ICOMOS thanks those who in 2008 have provided valuable assistance: our members, volunteers, partners and donors. Among them, UNESCO and the French authorities, which actively support the activities of the organisation since 1965 and the Getty Foundation that awards a generous grant to ICOMOS for participants from developing countries and Central and Eastern Europe to attend the General Assemblies. ICOMOS is especially grateful this year to volunteers, governmental agencies, institutions and private donors in Canada that provided funding and support for the 16th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium.
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RESOLUTIONS OF THE 15TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
17 – 21 October 2005, Xi’an, China

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 Bachner (Austria), Mr. Rafael Rojas Hurtado de Mendoza (Cuba), Mr. Elliott Caroll (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 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 Jesuitico 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 Jesuitico de Cordoba, Argentina. This site was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in December 2000. In particular the Conjunto de la Manzana Jesuitica 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 Jesuitica,

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.

*Xi’an, China, 21 October 2005*
Preamble

This 4th version of the Triennial Action Plan flows from discussions at the January 2006 meeting of the Executive Committee in Paris, electronic consultations and discussions at the June 2006 meeting of the expanded Bureau in Rome. Its purpose is to integrate the various actions we expect to address for ICOMOS, whether they come from GA resolutions, recommendations from the ICOMOS instances, initiatives or circumstances. It is a guiding document rather than a fixed one, considering that not all can be planned even in the context of ICOMOS. The document is arranged around 4 main strategic axes and will be complemented by specific objectives, resources and deadlines on a limited number of priorities which the Executive Committee will set in its duty for fulfilling the mission of ICOMOS as an NGO and professional volunteer network built on a spirit of initiative, foresightedness and timeliness.

1. Improve the conservation and protection of cultural heritage world-wide
   a. Pursue the development and communication of ICOMOS doctrinal texts and guiding principles
      
      Action following:
      i. Assess the current set of doctrinal texts and guiding principles
         • Overlaps
         • Conceptual and definitions discrepancies
         • Gaps
      
      ii. Develop new texts according to identified needs or resolutions
          • Cultural Routes (GA Resolution 29)
          • Intangible heritage
          • Industrial Heritage (GA Resolution 32)
          • Religious Heritage (GA Resolution 34)
          • Interpretation and presentation of heritage sites
      
      iii. Implement specific communication programmes for existing and future texts
           • Website
           • Publications and leaflets
           • Distribution lists

   b. Reinforce ICOMOS World Heritage programme and implement GAP Report Action Plan
      
      Action following:
      i. Review existing ICOMOS procedures for improvement
         • Involvement of ICOMOS members and Committees
         • Evaluation and monitoring missions’ procedures, ethics
         • Participation at World Heritage Committee
         • Relations with World Heritage Centre, other Advisory Bodies
      
      ii. Document the action of ICOMOS on World Heritage
          • Participation of ICOMOS members in WH related activities
          • Participation of ICOMOS representatives in WH-related activities
          • Initiatives of National and International Committees in relation to sites or issues
      
      iii. Develop programmes in support of ICOMOS World Heritage action
           • Training / information of members and committees on procedures, missions
• Thematic and comparative studies
• Fundamental reflections on Outstanding Universal Values and Article 5

c. **Set up an ICOMOS International Observatory on conservation and protection of cultural heritage**

*Action following:*

i. Define the concept of an ICOMOS Observatory (ICOMOS)
   • Mission and general organisation
   • Relation to WH activities (preventive monitoring, state of conservation)
   • Accreditation and reporting procedures for observers, ethics
   • Allocation of resources
   • Partnerships

ii. Develop the implementation through pilot projects
   • National and regional pilot projects
   • Pilot projects
   • Review and report

d. **Promote the involvement of the ICOMOS committees in the development and delivery of training activities**

*Action following:*

i. Encourage ICOMOS Committees to contribute to existing training activities
   • ICOMOS constitution and activities
   • Charters and other guiding documents of ICOMOS

ii. Establish an ICOMOS accreditation to training activities
   • Training guidelines and standards
   • Partnership with institutional and professional networks

iii. Develop training activities for members on specific ICOMOS needs
   • World Heritage work (evaluation, monitoring, thematic studies...)
   • ICOMOS Observatory Thematic pilot projects

e. **Convene ICOMOS meetings on priority subjects**

*Action following:*

i. Encourage Committees to develop and engage in activities
   • National Committees (GA Resolution 22) and Dubrovnik Guidelines
   • International Committees and Eger-Xí’an Principles (GA Resolutions 15, 16)
   • ICOMOS calendar of ICOMOS Committees’ activities

ii. Organise scientific symposia in relation to statutory meetings
   • Scientific Council activities at Advisory Committee meetings (GA Resolution 16)
   • Role of Scientific Council in developing symposium of 16th GA (Spirit of place)
   • Identification of theme for 17th GA in 2011

iii. Hold activities to put heritage on the public agenda (GA resolutions 30, 37, 38)
   • International Monuments Day (GA Resolution 32)
   • Regional and national priorities
   • International conventions, charters and other texts

iv. Develop a programme of ICOMOS international meetings on key topics e.g. regional meetings on trans-national conservation issues (GA Resolution 26)
   • Archaeological Sites and their Settings (Xi’an, 10.2006)
   • Heritage & Climate Change (Macao, 10.2006) GA Resolution 35
   • Heritage & natural disasters (Leipzig, 10.2006) GA Resolutions 1-4, 24, 31
   • Heritage and Metropolis (Hong Kong, 2007)

v. Develop and realise a programme of ICOMOS publications (GA Resolution 23)
2. Strengthen and develop the organisation of ICOMOS

   a. Reinforce the general organisation of ICOMOS

      Action following:
      i. Clarify and optimize the roles and responsibilities of the statutory instances
         • Members
         • National Committees
         • International Committees
         • Advisory Committee
         • Executive Committee and Bureau
         • Officers
         • General Assembly
      ii. Clarify the roles and procedures of the International ICOMOS Secretariat
          • Administrative centre and keeper of ICOMOS’ records
          • Service to members, committees and elected representatives
          • Dedicated units (World Heritage, Documentation Centre)
          • Permanent liaison with UNESCO, French Authorities and partners
          • Centre for internal and external communications including with the media
          • Support in the definition and implementation of decisions and global strategies
          • Support for organisation of statutory meetings and for specific initiatives
          • Task descriptions, individual goals and performance review
      iii. Assess the needs for modification of statutory documents (GA Resolution 13)
           • Rules of procedures (General Assembly, Advisory Committee)
           • Statutes
      iv. Reinforce the visible and consistent presence of ICOMOS
           • Official graphic standards and tools for ICOMOS International
           • Proactive media strategy
           • Representatives’ kit
           • Participation of ICOMOS representatives in meetings and conferences

   b. Provide ICOMOS with adequate and sustained human, financial and physical resources to accomplish its mission

      Action following:
      i. Define and implement an overall financial strategy
         • Budget planning and monitoring review
         • Reporting to the Officers, Executive Committee, Advisory Committee, members
         • Fund-raising Strategy and tools
         • ICOMOS Foundation
      ii. Provide adequate resources for the Secretariat to carry out its mission
          • Staff
          • Budgets and cash flow
          • Facilities and equipment

   c. Expand and engage the ICOMOS membership

      Action following:
      i. Survey current membership
ii. Develop and implement a campaign strategy for new members through
- active existing National Committees
- reviving dormant National Committees
- creating new National Committees
- national, regional or international professional networks or events

iii. Improve and promote services and benefits
- Cards
- Newsletters

iv. Produce and distribute a Members Kit
- Members handbook
- Welcome kit for new members
- Ethical Commitment Statement

v. Encourage young professionals to join ICOMOS
- Presentation of ICOMOS to training programmes
- Students and interns exchange
- Young Professionals Programme (GA Resolution 17, 34)
- Volunteers Programme (GA Resolution 25)
- ICOMOS Young Professional Forum

3. Reinforce our network of strategic partnerships

   a. Reinforce our working relationship with UNESCO

      Action following:
      i. Identify ICOMOS’ contribution to support implementation of UNESCO texts
         - Convention on the Protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflicts (1954) and Its Protocols (GA Resolution 24)
         - UNESCO recommendations
         - Vienna Memorandum on Historic Urban Landscape (2005)
      
      ii. Reinforce contacts with the UNESCO Secretariat and Permanent Delegations
         - Regular information on ICOMOS activities and their conclusions
         - Working meetings (Director General, DDG for Culture, World Heritage Centre)
         - Regular information meetings with National Delegations

      iii. Enhance the current long-standing cooperation items into work programmes
         - Documentation Centre
         - World Heritage activities

   b. Develop our relations with inter-governmenal organisations relevant to ICOMOS’ mission

