
Mandate of ICOM Ethics Committee (ETHCOM)

According to the ICOM Internal Rules¹, the mandate of the ICOM Ethics Committee is defined as follows:

Article 5.2.1 General rules for Standing Committees

Standing Committees are appointed by the President after consultation with the Executive Board.

The mandate of a Standing Committee is indefinite. The Committee reports and operates under the authority of the Executive Board.

The chair and ordinary members can serve two consecutive three (3)-year terms in each position, with a maximum consecutive serving time of four three (3)-year terms. The three (3)-year term runs from the year following a General Conference to the year after the next General Conference. The mandate for the members of the Standing Committee representing the Executive Board ends when a new Executive Board is elected.

In addition to the Chair and ordinary members, the Committee includes, ex officio, the President. The Director General can take part in the Committee meetings but shall not take part in voting. The Committee is assisted by the relevant professional in the Secretariat.

Proposals made by the Committee are adopted by simple majority of the committee members.

The Chair of the Committee submits an annual report to the Executive Board on 30 October at the latest (for exceptions, see under each Committee). The Committee shall also submit a general report on the Committee's work during the preceding triennium to each General Assembly at the General Conference of ICOM.

ICOM does not compensate the Members of the Committee nor reimburse expenses incurred in fulfilling their function such as travel, hotel and other costs.

Article 5.2.2. ICOM Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee (hereinafter referred to as ETHCOM) is a Standing Committee of ICOM to advise the Executive Board and the Advisory Council of ICOM.

The purpose and mission of ETHCOM is to provide expertise for the museum community on all matters relating to museum professional ethics. ETHCOM assists ICOM in advancing and promoting knowledge, best practices and informed actions focusing on ethical issues for museums and museum professionals.

ETHCOM shall notably:

- monitor the application of the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums, inform the Executive Board of serious violations of the Code, and eventually request that certain recommendations be published by all means of ICOM's communication channels;

¹ ICOM Internal Rules adopted in 2017

- recommend to the Executive Board and the Advisory Council any changes or additions to the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums that may be found necessary or appropriate;
- review on behalf of ICOM other Ethics Standards that may be developed by the subordinate bodies of ICOM in accordance with their specialised domains; - maintain awareness and advise the Executive Board on evolving ethical issues affecting museums and their work within the cultural heritage sector;
- conduct, with the approval of the Executive Board, concerted reflections on identified issues of particular importance, and explore the possibility of working for the development of tools to serve the museum community.