Guidelines for the Sustainable Development Goals Working Group (SDGWG)
20 October 2021

A. Preface

Considering the urgencies the world's societies are facing today affecting cultural and natural heritage, and the potential of heritage to help address these urgent issues, the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development serves as an imperative to transform the framework of cultural heritage protection. Heritage - with its value for identity, and as a repository of historical, cultural and social memory, preserved through its authenticity, integrity and 'sense of place' - forms a crucial aspect of the development process and has an indispensable role in sustainable development and urbanization; as a fundamental asset of long-term tourism development; strengthening social fabric and enhancing social well-being, and enhancing the appeal and creativity of regions[1].

ICOMOS is a leading global voice in integrating cultural heritage within sustainable development. Even before the adoption of the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and the 2016 New Urban Agenda, ICOMOS has advocated for the positive integration of culture and cultural heritage into urban development plans and policies as a way of enhancing the sustainability of urban areas through heritage conservation and application of the Historic Urban Landscape Approach. "The Paris Declaration on Heritage as a Driver of Development" adopted by the 17th General Assembly of ICOMOS on December 1st, 2011, promotes a development process that incorporates tangible and intangible cultural heritage as a vital aspect of sustainability, and gives a human face to development.

B. Purpose and Mission

1. Established as an interdisciplinary task force by the ICOMOS Scientific Council during the 18th General Assembly in 2014, the Sustainable Development Goals Working Group (SDGWG) coordinates the response and implementation by ICOMOS of the UN 2030 Agenda. The Working Group seeks to conserve, safeguard, steward and engage with all types of heritage[2] while providing cultural, social and economic development to communities, limiting environmental impact of heritage, promoting peace among people and advocating for strategic partnerships in this Decade of Action.

2. The SDGWG acts as a platform for recognition and mainstreaming the effective contribution of cultural heritage as a driver and enabler of sustainable development in the process of implementing the United Nations Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3. It does this through a coordinated process of advocacy for localizing and monitoring of the UN Sustainable Development Goals[3] and UN-Habitat's New Urban Agenda, from the perspective of cultural heritage, based on Target 11.4, to "strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage to make our cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". It also aims to embed the contribution of ICOMOS in protecting and safeguarding the world's cultural heritage as an enabler of achieving all 17 SDGs.

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[1]Resolution 18GA 2014/37
[2]Article 3 of the ICOMOS Statutes
[3]Resolution 19GA 2017/21

4. The Working Group shall:
   a. Serve as a platform for cross-disciplinary engagement, collaboration and dissemination of information to pursue the vision, principles, priority actions of ICOMOS in the field of sustainable development;

   b. Build on ICOMOS values of cultural and social diversity, collegiality, impartiality, exchanges between countries, North-South dialogue, solidarity, transmission and youth involvement, and free access to information to achieve effective advocacy of cultural heritage within sustainable development policy and practice[4];

   c. Develop actions and policies that strengthen the role of heritage as a driver and enabler of sustainable development;

   d. Commit to work transversally with heritage and non-heritage stakeholders to look at all the dimensions of the SDGs[5]: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership;

   e. Contribute to the ICOMOS Triennial Scientific Plan and ICOMOS General Programme through its specific activities, outlined in the annual SDGWG work plan;

   f. Form Task Teams, whenever necessary, to perform certain tasks which will enable the SDGWG to fulfil its objectives;

   g. Seek to include all National Committees, International Scientific Committees and other ICOMOS bodies in its work to engage governments and local stakeholders in explaining the importance of heritage as a driver and enabler of the SDGs;

   h. Advocate for sustainable capacity building, knowledge sharing, and scientific projects through intergenerational discourse, mentorship, and internship programmes for Emerging Professionals[6];

   i. Work together with the ICOMOS World Heritage Unit to track the implementation of the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy;

   j. Have a lifespan that is co-terminus with the UN Agenda 2030

C. Membership and Participation

1. Membership of the SDGWG is open to individuals who have professional experience on the interconnected values of heritage and the SDGs who wish to actively contribute to the work. The SDGWG shall seek to reflect regional, cultural, age, and gender diversity in its membership.

2. The SDGWG shall invite ICOMOS National Committee, International Scientific Committee, and other Working Group to appoint representatives to the SDGWG. These representatives shall serve as liaison

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[4]ICOMOS Action Plan: Cultural Heritage and Localizing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
[5]Preamble of "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"
[6]Resolution 20GA 2020/22

persons for the SDGWG who would advocate for the implementation of the heritage and the SDGs in their own ICOMOS committees, national governments, and local communities.

3. The SDGWG may invite Individual Members who can make a significant contribution to the meetings and activities of the SDGWG. Individual Members will be asked to submit their application and CV with an endorsement letter from one active member of the SDGWG. Non-ICOMOS members who are invited will be encouraged to apply for ICOMOS National Committee and International Scientific Committee membership.