      Action following:
      i. Enhance our cooperation with ICCROM
         - Joint work programme (training, Africa, risks, World Heritage, intangible)
         - Publications
         - Promotion of ICOMOS network and membership to trainees
         - Development of the Young Professional Forum
         - Regular liaison and attendance to statutory meetings
ii. Explore new collaborative relationship with Inter-governmental organisations
   • UN World Tourism Organisation
   • UN Habitat
   • Regional organisations (European institutions, Asia-Pacific, African Union)

c. Develop our relations with non-governmental organisations relevant to ICOMOS’ mission

   Action following :
   i. Strengthen our working relations with ICOM
      • Regular liaison at and between statutory meetings
      • Relation with UNESCO
      • Maison internationale du patrimoine project
      • Joint activities and meetings programmes
      • Collaboration at the National and International committees levels
      • Common regional interests in Africa and the Pacific
   ii. Develop other specific working relationships and collaborations
      • Policy on relation with other NGOs
      • Liaison and coordination mechanisms
      • International Committee of the Blue Shield (GA Resolution 24)
      • Joint work programme with TICCIH (GA Resolution 32), DoCoMoMo
      • Relation with World Heritage Cities Organisation (OVPM) and other city networks
      • Relation with Union internationale des architectes and other professional networks
      • Relation with regional non-governmental organisations (e.g. Europa Nostra, APT)
      • Relation with financial partners (e.g. Getty Institutions, World Monuments Fund)

4. Plan for the future of ICOMOS

   a. Hold an ICOMOS Strategic Retreat on the future plan for the organisation

      Action following :
      i. Develop this into a special project for the organisation
         • Issue: future relevance of ICOMOS in the changing context of conservation
         • Issue: balancing universal / pluralistic approaches in theory and practice
         • Outcome: a vision of ICOMOS’ future role and strategic actions required
         • Proposal: format; programme; participants; research; budget
         • Possible application to Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Programme or others
      ii. Ensure the endorsement and implementation of the conclusions
         • Report and information to all ICOMOS members, and Committees and GA
         • Implementation strategy and means
         • Monitoring mechanisms to ensure and guide the implementation

   b. Establish an ICOMOS Scientific Programme based on identified current and future needs of cultural heritage and the conservation community

      Action following :
      i. Identify current or anticipated trends and needs for the cultural heritage
         • Survey of members, elders, committees, partner organisations on issues, trends
         • Impacts of current policies and programmes on conservation at various levels
         • Futures needs in knowledge, tools, expertise and skills
      ii. Produce an ICOMOS Scientific Development Plan (GA Resolution 16)
         • Evaluation of ICOMOS’ current scientific coverage of conservation needs
c. Plan the ICOMOS 16th and 17th General Assemblies and other statutory meetings according to such needs and strategies

Action following:

1. Ensure the success of the 16th GA at the institutional and scientific levels
   - Close liaison with National Committee and organising Committee
   - Participation in the constitution of the Scientific Committee
   - Collaboration with partner organisations at the international level
   - Preparation of draft resolutions in advance

2. Select the host for the 17th GA (2011) according to criteria and strategic plan
   - Location of previous GAs
   - Host committee’s capacity and support
   - Possible impact on the development of ICOMOS’ mission, network and presence
   - Relevance of the proposed themes and programmes

3. Prepare draft workplan for 2008-2011 to be tabled at 16th GA in 2008
   - ICOMOS’ organisation and committees
   - Membership development
   - Young professionals initiative
   - Scientific Development Programme
   - Resource development strategies
The purpose of ICOMOS’ involvement with the World Heritage Convention is provision of the highest available degree of professional expertise in the evaluation of World Heritage nominations and other aspects of implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The purpose of this document is hence to ensure that the credibility of ICOMOS in performing these functions is above question and to this end it brings together a variety of practices and decisions that have been previously adopted.

Further to the above, ICOMOS understands that in dealing with this area, situations that have potential to create perceptions of conflict of interest are as damaging to the credibility of its work as those in which an actual conflict may exist. This policy is hence designed to avoid both situations where misperceptions may arise and those that raise real questions concerning the validity of its professional opinions.

Experts in the ICOMOS World Heritage system include all persons involved in the process of evaluation of nominations, state of conservation reports and other missions and programmes, including amongst others experts consulted by ICOMOS, its World Heritage Panel (ie: the Panel appointed by the Executive Committee of ICOMOS to evaluate the work of the organisation in the area of World Heritage), experts presenting nominations and the state of conservation reports to the Panel and World Heritage Committee, those conducting evaluation missions and other officers of the organisation.

In order to avoid possible conflicts of interest the following apply:

1. ICOMOS bases its evaluations and other opinions on research and peer review.

2. Whilst as a standard practice ICOMOS consults the national committees concerned with a property that is being evaluated, in all other steps of the process it draws only on experts from countries other than the State Parties concerned.

3. ICOMOS does not use in its involvement with a property, experts who have contributed to the nomination file, the development of a management regime or any other study, or state of conservation report submitted by a State Party, regardless of the nationality of the experts concerned.

4. All experts involved in ICOMOS’ World Heritage work are required to disclose to ICOMOS any advice given or other work (scientific, professional, contractual or voluntary) done on advancing the nomination of the property in question or such activities in the country concerned, including the particular circumstances of the service provided (eg: guest expert).

5. ICOMOS does not utilise in field evaluations experts who are currently serving as representatives of their countries on the World Heritage Committee.

6. Experts are all made aware of the ICOMOS Ethical Commitment Statement and are required to abide by its principles.

7. In order to ensure equitable handling of all nominations and state of conservation reports, ICOMOS does not entrust external missions to any of those whom it employs in its Secretariat or in any other capacity to process World Heritage nominations, nor does it involve those serving on its World Heritage Panel or its International Executive Committee.

8. During discussion of a report or situation that concerns their own country, members of the World Heritage Panel must absent themselves from discussion and decision making processes.
9. The recommendations to the World Heritage Committee adopted by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel, or a working group mandated to evaluate additional information, are final and may not be changed or amended in any way other than by the Panel itself.

10. When new information concerning a nomination is submitted by a State Party before 31 March, a revised evaluation will be submitted to the World Heritage Panel, or a working group convened for this purpose, in order that the recommendation to the World Heritage Committee may, if appropriate, be amended. New information received after 31 March will only be examined for submission to the following year’s session of the World Heritage Committee.

11. The recommendations and opinions of ICOMOS experts and the World Heritage Panel are confidential and individuals may not in their independent capacity engage the media, representatives of the State Party or any other individual or organisation that may or may not have an interest in the property concerned. Furthermore, officials of ICOMOS and members of its World Heritage Panel may not disclose the discussions that have taken place in the panel to any person or organisation that was not present in those discussions.

12. In the event that a member of the World Heritage Panel or an expert used in ICOMOS World Heritage processes fails to implement any aspect of this policy, sanction/s shall be applied. These shall be determined by the Executive Committee of ICOMOS, or any sub-committee thereof to which such authority is delegated and shall be relative to the severity of the breach. However, in cases where it is believed to have compromised the credibility of ICOMOS as an objective and unbiased adviser to the World Heritage Committee and UNESCO, the individual concerned shall automatically be debarred from further participation in ICOMOS work associated with World Heritage matters and other areas of its work where it is important that the organisation project an image of impartiality.

13. In the event that there is evidence that an employee of the organisation has breached this policy, disciplinary action in accordance with prescribed processes shall be implemented.

14. Every person employed or otherwise paid by ICOMOS in its Secretariat, or other capacity to process World Heritage nominations, and all participants in the World Heritage Panel shall sign a copy of this statement and submit it to the Secretariat before taking up such duties.

15. A copy of this policy must be provided to every other individual formally involved with ICOMOS World Heritage work all of whom must indicate in advance that they understand and will abide by its terms.

I (full names) …………………………………………………………………………… declare that I have read, understand and will abide by the above in all aspects of my involvement with the work of ICOMOS concerning World Heritage matters, and understand that my failure to do so may result in my removal from such areas of responsibility.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:
I. OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL [SCIENTIFIC] COMMITTEES & THEIR ROLE WITHIN ICOMOS

1. The International [Scientific] Committees (ISCs) are the vehicles through which ICOMOS brings together, develops and serves its worldwide membership according to fields of specialized interest. ICOMOS expects the ISCs to be at the heart of scientific inquiry and exchange in their domains and to share knowledge among them to foster a multi-disciplinary approach to heritage protection and management, in fulfillment of the goals of ICOMOS as stated in Article 5.b. of its statutes: “Gather, study and disseminate information concerning principles, techniques and policies” related to heritage protection. ICOMOS will support its ISCs to actively pursue programmes that advance the field by defining research needs, stimulating and supporting research activity, increasing exchange and dissemination in order to promote greater understanding in the heritage field and guaranteeing the generational renewal of all heritage professions within and outside of ICOMOS.

