

**15th General Assembly of ICOMOS
Xi'an, China
17 – 21 October 2005**

RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Composition of the Committee: President - Ms Sheridan Burke (Australia); Members - Mrs Ruth Shady Solis (Peru), Mr Benjamin Mouton (France), Mr Gideon Koren (Israel), Mr Donatius Kamamba (Tanzania), and Mr Dosso Sindou (Cote d'Ivoire) ex officio.

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China, in October 2005:

- Expresses ICOMOS's gratitude to Chinese Officials and organisers for the success of this General Assembly. We express our gratitude to the many volunteers who have assisted in the success of the conference, and especially the children of Xi'an.
- Accepts the invitation by the Canadian National Committee to hold the 16th Session of the General Assembly in Quebec in 2008.
- Expresses support for the creation of new National and International Committees.
- Expresses appreciation to the Getty Conservation Institute and The Getty Foundation for their support of international programmes and for the granting of funds to support attendance at this General Assembly by those unable to attend otherwise.
- Expresses support for UNESCO Director General, Koichiro Matsuura, and the World Heritage Centre in increasing significance and effectiveness of the World Heritage Convention
- Expresses appreciation to ICOMOS's partner organisations, ICCROM, IUCN, TICCIH and DoCoMoMo.
- Recognizes the significant contribution to the work of ICOMOS of the following members who have passed away and expresses condolences to their families and the National Committees: Mrs. Jalila Kadiri (Morocco), Mr Martin Weaver (Canada), Mr. Ernst Bacher (Austria), Mr. Rafael Rojas Hurtado de Mendoza (Cuba), Mr. Elliott Carroll (USA), Mr. Roberto di Stefano (Italy), Mr. Jean Sonnier (France) and Mr. Pierre Laurent Frier (France).

In memory of these persons, a minute of silence is asked.

A. CURRENT ISSUES

1. Pakistan Earthquake

Proposed by ICOMOS Pakistan

The recent earthquake in Pakistan is the most devastating natural disaster in the entire history of this country. The magnitude of the destruction caused is immense and beyond what could be tackled by the country's own resources. International help and assistance in all areas is being requested. The region hit by this earthquake has towns and villages which are examples of the traditional settlements of the mountainous regions of Pakistan, thus living representations of traditions, culture, architectural heritage and natural landscapes.

In addition to this, one of the World Heritage Sites, Taxilla, lies within the zone of the earthquake and another one of the World Heritage Sites, Takht-i-Bahi, lies near to this zone. Hence, involvement of ICOMOS is requested to support development of programs of post-earthquake surveying to assess the magnitude of damage to heritage property and to advise on appropriate re-construction in the area.

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China, in October 2005 resolves to support the urgent need to identify and activate:

- Financial assistance to mobilize a team of volunteers into the earthquake-hit areas and do a quick survey for assessing damage to heritage property. This survey would also be a long-term contribution in identifying and demarcating historic areas in the region (documentation which is unfortunately non-existent so far); and
- Expert advice for developing programmes on appropriate solutions and suggestions for rebuilding – with on-site training for local communities.

2. Hurricane Katrina, United States of America

Proposed by ICOMOS France

Considering the scale of devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in September 2005 on Louisiana's (USA) traditional and historical built heritage and the great importance of preserving this heritage and the cultural memory which it carries for the community of Louisiana and neighbouring states;

Considering the immense needs, both material and in terms of specialized professionals, to save the remains still in place, and for the necessary reconstruction of the cities and villages.

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China, in October 2005 resolves to address to US ICOMOS and to the United States of America :

- An expression of its profound solidarity; and
- Assurance that the most experienced experts and specialists are at their disposal to assist, if necessary, in the drawing up of emergency measures for the salvaging, conservation and restoration of this unique heritage.

3. Disaster Recovery Conference

Proposed by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Vernacular Architecture (CIAV)

Considering that:

- In the aftermath of the terrible tragedies affecting several parts of the world – tsunamis in Asia and hurricanes in America just to name a few – there is a pressing need to ensure the recovery of familiar environments and traditions transmitted by previous generations;

- In the haste for providing emergency shelter and rebuilding, vernacular traditions are increasingly threatened, and that
- It is important that the planning of reconstruction be based on the traditional characteristics of a region.

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China, in October 2005 resolves to:

- Propose to the national authorities of the affected countries that a conference on the rebuilding of devastated areas be held under the leadership of ICOMOS in the following six months in a country affected by these events.
- The purpose of this international conference will be to set up guidelines for reconstructing devastated areas that will respect traditional architecture and cultural landscapes. This forum will also serve to provide a voice to those who are affected by these terrible events.

