

ICOM RESOLUTIONS PROCEDURE

CONTEXT

In preparation for the 27th ICOM General Conference, which will take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in November 2025, the ICOM Secretariat has prepared the present document to guide the Resolutions Committee and all ICOM Bodies (as defined in Article 8 of the ICOM Statutes) entitled to formulate or endorse ICOM Resolutions. This document outlines the rules regarding the role of the Resolutions Committee, as well as the procedures for the formulation and adoption of Resolutions.

LEXICON

- 1. *Proposal for Resolution*:** any National Committee, International Committee, Regional Alliance or Affiliated Organisation may submit a *Proposal for Resolution*, provided that it complies with the rules set out in this procedure.
- 2. *Draft Resolution*:** is a *Proposal for Resolution* examined and revised by the Resolutions Committee and further presented by its Chair at the Advisory Council meeting preceding the 27th ICOM General Conference.
- 3. *Final Resolution*:** is the edited and translated version of the *Draft Resolution* proposed by the Resolutions Committee. The *Final Resolution* will then be submitted to the vote of the General Assembly at the 27th ICOM General Conference (Dubai, November 2025).
- 4. *Resolution*:** is the final text adopted by the General Assembly through a vote during the 27th ICOM General Conference that shall be implemented by the ICOM Executive Board within the three (3) upcoming years.

o. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

In accordance with **Article 19 – Section 1 of the ICOM Statutes**, ICOM holds a General Conference every three (3) years. The General Conference is a joint forum for all the organs and bodies of ICOM, which comprises meetings of the ICOM Executive Board, Advisory Council, General Assembly, National Committees, International Committees, Affiliated Organisations and Regional Alliances.

1. ICOM RESOLUTIONS ISSUED DURING THE ICOM GENERAL CONFERENCES

The ICOM General Conference is the principal forum at which members of ICOM from all over the world can meet online or on-site and exchange views. The ICOM General Conference is organised around a museum-related topic which is reflected on and discussed by speakers of the museum community, as well as international experts.

In accordance with **Article 19 – Section 2 of the ICOM Statutes**, the ICOM General Conference also serves as the platform for the discussion and adoption of Resolutions, which reflect the major orientations and policies of the organisation.

27th ICOM General Conference (Dubai, 2025)
Theme: *The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities*

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ICOM RESOLUTIONS

The ICOM Resolutions are key documents within the organisation. These Resolutions reflect the main focus and policies of ICOM's new work mandate as they will guide ICOM's actions over the next three (3) years. Indeed, they play a crucial role in shaping the ICOM's influence on the global stage, giving both direction and impetus to collective efforts in the museum sector.

In the context, the purpose of the ICOM Resolutions is to:

1. establish guidelines or strategies that align with the ICOM's missions and objectives, and that are integrated in the Strategic Plan;
2. promote international norms, ethical standards, or best practices across regions and countries in the museum sector;
3. respond to global trends, challenges, crises or matters of shared interest and international significance that impact ICOM's field of work;
4. mobilise ICOM's Bodies and their partners to act collaboratively on matters of shared interest;
5. authorise specific actions or initiatives to be carried out by the ICOM Executive Board, ICOM Organs and Bodies (as defined in Article 8 of the ICOM Statutes) or ICOM Standing Committees and Working Groups.

3. ADOPTION PROCESS OF THE RESOLUTIONS

In accordance with the *Calendar for the Resolution* provided in **Annex I**, the adoption process of the ICOM Resolutions shall be the following:

First step – formulation of a Proposal for Resolution

Each ICOM National Committee, International Committee, Regional Alliance or Affiliated Organisation may formulate only one (1) Proposal for Resolution.

❖ *Entities authorised to formulate a Proposal for Resolution*

Any ICOM National Committee, International Committee, Regional Alliance (that have successfully transferred their fees to the ICOM Secretariat) or Affiliated Organisation may submit a Proposal for Resolution.

A Proposal for Resolution may be submitted by a single ICOM Body or jointly, by multiple ICOM Bodies.

❖ *Form requirements*

In this context, any above-mentioned ICOM Body wishing to formulate a Proposal for Resolution must submit it to the Resolutions Committee by respecting the present procedure and by completing the form established by the ICOM Secretariat.

❖ ***Scope of the ICOM Resolution***

An ICOM Resolution serves as a formal mechanism through which ICOM expresses its collective stance on matters of global importance to the museum sectors. All Proposals for Resolutions submitted to the Resolutions Committee must strictly adhere to ICOM's statutory purposes and be aligned with its broader mission and strategic objectives.

In this context, a Proposal for Resolution submitted to the Resolutions Committee shall:

- comply with ICOM's statutory purposes;
- align with ICOM's missions and objectives;
- contribute to the implementation of the ICOM Strategic Plan¹;
- address ICOM's programmes and missions of its National Committees, International Committees and Regional Alliances;
- connect with the theme of the 27th ICOM General Conference: *"The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities: Intangible Heritage, Youth Power and New Technologies"*;
- respect the objectives of an ICOM Resolution.