2. ICOMOS will support its ISCs to be accessible to all qualified individuals and groups with a capacity to contribute, be democratic in their operations, and be concerned with increasing the impact of their programmes on standards of care in the field. ICOMOS also expects the ISCs to be a venue for mentoring members in their early careers who seek to advance their knowledge and develop their professional expertise.

3. The Scientific Council may establish categories for the grouping of scientific committees according to their needs.

4. These principles are meant to guide the individual activities of all the ISCs, as well as the cooperative work among them, and with affinity organizations and external interested parties. One primary responsibility of each ISC is to ensure the sharing and dissemination of knowledge and information among its members and with all ICOMOS bodies. The tools of the ISCs should respond creatively and practically to the needs in the field. These include, but are not limited to doctrinal development; publications, periodicals and newsletters (both real and virtual); videos; public advocacy; training; conferences and workshops; discussion fora; professional exchanges; technical assistance / cooperation; etc.

5. The resources of ISCs should be shared among the committees as possible and appropriate.

6. The ISCs are established and operate according to the Statutes of ICOMOS. Consequently, their organisation, structure and proceedings may be required to evolve if and when such Statutes are amended. The ISCs are set up and dissolved by the Executive Committee under Article 14 for purposes or reasons that relate to the goals of ICOMOS.

II. GOVERNANCE AND OPERATING FRAMEWORK

A. The Scientific Council

1. The Council will consist of the President of each ISC or his/her designated deputy, with the allowance that the specific statutes of an ISC may ordain a different selection process for its representative to the Scientific Council. A designated deputy will be eligible for election as an officer or representative to the Executive Committee. Each Scientific Council member is entitled to one vote on matters before the Scientific Council.

2. The Council shall elect three officers from among its membership to oversee the activities of the
Council. These officers shall be from different ISCs and shall be elected to three-year terms to coincide with the election of the Advisory Committee President. The officers shall distribute the duties and responsibilities among themselves as they determine to best meet the needs of the Scientific Council. The officers may co-opt other ISC members to assist them in their work.

3. The officers shall represent the interests of the ISCs in the Executive Committee of ICOMOS. Representatives shall serve as active liaisons between the Council and Executive Committee and shall communicate regularly with the members of each of the two bodies. Representatives should take a lead in raising international awareness of the capabilities of the ISCs as well as in developing strategies to support ISC activities.

4. The duties of the Scientific Council are:

a) Serve as the coordinating body of the ISCs.

b) Meet at least once a year in conjunction with, and also separate from, the annual meeting of the Advisory Committee of ICOMOS.

c) Prepare a summary annual report on ISC activities and progress made on the Scientific Plan.

d) Advise the Executive Committee on best practices and performances, as well as best use of the ISC resources, as they relate to the advisory and contractual duties of ICOMOS to UNESCO, the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and any other international, regional or national heritage organization.

e) Develop and oversee the implementation of a 3-year Scientific Plan with a corresponding budget, and present it to the General Assembly for its adoption as part of the ICOMOS Work Programme required in Article 9 of the Statutes. The Scientific Plan shall be drafted in broad consultation with the ISC membership; it shall be multi-disciplinary in nature and will define areas and methods of inter-ISC cooperation. The Plan / Programme shall include clear objectives, a work plan, and a strategy for its completion; the budget will include the identification of existing and potential revenue sources.

f) Identify gaps among the ISC fields of specialization, and make appropriate recommendations to fill them.

g) Look for ways to render more effective and available to all of ICOMOS the expertise of the ISC members and the overall work of the ISCs, especially in the conceptualization and organization of the triennial Symposium of ICOMOS.

h) Adopt a process for the triennial performance evaluation of each ISC; carry out such evaluation; and convey its results and pertinent recommendations to the Executive Committee of ICOMOS as part of its annual report.

i) Receive, evaluate and formulate appropriate responses to requests for technical assistance from the Executive, Advisory, and National Committees of ICOMOS.

j) Receive and evaluate proposals for the formation of new ISCs and make recommendations concerning their approval to the Executive Committee of ICOMOS.

k) Formulate its own recommendation, or evaluate recommendations from others, regarding the dissolution of existing ISCs.

l) Investigate issues or complaints regarding the activities, governance, policies or performance of an ISC, and take the appropriate action to solve them, or refer them to the Executive Committee of ICOMOS.

m) Work closely with the ICOMOS Secretary General, President, Treasurer -General, and Vice President responsible for ISCs to coordinate the work of the ISCs with the ICOMOS Secretariat, and to disseminate it to the heritage community and the general public.
B. The Scientific Committees

1. While desiring to accord the ISCs the maximum of independence and flexibility in support of their objectives, the Committees are expected to work within the framework established by statutes, rules of procedure and budgets of ICOMOS, as well as by these Principles.

2. The ISCs shall adopt goals and objectives that reflect the needs expressed by their members; and be supported by appropriate statutes, budgets, rules of procedure and programmes. Scientific committees are encouraged to meet as frequently as convenient to advance their scientific work, but shall meet at least once every three years. The organizing committee for each General Assembly, beginning with 2008, shall set aside at least one half-day for meetings of the ISCs.

3. In addition, each ISC is encouraged to integrate into its triennial work programme training initiatives that address:
   a) The enhancement and actualization of the professional competence of its experts, especially those related to World Heritage issues, and
   b) The needs of new and junior members and young professionals in developing their specialization and competence in the specific field.

4. As a general rule, the work of the ISCs relies on the volunteer work of its members. If funds are available or required to dispense honoraria to ISC members, the ISC shall present to the Scientific Council for its approval, a plan for the team selection and payment of honoraria to its members, to ensure that all work meets ICOMOS requirements for ethics and transparency.

5. Each ISC shall be free to establish its officer structure and governing mechanisms. The Bureau will be composed of at least a president, a vice-president and a secretary-general from three separate countries. All members of the bureau must be expert members. ISCs managing a monetary budget are encouraged to have a Treasurer. The Committee shall ensure the Bureau has representation from different countries and provides key regional representation.
   a) The Executive Committee of ICOMOS will appoint the first set of officers of an ISC. The members of the ISC will elect subsequent officers according to the committee's own statutes.
   b) Officers will be elected to a period of three years, and may serve a maximum of three such consecutive terms in each office, but in no case shall any one serve more than fifteen consecutive years.
   c) In accordance with Article 12 of the ICOMOS statutes, the President of each ISC will be an ex-officio member of the Advisory Committee of ICOMOS. The President may designate a Deputy to assume all pertinent responsibilities before the Advisory Committee.

6. ISC Bureaus shall be responsible for the overall financial and programmatic management of the work of the committees; and for establishing the appropriate sub-committees, task forces and/or working groups to ensure its proper functioning.

7. Elections for officers shall be verifiable. Each Committee shall establish a fair and transparent voting system according to its needs and circumstances (including postal or electronic). Regardless, of the mode, the results of all elections must be verifiable without sacrificing the integrity of the individual vote. It is recommended that a neutral party receives votes and provides results.

8. Each ISC shall prepare and submit to the Scientific Council an annual report. The contents of the annual report shall be specified by the Coordinators of the Scientific Council in consultation with the Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee. The Coordinators shall, whenever possible, seek to consolidate the annual report with other submissions required or requested by the Executive Committee to avoid duplicate submissions.

9. The establishment of an ISC Secretariat is strongly recommended for the proper functioning of the ISC. If no Permanent Secretariat exists, its duties should be specifically delegated to the ISC officers. The duties of the Secretariat shall include but not be limited to:
   a) Maintaining the archival record and institutional memory (in paper or electronic format) of
the ISC. Changes of location in the Secretariat should include the transfer of the ISC archives.

b) Serving the Bureau of the ISC.
c) Ensuring the dissemination of information to all members of the ISC
d) Be directly in charge of, or make provisions for, the development, maintenance and expansion of the ISC Website, and if pertinent, a listserv.

10. Each ISC is to have its own website with reference to the ICOMOS website.

III. FORMATION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

A. Proposal

1. National Committees, specialized institutions or groups of at least 10 (ten) like-minded ICOMOS members, preferably representing different world regions, sharing a particular expertise, and wishing to form or sponsor a new ISC, shall submit a proposal to the Scientific Council, who in turn will present it to the Executive Committee along with its recommendations. The proposal will include:

   a) Mission statement or a statement of need for the new committee, including its potential for cooperation with other ISCs.

   b) Manner in which the proposed committee will contribute to the progress of the current ICOMOS Scientific Plan / Programme.

   c) Long-term aims/goals and associated programmes of activities.

   d) Proposed Committee statutes.

   e) Proposed roster of members, ensuring broad representation.

   f) Annotated roster of affinity organizations or groups working in the field of interest, identifying proposed institutional partners, if any.

   g) Roster of proposed officers, along with professional credentials / curriculum vitae for each.

   h) Location of proposed Committee secretariat, including a letter of commitment to that effect.

   i) Proposed budget and details of financial and administrative support secured or to be secured.