4. Earthquake Desert of Atacama, Chile

Proposed by ICOMOS Chile

Keeping in mind that the 15th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium is dedicated to the theme of Monuments and Sites in their setting and keeping in mind the following considerations that:

- In the northernmost part of Chile, in the eastern zone of the desert of Atacama, there were a number of small villages located in the general area of what was once the old Inca road, later the Royal road. This area with its characteristic architectural structures constitutes a true cultural patrimony which includes movable assets and a fragile intangible heritage;
- On 13 June of this year, a devastating earthquake occurred in this area with an intensity of 7.9 on the Richter Scale, leaving a considerable part of the villages and churches in ruins; and
- Due to the isolation of the area, its fragility, and its almost non-existent economical importance to the country as a whole, official response has been slow and restoration efforts non-existent. Current official plans for conservation and restoration are poorly thought out, hasty and completely inadequate.

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China, in October 2005 resolves to:

- Urgently recommend to the appropriate National authorities and to the government of Chile that an appropriate number of specialists come together as a team to prepare a master plan for response that will include consolidation and restoration, followed by conservation and maintenance.
- Further recommend that this team is interdisciplinary in nature in order to ensure the protection of the heritage assets as a whole, both movable and immovable cultural goods, along with its setting, environment, natural heritage and fragile intangible heritage.

5. Akrotiri excavation shelter, Greece

Proposed by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM)

Considering that Akrotiri dates to 2000-1500 BCE and provides very significant information of that time in the Eastern Aegean. The lava cover to the entire city from the Santorini volcanic eruption has protected evidence of the culture at that time to a remarkable degree, providing a precious historic record.

Knowing that expertise on shelters for archaeological sites is held within ICCROM and the Getty Conservation Institute, and that they may be able to assist the Greek Government.

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China, in October 2005 resolves to:

- Ask the Greek Government for assurance that it will urgently ensure the safeguarding of the remainder of Akrotiri excavated site, on Thera (Santorini), and in particular that the still-standing shelter is stabilised to protect it over the coming winter.

6. *Sourbe Khatche Church in Akhtamar, Turkey*

Proposed by ICOMOS Armenia, relying on the support of ICOMOS Turkey

Considering that:

- The Sourbe Khatche Church in Akhtamar, on the shores of Lake Van in eastern Turkey, represents one of the most exceptional examples of medieval architecture and of Armenian sculpture;
- Its unquestionable importance lies in its historical significance, but also in its role in the development of classical Armenian religious architecture, of which it is one of the most spectacular cultural and artistic expressions;
- The Armenian scientific community strongly believes that the authenticity of Sourbe Khatche Church must be conserved and that the materials and traditional techniques used in its construction respected and
- The restoration works on the Church have been launched by the local authorities in Spring 2005,

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October, 2005 resolves to:

- Strongly recommend that the Turkish government periodically associates, and when necessary, involves Armenian specialists to the restoration projects and works; and that it seeks the assistance of UNESCO.

7. *Neolithic site of Apostolos Andreas, Cyprus*

Proposed by ICOMOS Cyprus

Noting the recent demolition of the Neolithic site of Apostolos Andreas, on the easternmost part of the island of Cyprus by a bulldozer to make a road.

Understanding that this is the only coastal site, probably a fishing village of the Aceramic Neolithic, dated circa 6th MBC, which exemplifies the adoption of the material culture of the period of the coastal environment and resources;

And noting the excavations undertaken by the Turkish Cypriot University in collaboration with the University of Tübingen and Freiberg, Germany, at the Late Bronze Age site of Gallinoporni in the northern part of Cyprus;

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October, 2005 resolves to:

- Condemn the destruction of the site of Apostolos Andreas and the name change of Gallinoporni and write to Turkey and Turkish Cypriot Authorities calling for measures to be taken to prevent such destruction and name changes.

8. Alburnus Maior, Romania

Proposed by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) and the International Scientific Committee on Vernacular Architecture (CIAV)

Regarding the site of Alburnus Maior in Rosia Montana, Romania, as a potential World Heritage Site,

With reference to the Resolution 20 of the 13th General Assembly of ICOMOS held in Madrid, Spain; to the Resolution of the 14th Extraordinary General Assembly, held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe; to the resolution of the ICOMOS Conference, held in Pecs, Hungary, 22-27 May 2004, and with reference to the ICAHM Statement on the mining concept at Rosia Montana in Lyon, France, 9 September 2004.

