ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Mr Ernesto Ottone Ramirez Assistant Director-General for Culture UNESCO

Our Ref.: ML/GJ/32 Paris, 12 April 2021

Subject: Contribution – United Nations Secretary General Report on the implementation of the Resolution 74/230 on Culture and Sustainable Development

Dear Assistant Director-General for Culture, dear Mr Ottone,

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), is an international organisation with over 10,500 members in 151 countries and working through 29 international scientific committees and 6 working groups. It is the only global non-government organisation of this kind, dedicated to promoting the application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques to the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

ICOMOS is a leading global voice in integrating culture and cultural heritage within sustainable development. Its six working groups deal with transversal themes related to sustainable development. Most notably, it has a dedicated team of experts within the Sustainable Development Goals Working Group (SDGs WG) who coordinate ICOMOS' response to the 2030 Agenda, through advocacy, policy, and localizing of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ICOMOS believes that culture and cultural heritage have a crucial role for the well-being of communities, which must be harnessed for sustainable urban and socio-economic development, in particular for post-COVID recovery strategies at international, national, and local levels.

Since the adoption of the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in September 2015¹ and of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) at Habitat III in October 2016, ICOMOS has advocated for the implementation of Agenda 2030- SDGs and the NUA from the perspective of cultural heritage, within the framework of the ICOMOS mandate and collaboration with strategic partners.

ICOMOS has produced three important documents that guide the work of the organisation in the implementation of the SDGs in the cultural heritage practice.

- (a) The ICOMOS Concept Note on 'Cultural Heritage, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda'², which argues for "the positive integration of culture and cultural heritage into urban development plans and policies as a way to enhance sustainability of urban areas through heritage, in the context of Agenda 2030.
- (b) The 'ICOMOS Action Plan: Cultural Heritage and Localizing the UN Sustainable Development Goals'³, which is a guiding roadmap for ICOMOS members, as well as other culture and heritage advocates, to follow toward achieving implementation of the SDGs at the national and particularly the sub-national (regional and urban) level.
- (c) The ICOMOS document, 'Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors', which illustrates the numerous ways in which heritage can address the SDGs and demonstrates the potential of harnessing heritage in achieving sustainable development (see Point 7 below).

¹ Statement by ICOMOS on the Adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

² Concept Note for the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), Quito, 20 October 2016.

³ Action Plan developed from the ICOMOS Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals, Istanbul 4-5 February 2017.

It is a pleasure to explain the activities undertaken by ICOMOS during the period June 2019 – June 2021 on the contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development.

- 1. **Discussions on Sustainable Development at the UNESCO World Heritage Convention** engagements during the 43rd Session of the World Heritage Committee in Baku, Azerbaijan on 30 June 2019, and other activities
- 1.1 ICOMOS, together with the other Advisory Bodies, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and ICCROM provided strong support to further operationalise the Sustainable Development Goals, which can sustain and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage and, at the same time, represent exemplary initiatives to be extended beyond World Heritage into wider concerns of local communities.
- 1.2 The Advisory Bodies highlighted the importance of operationalising commitments of the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy at site, national and regional levels, giving specific attention to those World Heritage properties that are in most need of support, such as those on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
- 1.3 ICOMOS and IUCN have continued the project, Connecting Practice, which strengthens the understanding of nature-culture processes, improves management approaches and focuses on how to ensure long term maintenance of bio-cultural resilience, particularly in organically evolved cultural landscapes.
- 1.4 The Advisory Bodies provided explanation on the important and urgent work needed to effectively operationalise the powerful commitments made in the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and its key overarching provisions for environmental sustainability, inclusive social and economic development, respecting gender equity, and rights-based approaches and fostering peace and security.
- 1.5 There were several related side events in Baku wherein ICOMOS discussed practical approaches to collaborate for sustainable development, climate action and rights-based approaches. Publicity kits were also distributed to delegates sharing ideas of 'Heritage and the SDGs'.
- 1.6 During the session in Baku, ICOMOS released the report, "The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action" on 3 July 2019 putting forward a multi-disciplinary approach to cultural heritage as a driver of action towards resilience. The report highlighted various ways in which the core considerations of cultural heritage intersect with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, including heightening ambition to address climate change, mitigating greenhouse gases, enhancing adaptive capacity, and planning for loss and damage. It also provided a framework for systematically cataloguing the impacts of climate change drivers on six main categories of cultural heritage, to aid in evaluating and managing both climate risks to cultural heritage and the positive role it can play as a source of resilience.
- 1.7 On the 19th to 23rd August 2019, ICOMOS made a presentation entitled, 'ICOMOS Action Plan: Cultural Heritage and Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals' in the 'Workshop on World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Africa: Implementing the 2015 Policy' held in Robben Island, South Africa. This was organized by the University of Kent, Robben Island Museum, the African World Heritage Fund, and the University of Cape Town.
- 1.8 Starting May 2021, the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage, in collaboration with ICOMOS and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, is initiating a sustainable development programme, which will include Arabic translation and dissemination of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy. A series of regional workshops focusing on, among others, best practices from the Arab Region, the Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscapes and its implementation, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, and the recently released ICOMOS Policy Guidance on Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals. The activities in the framework of this programme will continue in 2022.
- 2. Contribution to the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2019 onwards
- 2.1 ICOMOS provided inputs to the HLPF 2019 position statement of the NGO Major Group, attended in the HLPF in New York, co-organizing the side event "SDG 8, Leave No One Behind: The 2030 GDP Target Vulnerable People and the Regions Where They Live", inclusion on Ireland's delegation to the UN, social media publicity, a custom-made publicity