B. Incubation Period

1. Once the Executive Committee approves the formation of a new ISC, it shall be constituted for an incubation period of three years as a probationary task force.

2. During the incubation period, the group shall work as a fully functional ISC, and shall be required to meet all the programmatic, administrative and reporting duties of ISCs.

3. At the end of the three year incubation period, the Scientific Council shall evaluate the probationary task force and make appropriate recommendations to the Executive Committee for:

   a) Its constitution as a permanent ISC;

   b) An extension of its probationary status;

   c) Its dissolution.
4. The Task Force may appeal any decision of the Scientific Council before the Executive Committee.

**C. Hybrid ISCs, or Committees shared with and responding simultaneously to ICOMOS and other affinity organizations**

1. Under certain conditions, an ISC may be established in cooperation with one or more affinity organization in order to serve both. In such cases, the statutes may be adapted to suit the needs of ICOMOS and the other organization(s) involved. Nonetheless, the spirit of these principles shall be respected. The Scientific Council will evaluate all such proposals for Hybrid ISCs and make its recommendations known to the Executive Committee of ICOMOS.

**IV. MEMBERS**

**A. General principles**

1. The various membership categories in the ISCs shall be open to all members of ICOMOS, within the provisions stated below. It is the intention of ICOMOS that its ISCs continually gather a membership that will include the most recognized experts in its field of specialization, be representative of all of the world regions or pertinent regions, and recruit young or beginning professionals seeking such specialization; and that all be given ample opportunities and stimulus to become actively engaged in the work of the Committee. A structure of membership is recommended, as follows.

2. All members of the ISCs shall be familiar with the Statement of Ethical Commitment first adopted by ICOMOS in Madrid in 2002, and abide by it at all times. Failure to behave accordingly may result in dismissal.

3. All ISCs are to adopt criteria for minimum participation for all members, as well as grounds to exclude inactive members.

4. The categories of members for the ISCs will consist of the following, each with specific rights and responsibilities.

**B. Expert Members**

1. There are no numerical limits to the number of Expert Members in an ISC. Any member of ICOMOS with proven or established expertise in the relevant field may be an Expert Member of the Committee. It is up to each ISC to adopt minimum criteria and a transparent and well-understood methodology to assess and verify the individual competence and expertise of applicants as well as to terminate the membership of a given Expert Member. All Expert Members must be ICOMOS members and may remain members so long as they are ICOMOS members and meet the ISC criteria for participation.

2. Experts Members may be nominated by their National Committee, be self-nominated, or directly invited by the ISC. Nominations may be accepted at any time.

3. Expert Members shall have the right to participate in any aspect of the work of the committee.

4. Voting at elections of the ISC bureaux as well as on amending the ISC’s statutes will be done by Expert Members designated by the National Committee, restricted to one per state. In the event that the ISC considers the designated member to be unsatisfactory, it can appeal before the SC which will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee re that designation. All other issues and decisions shall be voted on by all Expert Members, without limitation.

**C. Associate Members**

1. Members of ICOMOS who wish to gain knowledge and build up an expertise in a given field through active volunteer work may apply to be an Associate Member of an ISC.

2. The ISC will select Associate Members from among the applicants. The ISCs will strive to
incorporate Associate Members in their work.

3. Associate Members are conditionally accepted for a period of three years, after which time their contribution to the Committee will be evaluated using a transparent and well-understood methodology to assess their contributions to the Committee. The Associate Membership shall be:
   a) Extended for another similar period of time, with a maximum of three such triennial extensions, or
   b) Upgraded to Expert Member, or
   c) Rejected on the basis of no participation or unsatisfactory performance.

4. When appropriate, an ISC may ask a National Committee to designate one or more Associate Members to help build up the particular expertise in countries where such a need exists.

5. Associate Members are accorded no voting rights.

D. Non-ICOMOS Members

Non-ICOMOS Members who can make an important contribution to the ISC may be invited to participate in committee meetings and activities and will be encouraged to apply for ICOMOS membership. Non-ICOMOS Members are accorded no voting rights. No person should be a voting member unless he/she is in good standing of ICOMOS (or the other organization where there is a joint committee e.g. ICOMOS/IFLA).

E. Institutional Members. When in the interest of ICOMOS and of an ISC, and at the ISC’s discretion, the optional category of Institutional Membership may be established as follows:

1. Institutional Members shall be institutions, academic programs, government agencies, or any other juridical entity whose work and mission are closely aligned to those of the ISC.

2. Acceptance of an Institutional Member shall be through ballots from Expert Members.

3. Institutional Memberships will be valid for one triennium, and may be renewed indefinitely for additional three-year periods.

4. An Institutional Member may designate from its staff one person with the required qualifications to be its representative and spokesperson in the Committee. The Committee may accept that individual as an Expert Member.

5. Institutional Members are accorded no voting rights. However, if the Institutional Member has a representative accepted as an Expert Member of the Committee, that Expert Member shall have the same voting rights as any other Expert Member.

F. Honorary Members. Honorary Members may be proposed for election by Expert Members of the Committee. Honorary Members may participate in all activities of the Committee. Honorary Members area accorded no voting rights. Honorary Members may use the title of: “Honorary Member, ICOMOS ***** Committee.”

V. INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

1. When it is in it own interest, one or more ISC may enter into temporary or permanent, bilateral or multilateral partnerships with any institution or agency whose work, mission and/or resources may help advance the goals of the ICOMOS Scientific Plan / Programme or the work of the ISC.

2. Institutional Partnerships shall in no way curb or limit the independence of action and thought of ICOMOS and of its ISCs

3. Institutional Partnerships with a single ISC shall require the approval of the majority of the Committee’s Expert Members.

4. Approval from the Scientific Council shall be required for any simultaneous partnership by one or
more institutions with multiple ISCs.

VI. COMPLIANCE

1. The statutes of all ICOMOS ISCs shall comply with these Principles and with the Statutes of ICOMOS.

2. All existing ISCs are required to revise their statutes and to bring them into compliance with these Principles within three years of this document’s adoption by the Fifteenth General Assembly of ICOMOS in Xi’an, China.

3. This document supersedes and replaces the following documents:
   a) Directives for the International Specialized Committees of ICOMOS" (Summa Vesuviana), adopted 12 December 1982
   b) Guidelines for ICOMOS International Committees, undated;
   c) Guidelines for International Committees, Paris, 19-20 February 1985
   d) The Eger Principles for International Scientific Committees, adopted in Colombo, August 1993

4. The Scientific Council shall review the activities of the ISCs. Where it finds that an ISC is out of compliance with the provisions of these Principles, it shall provide advice and guidance to the ISC to assist the Committee to come into compliance. If a Committee remains out of compliance, the Council shall refer to matter to the Executive Committee with recommendations for corrective action.
DOCUMENT 5

CRITERIA FOR THE VICTORIA FALLS/MOSI-OA-TUNYA SOLIDARITY FUND

Adopted by the Executive Committee in Pretoria (October 2007)

a. The purpose of the ICOMOS Victoria Falls/Mosi-oa-Tunya Solidarity Fund is exclusively to maximise the attendance at General Assemblies of ICOMOS so that they are genuinely representative and inclusive of the global membership of the organisation.

b. The Director of the International Secretariat, together with the President of the Advisory Committee will take steps to encourage donations to the ICOMOS Victoria Falls/Mosi-oa-Tunya Solidarity Fund.

c. The National Committees will be reminded by the International Secretariat that any support to individuals not in their Committee to attend the General Assembly, should be channelled through the Victoria Falls/Mosi-oa-Tunya Fund.

d. The ICOMOS Victoria Falls/Mosi-oa-Tunya Solidarity Fund and the continuing Getty grant fund program will be administered together, using a single Selection Committee and a consolidated list of criteria for allocation.

e. In establishing criteria for the assessing applications to the two Funds, the recommendations of the 2005 Selection Committee are endorsed, namely that the same criteria used for 2005 be used for the 2008 selection process: i.e.

