

ACTION PLAN

An ICOM Committee-driven approach to sustainable development

The ICOM Working Group on Sustainability (WGS) proposes that **each committee** completes the following template, to set out its ambitions, partnerships, actions, evaluation, communication and accountability as an actor in sustainable development. The headings below are principles adopted from the Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment and the framework of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development.

In line with the 2019 ICOM Resolution on Sustainability and Agenda 2030, the aim of the template is to empower ICOM committees to be part of a global museum movement to address the climate emergency and support sustainable development through knowledge sharing, networks, commitment and concrete action.

Principles

1. A committee-driven approach (including all and each of executive board, national and international committees, regional alliances, affiliated organisations, standing committees, working groups, and all other ICOM groupings)
2. Cost-effectiveness
3. Flexibility
4. Respect for human rights, cultural contexts and the rights and needs of minorities and Indigenous peoples
5. Acknowledgement of existing relevant international and national agreements, commitments and aspirations, including UN Declarations, Conventions and Recommendations, as well as past ICOM Resolutions
6. A gender, and intergenerational approach
7. A phased approach that integrates sustainable development into existing programmes, policies and strategies
8. An understanding that unsustainable development poses significant risks to museums and the communities they serve.
9. The promotion of partnerships, networks and synergies, within ICOM and with other sectors and institutions, both within the cultural and heritage sectors, and beyond it

10. An interdisciplinary, multi-sectoral, multistakeholder and participatory approach
11. A holistic, systematic approach
12. The principles of sustainable development: leave no-one behind, and balancing considerations of people, planet and prosperity
13. Ambition and accountability, in that actions should aim to make a concrete contribution towards sustainable development, and progress and challenges will be reported openly and transparently, within ICOM and, preferably, externally also.

Committees are reminded of the overarching aims of [Agenda 2030 and the SDGs](#), set out in the '5 Ps', that should guide their efforts to increase their positive benefits and outcomes (e.g. by empowering those currently unserved or underserved by museums to make use of them, using the principle of 'leave no-one behind'), and reduce and eliminate harmful impacts (such as dispossession of cultural property, pollution and emissions arising from museum activities):

People: to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

Planet: to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.

Prosperity: to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social, and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

Peace: to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

Partnership: to mobilise the means required to implement the 2030 Agenda through a revitalised Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

	Main positive impacts on the '5 Ps', to be enhanced	Main negative impacts on the 5 Ps, to be reduced and eliminated
People		
Planet		
Prosperity		
Peace		
Partnership		

Milestones for implementation:

Committees are encouraged to develop a sustainable development action plan using the above tables, to identify priorities, by August 2023, including both short term (to 2025) and long-term (to 2030) priorities and actions towards these priorities, with reference to relevant contexts, namely country contexts for national committees, alongside international perspectives, relevant topic areas for international committees, and meeting the needs of those currently under-served by museums.

To share progress at the 2025 General Conference and 2028 General Conference against these plans, and to set new, higher ambitions at each of 2025 and 2028, and ideally each year. In addition, to use committees' own mechanisms – conferences, publications etc. – to drive short-term action and work with greater ambition for sustainable development.

Committees may also be guided by action plans used in external contexts, such as the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan on Action for Climate Empowerment (to which a column on accountability is added below):

Activities (short term, long term, please specify)	Responsibilities	Timeline	Deliverables/output s	Accountability mechanisms
STRATEGIC VISION AND LEADERSHIP				
1. Raise ambition for sustainable development				

<p>Eg. Adopt a committee statement on level of ambition, to be made openly available, and to serve as driver for all activity in this plan.</p> <p>The 2019 Resolution on Sustainability can be used as a guide: https://icom.museum/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Resolution-sustainability-EN.pdf</p>				
<p>2. Plan for the long term</p>				
<p>Eg. Identify mechanisms for continuity of ambition, action and accountability beyond current committee membership.</p>				
<p>3. Ensure policy coherence for effectiveness</p>				
<p>Eg. Review positive and negative effects of policies, mechanisms to address these</p>				
<p>RESOURCING</p>				
<p>4. Review, identify and allocate resources to support sustainable development across all activities</p>				

Eg. Identify mechanism for resourcing sustainable development activity				
Eg. Set up a committee or advisory group of sustainable development from multiple fields.				
CO-ORDINATED ACTION ACROSS AND BEYOND ICOM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
5. Connect with international opportunities to enhance sustainable development				
Eg. Review and select a small number of initiatives, such as International Days, Years and/or Decades				
Eg. Identify relevant external agencies, organizations and Universities, including outside the sector.				
Eg. Identify relevant laws, UN Conventions, Declarations and Recommendations				
6. Support action for sustainable development across ICOM, through more co-ordinated action				
Eg. Identify and state partnerships with relevant bodies and for which purposes				

PROVIDE MORE TOOLS AND SUPPORT TO TAKE PART IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
7. Develop skills to be effective, to empower members to understand, make effective use of sustainable development opportunities, tools and perspectives				
Eg. Identify skills gaps and requirements in context of ongoing needs of professions				
8. Help the sharing of experiences of taking action, through platforms for members and other opportunities to share good practices and lessons learnt				
Eg. Identify communications needs and channels webinar, live streaming, publication, website or microsites, social media activities.....				
MONITORING, EVALUATION AND COMMUNICATION				
9. Listen to the needs of relevant communities, including a wide range of stakeholders				
Eg. Identify and state relevant communities and stakeholders				
10. Develop clear mechanisms for monitoring and communication action, to match sustainable development commitments with clear accountability, clear monitoring and evaluation				
Eg. Review existing mechanisms of communication, identify gaps and additional needs				

<p>For example, National and International Committees can refer to the SDGs in their annual reports, Development Plans, Research Projects, Academic Activities, etc.</p>				
<p>Eg. Identify mechanisms for communicating beyond the membership, for accountability, and in relation to stakeholders identified in 9 above.</p>				

Milestones for discussion:

All ICOM committees are invited to consider the following questions through consultations, surveys and debates.

Executive board: How can ICOM-EB contribute to supporting museums and professional practice in actions on sustainable development challenges such as climate change? What can ICOM do organizationally to support sustainable development action?

ICOM-National Committees: How can ICOM-NC contribute to supporting museums and professional practice in actions on climate change and sustainability? What can ICOM-NC do organizationally to support sustainable development action? What can Regional Alliances do to strengthen the dialogue of National Committees in their territories to promote sustainable development action? (Supporting by the WG on National Committees)

International Committees: What can ICOM members do to engage experts in sustainable development, such as climate scientists, to take sustainable development action? What can ICOM-IC do to understand the impact of climate change in museums and collections conservation processes and policies, and to adapt practice to the changing situation? What can ICOM-IC do to produce a movement to take sustainable development action in and with museums? (Supporting by the IC Coordinating)

Affiliated Organisations: What can ICOM-Affiliated Organisations contribute to joint actions with the ICOM-NC, ICOM-IC and the ICOM-EB itself to promote sustainable development action? Which organisations should ICOM work with to plan and deliver impactful action that unlocks the potential of museums to address social, environmental and economic challenges?

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