

Report of the Treasurer to the Annual General Assembly and Advisory Committee Istanbul, Turkey, October 2016

In preparing this presentation on the financial statements and budget of ICOMOS for the year 2016 I must acknowledge with thanks the role that our Director General, Marie-Laure Lavenir, and our accountant, Henri Verrier, have played both in the management of the financial affairs of ICOMOS and the compilation of the budget that is presented here today.

Although we are well into the current financial year it is a statutory requirement that the General Assembly approves the annual accounts for 2015. With this in mind the current budget for 2016 as well as the preliminary budget for the upcoming triennial 2017 – 2019 are presented for consideration and input.

Some remarks on the income and expenditure for the current year – 2016

The pie charts on the accompanying slides provide an interesting breakdown as to the sources of income as well as the components that make up the major expenses that ICOMOS incurs. As is to be expected the majority of expenditure (47%) is related to staff costs, followed by our work and responsibilities in terms of the World Heritage Convention (30%). The other items make up a relatively small component of the budget expenditure. We are fortunate that the operating costs are relatively small but we certainly need to look at building up our IT capacity in the future, and a more aggressive fund-raising campaign is required in order for ICOMOS to engage in important project work.

Historically the major portion of our income is generated by our involvement in the activities of the World Heritage Convention. Just over half of the income for the year 2016 comes from this UNESCO World Heritage work with membership fees providing a little less than half of the amount generated by the WHC. It is however, pleasing to note that we have enjoyed a 17% income growth from membership subscriptions (as compared to 2015); the revised system of membership payment – in advance of the year ahead, is proving successful and assists with cash flow at the beginning of the year! Thank you to all National Committees and their members who have paid their dues on time.

In terms of the works that ICOMOS undertakes in advising as aspects relating to the World Heritage Convention, to date we have been successful in sourcing additional funds to undertake advisory missions regarding upstream process or state of conservation. A word of caution must be expressed however regarding the sustainability of this funding from the World Heritage Centre as the financial challenges facing UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre were clearly articulated during the course of the World Heritage Committee held in Istanbul earlier this year.

ICOMOS still receives subventions from a number of sources including the French Ministry of Culture, ICOMOS Belgium (Walloon region) and ICOMOS Austria. Our grateful thanks must be extended for this to these traditional donors for this much needed support.

In addition to these grants we have received additional and generous funding from ICOMOS China as well as Germany and Norway who contributed to the recent Colloquium on Reconstruction. Thanks are extended to all three institutions for their valued support.

Budget for the year 2016

The budget for the year 2016 is presented as a balanced one where income and expenditure are equal. The budget includes allowances for a number of additional resources that have been identified over the past year and that have discussed and agreed upon by the Board and the Director-General.

The Secretariat has traditionally experienced challenges due to an extremely heavy workload. The budget has made allowances for an additional support person to assist Gaia Jungeblodt, this has made a considerable difference and we now have an Annual Report which was one of the priorities in terms of our governance responsibilities. A number of new Committees have been formed, oversight of Project Anqa (the digital recording of heritage sites damaged by conflict in the Arab region), and legal advice relating to matters in the proposed amended statutes are all new budget items.

In terms of our World Heritage work, and with the restructuring of the World Heritage Unit to serve the ever-increasing demands of the WH Committee and States Parties, a system of pro-active engagement has been successfully initiated. This includes increased dialogue with SP's, additional advisory services and workshops of reconstruction, all of which have increased the budget for the year.

The Documentation Centre has already launched the Photobank and further upcoming projects include the reconfiguration of the database and the initiating of the sorting of the large ICOMOS archives (a task that has been outstanding for some time and that is becoming increasingly urgent).

The figures contained in the budget for the next triennial are based on realistic assumptions based on historic experience regarding staffing costs, the World Heritage Contract (although it is always a challenge to work out the number and complexity of nominations that will be received), the cost of IT subscriptions, future projects under consideration (including much needed thematic studies), and income from potential grants.

The budget for the year 2017 is in the process of further refinement and will be presented to the Board for consideration and discussion at the March 2017 Board meeting.

In conclusion it may be said that we are in a positive situation regarding our budget at present but we all need to work hard and continue to source additional funds so that ICOMOS may continue to serve the broadest possible range of heritage stakeholders and sites.

Thank you

Laura Robinson
Treasurer