Candidates need to demonstrate:
(1) Personal financial need,
(2) Clear understanding of benefits foreseen of attending the General Assembly,
(3) Personal involvement in ICOMOS National or Scientific Committee/activity,

Preference is to be given to:
(4) Diversity of representation. One grant only per committee,
(5) Applicants who have not previously been supported to attend a General Assembly,
(6) Support specific cases – new or presently re-invigorating committees (list to be determined by the Executive Committee),
(7) Applicants giving papers at the General Assembly or who are officers of the General Assembly or rapporteurs,
(8) Youth,
(9) Only members from National Committees that are up to date with their fees will be eligible.

f. Applicants will be requested to present a budget for their participation to the General Assembly indicating the amount that they can contribute and those they perceive from other sources. In rewarding amount to applicants the Selection Committee offers a set of subsidy amounts (for example 4000 CAD, 2000 CAD, 1000 CAD, etc) depending on the location and costs of attending the 16 General Assembly. The set of subsidy amounts should be set by the Director of the International Secretariat in consultation with the host Committee, based on the likely costs of participation in the General Assembly program.

g. The composition of the Selection Committee will be finalised at the next meeting of the Executive Committee at the latest, based on the following characteristics:
(1) That the membership reflects to the extent possible in a small group, the cultural and geographical diversity of ICOMOS;
(2) That all members are likely to be available and willing to accept the workload associated with the role;
(3) That no members intending to stand for election to any position at the General Assembly should participate in the Selection Committee (with the possible exception of the ex officio members).
(4) That the Treasurer-General and the President or Vice-President of the Advisory Committee should participate in the Selection Committee as ex officio members.
(5) That at least one representative of the Scientific Council should be included as a member of the Selection Committee.

h. The Selection Committee will submit a report on its work to the Executive Committee and make recommendations as appropriate.

Adopted by the Executive Committee
Pretoria, October 2007
Composition of the Resolutions Committee: Werner von Trützschler (President, Germany), Joan Domicelj (Rapporteur, Australia), Beverley Crouts-Knipe (South Africa), Francois Leblanc (Canada), Michèle Prats (France), Ruth Shady Solis (Peru), Jordi Tresseras (Spain).

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Québec, Canada, in October 2008:

- Expresses ICOMOS’ gratitude to Canadian Officials and organisers, and especially to the Canadian Government, Parks Canada, the Government of Québec, the City of Québec and the University of Laval for the success of this General Assembly. We also express our gratitude to the many volunteers who have assisted in the success of the conference, in particular to all those who contributed to the First International Forum of Young Researchers and Professionals in Cultural Heritage,

- Accepts with pleasure the invitation by the Iranian National Committee to hold the 17th Session of the General Assembly in Isfahan in 2011,

- 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, Koïchiro Matsuura, and the World Heritage Centre in increasing significance and effectiveness of the World Heritage Convention,

- Expresses appreciation to ICOMOS’ partner organisations, ICCROM, ICOM, IUCN, IFLA TICCIH, UIA, DoCoMoMo and OWHC,

- 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: Emmanuel Esteves (Angola), Freddi Guidi (Argentina), Yarazdat Harutunyan (Armenia), Gertrud Tripp (Austria), Jacques Dalibard (Canada), Robin Letellier (Canada), Claire Mousseau (Canada), Edgar Vargas Vargas (Costa Rica), Marta Arjona (Cuba), Mario Gonzalez Sedeno (Cuba), Pefkios Georgiadis (Cyprus), Hernán Crespo Toral (Ecuador), Anna Nurmi Nielsen (Finland), Gilles Nourissier (France), Andras Roman (Hungary), Bagher Shirazi (Iran), Alfred Steinmetzer (Luxembourg), Jaime Litvak King (Mexico), Constantino Reyes Valerio (Mexico), Rob Apell (Netherlands), Stephan Tschudi-Madsen (Norway), Nabi Ahmed Khan (Pakistan), Kausar Bashir Ahmed (Pakistan), Richard Howland (USA), Hamilton Morton (USA), Saidee Newell (USA), Jan Hird Pokorny (USA), Robert Stipe (USA), Ann Webster Smith (USA)

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

1. Protecting vernacular heritage in the aftermath of natural disasters

Considering that:
- In the words of the Charter on Built Vernacular Heritage, which was adopted in 1999 by ICOMOS, it would be unworthy of the heritage of man if care were not taken to conserve the traditional harmonies that constitute the core of man’s existence, even in the aftermath of natural disasters of immense proportions,
- Vernacular heritage constitutes a continuing process including necessary changes and adaptation as a response to social and environmental constraints,

Recognizing that:
- In the aftermath of the terrible tragedies affecting several parts of the world - tsunamis in Asia and hurricanes in America and the earthquake in China 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 to provide emergency shelter and rebuilding, vernacular traditions are increasingly threatened and forgotten,
- It is important that the planning of reconstruction be based on sound traditional characteristics, as well as to review those that have failed on the affected region,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:
- Address to the countries afflicted by disaster 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 vernacular architecture.

2. Nomination of World Heritage properties in the Pacific Ocean region

Bearing in mind the extraordinary cultural diversity of the wider Pacific Ocean region and its under-representation on the Word Heritage list, and bearing in mind also that paramount chief Tumu Te Heuheu of New Zealand has finished his term as chair of the World Heritage Committee,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:
- Extend its best wishes to Chief Tumu and to wish him well in all his future endeavours for his people, and
- Call on the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to take all steps possible to support the processes leading to the nomination of properties in the Pacific Ocean region.

3. Support for the Province of Sichuan (China)

ICOMOS members have been deeply moved and concerned by the severity of the earthquake that hit the Chinese province of Sichuan on 12 May 2008. It greatly affected the local population and the cultural heritage in all its aspects.

This event mobilized all Chinese provinces and administrative authorities, which came to the rescue of this province in a most efficient and prompt way to evaluate damages and first aid actions.

For its part, ICOMOS answered the call of its Chinese colleagues, for which these latter were extremely grateful.

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:
• Express its most sincere solidarity to the Chinese population and wishes to provide its total support to ICOMOS China in these extreme circumstances, and in its work in favour of the preservation, conservation and restoration of its cultural heritage. After a proper overview of the situation, ICOMOS China proposed that an international workshop should be held in the earthquake area. The involvement of ICOMOS Scientific Committees and international colleagues will be warmly welcomed.

4. **Alburnus Maior (Romania)**

Regarding the Roman site of Alburnus Maior in Roșia Montana, an outstanding mining settlement and cultural landscape in Romania, as a potential World Heritage Site,

With reference to:
- The Resolution n° 20 of the 13th General Assembly of ICOMOS held in Madrid, Spain,
- The Resolution of the 14th Extraordinary General Assembly, held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe,
- The resolution of the ICOMOS Conference, held in Pécs, Hungary, 22-27 May 2004,
- The ICAHM Statement on the mining concept at Roșia Montana in Lyon, France, at the European Archaeological Association Conference on 9 September 2004,
- The Resolution of the 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi’an, China, in October 2005,
- The resolution of the XXIII World Congress of the UIA – the International Union of Architects, in Torino in 2008, and

Taking into consideration:
- The official statements of the Romanian Academy, those of all the religious communities involved and also those of professional bodies, such as the European Council of Architects and the Romanian Chamber of Architects,
- That the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development of Romania interrupted the licensing procedure for the mine proposal and suspended the evaluation of the environmental impact study prepared by Roșia Montana Gold Corporation,
- Recent irrevocable court decisions in Romania that annulled an archaeological discharge certificate issued earlier to exploit the Carnic Massif and also ascertained the illegality of Roșia Montana’s urban plans, and also
- Recent information about steps taken for starting mining operations in Roșia Montana and also other similar threats upon the archaeological, architectural and historical heritage of the cultural landscape of the Apuseni Mountains,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:
• Reiterate its deepest concern about the planned mining operations that have led to and threaten to continue the destruction of the archaeological site of Alburnus Maior in Roșia Montana, Romania, and its surroundings,
• Call for the urgent intervention of the National Authorities to ensure the appropriate protection of the site,
• Call for further evaluation of the significance of the site as a cultural landscape and its archaeological, architectural and ethnographic heritage together with its spiritual values 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 organizations to achieve these actions and calls for the involvement of the relevant ICOMOS International Scientific Committee and UNESCO for that purpose.

5. **The destruction of the historic cemetery of Jugha (Autonomous Republic of Nachitchevan, Azerbaijan)**

One of the famous Armenian sites, Jugha, was the hub of commerce and crafts since historic times. In the 15th and 16th centuries it was recognized as a center of vernacular architecture, epigraphy, writing, the processing of precious stones and tapestry. The historic cemetery of Jugha, as one of the outstanding examples of historic monuments, was composed of tens of thousands of khatchkars (cross stones) that bore witness to the talent of construction and to the artistic skill of the master masons of Jugha.
Given that in recent years the historic and cultural heritage has suffered from wars, conflicts and political tensions, this heritage that once enjoyed its worthy place among the treasures of the world’s heritage can no longer be transmitted today to future generations,

Considering that despite international efforts in heritage protection, and particularly the measures taken by ICOMOS in the field of World Heritage in Danger, as recommended by the 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS on the protection of cultural heritage outside borders,

With the aim of preventing that such events are repeated, the 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Draw the attention of the Azerbaijani authorities, as a State Party to the Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, to the destruction of the Jugha cemetery and to transmit to them the concern of the international community of conservation experts,
- Ask the Azerbaijani authorities to facilitate the access of an expert delegation from UNESCO and/or ICOMOS in order to study the site and inform the international community of the results.