Taking into consideration some recent information about the site and its permanent state of threat,

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to:

- Reiterate its deepest concern about the on-going mining operation that has lead to and threatens to continue the destruction of the archaeological site of Alburnus Maior in Rosia Montana, Romania, and its surroundings;
- Call upon the urgent intervention of the National Authorities and the international community to ensure the appropriate protection of the site;
- Call for further evaluation of the significance of that site and its archaeological heritage in the context of the cultural heritage of Europe and the world, and
- Express once again its will to collaborate with the Romanian Authorities and other organisations to achieve these.

9. Tomo-no-Ura, Japan

Proposed by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Vernacular Architecture (CIAV) and ICOMOS Japan

Considering that the town of Tomo-no-Ura, Japan, is recognized as a place of exceptional significance as it is a historic port town with temples of the fifteenth century, merchant houses and streetscapes of the eighteenth century, stone harbour facilities, and a relationship with the sea which has been long recognized as exceptionally beautiful,

Considering that the people of Tomo-no-Ura are congratulated upon their efforts to preserve the town and to restore its buildings;

Considering that the proposal to build a road bridge across the harbour would destroy the essential quality of the town, and must not proceed,

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to:

- Demand that the national government of Japan and the local government authorities are called upon to abandon the road bridge proposal, and to develop alternative traffic measures. They are further called upon to support and assist in the conservation and restoration of the buildings in the town.

10. Isla de Pascua, Chile

Proposed by ICOMOS Chile

Considering the outstanding universal value of Easter Island, as part of the heritage of humankind and its particular vulnerability, and that it has been inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1995,

Considering that Chile is a State Party to the World Heritage Convention (1972) and a member of the World Heritage Committee, and as such, is encouraged to take an exemplary action in the protection of its heritage, in particular Easter Island,

Considering that the proposed construction of casinos and other similar installations on Easter Island is causing a great concern for the future of the site

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to:

- Ask UNESCO and all other authorities, including ICOMOS National Committees, to intervene with the Chilean authorities so that the construction and operation of a casino is not allowed and that full protection is maintained for Easter Island's tangible and intangible values;
- Offer to the Chilean authorities, as well as to UNESCO, full assistance to help achieve this goal.

11. Russian Modernist Heritage

Proposed by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage

Noting the outstanding contribution of Russian modernism to Twentieth Century heritage, the 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS notes with concern the threats and deterioration which are currently occurring to many places of outstanding international significance in Russia including the Ruskova Workers Club, the house and the studio of the architect Melnikov and the neglected Narkomfin building.

Considering that the heritage value of these places extends beyond Russia to the world.

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to:

- Urge the relevant national and professional organizations to act with urgency to safeguard their protection and prevent their damage. Necessary actions include survey and assessment, protective planning measures and innovative conservation approaches, to secure their future.

12. Conjunto Jesuítico de Cordoba, Argentina

Proposed by ICOMOS Argentina

ICOMOS Argentina advises the 15th General Assembly with concern about the damages that are being caused to the Conjunto Jesuítico de Cordoba, Argentina. This site was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in December 2000. In particular the Conjunto de la Manzana Jesuítica requires specific attention because it lies in one of the most built up / urbanized zones of the city.

Considering the outstanding universal value of the Jesuitic Complex of Cordoba (Argentina), listed as a World Heritage site in 2000,

Considering the particular impact of urbanization and vibration from heavy vehicular traffic on the conservation of the site and specifically the Manzana Jesuítica,

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to:

- Bring this situation to the attention of UNESCO, National and local authorities, calling for their intervention to ensure the restoration and future maintenance of the site and to adopt appropriate measures to prevent further damage,
- Offer the collaboration of ICOMOS to achieve this and ensure the long term conservation of the site.

B. ORGANISATIONAL RESOLUTIONS

13. General organisation of ICOMOS

Proposed by the Secretary General of ICOMOS

Considering the resolutions adopted at the 13th General Assembly held in Madrid (Spain) and the discussions during the 14th General Assembly in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) relative to statutory and procedural aspects in ICOMOS,

Considering the important reflection carried out by the ad hoc committee appointed at the 13th General Assembly in preparing proposals to amend the ICOMOS Statutes, which were communicated to all members according to the deadlines set in the current Statutes in preparation for the 14th General Assembly, and the comments and proposals made by National Committees on the subject on their own initiative or in response to these proposed amendments,

Considering the interest for ICOMOS, on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, to proceed with a broader examination of its role and actions contributing to the conservation of monuments, sites and other types of heritage places in the world to come, and in doing so, to look not only at the Statutes but also the strategies and operations of the organisation, including participation and collaboration amongst the various bodies within ICOMOS,

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to:

