

3 Reports on the past Year

3-1 Report by the President of ICOMOS

Dear members of ICOMOS,

This is a year similar to the previous one except that, for the first time in my presidency, I can submit this report and participate in person at a General Assembly, and I am very pleased and honoured by this.

Covid-19 has once again left its mark on this year of operation of our Organisation, but fortunately we have been able to gradually resume our activities in person. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the members of the Bureau and of the Board and thank them warmly. They have, under difficult and uncertain conditions, worked to ensure that ICOMOS emerges unscathed from this situation and is able to maintain its efficiency and dynamism.

I congratulate and thank our Director General for her competence and tenacity, as I also congratulate and thank our entire International Secretariat. Their commitment allows us to develop, each year, a work of quality recognized and appreciated in the world in general and in the world of heritage conservation in particular.

During the year of 2022 the Board and the Bureau met eight times:

- the Board met on 3 and 4 of March 2022, 3 of June, 9 of September and October 2022;
- the Bureau met on 2 of March 2022, 2 of June, 8 of September and in October 2022.

Due to the situation in Ukraine and the urgency to act, the Board convened an extraordinary meeting in March with the Presidents of all International Scientific Committees and Working Groups Focal Points. We discussed possible collaboration between the ISCs and UNESCO.

To facilitate communication, reduce costs and decrease our ecological footprint, we have organized all our meetings digitally, with the exception of the statutory meetings which have been organised in a hybrid way. As usual, the administrative office and our Director General attended all meetings, and the President and Vice President of the Advisory Committee were invited to attend the Board meetings.

We have also held countless working meetings, most digitally and in small groups, to address day-to-day questions and issues.

In addition to the day-to-day issues that we must address quickly and diligently, the Board is organised into task teams to reflect a plethora of subjects:

- GA 2020 resolutions – Impact follow-up and monitoring (coordinated by Mario Santana)
- Monitoring of the National Committees and International Scientific Committees (coordinated by Riin Alatalu and Gaia Jungeblodt)
- Cultural diversity and multilingualism (coordinated by Adriana Careaga)
- Universities Forum (coordinated by Leonardo Castriota)
- Communication (coordinated by Nupur Prothi)
- Adherence of members (coordinated by Riin Alatalu)
- Gathering of Funding and Financing (coordinated by Pamela Jerome)
- Agreement protocols (MOUs) (coordinated by Pamela Jerome)
- Rules of Procedure and Handbook (coordinated by Peter Phillips)
- International Day for Monuments and Sites, 18 April (coordinated by Stacey Vallis)
- Google Arts and Culture (coordinated by Mario Santana)
- Heritage Risk Observatory and risk preparedness (coordinated by Zeynep Gül Ünal)
- Crisis unit and conflict monitoring (coordinated by Zeynep Gül Ünal)
- Africa Initiative (coordinated by Alpha Diop)
- World heritage monitoring (GA2017 resolution) (coordinated by Jean-Christophe Simon)
- World heritage work (President, Director-General and WH units)

- Revision of the terms of reference (TORs) for statutory meetings (coordinated by Mario Santana and Gaia Jungeblodt)
- Monitoring of Working groups (coordinated by Niels Ahlberg)
- Statutes of new National Committees (coordinated by the President and Gaia Jungeblodt)

One member of the Board liaises with the Advisory Committee and the members of the Board liaise with the following working groups:

- "Our Common Dignity Initiative" - Rights-based approaches WG
- Indigenous Heritage WG
- Sustainable Development WG
- Emerging Professionals WG
- Syria and Iraq WG
- Climate Action WG
- Reconstruction and Recovery WG
- Covid19 WG

Over the past 10 months, the Board has developed an enormous amount of work and I will summarise the most representative topics in this report.

1. Representing ICOMOS in the world - External relations

External relations are a relevant subject for ICOMOS. An ever-increasing number of stakeholders are present on the heritage scene, with whom ICOMOS can develop regular contacts and collaborations that will help us project the image of ICOMOS worldwide, and partnerships that will allow us to develop lines of thought on topical issues. In this context, we have signed a number of collaborative partnerships:

- Association for Preservation Technology International (APTI), March 2022.
With this MOU, we seek to develop an interactive collaborative partnership that encourages the sharing of technology and preservation/conservation values among our members, National Committees and Scientific Committees, and we will seek joint opportunities for the training of emerging professionals.
- International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH), January 2022.
The purpose of this MOU is to establish a general framework of cooperation for activities and projects with the intention of jointly contributing to the shared objective of protecting heritage, with a particular focus on conflict and post-conflict zones.

Other partnerships are currently being studied and we maintain collaboration with other organisations such as IUCN, ICCROM, ICOM and Blue Shield.

The Board and the Bureau also play an important advocacy role, not only by participating in conferences and workshops organised by ICOMOS, by our National Committees and Scientific Committees, but also those organised by other NGOs and institutions. In 2022, the Board participated in a large number of webinars, workshops and conferences. ICOMOS alone has organised many on a wide variety of topics.