6. Heritage in danger in Peru

Considering that:
- The declaration of sites and monuments as Peru's cultural heritage is achieved through technical dossiers drawn up and evaluated by professionals, following national and international regulations in force,
- The cultural heritage is being affected by the action of "demonumentalization", which is to withdraw the monument status from monuments that had already been declared as national assets, to facilitate their destruction, without complying with the technical procedure,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Recommend to the National Institute of Culture and the Government of Peru that the decision to remove the monument status of an asset declared cultural heritage can only be the responsibility of a “technical committee”, composed of experts, with the participation of ICOMOS Peru, and based on the respective technical dossier, prepared by specialized personnel.

7. Response to articles in the popular media that glamorize looting of archaeological sites

Considering that:
- The scientific and historic value of artefacts can only be fully realized if they are found and recorded by professional archaeologists in situ,
- In the past year, articles recommending artefacts taken from archaeological sites as investments have appeared in TIME magazine, and numerous television shows have appeared on the Travel Channel that encourage the looting of archaeological sites for excitement and profit,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves that:

- ICOMOS will, to the best of its ability, publicly condemn pieces appearing in the media (including magazines, newspapers, television shows, and websites) that extol the collecting or purchase of artefacts obtained inappropriately from archaeological sites.

8. Tomo-No-Ura (Japan)

Considering that Tomo-no-Ura is recognized as a place of exceptional significance as it is a historic port town with temples dating from the 15th Century, merchant houses and streetscapes from the 18th Century, stone harbour facilities, and a relationship with the sea which has long been recognized as exceptionally beautiful,
Recognizing that the port, town and landscape of Tomo-no-Ura, as a unique ensemble of international significance, cannot be considered separately and that their conservation should embrace the visual environment, including the adjoining sea, the islands and mountain backdrop and consider the historical role of the port including its function, especially as part of the cultural route between Japan and Korea,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Urge the National Government of Japan:
  - to suspend the authorization of the Tomo bridge project by the Government of Hiroshima Prefecture and the Government of Fukuyama City.

- Ask the Government of Hiroshima Prefecture:
  - to respect the value of the port, town and landscape of Tomo-no-Ura as a unique and inseparable ensemble,
  - to withdraw its application for the authorization of the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism,
  - to abandon the bridge building project and reconsider the alternatives that will not harm in any way this unique ensemble.

- Ask the Government of Fukuyama City:
  - to respect the value of the port, town and landscape of Tomo-no-Ura as a unique and inseparable ensemble,
  - to withdraw its application for the authorization of the Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture,
  - to abandon the bridge building project and reconsider the alternatives that will not harm in any way this unique ensemble.

9. Heritage Protection in Moldova

Considering the rich heritage of Moldova, a country at the crossroads of many cultures in history and facing increased vulnerability from economic and social changes,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Call for the authorities of Moldova to enhance its protection and conservation system along the lines of Article 5 of the World Heritage Convention, which it signed in 2002, in cooperation with scientific and professional organizations,

- Offer the assistance of ICOMOS, and its professional and international network, for the benefit of Moldova and its cultural heritage.

10. Twentieth Century Heritage at Risk

Noting the:
- Extraordinary contribution of Russian modernism to Twentieth Century heritage, and the threats and deterioration which are currently occurring to many places of outstanding international significance in Russia including the Rusa Kovrus Workers Club, the house and the studio of the architect Konstantin Melnikov and the neglected Narkomfin building,

- Imminent threats to the Gettysburg Cyclorama, designed by Richard Neutra in 1962, determined eligible for the U.S.A National Register of Historic Places in 1998 but not protected from demolition; and the Third Church of Christ, Scientist and Christian Science Monitor Building, designed by I.M. Pei, completed in 1971, a designated landmark building in Washington, USA, currently the subject of a demolition proposal,

- Recent international competition by the Regione Sicilia to conserve The Hangar at Augusta, Sicily, Italy, now vacant, designed for the Italian Air Force in 1920, a rare survivor of the era of airship transport and the important wartime heritage of Sicily, and

- Ongoing evolution of development proposals for visitor and religious community facilities in close proximity to the Ronchamp Chapel, France, designed by Le Corbusier 1954/55, to ensure that it reinforces the authenticity of the outstanding landscape which is inseparable from this outstanding building,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Note that there is a threat to the heritage of the Twentieth Century worldwide,
• Urge the relevant national authorities and professional organizations in Russia, the United States, Italy and France, and other countries, to act with urgency to safeguard their conservation and maintenance, to prevent ongoing deterioration or loss, or damage to their settings and secure their sustainable future as important components of the heritage of the Twentieth Century.

11. The restoration of the historic Manège militaire de la Grande Allée, in Québec, Canada

Considering the historical and architectural significance and remarkable presence of the Manège militaire de la Grande Allée in the historic ensemble of Québec and its designation as a National Historic Site by the Government of Canada,

Considering the considerable damage caused to the Manège by the March 2008 fire but also the fact that the building remains significantly present,

Considering ICOMOS promptly offered the Prime Minister of Canada assistance after the fire to help in the approach and methods for the restoration of this historic monument,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:
• Call upon the Government of Canada to repair the Manège militaire de la Grande Allée and protect its remains from winter and the weather in an adequate manner during the development of a model conservation project for this historic building with the aim of ensuring the continuity of the heritage values associated with this national historic place of Canada,
• Renew the offer of ICOMOS to assist the Government of Canada in defining an appropriate approach to make this an outstanding restoration project,
• Encourage the Canadian authorities to take all preventive measures to reduce the risk of such disasters happening again with historic buildings under their authorities.

12. The historic centre and World Heritage Site of Québec (Canada)

Considering the remarkable and fruitful setting given to the meetings and symposiums of the 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS by the city of Québec, embellished and lively on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of its foundation,

Considering that the historic district of Québec has been inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of its outstanding universal value and the firm commitment of governmental and municipal authorities to ensure the protection and conservation of the Old Québec as a historic urban ensemble,

Noting the existence of private and public construction projects, demolition works or uncertainty on the protection and enhancement of important elements of the architectural or archaeological heritage of the World Heritage Site and adjacent heritage areas, all of which remind of the persisting challenges relating to the management of the site as required by its inscription on the World Heritage List,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:
• Thank profoundly the authorities of the Governments of Canada and Québec, the City of Québec and all the other partners, professionals and volunteers who made it possible to hold such a memorable meeting in the beautiful historic city of Québec,
• Call for all the authorities in charge of the management, protection and conservation of the World Heritage Site and the adjacent heritage areas to reinforce their commitment for a development model that ensures that precedence is given to the protection, conservation and enhancement of this designated heritage over construction pressures which are or could affect it, and to implement policies and best practices consequently,
• Offer to the Canadian and Québec authorities and to the City of Québec the availability of its professional network to assist them in this work so as to make Québec the model of excellence in appropriate policies and practices in the conservation of historic cities.
B. ORGANISATION

13. Representation of membership diversity

Considering that:
- ICOMOS aspires to having a global reach which reflects the cultural diversity of humanity,
- ICOMOS National Committees are not fully inclusive of this diversity,
- At ICOMOS statutory meetings, there is frequently a limited representation of National Committees particularly from certain regions of the world,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:
- Call upon the Executive Committee to commission a study to investigate and clarify the insufficient outreach of ICOMOS in the regions, the barriers to full participation in statutory meetings of ICOMOS and to take appropriate measures to resolve the issues addressed in the study.

14. Institutionalization of youth participation

Considering:
- The necessity of encouraging and supporting the involvement of young researchers and professionals in the field of heritage in ICOMOS,
- The success of the First International Forum of Young Researchers and Professionals in Cultural Heritage held in Quebec, Canada from 27 to 28 September 2008,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to encourage:
- ICOMOS and its committees to pursue efforts to welcome and encourage the involvement of a greater number of young researchers and professionals,
- ICOMOS to continue the initiative of organising the International Forum of Young Researchers and Professionals in Cultural Heritage,
- The involvement of young researchers and professionals in the issues, goals and actions discussed by the ICOMOS Executive Committee, the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly,
- The International Scientific Committees to inform young professionals, especially participants of the Forum, of their activities via the ICOMOS International Secretariat,
- The National Committees to take the necessary proactive measures to welcome and involve a greater number of young researchers and professionals, and assure them a sufficient representation.

