

Final Communiqué

Outcomes of the 20th ICOMOS General Assembly Online, 3 to 16 December 2020

ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, held its 20th General Assembly online from 3 to 16 December 2020.

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Australia ICOMOS unfortunately had to withdraw from hosting the 20th General Assembly in Sydney in October 2020. The Committee has since generously agreed to welcome the 21st General Assembly in Sydney in 2023.

Australia ICOMOS organised a **Marker event** on 7 October to acknowledge the excellent work done and wonderful support it had received before the General Assembly foreseen in Sydney had to be cancelled. The Marker event was a live-streamed panel discussion involving the 14 multi-national expert co-chairs of the GA2020 Scientific Symposium streams, on the theme of *Shared Cultures - Shared Heritage - Shared Responsibility*, and included the launch of a [special "legacy" issue](#) of the [Historic Environment](#) Journal as well as the proposed themes for the Symposium at the 21st General Assembly in 2023. You can find more information and links to the recordings of the event [here](#).

To ensure statutory compliance, the ICOMOS General Assembly gathered online a first time on 23 July 2020 and approved the principle that all further 2020 statutory meetings could take place online. The Advisory Committee, National Committees and Scientific Council meetings took place in 6 sessions between 12 October and 3 November, via the online conference platform Zoom, and the 20th General Assembly took place in December, also via Zoom, in 3 sessions on 3, 7 and 16 December. Besides the above mentioned Marker event, the full Scientific Symposium could not take place, however the Co-Chairs of the 2020 Scientific Symposium – Ms Ona Vileikis and Mr Steve Brown – will also chair the 2023 Scientific Symposium and are already busy with planning.

More than 900 members registered to participate in the online sessions of the General Assembly, and 65 ICOMOS National Committees were represented.

This large participation was made possible thanks to the over 175 members, friends and supporters who generously donated to and relayed the **ICOMOS Giving Day Crowdfunding campaign "Give heritage professionals the opportunity to make an impact"**. **The almost 19 000 € raised enabled ICOMOS to cover the logistical costs of the General Assembly** without charging a registration fee and will also contribute to supporting ICOMOS projects.

The 20th General Assembly adopted **22 resolutions**, including six on statutory matters, one related to a site ("Rescue the antiquities in situ at the Venizelos Metro Station in Thessaloniki, Greece"), five on other heritage matters and three on organisational matters. You can find the final list of adopted resolutions [here](#).

The General Assembly approved its budget and the proposed General Programme for 2021-2023. Among the resolutions on statutory matters, the General Assembly approved the amendment of the **ICOMOS Ethical Principles**, following the required six-year review of the text first adopted in 2014. You can find the updated version of this document [here](#).

The 20th ICOMOS General Assembly also overwhelmingly approved the resolution declaring a **Climate and Ecological Emergency**, as well as the resolution on **people-centred approaches to Cultural Heritage**. ICOMOS also restated its commitment towards ensuring the growing

representation, participation and engagement of **Emerging Professionals** within ICOMOS and supporting the work of the very active Emerging Professionals Working Group.

The Piero Gazzola Prize was awarded to Dr Amund Sinding-Larsen for his outstanding work in architecture, cultural heritage, local community development and development cooperation internationally. Dr Sinding-Larsen also initiated the “Our Common Dignity Initiative” in 2007 as an ICOMOS initiative and acted as ICOMOS Focal Point from 2011 to 2016 after it expanded into a cooperation between the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Convention (ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN) under the coordination of ICOMOS Norway. In addition, nine members were conferred Honorary Membership.

The General Assembly also elected **a new leadership**, comprising Ms Teresa Patricio (Belgium) who was elected as President, Mr Mario Santana (Canada) elected as Secretary General, Ms Pamela Jerome (USA) elected as Treasurer; 5 Vice-Presidents and 12 members for the Board. The composition of the new international leadership team thus includes representatives from: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Japan, Mali, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the United States of America and Uruguay.

2020 has been a challenging year but the 20th General Assembly of ICOMOS was deemed a success by many ICOMOS members and observers, as it managed to gather hundreds of heritage professionals world-wide, even when such a gathering could not be done in person due to global circumstances.

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About ICOMOS

ICOMOS – the International Council for Monuments and Sites – is an international, non-governmental organization of professionals, dedicated to the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places and to the creation, dissemination and application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques for heritage conservation.

ICOMOS was created in 1965 in Warsaw following the adoption the year before of the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites, also known as the Venice Charter.

Headquartered in Charenton-le-Pont, in greater Paris, France, ICOMOS is the only global non-government organization of this kind. Its over 10 000 members represent all disciplines of heritage conservation: architects, historians, archaeologists, construction materials conservators, art historians, lawyers, geographers, anthropologists, engineers, town planners...

The National Committees in more than 110 countries all over the world and the 29 International Scientific Committees form a unique inter-disciplinary and multi-cultural network of co-operation. Every 3 years, the ICOMOS General Assembly is combined with a major Scientific Symposium by invitation of one of its National Committees.