- Thank all the individuals and volunteers who contributed to this reflection and made constructive proposals and recommendations, as part of the ad hoc committee established in Madrid, of the Legal Committee (ICLAFI) or of other National and International Committees;
- Ask the Executive Committee, within the framework of the 40th Anniversary of ICOMOS, to continue the process of review and reflection in conjunction with ICLAFI on the role and functioning of ICOMOS and, if deemed necessary, to move propositions for the modification of the current procedural or statutory texts, so as to report to the Advisory Committee in the following years, and to the 16th General Assembly in 2008.
- Postpone any possible changes to the statutes, pending the conclusion of this process

This resolution superseded a resolution from ICOMOS India regarding voting practices

14. Adoption of Eger-Xi'an Principles

Proposed by the Advisory Committee and recommended by the Executive Committee

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005, resolves to support the decision taken by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committees at the third strategic planning session in Xi'an to:

- Create the ICOMOS Scientific Council, which will be composed of the Presidents of the International Scientific Committees (or their official representatives), and
- Adopt the *Eger-Xi'an Principles* as the basic brief for the Scientific Council and the International Scientific Committees and to further develop this process.

15. ICOMOS Scientific Council and Programme

Proposed by the Advisory Committee and recommended by the Executive Committee

Following on from the General Assembly in Zimbabwe in 2003 and the initiatives taken at the Advisory Committee in Bergen in 2004; and

In recognition of the unprecedented interest and response shown by the ICOMOS membership in the scientific programme of the 15th General Assembly in Xi'an; and

In further recognition of the potential of ICOMOS to play an enhanced leadership role in the conservation of the cultural heritage,

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October, 2005 resolves that the new ICOMOS Scientific Council of International Committees (ISCs) be charged with the responsibility of:

- Proposing the ICOMOS triennial scientific programme to the Executive Committee;
- Developing the content of the scientific symposium of each General Assembly, in consultation with the host National Committee; and
- Facilitating a thematic colloquium at each Advisory Committee meeting.

16. Student and Young Professionals annual membership fee

Proposed by ICOMOS Canada

Considering that the Executive Committee adopted a policy to encourage the increase and renewal of the organization's membership notably by stimulating the participation of students and young professionals working in its fields of interest;

Considering that, with this in mind, the Executive Committee decided that the annual membership fee for any member aged 28 or less would be set at 50% of the normal membership fee;

Considering that there is a need to strengthen the policy that was put forward by the Executive Committee and to promote even more strongly the presence of the younger generation within the organization;

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to:

- Request that the annual membership fee for any member aged 30 years old or less be set from now on at 50% of the regular membership fee and
- That these members be entitled to all the rights and privileges attributed to regular membership.

17. Payment of membership fees 2006

Proposed by the Executive Committee – as modified by a subsequent resolution from ICOMOS Canada.

The Executive Committee has discussed the issue of membership fees, its categories and due time for payment and recommends that changes are needed.

Considering the decision made by the Executive Committee that, from now on, National Committees will be requested to pay their members' membership fees in Euro rather than in dollars;

Considering that it is impossible for many of these Committees to adapt their internal procedures concerning the collecting their membership fees in such a way that they could comply with the Executive Committee's decision in 2006;

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China, in October, 2005 resolves that

- All ICOMOS National Committees will pay their membership fees in Euro instead of US\$ (for clarification purpose, if paying now 20 US\$ per member, it will be 20 Euros). All European

Committees, including those which are not part of the Euro countries have been paying in Euro since 2004.

- The payment in Euro will start in 2007
- The categories of 10, 20, 30 and 40 are not changed.
- Deadline for sending the payments to Paris will be 30th of June 2006.
- The Executive Committee with the Treasurer General will develop during 2006 a progressive payment programme. The objective of this programme will be to provide incentives for early payment, for committees paying on time for several consecutive years and for committees showing a considerable growth of membership.

18. Publication of Annual Accounts of ICOMOS International
Proposed by ICOMOS Australia

Considering the financial position of ICOMOS International as outlined by the Treasurer General, and in order to assist National Committees in understanding this situation and communicating it to their members with a view to improving it in the future,

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China, in October 2005 resolves to:

- Require that the audited annual accounts of ICOMOS International, including as a minimum the profit and loss statement against budget and the balance sheet, both for the financial year just ended and the previous financial year, be published each year in the next issue of *ICOMOS News* after the audited accounts become available, and
- That they be accompanied by a statement from the ICOMOS Treasurer General interpreting the accounts and reporting on any major discrepancies between the budget and actual results.

19. Establishment of a task team to investigate funding strategies for ICOMOS
Proposed by ICOMOS France

At the meeting of the ICOMOS Advisory Committee, held on 15 and 16 October 2005, it was agreed that a task team be appointed to investigate the development of strategies to assist ICOMOS with future financial planning and financial management.