15. Timing of statutory meetings

Considering that:
- ICOMOS National and Scientific Committees comprise members of diverse cultures and faiths, and that
- These faiths have holy days which involve fasting, festivals and rituals which might be tied to specific localities and are not conducive for travelling away from home,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves that:
- When determining the timing of statutory meetings of ICOMOS, the Executive Committee should seriously consider the religious holy days of its membership, as communicated to the International Secretariat by its National Committees, in order to facilitate the broadest possible participation in such meetings.
16. **National Committee Statutes**

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Warmly welcome the new model statutes for National Committees, drawn up by the International Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues (ICLAFI) and to request the Executive Committee to promote their consideration by National Committees.

17. **ICOMOS support for the Open Access to scientific literature**

Considering that:
- The evolution of new technologies is provoking a true digital revolution in the sharing of scientific information across the internet,
- The politics of management of the publishing houses, and above all the disproportionate increase of subscription prices to Journals, has instigated over the past few years several initiatives and demonstrations which have led to the creation of the Open Access Initiative (OAI), a movement for the free access to scientific publications through the internet. The OAI is linked to projects or initiatives that favour free access, open and without restriction, to all of the works produced by scientific communities, that is to say a free access, without economic barriers, but which nonetheless reaffirms the rights of the authors over the articles,
- ICOMOS, being the only organization working at the international level dedicated to promoting the theory, methodology and technical applications to the conservation, protection and promotion of monuments and sites, should support and subscribe to the Open Access Initiative, by signing the Budapest Open Access Initiative,
- The creation of an open access archive in ICOMOS (already approved by the Executive Committee in January 2007) in order to simplify the distribution of all scientific works could fall within ICOMOS’ responsibilities (Article 5 b of the Statutes of ICOMOS) and at the same time could increase the organization’s visibility and prestige through the heritage scientific community,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Support the Open Access Initiative, understanding by “open access” the open access through the internet of all full-text scientific documentation, permitting every user to read, download, copy, distribute or print these texts, while at the same time respecting the existing legal rights of the authors,
- Recommend that ICOMOS sign the Budapest Open Access Initiative,
- Encourage all National and International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS to make available all their scientific documentation through the ICOMOS Open Access Archive.

18. **Integrating Spanish in General Assemblies and Committee Meetings**

Considering:
- That the Iberic American countries in ICOMOS represent an important portion of it, and that they are composed of 24 countries of which 14 are present today,
- That ICOMOS holds cultural diversity as one of its principles,
- That language represents an important factor in intercultural understanding,
- That in the General Assemblies, Advisory Committee and Scientific Council meetings, as well as in the documents produced by them, Spanish translation is neither mandatory nor frequent, even though Spanish speaking members use one of the four official languages of ICOMOS,
- The need to guarantee the equal access by the members to the valuable information produced during the above mentioned meetings and documents,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Request the hosts of the 17th General Assembly to consider and to use their best endeavours to provide Spanish translation in the 17th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium.
• Request the Executive Committee to assess the financial, practical and statutory implications of introducing Spanish as a working language and to report back to the 17th General Assembly on the outcomes of this assessment.

19. Raymond Lemaire International Fund

Considering Resolution 29 adopted by the 12th General Assembly in Mexico aiming at the establishment of a Raymond Lemaire International Fund designed to raise funds for training young heritage professionals,

Considering that the funds collected will serve to provide scholarships to young heritage professionals, enabling them to take part in post-graduate courses or traineeships in conservation and restoration throughout the world, thus ensuring highly qualified membership,

Considering that the Fund has received support from eminent ICOMOS members and that the sum of 5000 Euros has been raised,

Considering that the Fund, endorsed by the Executive Committee in March 2008, has been presented at the Youth Forum organised within the framework of the present General Assembly,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to request the Executive Committee to:
• Disseminate information concerning the Raymond Lemaire Fund for next generation skills to all ICOMOS members and invite them to contribute to the Fund,
• Conclude cooperation agreements with training centres in conservation and restoration in the world,
• Develop criteria for attributing scholarships,
• Entrust the management of the Fund to the International Secretariat,
• Organize the attribution of the scholarships during the triennial General Assemblies together with the Piero Gazzola Prize, so that the names of the two founding fathers of ICOMOS are reunited by two different but complementary initiatives.

20. Financial management of ICOMOS

Considering that:
- The ICOMOS Executive Committee has important financial responsibilities, managing an annual budget of more than €1 Million and providing membership services to more than 9,000 members,
- The policies and procedures used by the ICOMOS Executive Committee and the ICOMOS International Secretariat for financial management, accounting and governance should be regularly reviewed to ensure that they are appropriate and relevant,
- Recent changes in the world’s economy are likely to affect the economies of most States and also the operations and finances of ICOMOS in the coming years,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves that:
• The Executive Committee consider setting up two standing committees, a Finance Committee and an Audit Committee, made up of Executive Committee members and others with competence, including experts who are not necessarily ICOMOS members, to advise the Bureau of ICOMOS on financial policies and planning, accounting procedures, risk analysis, corporate governance and disaster recovery, in order that ICOMOS can adapt and thrive in changing times.

21. Transparency in Consideration of Scientific Symposia Papers

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves that:
• The provisions for evaluation of proposed papers submitted for the Scientific Symposium be revised, in order to improve transparency in the evaluation process, by providing in
advance the methodology adopted by the evaluation committee as well as the evaluation criteria.

22. Assessment Framework for Twentieth Century Heritage

Noting the recommendation of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee WHC-07/31.COM/24 to "prepare an evaluative framework for a thematic study on modern architecture”,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada in October 2008 notes the increasing urgency of such work for the conservation of Twentieth Century Heritage places in general and resolves to:

- Urge ICOMOS to seek extra budgetary funding to prepare an evaluative framework for a thematic study on Twentieth Century heritage in 2008/2009, which includes designed landscapes, town and urban planned environments, industrial sites as well as architectural structures. The project will be supervised by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage in consultation with the International Committee for documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the modern movement (DOCOMOMO) and the International Union of Architects (UIA).

23. Heritage Alerts Programme: Pilot study

Recognising the frequency of requests for ICOMOS to react to threats to heritage sites and monuments, the Scientific Council and Advisory Committee have endorsed a project proposal from the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC20) to trial a system of Heritage Alerts. The ISC20 Heritage Alerts project aims to deal systematically with the increasing need to respond to the urgent threats which impact the conservation of the heritage of the Twentieth Century. An assessment process to understand the threats to individual sites is proposed, together with an electronic information distribution methodology. A trial period is proposed, after which a refined project will be offered for adoption by ICOMOS Scientific and National Committees more generally. It may become a component of the ICOMOS Observatory.

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada in October 2008 notes the useful scope and applicability of this work and resolves to:

- Urge the ICOMOS Executive Committee to provide modest logistical support to the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage to undertake a pilot study for Twentieth Century Heritage Alerts and report back to the Scientific Council and Advisory Committee on the results of such a trial.
C. DOCTRINE

24. Criteria for ICOMOS Doctrinal Texts

Considering that ICOMOS and its Committees have furthered the protection and conservation of heritage with the development and dissemination of Doctrinal Texts to professionals and institutions in the field, using a set procedure to that effect,

Considering the valuable work of the ICOMOS International Committee on the Theory and Philosophy of Conservation in examining the current corpus of such Doctrinal Texts at the request of the Executive Committee as part of the 2005-2008 Triennial Action Plan, and its conclusions which were supported by the Advisory Committee at its meeting in Quebec, Canada, on 28 September 2008,

Underlining the interest for clearer definitions, format and sources for future Doctrinal Texts for ICOMOS,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves that:

- The survey of current Doctrinal Texts and Declarations of ICOMOS, including those presented to the 16th General Assembly at its meeting in Québec, Canada, be completed in order to draft criteria for guiding the production of future Doctrinal Texts for ICOMOS, including those planned for submission to the 17th General Assembly in 2011,
- Draft criteria be submitted to the Advisory Committee at its meeting in 2009 for its consideration and recommendation to the Executive Committee for adoption of such criteria in Doctrinal Texts being planned for the 17th General Assembly in 2011.

25. Inventories and Listing Processes

Considering the fundamental importance of the identification of monuments, sites and other types of heritage places as a primary action and prerequisite to their protection and conservation, a point stressed in the World Heritage Convention’s Article 5 in relation to each country’s entire heritage,

Considering the necessity to develop and improve the means to identify heritage as part of an adequate conservation system at the national and local levels, in particular the inventories, registers and listing records of monuments and sites, their settings and intangible dimensions or traditions,

Considering the work of many ICOMOS National and International Committees, among others that of CIPA on documentation and recording methods and technology, for the benefit of an interdisciplinary and effective approach to fulfil ICOMOS aims,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Encourage the various competent authorities in each country to reinforce their inventory and listing processes at the national, regional, local or community levels in a coordinated way in support for improved protection and conservation of heritage structures, sites and areas, their setting, associated objects, commemorative or living intangible dimensions, and uses,
- Ask National and International Committees of ICOMOS to identify, collate, and share examples of best practices in inventory and listing processes and their effective use in the protection and conservation of such heritage so as to develop recommendations and interdisciplinary and regional cooperation in support of this action.