⁴ See the <u>ICOMOS report</u>, Baku, 3 July 2019.

- kit, supporting NGO Major Group activities such as the declaration "Stand Together Now for a Just, Peaceful and Sustainable World".
- 2.2 ICOMOS has contributed to the NGO Major Group position statements for 2019, 2020 and 2021 and will continue to engage further for this year's activities at the HLPF.
- 3. Integrating concepts of sustainable development, people centred approaches and climate action to the cultural heritage practice various initiatives from 2019 to April 2021
- 3.1 In the spirit of 'transversality' and the universal nature of the SDGs, collaborations are increasing between the SDGs WG and other ICOMOS Working Groups in particular those for Climate Change and Heritage and Our Common Dignity: Rights-Based Approaches (RBA). A joint session during the 2019 Advisory Committee Meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco on 15 October 2019 provided a chance to discuss issues shared by these groups and explored the links between sustainable development, human rights and resilience in the face of threats like climate change.
- 3.2 In 2020, the 20th ICOMOS General Assembly 20GA/19 resolution rallied for **People-Centred Approaches to Cultural Heritage**⁵ to be promoted so that the diverse cultural, environmental, and socio-economic concerns of people and communities are considered when local, national and international heritage policies and practices are developed. The resolution comes at a key moment as ICOMOS further develops its strategies to deepen the link between people and cultural heritage to the SDGs, and while the global crisis of COVID-19 has highlighted the vulnerability of human connections and access to places.
- 3.3 The 20th ICOMOS General Assembly 20GA/15 resolution declared a **Climate and Ecological Emergency**⁶ and called upon other cultural organisations to do the same. ICOMOS calls on the action on all relevant actors to work to realise this potential and to seek to safeguard all types of heritage from adverse climate impacts, implement risk-informed disaster responses, deliver climate resilient sustainable development; and recognise equity and justice as fundamental dimensions of climate action.
- 3.4 ICOMOS working groups are deepening their collaboration towards further integration of SDG-RBA-Climate-related concepts and principles in statutory documents of the organisation, to strengthen the sustainable heritage conservation practices at all ICOMOS committees and governance levels.
- 4. Developing quantitative and qualitative data to demonstrate the role of cultural heritage in sustainable development August 2019 and April 2021
- 4.1 The ICOMOS SDGs WG hosted a US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program (IEP) intern, resulting in the report 'ICOMOS and Sustainable Development Measuring SDG 11.4', which created a reporting framework to measure and understand the contribution of ICOMOS' activities at the national and international level towards the SDGs, both in qualitative and quantitative terms. This report was presented on 26 November 2019 at Delft University of Technology during the 1st International LDE Heritage Conference on Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 4.2 In the aftermath of the Black Lives Matter protest in the US, monuments of colonialists were toppled in many places around the world. ICOMOS had kick-off workshop on 13 July 2020 entitled, "Diversify / Decolonize Heritage!" to initiate a reflection group on anti-racist heritage practice within the cultural heritage practice. This was followed by the development of the 2021 International Day of Monuments and Sites entitled, "Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures", which will look at the issues of inclusion and recognition of diversity in the cultural heritage sector as important drivers of reducing inequalities (SDG10), supporting gender equality (SDG 5), and fostering peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG16). The activities within this year will be mapped to develop relevant indicators on linking culture and cultural heritage to inclusive social development.