❖ ***Language requirements***

The Proposal for Resolution must be submitted in one (1) of the three (3) official languages of ICOM (i.e. English, French or Spanish).

To facilitate the work of the Resolutions Committee, ICOM Bodies are encouraged to submit the Proposal for Resolution in all three (3) ICOM statutory languages (i.e. English, French, Spanish).

❖ ***Deadline for submission***

All Proposals for Resolution shall (i) be submitted to the Resolutions Committee in due time, (ii) respect the calendar provided in **Annex I**, and (iii) comply with the work plan established for the ICOM General Conference.

This timeline provides sufficient time for the Resolutions Committee to analyse the Proposals for Resolution, reword them if necessary, and ensure their translation into the two (2) other ICOM statutory languages.

Second step – presentation of the Draft Resolution

After the closing of the call for Proposals for Resolution, the Resolutions Committee shall:

1. confirm that such Proposals for Resolutions are eligible with regard to the procedure in force and the scope defined;
2. examine the Proposals for Resolution, group all those by subject or orientation and summarise them in order to draw up the Draft Resolutions;
3. collaborate with the ICOM Bodies which have submitted the Proposals for Resolution.

Upon completion of the above, the Resolution Committee will present the Draft resolutions at a meeting of the Advisory Council. This presentation will be an opportunity for the Resolutions Committee to gather comments and feedback from ICOM Bodies and to invite their endorsement.

¹ https://icom.museum/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/EN_OGA2022_StrategicPlan_Final_.pdf

Third step – finalisation of the Resolution and endorsement process

Following the presentation to the Advisory Council, the Resolutions Committee will work to finalise the Draft Resolutions. This involves refining the language, consolidating similar proposals, and ensuring that the Resolutions are aligned with the comments and feedback issued by the ICOM Bodies.

Once the Final Resolutions are ready, the Resolutions Committee will initiate an endorsement process. During this phase, ICOM Bodies will have the opportunity to provide formal endorsements. The Resolutions Committee will take note of all endorsements.

Each ICOM National Committee, International Committee, Regional Alliance or Affiliated Organisation may only:

- formulate one (1) recommendation or;
- endorse two (2) recommendations or;
- formulate one (1) recommendation and endorse another (1).

The Final Resolutions, supported by the endorsements, will then be submitted to the vote of the 40th Ordinary General Assembly, to be held in Dubai in November 2025.

Final step – submission of the Final Resolution to the 40th ICOM Ordinary General Assembly

One (1) month prior to the 40th Ordinary General Assembly, which will take place in November 2025, at the 27th ICOM General Conference, the Final Resolutions must be published and made available to Members.

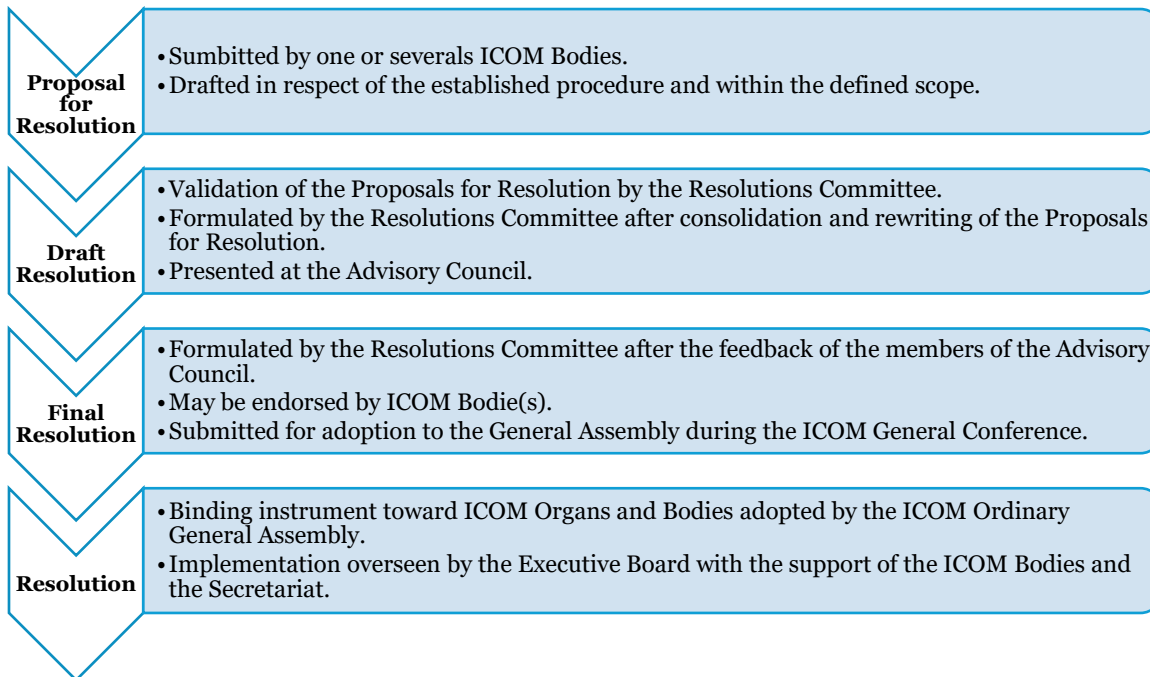
The voting procedures for the Resolutions will be communicated at the same time as the opening of the registration for the 2025 ICOM Annual Meetings.