4. The rights and duties of Members are:
    a. National Committee, International Scientific Committee and Working Group Representatives are designated members by committees. A maximum of 3 representatives will be designated to the SDGWG. It is preferred that one of the representatives is an Emerging Professional so that there is an intergenerational perspective that can be provided to the SDGWG.

    b. For National Committee, International Scientific Committee, and Working Group Representatives, subject to their rules and by-laws, it will be advisable to form an internal working group within their committees that will localise or specialise the discussions of linking heritage and the implementation of the SDGs.

    c. Members shall facilitate the conversation in their committees and their local communities for knowledge creation of how heritage can be a driver and enabler of sustainable development, what SDGs do heritage practitioners, their committees and communities prioritise on, and how do the committees and communities make these connections stronger.

D. Governance

1. The SDGWG is managed by a Focal Point supported by a Board Liaison and Task Team Coordinators. The Focal Point, Board Liaison , Task Team Coordinators and Emerging Professional Representative will serve as the Working Group's Bureau.

2. The Bureau shall lead and guide the work of the SDGWG, ensure good governance, represent SDGWG within ICOMOS and outside, while acting in the best interests of and maintaining regular contact with its membership.

3. The Focal Point shall:
    a. Be designated by the ICOMOS Board to act as facilitator and coordinator for ICOMOS' work in relation to the global sustainable development policy arena;

    b. Collaborate with Task Team Coordinators for the activities of the SDGWG under the supervision of the ICOMOS Director-General, the Board Liaison and in close coordination with the International Secretariat;

    c. Engage with other ICOMOS entities, primarily through their representatives and the reports to the Advisory Committee to ensure coherence across ICOMOS with regards to SDGs-related activities;

    d. Facilitate the development of collaborations with external stakeholder organizations, with the support of the ICOMOS Board;

e. Appoint a Deputy Focal Point from the Bureau to support the official functions of the Focal Point for various activities of the Working Group.

f. Serve for a period of three years and will usher in a transition period during the change of Focal Points to facilitate the shift of responsibilities.

5. The Board Liaison shall:
   a. Be designated by the ICOMOS Board to act as liaison between the ICOMOS Board, Advisory Committee and the Focal Point;

   b. Advise the Focal Point and the SDGWG on institutional decisions, guidelines, procedures and instructions of the ICOMOS Board;

   c. Report to the ICOMOS Board of the Working Group's activities to support its continued advocacy

6. The Task Team Coordinator shall:
   a. Be appointed by members of a formed Task Team and will serve as key facilitator and coordinator for the SDGWG in relation to specific topics identified by the SDGWG;

   b. Work together with the Focal Point and serve as Bureau member to provide governance for the Working Group;

   c. Chair the meetings of their Task Team and nominate another member of their Task Team to chair meetings in their absence.

   d. Serve as representative of the SDGWG for projects, activities, and initiatives designated by the ICOMOS Board, Board Liaison, or Focal Point.

   e. Usher in a transition period in the event that a new Task Team Coordinator will be needed to facilitate a shift of responsibilities.

7. The Emerging Professionals Representative shall:
   a. Steward the greater inclusion of Emerging Professional members and participate in facilitating intergenerational dialogue, knowledge sharing, and capacity building within the Working Group.

E. Meetings

1. The SDGWG shall meet virtually or in person to conduct its business at Strategic Planning Meetings and meet once a year at an Annual General Meeting.

2. Decisions are decided by a simple majority of members attending meetings. Electronic consultations leading to decisions may also be invoked.

3. The minutes of meetings of the SDGWG shall be circulated to the members and be put on record by the International Secretariat.

4. The Working Group shall:
   a. Adopt an annual report during its Annual General Meeting;

   b. Develop a work programme to be shared with the International Secretariat, for opinion of the Advisory Committee and endorsement by the ICOMOS Board.

F. Communication & Reporting

1. The SDGWG collaborates with various ICOMOS entities online or in person to engage in scientific and technical discussions, develop toolkits, policies, statements and action plans.

2. The SDGWG shares information to various audiences through the Advisory Committee meetings, the ICOMOS webpage[7] and social media platforms[8].

3. The Working Group shall:
   a. Liaise with ICOMOS members and committees, through a listserv of individual members and members from National Committees, International Scientific Committees and Working Groups;

   b. Coordinate the production and dissemination of outreach and communication materials for the wider public, including actors outside the heritage sector;

   c. Ensure an inclusive multilingual communication based on context or circumstance[9].

   d. Provide annual reports to the International Secretariat and report to ICOMOS members through the Advisory Committee meetings;

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[7]Webpage: https://www.icomos.org/en/focus/un-sustainable-development-goals
[8]Twitter: @IcomosSDG2030, Youtube: #ICOMOS_SDGs
[9]Resolution 20GA 2020/11

ICOMOS Sustainable Development Goals Task Teams
(Updated 17 November 2021)

1. **Policy Guidance on Heritage and the SDGs** - The Task Team gathers local initiatives and further develops a robust and versatile resource for various relevant stakeholders on the practical role of cultural heritage in sustainable development. The Task Team draws from international documents including ICOMOS doctrine, and other relevant sources, case studies and initiatives to inform evidence-based policy and discussion through clear guidelines.