Members from the National Committees of France, South Africa, Sweden and Bulgaria, held an exploratory meeting and agreed to propose the following resolution.

Recognizing the need to assist the Treasurer-General, the Executive Committee of ICOMOS and the Secretariat with the development of a sustainable funding strategy for the future,

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to :

- Establish a task team composed among others of France, South Africa, Sweden, Belgium, United States and Bulgaria, in order to:
 - Define the objectives of any future financial strategy. A broad-based transformation of the way in which ICOMOS plans, manages and audits its affairs must be effected.
 - Develop measures to achieve these objectives. These may include functional and project related activities.

20. Victoria Falls' Solidarity Fund

Proposed by ICOMOS France

Given recurrent difficulties for certain members to participate at General Assemblies, the creation of the so-called *Victoria Falls' Solidarity Fund*, whose purpose is to finance this participation, had been proposed as a draft resolution during the 14th General Assembly.

In order to achieve the aims of this resolution and to launch the Fund, ICOMOS Belgium - one of the countries which supported the draft resolution - invited its members to pay, on a voluntary basis, a minimum amount of 20 % of their annual membership fee into this Fund.

ICOMOS Belgium asked the International Secretariat to manage the Fund according to the principles used by the Getty Foundation, namely:

From the point of view of the Fund manager:

- the anonymity of the donation is guaranteed : no link is to be established between the donating Committee and the beneficiary ;
- the selection of the candidates is made by an independent Committee (5-6 people), according to objective criteria: geographical diversity, scientific profile of the candidate, representation within his/her National Committee,
- the search for decent yet as inexpensive as possible travel and accommodation, in order to share out the available sums to a maximum of beneficiaries;
- the establishment of a balance sheet of expenditure each year.

From the point of view of the beneficiary

- the necessity of a personal financial contribution, even if minimal ;
- the obligation to undertake, in time, all the necessary administrative measures for obtaining a passport, a visa, vaccinations,
- an active participation to the assembly.

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October, 2005 resolves to:

- Recommend that all National Committees institute a solidarity component within their annual membership fee, following the example of ICOMOS Belgium. In doing so, each committee will allow this Fund to operate, to increase through other financial sources and to become a permanent way to support colleagues in providing means to participate at General Assemblies of ICOMOS.

21. ICOMOS Publication Programme

Proposed by the ICOMOS Editorial Board and recommended by the Executive Committee

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves that:

- The international publication programme be based on identified priorities, with a draft publication budget;
- Publications will be peer reviewed to ensure the highest standards;
- Each publication will have a coordinating editor;
- Protocols will be developed for the publication process to ensure that publications start with appropriate budget and funding commitments;
- A proportion of ICOMOS' budget be dedicated to communications / publications;
- Income from publication sales be dedicated to future publications;
- Strategies be developed to ensure the best spread of available funds, including:
 - exploring options for commissioning a publisher to produce on ICOMOS behalf;
 - moving to online publication for key reports
- And that this process be overseen by the Editorial Board, which will provide regular reports to the Executive Committee and Advisory Committee.

22. Risk preparedness for cultural heritage and the participation of ICOMOS in the International Committee of the Blue Shield

Proposed by ICOMOS Macedonia, ICOMOS Sweden and the ICOMOS Secretary General

Considering the need to improve the state of preparedness and the effectiveness of disaster response as part of conservation practice and the accomplishment of ICOMOS's mission;

Considering the founding of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) as a partnership of ICOMOS with ICOM, ICA and IFLA (Libraries) to accomplish the following goals and activities defined as the founding principles and heads of agreement of the ICBS:

- To facilitate international responses to threats or emergencies threatening cultural property;
- To encourage safeguarding and respect for cultural property especially by promoting risk preparedness;
- To train experts at national and regional level to prevent, control and recover from disasters;
- To act in an advisory capacity for the protection of endangered heritage;
- To consult and co-operate with other bodies including UNESCO, ICCROM and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Considering the value of international conventions such as the *1954 Hague Convention on the protection of cultural properties in the event of armed conflict* that acknowledges the role of the ICBS as an advisory body;

Acknowledging the activities and engagement of several ICOMOS National Committees in this subject and as part of National Committees of the Blue Shield and the work of partner organisations such as Heritage without Borders;

Acknowledging the establishment of the International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP) by ICOMOS to promote such activity,

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October, 2005 resolves to:

- Formally endorse the Founding Principles of the International Committee of the Blue Shield as a partnership and coordinating mechanism;
- Invite all States to ratify the *1954 Hague Convention on the protection of cultural properties in the event of armed conflict* and its 1st and 2nd Protocols and implement them in co-operation with ICOMOS and its partners;
- Encourage the development and dissemination of guidelines on risk preparedness for monuments, sites and other types of heritage places, in particular through the participation of ICOMOS National and International Committees in ICORP.