During the 40th Ordinary General Assembly, the Chair of the Resolutions Committee shall present, on behalf of the Committee, the Final Resolutions, as well as the procedures followed for their elaboration and refinement.

Once adopted by the Ordinary General Assembly, the Final Resolution becomes an official ICOM Resolution, i.e. a binding document for ICOM Organs and Bodies (as defined in Article 8 of the ICOM Statutes).

In accordance with **Article 19 - Section 2 of the ICOM Statutes**, “*ICOM organs and bodies likely to be affected by the Resolutions shall work towards their implementation within three (3) years of adoption*”. This implementation and follow-up are overseen by the ICOM Executive Board.

Summary of the adoption process of the ICOM Resolutions



4. HOW TO WRITE A RESOLUTION

An ICOM Resolution shall be simple and be composed of three (3) main parts:

1. the heading,
2. the pre-ambulatory clauses,
3. the operative clauses.

The Heading

The Heading of the ICOM Resolutions shall contain the following information:

40th Ordinary General Assembly: <i>Name of the ICOM organ that adopts the Resolution</i>
Topic: <i>Problem that is tackle by the Resolution</i>
Submission: <i>Name(s) of the ICOM Body that have submitted the Proposal for Resolution</i>
Endorsement: <i>Name(s) of the ICOM Body that have endorsed the Final Resolution</i>

Pre-ambulatory clauses

The purpose of the Pre-ambulatory clauses is to give context to the Operative clauses and remind the ICOM General Assembly of the context and framework in which the resolution was produced.

In this regard, the pre-ambulatory clauses shall outline all the issues that the ICOM General Assembly aims to address in relation to the Resolution's topic. They may also provide reasons for ICOM's involvement and highlight previous international actions on the matter.

Pre-ambulatory clauses may include:

- past ICOM Resolutions related to the topic;

- past regional, non-governmental, or national efforts in resolving this topic;
- references to international frameworks and laws;
- statements made by ICOM or its Bodies;
- general background information or facts about the topic, its significance and impact on the museum community.

Operative clauses

Operative clauses outline the solutions proposed by the ICOM Body to the ICOM General Assembly for addressing the identified issues.

These clauses should specifically address the issues mentioned in the preceding Pre-ambulatory clauses.

Operative clauses should be numbered to distinguish them from the Pre-ambulatory clauses, and to demonstrate the logical progression of the Resolution, making it easier to reference them in speeches and comments.

A simple way to strengthen the Operative clauses is to answer “*who, what, when, where, why, and how*” of each Resolution.

5. ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTIONS

In 2025, the Final Resolutions, drafted by the Resolutions Committee based on Proposals for Resolutions submitted by ICOM Bodies, will be submitted to the vote of the 40th Ordinary General Assembly. The adoption of these Final Resolutions will take place during the 27th ICOM General Conference, ensuring that the collective decisions and strategic goals of the organisation reflect the input and interests of its members.

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICOM RESOLUTIONS

As per the terms of **Article 19 – Section 2 of the ICOM Statutes** “*Upon adoption, ICOM organs and bodies likely to be affected by the Resolutions shall work towards their implementation within three (3) years of adoption. The Executive Board shall oversee the implementation and follow-up of the Resolutions, with the support of the ICOM network and the Secretariat*”.

ANNEX I

CALENDAR OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

2024

11 October – 18 November 2024	Call for applications to join the Resolutions Committee by the NCs, ICs, RAs and AOs; applications shall be sent to the Secretariat
18 November 2024	Deadline for applications
20 November 2021	Reviewing eligibility by the Secretariat and forwarding of the eligible applications to the ICOM Executive Board
2 – 3 December 2024	Appointment of members by the ICOM Executive Board
11 December 2024	Information of the appointment to be sent to the Members of the Resolutions Committee
18 December 2024	First Meeting of the Resolutions Committee (2:00 pm CET)
20 December 2024	Publication of the Call for Proposal for Resolution

2025

21 February 2025	Deadline for the submission of Proposal for Resolution
March 2025	Discussion of Proposals for Resolutions, consultation with the proposing ICOM Bodies and editing of the Draft Resolutions
April 2025 (TBC)	Deadline to send the Draft Resolutions to the Members of the Advisory Council
June 2025 (TBC)	Presentation of the Draft Resolutions at the 98th Session of the ICOM Advisory Council
June – Sept. 2025	Editing and translation of the Final Resolutions
8 October 2025	Deadline to publish the Final Resolutions in the three (3) statutory languages
13 November 2025	Submission of the Final Resolutions to the vote of the Ordinary General Assembly