

ICOMOS

international council on monuments and sites

Resolution 17GA 2011/30 **Our Common Dignity: Rights-based Approaches to heritage management**

The 17th General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Recalling that human rights have already been expressed as a vital dimension in all UNESCO activities (UNESCO Constitution) and also by ICOMOS in the 1998 Stockholm Declaration celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Noting the strong cooperation between ICOMOS and organisations such as the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, and reaffirming ICOMOS members' common commitment to the cause of human rights;

Reflecting that neglect of human rights might negatively affect national and international commitments to universally accepted goals of human development, and believing that increased knowledge about and use of rights-based approaches to heritage management may contribute to a calmer and more constructive resolution of potential disputes;

Acknowledging the positive contributions of the World Heritage Convention in building international understanding of cultural and natural diversity, ICOMOS is aware of cases where the human rights of individuals and communities associated with or living within World Heritage properties have been overlooked;

Recognizes that an integration of human rights concerns is essential to heritage identification and conservation, and **considers** that the implementation of heritage conservation initiatives needs to be supported by human rights based approaches introduced as a 'sustainability check' to all phases of these activities; and

Requests the Executive Committee to develop an 'Our Common Dignity' initiative as a key activity in the ICOMOS 2012-14 Triennial Action Plan.