23. ICOMOS Volunteers Programme

Proposed by ICOMOS Australia

Recognizing that the wise and effective use of the resources of ICOMOS includes not only finances but also the energy, commitment and expertise of our international membership; and,

Further recognizing that:

- Many National Committees need particular forms of assistance for example to facilitate the building of the capacity of new and newly revived National Committees; or in response to disasters, and their widespread and devastating human, environmental and cultural impacts; and
- That, in a spirit of international cooperation and professional friendship, there is a widespread enthusiasm for ICOMOS members to participate in heritage conservation activities in places beyond their own countries or regions; and

- That the process of strategic review of the International Scientific Committees has resulted in a clear indication from the International Scientific Committees expressing their readiness to bring their specialist expertise to the service of National Committee's world-wide, wherever it is needed; and

Noting that while volunteers cannot replace the valuable role of the paid employees of ICOMOS, a small number of volunteers and interns assist the functions of the Secretariat; and

Building on the detailed work and discussions about the formation of an ICOMOS International Volunteers Programme by the Executive Committee during the past triennium;

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October, 2005 resolves that:

- the ICOMOS International Volunteers Programme be implemented; and
- That the Executive Committee continues to actively develop and promote the application of this program.

C. DOCTRINE

24. Development of Committees and Projects in the Middle East

Proposed by the National Committees from Africa and the Middle-East and recommended by the Executive Committee

Noting the rich heritage of the Middle East Region, the 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October, 2005:

- urges the Executive Committee to locate professionals in all countries in the region in order to establish effective National Committees.
- further urges all National Committees to initiate and develop regional projects on heritage conservation.

25. African World Heritage Fund

Proposed by the National Committees from Africa and the Middle-East and recommended by the Executive Committee

Noting the discussion on the African Position Paper for Heritage that took place at the recent meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Durban, South Africa,

Welcoming the recent establishment of the African World Heritage Fund, in the belief that the Fund will do much to raise the standards of nominations and the conservation of World Heritage Sites in Africa,

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to:

- Call upon ICOMOS National Committees to urge their States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to support this initiative in whatever manner possible.

26. Heritage Beyond Borders

Proposed by the National Committees from Europe and recommended by the Executive Committee

Considering that the changes in the political frontiers of countries do not always take into account cultural areas, nor their architectural and artistic expressions, nor varying ways of organizing space, which are sometimes separated by these frontiers.

Considering that cultural heritage conservation is universal and must be the concern of all,

And finally, considering that cultural heritage conservation must first and foremost benefit from the advice of the best specialists.

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October, 2005 resolves that:

- With regards to cases of shared heritage, the scientific community of each country calls on the enlightened experience and involves the most competent experts, and in particular those of neighbouring countries who share this heritage.

27. Cultural Routes Draft Charter

Proposed by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Cultural Routes (CIIC) and recommended by the Executive Committee

Taking into account:

- The evolution of the concept of heritage which today includes territorial scale ensembles.

- That, among the new heritages categories that take into account the values related to the setting, Cultural Routes reveal the macrostructure of heritage on different levels and contribute to illustrate the contemporary conception of cultural heritage values as a resource for sustainable social and economic development.
- That the UNESCO World Heritage Committee recognized Cultural Routes as a heritage category through its inclusion in the *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention* approved in February 2005.
- That, considering the present situation, it becomes necessary and peremptory that ICOMOS defines and adopts theoretical, methodological and management principles for the identification and assessment of Cultural Routes.
- That the ICOMOS International Committee on Cultural Routes (CIIC) has worked intensively on clarifying terms and concepts; on defining operational guidelines for the identification, on a scientific basis, of Cultural Routes and on the development of a methodology of action for this specific field.
- That, as a result, the CIIC has elaborated a draft Charter on Cultural Routes, presented to the ICOMOS Bureau (Havana, June 2005) and Executive Committee (Xi'an, October 2005).

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October, 2005 resolves that:

- The draft Charter elaborated by the International Committee on Cultural Routes (CIIC) be widely disseminated among National and International Committees, so that it can be known and discussed prior to its adoption, as rapidly as possible, as an official theoretical and doctrinal text of ICOMOS.