I myself, as President, attended a good number of them (around 30 participations), many outside our organisation, two of which deserve a special mention.

- Conference of the Ministers of Culture of the Euro-Mediterranean region - Culture Ministerial meeting of the EU-Southern Partnership, Naples, 16-17 June 2022.
ICOMOS participation focused on Culture as a driver and enabler for sustainable development and the green transition, emphasizing that we are engaged in global reflections to develop strategies on how heritage places can respond to global challenges and inform the different stakeholders of the positive role of heritage in building a more resilient and sustainable human development. In addition, we sent a message of encouragement to Ministers of Culture to consider how cultural policies can be designed to maximise their positive impact on sustainable development, beyond the current parameters of the UN Agenda 2030, and to engage in cultural policies anchored rooted in approaches based on human rights, diversity, respect for the environment and sustainability.
- Arria Formula meeting of the UN Security Council entitled "The Destruction of cultural heritage as a consequence of the Russian aggression against Ukraine", organised by the Permanent Mission of Albania, in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Poland and the

Permanent Mission of Ukraine. We have presented the results of the ICOMOS-ICCROM mission to Ukraine.

An important focus of our work is the development of our network on the African continent. In this respect, we have been particularly active in 2022 (see point 2.). In March 2022, we organised a capacity building workshop “Foundations for the establishment of a national inventory of cultural heritage. Methodologies for Cultural Heritage Inventories and Documentation - Approaches, Methods, Tools, Challenges and Perspectives” [*Fondations pour la mise en place d'un inventaire national du patrimoine culturel. Méthodologies pour les inventaires et la documentation du patrimoine culturel - approches, méthodes, outils, défis et perspectives*] in Kinshasa and Kongo Central (Democratic Republic of Congo), for 29 professionals. We are particularly proud that this 3-week workshop is the result of a collaborative effort between two important organisations: the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Zones (ALIPH) and ICOMOS, with the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture and the Arts represented by the National Advisory Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

2. Ensuring collaboration and communication between ICOMOS entities and members

Geographical representativeness within our institution and statutory bodies is a topic defended by the Board. Last year, the Board appointed two members from the Arab States as invited experts to the Board. In the same spirit, in March 2022, the Board appointed Ms Chilangwa Chaiwa (ICOMOS Zambia) as an expert to represent African states to the Board, in order to achieve a more balanced representation of all the regions of the world on the Board.

Following our concern for geographical representativeness, an important axis of our work, as already mentioned, is the development of our network with special attention to the Arab States and the African region. In this respect, I would like to thank the incredible work of our Secretariat and I am particularly happy to announce the accreditation of 7 new national committees:

- 8 February 2022: National Committee of Syria officially accredited.
- 3 June 2022: National Committees of Ethiopia and Zambia officially accredited.
- 9 September 2022: National Committees of Burkina Faso, Cameroun and Chad officially accredited.

The Board has taken time to meet with many National Committees and Scientific Committees to discuss strategic issues and our visibility in the world, and to discuss the importance of our structures to support our members and National Committees. For this work, we participate in regional meetings such as the regional meetings of Europe, Africa and Asia Pacific.

In collaboration with the Advisory Committee and our Secretariat, we have been working to revitalize the Scientific Committee on Mural Paintings. A call for interest in membership has been launched.

In March 2022, the Board appointed Ms Laura Robinson of ICOMOS South Africa as the new ICOMOS Focal Point to coordinate the Our Common Dignity – Rights Based Approaches Working Group for the period 2022-2024, taking up the baton from Bente Mathisen of ICOMOS Norway. Laura Robinson will continue to coordinate the activities of the ICOMOS Working Group and will be our main point of contact for discussions on world heritage and rights-based approaches.

I would like to thank Laura for accepting our invitation as well as Bente who has developed a remarkable work with unconditional dedication.

The Emerging Professionals Working Group continues to grow; they have helped organise countless meetings and webinars, and they are producing work of impeccable quality that is setting the standard! I heartily thank them for their excellent work and their always enthusiastic participation in all activities. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the colleagues who continue to work with dedication as mentors for emerging professionals.

3. Implementing ICOMOS' responsibilities to the World Heritage Convention

This obviously takes up a large part of our time as an Advisory Body. It is an essential mission, both delicate and rewarding, to which I am compelled to give a more collective, professional and independent character!

2022 is an important year for World Heritage, during which all stakeholders will be afforded the opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the

World Cultural and Natural Heritage. For ICOMOS in particular, as one of the Advisory Bodies for the implementation of the Convention since the very beginning, it is also a privileged moment to review the efforts made and the results achieved!

To improve the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, but also to take the measure of the challenges to be faced today and tomorrow, ICOMOS has initiated close exchanges with the State Party delegations to UNESCO. The purpose of these courtesy visits is to engage in dialogue on World Heritage issues, to explain the importance of ICOMOS' work in the World Heritage nomination process as well as in the state of conservation process. During these meetings we also received feedback from State Party delegations on ways to improve the quality of our work.