ICOMOS has associate relations with UNESCO and has been designated official adviser on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The newly elected ICOMOS Board (2020-2023)

President: Ms Teresa Patricio (Belgium)

Secretary General: Mr Mario Santana (Canada)

Treasurer: Ms Pamela Jerome (USA)

Vice Presidents:

Ms Riin Alatalu (Estonia)

Mr Leonardo Castriota (Brazil)

Mr Alpha Diop (Mali)

Mr Jiang Bo (China)

Ms Zeynep Gül Ünal (Turkey)

Members of the Board:

Mr Nils Ahlberg (Sweden)

Ms Adriana Careaga (Uruguay)

Mr Andreas Georgopoulos (Greece)

Ms Suk Young Han (Republic of Korea)

Mr Peter Phillips (Australia)

Ms Nupur Prothi (India)

Ms Grainne Shaffrey (Ireland)

Mr Jean-Christophe Simon (France)

Ms Hatthaya Siriphatthanakun (Thailand)

Ms Stacy Vallis (New Zealand)

Mr Cyrill Von Planta (Austria)

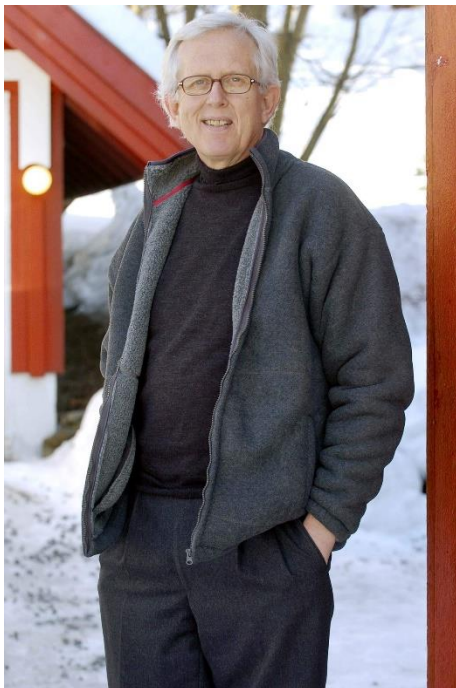
A few words about.....

The Piero Gazzola Prize

The Piero Gazzola Prize was established in 1979 in memory of one of the greatest defenders of the conservation and restoration of historic monuments and sites, and a founder of ICOMOS and its first President.

The prize is awarded every three years at the General Assembly of ICOMOS to an individual or a group of people who have worked together and contributed with distinction to the aims and objectives of ICOMOS. The beneficiary must be a member of ICOMOS and is chosen by a Selection Committee.

In 2020, as in years past, the Jury found its work challenging due to the exceptional quality and merit of those proposed. We are pleased to announce that after careful evaluation, the 2020 Gazzola Laureate selected by the Jury is Amund Sinding-Larsen of Norway.



By advancing and expanding our methods for conserving the world's cultural heritage, Amund Sinding-Larsen has been generously serving and enriching ICOMOS for four decades. Through his extensive work throughout Europe, America, Africa and Asia, he acquired a profound understanding of the need for cultural heritage activities to consider and respect the long-ignored rights of local communities, religious and cultural minorities, indigenous people and the stewards and caretakers of heritage places.

With valor, conviction and tenacity, he brought these concepts into ICOMOS, where he instituted, guided and secured the continuous financial support for the "Our Common Dignity Initiative" process, which championed integration of Human Rights into all our work, including in the advisory capacity of ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN to UNESCO and to the World Heritage Committee.

Thanks to Mr Sinding-Larsen's tenacious work, many important but previously muted voices concerning the multiplicity of values inherent in heritage are now being heard and welcome.

The international attention for the rights dimension continues to grow, and the importance of Mr Sinding-Larsen's contribution is recognized by a permanent working group of ICOMOS and IUCN members who carry on with his legacy.

The Prize is a commemorative medal and diploma, and has been previously awarded to:

Mr Jean Trouvelot (1981)
Mr Stanislas Lorentz (1984)
Mr Masaru Sekino (1987)
Ms Gertrude Tripp (1990)
Sir Bernard Feilden (1993)
Mr Ernest Allen Connally (1996)
Mr Roland Silva (1999)
Mr Cevat Erder (2003)
Ms Ann Webster Smith (2005)
Ms Carmen Añón Feliú (2008)
Mr Nobuo Ito (2011)
Mr Henry Cleere (2014)
Mr Saleh Lamei Mostafa (2017)

Honorary members

On the occasion of the 20th General Assembly, ten members were made honorary members of ICOMOS for their distinguished service in favour of the preservation of monuments and sites:

Mr Dinu Bumbaru (Canada)
Ms Sheridan Burke (Australia)
Ms Marie-Jeanne Geerts and Mr Andries van den Abeele (Belgium)
Mr Janis Krastins (Latvia)
Ms Jane Lennon (Australia)
Mr Esteban Prieto Vicioso (Dominican Republic)
Mr Julian Smith (Canada)
Mr Henk van Schaik (The Netherlands)
Mr Peter Waldhäusl (Austria)

Honorary Membership of ICOMOS is conferred by the General Assembly, at the proposal of a National Committee, upon individuals who have rendered distinguished service in the fields of conservation, restoration and presentation/interpretation of cultural heritage. Often these proposals are accompanied by further letters of support from ICOMOS members, Scientific Committees or other National Committees in regions where members have made significant contributions.

To date, Honorary Membership of ICOMOS has been conferred on 105 individuals from 44 countries.

Breaking with the decision made by past Juries of limiting the award to one laureate per country, the Jury decided that in two instances this year the contributions and services of two nominees nominated by the same National Committee were equally meritorious, and thus, it would be unjust to select one over the other, with the result that both were proposed.