28. Heritage and Public Interest Research

Proposed by Peter Goodchild (ICOMOS UK member)

Considering that :

- Amongst the members of ICOMOS it is commonly agreed that it is of vital importance that the general public should support the conservation of the cultural heritage. There is variable factual information about the levels of support that actually exist in the different countries around the world and what the implications of it are.
- In the UK, the government agency known as English Heritage commissioned a public opinion poll in the year 2000 which revealed extremely high levels of public support. They were higher than anyone had anticipated. In the year 2005, the Heritage Office of New South Wales in Australia has carried out a complementary study.
- Results such as these have important implications for the resourcing of conservation work.

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October, 2005 resolves to:

- Recognize the quantitative information on the levels of public interest and support for the conservation of the cultural heritage, with special reference to the subject areas covered by ICOMOS;
- Encourage the setting up of a project to collect data on this subject;
- Investigate the idea of developing consistent frameworks for the collection of data on the value of heritage

- Hold a symposium to review the collected information and its implications for the conservation of the cultural heritage ; and
- Publish the results.

29. Kyoto Declaration, 2005

Proposed by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP)

Recognizing the threats to the world's cultural heritage caused by natural and man-made disasters, and

Recognizing the initiatives taken by ICOMOS over the last decade and the partnerships which have developed with UNESCO and ICCROM as well as ICOM, ICA and IFLA (Libraries), and

Recognizing the inter-governmental initiatives such as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), and

Taking note of the principles contained within the *2005 Kyoto Declaration on Protection of Cultural Properties, Historic Areas and their Settings from Loss In Disasters* adopted at the Kyoto International Symposium "Towards the Protection of Cultural Properties and Historic Urban Areas from Disaster" held at the Kyoto Kaikan on 16 January, 2005, and

Taking note of the recommendations adopted by the UNESCO/ICCROM/Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan Thematic Session on Cultural Heritage Risk Management, held on 19 January 2005, as part of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, taking place from 18 to 22 January, in Kobe, Japan.

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to encourage its National and International Committees to:

- Study and comment on the Kyoto Declaration and Kobe Recommendations in their national and thematic context,
- Contact international and national authorities to promote these principles and the full integration of cultural heritage in emergency planning and disaster training.

30. Industrial Heritage

Proposed by the ICOMOS Secretary General

Considering the interest of ICOMOS for all forms of monuments, sites and ensembles related to human activities, including the industries of various historical periods, whose recognition and conservation are affected by specific factors,

Considering the collaboration between ICOMOS and TICCIH (The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage) whose General Assembly held in 2003 in Nizhny Tagil (Russia) adopted a statement on the conservation of such heritage which has been distributed for information to participants at the 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Considering the decision of the Executive Committee to identify the Heritage of Production as the theme for the 2006 International Day on Monuments and Sites (18 April),

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to :

- Support the suggestion of the Executive Committee on the theme of the 2006 International Day on Monuments and Sites and encourage all National and International Committees to organise activities to raise awareness for the industrial heritage and to help its conservation;

- Engage ICOMOS, in co-operation with TICCIH and taking into consideration its principles, in a specific reflection relative to the conservation of the industrial heritage in order to propose guidelines to the 16th General Assembly in 2008.

31. Recognition of the UN Headquarters Building as a part of the World's Heritage

Proposed by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage and US ICOMOS

Considering the interest of ICOMOS for the cultural heritage of the 20th Century in its full diversity, expressed in particular through the constitution of an International Scientific Committee to establish a permanent forum for cooperation on the subject;

Considering the great success of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972), signed by close to 180 countries, to whose implementation ICOMOS greatly contributes as an advisory body;

Following up on discussions held at the ICOMOS meeting organised in Queretaro (Mexico) in 2003 to reflect on the representativity of the World Heritage List in the Americas, which exposed the very high significance of the United Nations Headquarters building in New York City, as a place of great importance in the World's recent history as well as an architectural and artistic ensemble of interest;

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to:

- Draw the attention of the Secretariat of the United Nations Organisation, on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the UN, to the heritage value of its headquarters building and the need to grant all necessary attention to its adequate conservation and management;
- Invite the United Nations Organisations to award a special recognition to its Headquarters building as part of the World's heritage taking into consideration its particular legal status;
- Offer the assistance and cooperation of ICOMOS in doing so.