⁵ Information on ICOMOS Resolution 20GA/19.

⁶ Information on ICOMOS Resolution <u>20GA/15</u>.

⁷ International Day of Monuments and Sites 2021 – "Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures"

- 5. Establishing a Partnership for Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Urbanization with UN-Habitat, signed on 11 February 11, 2020 at the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 5.1 The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)⁸ was created between ICOMOS and UN-Habitat to consolidate activities and ensure that the world's cultural heritage is protected, managed and harnessed for sustainable urban development. The MoU has created a wide framework for collaboration with a particular emphasis on urban regeneration and reconstruction, especially in the context of climate change.
- 5.2 The implementation of the MoU is envisioned through the four key Domains of Change (DoC) of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-23: (a) Harnessing urban regeneration to reduce spatial inequality (DoC 1); (b) Leveraging cultural heritage to enhance shared prosperity in cities (DoC 2); (c) Bringing climate and heritage actions closer together (DoC 3); and (d) Mainstreaming heritage considerations in urban reconstruction and resilience (DoC 4).
- 5.3 The MoU particularly targets results including: (a) Policy inputs on urban heritage in global and local guidelines, legislation, plans and projects; (b) Knowledge on the relation between culture/heritage and cities/territories; (c) Active partnership within existing UN-Habitat frameworks; (d) Pilot joint projects on customizable solutions for heritage conservation; (e) Monitoring processes and data on heritage management.
- 6. Showcase of the ICOMOS Webinar Series on the topic of cultural heritage and sustainable development providing valuable online information to the cultural sector and stakeholders from September 2020 to March 2021
- 6.1 The webinar series built up on converging messages on the link of culture and cultural heritage to the SDGs. It showcased various issues that the ICOMOS SDGs WG tackles and provided the public and cultural community substantive information to explain the potential of cultural and natural heritage as an enabler of sustainable development. The content provided were transversal, and reflected various aspects of culture, presented with a thematic focus to explain various pillars of sustainable development. The webinars were conceptualised as multilingual discussions and had used English with Spanish, Arabic and French to translations to communicate with its audience.
- 6.2 There were five public webinars conducted in the span of seven months: (a) Integrating Heritage into the SDGs: Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable Cities (SDG11)9 held on 24 September 2020; (b) Economy & Prosperity: Driving Community-Based Sustainable Development through Cultural Tourism and Employment (SDGs 5, 8, 12 and 14)¹⁰ held on 17 October 2020; (c) Planet - The Role of Cultural Heritage in Building Environmental Resilience (SDGs 6, 7, 13, 14, 15)11 held on 20 November 2020; (d) Society (People) + Peace: The Role of Cultural Heritage in Building a More Just and Peaceful World through Education, Diversity and Community Inclusion (SDGs 4, 10, 16)12 held on 14 January 2021; (e) Policy + Partnerships: Coming Together to Mobilize Heritage for Sustainable Development (SDG 1-17)¹³ held on 17 March 2021.
- 6.3 Aside from the SDGs WG, the webinar series showcased the work of various international scientific committees and working groups within ICOMOS that deal with specific issues of culture and the SDGs: International Scientific Committee on Historic Cities, Towns and Villages (CIVVIH), International Cultural Tourism Committee (ICTC) International Committee on the Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH), International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes (ISCCL), Climate Change and Heritage Working Group (CCHWG), Rights-Based Approach Working Group (RBAWG), Syria / Iraq Working Group and the Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG).
- 6.4 External collaborators within and outside the cultural sector provided the webinars with layered considerations of integrating culture into sustainable development. UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments' Culture Committee) shared the perspectives on priorities of local governments; the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) showcased the online platform, Panorama Nature-Culture Solutions; and UN-Habitat provided their perspectives on realising sustainable urban development.

⁸ Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between ICOMOS and UN-Habitat, Abu Dhabi, 11 February 2020.

⁹ ICOMOS SDGs Working Group Webinar 1, 24 September 2020.

 ¹⁰ ICOMOS SDGs Working Group Webinar 2, 17 October 2020.
¹¹ ICOMOS SDGs Working Group Webinar 3, 20 November 2020.

¹² ICOMOS SDGs Working Group Webinar 4, 14 January 2021.

¹³ ICOMOS SDGs Working Group Webinar 5, 17 March 2021.

