adopted on 2 April, 2013 by the United Nations General Assembly regulating international trade in conventional arms, and recommends that exemptions be included in such treaties or related international regulations to protect and safeguard museums with relevant objects and heritage resources.

Develop a policy driven approach, through cooperation and coordination with primary and other stakeholders, for the rehabilitation of museums and heritage resources, both tangible and intangible, taking into consideration support for south countries.

NB: Drafted from three related Recommendations, submitted by ICOMAM on 25 June, 2013; the National Museum of the Resistance and Liberation Army of the Kingdom of Morocco on 26 July, 2013; and ICOM CIPEG on 3 August, 2013.

(1) Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention 1954, popularly known as The Hague Convention (14 May, 1954), its First Protocol, The Hague, (14 May, 1954) and the Second Protocol, The Hague (26 March, 1999).

Resolution No. 6

Viability and Sustainability of Museums through the Global Financial Crisis

Recognising that the Global Financial Crisis and its ongoing negative impact on the cultural sector in general and museums in particular;

Acknowledging that museums are unique civic spaces for knowledge generation and social learning;

Emphasising that museums are critical to culture, as the fourth pillar of sustainable development along with economic, social and environmental pillars;

Concerned about the diminishing resources for the maintenance and development of museums including the closure of museums in different parts of the world;

Noting that neither culture nor museums are recognised appropriately in the outcomes document, 'The Future We Want' from the Rio+20 Summit in June 2012 and the subsequent UN deliberations in 2013,

especially by the Economic and Social Council of the UN in Geneva;

Supporting The Hangzhou UNESCO Declaration ‘Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies’ (17 April, 2013).

It is recommended by the 28th General Assembly of ICOM on 17 August, 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, that the Executive Council:

Takes strategic leadership in the drafting of the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure that museums are located in the post 2015 Development Agenda;

Promotes the valuing of museums through social, economic, cultural and environmental indicators of development through a policy framework by the end of 2014;

Establishes a strong and effective campaign through all the Committees, Alliances and other organs and partners of ICOM for the sustainable development of museums, including the safeguarding of collections during economic crisis;

Advocates with UN and UNESCO for an UN International Year for Museums

NB: Drafted based on the submission of ICOM Europe on 11 August, 2013 based on the Lisbon Declaration, 6 April, 2013 to be made available on the ICOM webpage together with relevant recent documents on sustainable development of culture in the international arena.

The members of the Resolutions Committee for the 2013 Rio General Conference are:

Amareswar GALLA, Australia/India, Chairperson; Chedlia ANNABI, Tunisia, Member; Elizabeth DUGGAL, Co-Chair ICOM USA, Member; Samuel Fernando FRANCO ARCE, Chair ICOM Guatemala, Member; Lothar JORDAN, Germany, Chair of ICLM, Member; Léontine MEIJER VAN MENSCH, Netherlands, Chair of COMCOL, Member; Eiji MIZUSHIMA, Japan, Member.

Ex officio members: Hans-Martin HINZ, Germany, ICOM President; Hanna PENNOCK, Netherlands, ICOM Director General a.i.