32. Religious Heritage

Proposed by the ICOMOS National Committees of Canada, Chile, Colombia, Benin, Israel, Mexico, Netherlands and Sweden

Considering the diversity of tangible and intangible cultural properties of the religious heritage – buildings, artwork and other objects, archives, sacred landscapes, traditions – and their strong presence in national heritage inventories as well as on the World Heritage List,

Considering the major challenges this cultural heritage is facing for its protection and conservation in terms of its physical needs for conservation and restoration, the evolution of society and the conflicts or tensions that it often falls victim to,

Considering the many initiatives of ICOMOS National Committees, the reflections carried out by organisations like ICCROM or the Council of Europe, and the current cooperation agreements between ICOMOS and other international organisations or even the Holy See, bearing directly or potentially on the theme of religious heritage,

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to:

- Call for the establishment of an international thematic programme within ICOMOS on the issue of religious heritage properties and the exploration of possible partnerships with UNESCO and other organisations to that effect;
- Encourage the National and International Committees of ICOMOS to document the issue so as to be able to contribute to the actions ICOMOS would develop in the field.

33. Heritage in the environmental impact assessment process

Proposed by: Arlene Fleming (member, US ICOMOS), Sheridan Burke (member, ICOMOS Australia), Dinu Bumbaru (member, ICOMOS Canada)

Protection of the cultural heritage requires that cultural heritage professionals and organizations be involved in assessing and planning infrastructure development projects, beginning at the early stages. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process used in project preparation should include a cultural heritage component.

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves that:

- ICOMOS, through its International Scientific and National Committees, should encourage involvement of cultural heritage professionals in the development process, with particular attention to the early involvement in heritage impact assessment.

34. Training of young African heritage practitioners

Proposed by the National Committees from Africa and the Middle-East

Recognising the need for building skill and capacity in the heritage management sector in Africa, and the successful existing training efforts of a number of institutions that are directed only towards heritage professionals from government institutions,

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October, 2005 resolves to:

- support an initiative by African sub-regions to initiate pilot projects that aim to provide training for young African heritage practitioners who operate outside of government institutions through the offices of all the International Scientific Committees, but especially the International Training Committee (CIF).

35. Climate Change

Proposed by the ICOMOS Secretary General

Considering the permanent concern of ICOMOS for the fate of monuments, sites and other types of heritage places in the event of natural disasters, particularly those of atmospheric origin such as hurricanes, ice storms, droughts and their resulting floods, landslides or forest fires, with devastating impacts on communities and their cultural heritage as demonstrated recently by hurricanes Katrina and Stan, and floods in Eastern Europe,

Considering the useful references provided by the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO and by ICOMOS Charters and Guidelines, including the Florence Charter (1981) in relation to the protection of historic gardens and landscapes that are gravely affected by such events and, as they are composed of living material, by the general evolution of climatic conditions that affect their physical setting,

Considering the scientifically proven relation between the increased intensity of such events and human activities influencing the climate and the growing attention paid to this issue by the international community and by institutions such as the United Nations and its Agencies such as UNESCO which have called for an international conference to be held in Montreal (Canada) in December 2005;

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to :

- Communicate to the organisers of and participants at the Montreal Conference on Climate Change, the strong concern of ICOMOS with regards to the impact of climate change on tangible and intangible cultural heritage in its full diversity of types, cultural and historical origins

and the need to ensure it is specifically included in the items discussed at the Conference, in its conclusions and the actions that follow it;

- Express its will to fully cooperate through its National and International Committees (including ICORP) with UNESCO and other relevant organisations to document the impact of climate change on cultural heritage and develop preventive measures.

36. Framework Convention on the value of Cultural Heritage for Society

Proposed by: ICOMOS Sweden, Belgium and France

Welcoming the adoption of the *Framework Convention on the value of Cultural Heritage for Society* by the Council of Europe on the 13th October 2005,

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October 2005 resolves to:

- Encourage the consideration of the text by ICOMOS members

37. The Seoul Declaration on Tourism in Asia's Historic Towns and Areas

Proposed by ICOMOS Korea

Meeting in Seoul, Korea, from 30 May to 1 June 2005, to take part in the 2005 ICOMOS Regional Conference in Seoul: *Managing Tourism in Historic Towns and Areas in Asia*, and reflecting upon the Hoi An Declaration of 2003 on the Conservation of Historic Districts in Asia, the meeting resolved to call for the Seoul declaration to be presented to the ICOMOS General Assembly in Xi'an, China, in October 2005, so that its recommendations can be shared with the wider network of ICOMOS committees and partners, and that it can help encourage cooperation between National and International Committees on this universal subject of tourism and historic towns and areas.

The Seoul Regional ICOMOS Conference called for the wide dissemination and discussion of the Seoul Declaration so that the issues, strategies and approaches it expresses can contribute to the improvement of the management of tourism in towns and areas of Asia and to the development of an ongoing dialogue between conservation and tourism interests.

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October, 2005 resolves to:

- Recommend that National and International Committees of ICOMOS follow up on the dissemination and impact of the Seoul Declaration.