- 7. Release of the "Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors" - during the 5th ICOMOS SDGs WG Webinar on 17 March 2021
- 7.1 The 'ICOMOS SDGs Policy Guidance' is a flagship initiative in development since 2018, which aims to provide a robust and versatile resource to all kinds of stakeholders, within and outside of the heritage community, on the role of cultural heritage in sustainable development. This scientific resource, comprising policy statements on how heritage is affected by development and how it contributes to making developing more sustainable, draws on ICOMOS doctrine and case studies to inform evidence-based policy and discussion, through clear guidelines both for global, high-level policies and for local, grassroots implementation of these policies.
- 7.2 The aim of this Policy Guidance document is twofold: 1) engage development actors and raise awareness of the potential contribution of heritage practices to sustainable development processes; 2) guide ICOMOS members and heritage professionals at large, in adopting a sustainable development perspective in their heritage practices and aligning them to the SDGs. Therefore, it represents a first attempt at providing a policy framework for all actors, including international organizations, national and local governments, businesses, civil society, and expert organizations.
- 7.3 An Experts Meeting was held in Marrakesh, Morocco on 19 October 2019, and extensive feedback from ICOMOS members was received in 2020. During the process, inputs and peer reviews were provided by more than 70 ICOMOS experts, coming from 20 National Committees and 13 International Scientific Committees, both in-person and online.
- 8. Contribution to the Culture 2030 Goal campaign¹⁵ working with several global cultural networks to advocate for the role of culture in sustainable development.
- 8.1 This is a collaboration with ICOMOS and other likeminded organisations in the cultural sector: Arterial Network, Culture Action Europe, IFCCD - International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity, IFLA - International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, IMC - International Music Council, UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments' Culture Committee - Agenda 21 for Culture)
- 8.2 Several reports and activities have been accomplished from 2019 to 2021: (a) The report "Culture in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda", published on 25 September 2019 (b)The Statement "Ensuring Culture Fulfils its Potential in Responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic", published in April 2020 and launched on 21 May 2020, World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development: (c) The side-event "Culture: An Accelerator under-used. Realising the potential of culture for short-term recovery and long-term sustainable development" which took place in the frame of the Highlevel Political Forum, on 13 July 2020; (d) The Vision Document of the Culture 2030 Goal campaign, published in April 2021, and the Action Plan for 2021-2022 highlighting the vision, mission, goals and main activities of the campaign for 2021-2022

We are grateful for this opportunity to input and reaffirm our commitment to place culture as part of global conversations on development. We will continue to work with UNESCO to ensure that the role of culture is meaningfully recognised, celebrated, and internalised into policymaking and case studies are developed in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

Yours sincerely,



Marie-Laure Lavenir Director General International Council of Monuments and Sites











See the ICOMOS <u>report</u>, 17 March 2021.
Information on the <u>Culture 2030 Goal</u> campaign.

ANNEX A. Responses to questions for contribution to IO, UN Agencies to United Nations Secretary-General's report on the implementation of Resolution 74/230

1. Within the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, what major strategies, programmes and activities contributing to harnessing culture for sustainable development were developed and/or implemented within your organization's mandate during the reporting period? Activities may also encompass references to UN international years, such as the International Year of Indigenous Languages 2019, the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development 2021, etc. (cf. Resolution 74/230, articles 10, 12 et 24).

ICOMOS has done a joint session during the 2019 Advisory Committee Meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco to discuss issues shared by various ICOMOS working groups and explored the links between sustainable development, human rights and resilience in the face of threats like climate change (**Article 3.1**). It has passed two resolutions during its 20th General Assembly calling for People-Centred Approaches to Cultural Heritage (**Article 3.2**) and declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency (**Article 3.3**).

ICOMOS also developed a Webinar Series on the topic of cultural heritage and sustainable development, providing valuable online information to the cultural sector and stakeholders reflecting various aspects of culture, presented with a thematic focus to explain various pillars of sustainable development (**Article 6**).

2. Are there any qualitative and quantitative data, indicators and statistics demonstrating the impact of culture for sustainable development from a multidimensional perspective among the above-mentioned programmes and activities implemented by your organization? (cf. Resolution 74/230, article 21).

ICOMOS has done a report, 'ICOMOS and Sustainable Development - Measuring SDG 11.4', which created a reporting framework to measure and understand the contribution of ICOMOS' activities in the national and international level towards the SDGs (**Article 4.2**). ICOMOS also contributed to the report of the Culture 2030 Goal campaign, "Culture in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda" provides an analysis of the presence of culture and associated concepts in the annual progress reviews for the SDGs, focusing on the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) submitted by State Parties to the UN for the High-Level Political Forums (HLPFs) in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 (**Article 8.2**).