With our Director General, we had meetings with the delegations to UNESCO: Russia, Saudi Arabia, Italy, India, Oman, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Qatar, South Africa, Egypt, Japan, Bulgaria, Mexico and Belgium. A special meeting was organized by the Ambassador of South Africa to UNESCO with other African delegations to allow us to better explain to the Ambassadors of other African countries (Benin, Nigeria, Madagascar and Ethiopia) which are members of UNESCO, the functioning and the role of ICOMOS.

Moreover, with a view to pursue this initiative and to give continuity to our exchanges, ICOMOS organize a meeting at the ICOMOS International headquarters to present to the State Party delegations to UNESCO the procedure for the evaluation of nominations, emphasizing the changes that have been introduced in recent years, such as the new procedure for preliminary assessments, in order to allow more dialogue during the evaluation cycle. 53 delegations attended the meeting and we were pleased to have the participation of the Director and the Head of the Nominations Unit of the World Heritage Centre.

4. Monitoring and crisis response

Crisis monitoring and response for heritage and our National Committees is an important point for the Board. Our Crisis and Conflict Monitoring Unit, coordinated by Zeynep Gül Ünal, conducts contacts and surveys with our members and monitors and follows up of the various crisis situations worldwide. This year, we have been monitoring the situation in Ethiopia, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Ukraine), Ukraine and Pakistan. For this work, we are in contact with our NCs and with organisations such as Blue Shield and its founding organisations, UNESCO and ICCROM. The scale of the crises and the sensitivity of certain situations have shown us that ICOMOS needs to organise itself in a concrete, more structured and sustained way, with mechanisms that allow for quicker assessments and potential responses; in particular in cases of crisis where a rapid emergency response is of vital importance. Moreover, it is important that ICOMOS introduces guidelines for dealing with recovery, mitigation and resilience together with environmental issues and sustainable development.

The Russian-Ukrainian war has caused widespread damage to all forms of cultural heritage (movable and immovable, tangible and intangible, cultural and natural), which is at the core of Ukrainian identity. Since February 24, the ICOMOS Crisis and Conflict Monitoring Unit has been conducting contacts and surveys with our members and monitoring and following up on the various crisis situations. During these difficult months, ICOMOS has concentrated its resources and efforts on supporting our colleagues in Ukraine, as well as on organising the transportation of protective equipment.

We have also participated in coordination meetings on Ukraine organised by UNESCO, liaised with partner organisations in our field, and most importantly mobilized our National and Scientific Committees, many of whom have contributed to Ukrainian's cultural heritage initiatives through efforts at their national level.

To strengthen the efforts of the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture and Informational Policy, and heritage organizations and professionals, a joint international mission of ICOMOS and ICCROM was carried out from July 9 to 16, 2022. The primary objectives include:

- Meetings and consultations with the Ministry of Culture and Informational Policy, key heritage organizations, including ICOMOS National Committees members to identify the main needs for emergency response, recovery and rehabilitation of affected cultural heritage.
- Developing a rapid coordination and response mechanism, and elaborate common minimum standards for the protection of cultural heritage and its users.
- Agreeing on concrete steps such as joint assessments, development of coordination mechanisms, constitution of an ICOMOS/ICCROM advisory group for emergency response and recovery planning.

- Agreeing on topics, schedule and locations for joint multidisciplinary training as request (e.g., crisis communication, security and safety training, risk mapping and documentation, emergency stabilization of structures and objects, recovery planning).
- Providing technical advice for the development of a systematic and coordinated approach to damage and risk assessment, prioritization for emergency interventions, and recovery and rehabilitation planning, harnessing the potential of heritage for sustainable peace.

ICOMOS and ICCROM hope that through this expert mission, a systematic and cohesive national strategy for first aid and recovery of cultural heritage can be established.

I would like to thank the members of the Board for the commitment and dedication they have shown. I would also like to thank our Director General and the Secretariat for the extraordinary results achieved despite the pandemic, for all the meetings and for the support given to all the webinars organised by our various National and International Scientific Committees and Working Groups. I would like to thank our Secretary General and the ICOMOS International Secretariat for relentlessly carrying out this essential Board task and also for maintaining the institutional memory of ICOMOS, i.e. the ability to draft agendas and reports, and to prepare working documents.

Finally, I would like to share my immense gratitude to our World Heritage Units, the Evaluation Unit and the Advisory and Monitoring Unit, as well as to the hundreds of ICOMOS members who, every year, anonymously, do outstanding work to ensure our success in world heritage matters.

I would like to conclude with a wish: to be able to safely continue all the current activities and to find, on the one hand, the pleasure of seeing each other again at our conferences and meetings, and on the other hand, to continue the work begun with the members of the Board, with our Secretariat and our World Heritage Units to ensure the smooth running of ICOMOS.

Thank you all for always giving your very best!

Teresa Patrício
Paris, 25 September 2022