2. **Engagement with the UN High Level Political Forum and the Culture2030Goal Campaign** – The Task Team participates at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), where the global review of progress on the SDGs takes place. It responds to various similar UN processes and requests as needed and engages with the NGO Major Group and other partner institutions, such as the Culture2030Goal Campaign to integrate culture in the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030.

3. **National Liaisons and Localizing Heritage and the SDGs** - The Task Team engages with ICOMOS National Committees, International Scientific Committees and Working Groups to contribute to activities, develop ideas, facilitate discourse with governments, and engage and partner with local stakeholders to embed heritage in achieving the SDGs.

4. **World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy** - The Task Team engages with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies, and other NGOs to support State Parties develop implementation strategies for the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy.

5. **Partnerships and the New Urban Agenda** – The Task Team develops and strengthens partnerships and collaborations with researchers, practitioners, civil society and other relevant actors like UN-Habitat and UCLG. It provides guidance and emphasizes the role of heritage as a useful and practical driver of making all kinds of human settlements such as cities, towns, and urban areas inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable through relevant activities. It also supports the application of the HUL Approach.

6. **Heritage Metrics and Indicators** –The Task Team identifies systems of assessment to investigate how heritage serves a driver of sustainability using established research and concrete examples / case studies to contribute to qualitative and quantitative data collection.

7. **Funding, Human Resource and Internships** – The Task Team engages with partners to provide financial, technological and human resources to support the engagement of the Working Group on transversal issues of heritage and the SDGs. It also facilitates the Working Group's Internship Programme to provide Emerging Professionals with opportunities to work with experts to develop SDG–related research.

8. **Heritage and Gender Equality** - The Task Team highlights gender intersection in heritage narratives and engages with relevant actors to establish and enable gender-sensitive, gender-responsive and gender-transformative policies and practices in the heritage field.

9. **Communications** - The Task Team creates initiatives to improve internal and external engagement to support communicating with a multicultural, multilingual, international network. It works with the ICOMOS Secretariat to provide relevant content to ICOMOS members and the wider public on heritage and the SDGs.

ANNEX B

B.1. Key Documents of ICOMOS on Heritage and the SDGs

(2011) **ICOMOS 17th General Assembly Resolution 27:** *Ensuring that culture and cultural heritage are acknowledged in sustainable development*

(2014) **ICOMOS 18th General Assembly Resolution 37:** *Ensuring that culture and cultural heritage are acknowledged in the proposed Goals and Targets on Sustainable Development for the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda.*

(2015) **ICOMOS Statement on the Adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals**

(2015) **The International Committee on Historic Cities, Towns and Villages (CIVVIH) Resolution on Post-2015 Concept Note on SDGs:** *Endorsing ICOMOS Concept Note on Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development for the United Nations Post‐2015 Agenda and the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) and for other purposes*

(2016) **ICOMOS Concept Note (Cultural Heritage, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the New Urban Agenda**

(2017) **ICOMOS Action Plan:** *Cultural Heritage and Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

(2017) **ICOMOS 19th General Assembly Resolution 21:** *Strengthening Efforts to Protect and Safeguard the World's Cultural Heritage through Fully Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals and "Culture 2030 Goals".*

(2018) **Is Heritage left behind in the HLPF Ministerial Declaration?** *Statement for inclusion of cultural and natural heritage with reference to SDG11 and other goals (ICOMOS, UCLG, GPN, Europa Nostra, IFLA)*

(2019) **Culture in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda** *(A report by the Culture 2030 Goal Campaign with ICOMOS)*

(2021) **Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals:** *Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors*

B.2. Documents of ICOMOS on Various Aspects of Heritage and Sustainable Development

(2010) **CIVVIH Valletta Position Paper on Historic Cities and Sustainable Urban Development Policies**

(2011) **The Paris Declaration on Heritage as a Driver of Development**

(2011) **Valetta Principles for the Safeguarding & Management of Historic Cities, Towns & Urban Areas**

(2011) **ICOMOS 17th General Assembly Resolution 38**: *Energy Conservation and sustainable development*

(2014) **Florence Declaration: Heritage and Landscape as Human Values:** *Declaration of the principles and recommendations on the value of cultural heritage and landscapes for promoting peaceful and democratic societies*

(2016) **World Heritage and Sustainable Development - From Policy to Action** *(ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM, BfN)*

(2017) **ICOMOS 19th General Assembly Resolution 20:** *The Florence Declaration on Cultural Heritage Conservation and Sustainable Tourism for Development*

(2018) **'No Past, No Future?' An ICOMOS Perspective on cultural heritage and the Sustainable Development Agenda.** *In: World Heritage and Sustainable Development: New Directions in World Heritage Management*

(2019) **The Futures of Our Pasts:** *Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action*

(2020) **ICOMOS 20th General Assembly Resolution 15**: *Cultural Heritage and the Climate Emergency*

(2020) **ICOMOS 20th General Assembly Resolution 19:** *People-Centred Approaches to Cultural Heritage. Rights-Based Approaches and Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities*

B.3. Important Links for Sustainable Development

UN Division for Sustainable Development Goals

UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Development

UN Habitat New Urban Agenda

UNWTO Sustainable Development