After the 2021 International Day of Monuments and Sites, which will discuss on issues of inclusion and recognition of diversity in the cultural heritage sector as important drivers of reducing inequalities, supporting gender equality, and fostering peace, justice and strong institutions, ICOMOS will map completed activities to identify potential indicators linking culture and cultural heritage to inclusive social development (**Article 4.3**).

3. What is the perspective of your organization on culture and sustainable development? (e.g. opportunities, priorities and challenges)? Has your organization launched a specific reflection or workstream in that regard?

ICOMOS has provided perspectives on culture and sustainable development written at the 2016 ICOMOS Concept Note on 'Cultural Heritage, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda' and the 2017 'ICOMOS Action Plan: Cultural Heritage and Localizing the UN Sustainable Development Goals'.

The 2021 ICOMOS report, "Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals: Policy Guidance for Heritage and Development Actors" strengthens ICOMOS' perspectives on culture and sustainable development and provides a robust and versatile resource to all kinds of stakeholders, within and outside of the heritage community, on the role of cultural heritage in sustainable development (**Article 7.1**). Additionally, the 2020 ICOMOS report, "The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action" puts forward a multi-disciplinary approach to cultural heritage as a driver of action towards resilience, including heightening ambition to address climate change, mitigating greenhouse gases, enhancing adaptive capacity, and planning for loss and damage (**Article 1.6**). ICOMOS continues to develop new reflections and ideas on culture and sustainable development through the ICOMOS SDGs Working Group.

4. Has your organization carried out measures to stimulate international cooperation and strengthen the cultural and creative sectors, cultural tourism, cultural enterprises, and entrepreneurship, including with regard to access to new technologies, in developing countries? (cf. Resolution 74/230, article 18).

ICOMOS collaborates with several global cultural networks to advocate for the role of culture in sustainable development at the Culture 2030 Goal Campaign (**Article 8**) and continues to work with IUCN with Connecting Practice to strengthen the understanding of nature-culture processes and at improving management approaches and focuses on how to ensure long term maintenance of bio-cultural resilience, particularly in organically evolved cultural landscapes (**Article 1.3**). Other international cooperation schemes are progressively being developed.

5. Have funding mechanisms that integrate culture or culture-related concerns been developed, promoted and/or implemented by your organization for sustainable development programmes? (cf. Resolution 74/230, article 16, n).

ICOMOS is still developing long-term funding mechanisms to integrate sustainable development programmes with its cultural heritage activities and projects. This is one of the main action points of the SDGs WG Task Team 7 on Funding and Human Resource. ICOMOS is in search of funding partners who can assist the organisation in this endeavour.

6. Have your organization's efforts resulted in the integration of culture into UN Sustainable Development Cooperation frameworks, strategies and programmes? (cf. Resolution 74/230, article 23).

ICOMOS is an Advisory Body to UNESCO for the World Heritage Convention and provides support in all aspects of the convention, including sustainable development. It advocates for the application of the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy at the site, national, and regional and international level. (**Article 1**). The Partnership between ICOMOS and UN-Habitat consolidates activities to ensure that the world's cultural heritage is protected, managed and harnessed for sustainable urban development and it provides a wide framework for collaboration with a particular emphasis on urban regeneration and reconstruction, especially in the context of climate change (**Article 5**).

Aside from UNESCO and UN-Habitat, ICOMOS also contributes to the UN HLPF on 2019 and 2020 through position statements with the NGO Major Group, co-organizing side events and supporting publicity campaigns to connect culture with the sustainable development goals (**Article 2**). It will continue to engage with the HLPF this year.

7. Has your organization undertaken initiatives to foster cultural cooperation agreements, partnerships, and networks at the regional level as part of an exchange of knowledge, expertise, and information for sustainable development? (cf. Resolution 74/230, article 19).

ICOMOS has started to engage on a regional level on the issues of World Heritage and sustainable development. ICOMOS did a presentation on the implementation of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy for the African region held in Robben Island, South Africa on August 2019 (**Article 1.7**).

Starting May 2021, the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage, in collaboration with ICOMOS and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, is initiating a sustainable development programme, which will include Arabic translation and dissemination of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy followed by a series of regional workshops focusing on best practices from the Arab Region, the Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscapes and its implementation, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, and the recently released ICOMOS Policy Guidance on Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals (Article 1.8).