26. Heritage at Risk Series

Considering the publication since 2000 by ICOMOS of five World Reports on Monuments and Sites in Danger and three special editions on Underwater Cultural Heritage, Soviet Heritage and European Modernism, and Natural Disasters and Cultural Heritage, with numerous
contributions from our National and International Committees as well as ICOMOS members and partners, constituting the Heritage at Risk Series,

Thankfully noting the support of UNESCO, the German Federal Government Commissioner for Cultural Affairs and the Media for this ICOMOS initiative,

Noting the impact of the Heritage at Risk Series and its dissemination in printed or web format, to raise a more global awareness of the state of heritage sites, structures and areas around the world and on the effectiveness of their protection and conservation to face threats of increasing diversity and intensity,

Considering the decisions of the Executive Committee on the establishment of an ICOMOS “Observatory” (working title) on the protection and conservation of monuments, sites and other types of heritage places as part of the 2005-2008 Triennial Work Plan,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

• Request the Heritage at Risk Series to be continued and that actions be taken to enhance its communication and impact so as to support protection and conservation of the cultural heritage world-wide, and to better serve ICOMOS and its Committees to define priorities and strategic goals,

• Request National and International Committees to reinforce their contribution to the content, production, dissemination and discussion of the World Reports and Special Editions with their members and partners,

• Request that the Heritage at Risk Series and ICOMOS «Observatory» project be coordinated through the International Secretariat to enhance their consistency and impact.

27. Preventive Monitoring

Considering the importance of pre-emptive measures to ensure the protection and the conservation of heritage sites, structures and areas as noted in the ICOMOS charters as well as the World Heritage Convention,

Considering the useful context provided by the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines defining monitoring as a professional and cooperative mechanism to improve the state of conservation of heritage sites, and by the experience of ICOMOS as an Advisory Body to support the work of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, in particular related to monitoring activities for World Heritage properties,

Noting the valuable initiatives, activities and experiences of many National Committees to monitor World Heritage sites and other aspects of conservation practice in their country, often resulting in more effective interventions by ICOMOS,

Taking note of the positive discussions at the Advisory Committee of the message sent by the President of ICOMOS to all Committees, encouraging them to take an active part in Preventive Monitoring in coordination with the International Secretariat and of the work of the Executive Committee on the proposal of an ICOMOS “Observatory” (working title),

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

• Acknowledge and stress the importance of preventive actions and monitoring as keys to successful protection and conservation of heritage,

• Request that the concept of an ICOMOS Observatory be further developed and implemented through national, regional or thematic pilot projects as part of the next triennial work programme,

• Invite all National and International Committees to take part in and contribute to this initiative, and request that they report their observations, requests and recommendations to the International Secretariat of ICOMOS to avoid potentially detrimental effects of addressing them directly to other bodies like UNESCO where they relate to World Heritage sites and ensure the effectiveness of the interventions of ICOMOS.
28. **Monuments of Nature initiative**

Considering that Cultural Landscapes and Monuments of Nature had been proposed by ICOMOS as the theme of the 2007 International Day of Monuments and Sites on 18th April, resulting in activities and reflections by ICOMOS Committees and members on this theme, not only on that day but in general in 2007, particularly the holding of an international meeting in Manaus, Brazil, to reflect the concept of Monument of Nature used by Alexander von Humboldt in his 1799 exploration of the Amazonia,

Considering the increased acknowledgement of the fundamental importance of human dimensions in the heritage value of natural sites due to their spiritual, cultural, aesthetic, scientific or memorial values, and the need to raise awareness so that they are effectively respected and safeguarded in the protection and conservation of these sites,

Considering the many uses of the concept of “monument” in laws, by-laws and policies, including the World Heritage Convention to designate a diversity of natural sites including, for example mountains, waterfalls, geological formations or remarkable trees, and the resulting increasing interest for a closer dialogue between the fields of cultural and natural conservation for which ICOMOS needs to be prepared,

Noting the invitation made to all National and International Committees to inform ICOMOS on the general concept of “Monuments of Nature” in terms of illustrative cases in their country and examples of legal or other relevant references, and the creation of a Task Force under the President to further the subject in the framework of ICOMOS’ statutory aims and objectives and its activities, particularly in support of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention through interdisciplinary activities,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Invite all National and International Committees of ICOMOS to continue to reflect on the concept and the values of “Monuments of Nature” in their cultural context and on actions to be taken to understand their cultural associations and ensure their conservation,
- Request that ICOMOS reinforces its cooperation with other organisations, including the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), to support and enhance this initiative,
- Request the National and International Committees to identify a contact person among their members to help in the development of this initiative.

29. **Energy Savings and Sustainable Development**

Recognizing the legitimate concern of reducing energy consumption and the use of fossil fuels, and of developing new energies,

Recalling the declaration adopted unanimously in Paris on 13 November 2000 by the Advisory and Executive Committees of ICOMOS: *Heritage is a cultural exception ... where regulatory standards which are not adaptable to it cannot be applied. A moratorium should be imposed immediately ... to start the work of experts and specialists for specific and appropriate responses... and that transitional measures are appropriate.*

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Urge the members of ICOMOS to approach their respective governments and the European Commission to develop specific responses for existing built heritage and for landscapes, using a comprehensive and qualitative approach based on a case by case diagnosis, by heritage specialists, for an appropriate and consistent application of sustainable development objectives compatible with heritage preservation taking advantage of the heritage assets,
- Urge the ICOMOS International Secretariat to provide a well-publicised on-line forum for the continuous reporting by members of their efforts and results,
- Urge the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues to provide periodic up-to-date reports on tax and incentive structures that result in a reduction of energy consumption while encouraging the conservation of heritage.
30. **Working themes for the ICOMOS International Scientific Committees for the next triennium**

Noting the spirit of the Eger-Xi’an Principles, the work of the Scientific Council since 2005 and its primary mandate to advance interdisciplinary scientific research, and acknowledging the challenge to conservation in the 21st century due to Social, Technological and Climate Change:

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:
- Welcome the development by the Scientific Council of a scheme for interdisciplinary scientific cooperation for the next triennium entitled, *Changing World: Changing Views of Heritage, the impact of global change on cultural heritage*, and to
- Warmly invite all ICOMOS National Committees, International Scientific Committees and members worldwide to participate and contribute in its elaboration in relation to the diversity of cultures, regions and disciplines of ICOMOS.

31. **Access to Grey Literature by Legitimate Researchers**

Considering that:
- When public funds are expended to conduct archaeological research, the results are not always disseminated beyond sponsoring agencies,
- Too often information from such ‘development archaeology’ is unavailable as ‘grey’ literature, and that
- It is understood that certain information must be kept confidential to protect heritage values, but other research results are needed to meet the ethical obligations of archaeological inquiry to inform the public and ensure future generations have knowledge of the cultural past,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves that
- ICOMOS and its National Committees encourage government heritage agencies to enable public access to the results of archaeological inquiry undertaken as part of development projects, environmental impact statements and other non-research based archaeology.

32. **Places of Worship**

Considering the joint proposal by ICOMOS Palestine and ICOMOS Israel, the 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:
- Recommend that places of worship be accessible to all humans, respecting the feelings of the relevant communities and their sensitivities and religious practices,
- Recommend that local communities be consulted and participate in the planning process of archaeological excavations in their locations. The communities should enjoy and benefit from the sites, improving their quality of life and economy and enriching their culture. All historic periods should be respected, studied and enhanced, in accordance with the Venice Charter, the ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites, and other relevant documents.

*Quebec, Canada, 4 October 2005*
THE ICOMOS CHARTER FOR THE INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

Prepared under the Auspices of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites

Ratified by the 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, Québec (Canada), on 4 October 2008

PREAMBLE

Since its establishment in 1965 as a worldwide organisation of heritage professionals dedicated to the study, documentation, and protection of cultural heritage sites, ICOMOS has striven to promote the conservation ethic in all its activities and to help enhance public appreciation of humanity’s material heritage in all its forms and diversity.

As noted in the Charter of Venice (1964) “It is essential that the principles guiding the preservation and restoration of ancient buildings should be agreed and be laid down on an international basis, with each country being responsible for applying the plan within the framework of its own culture and traditions.” Subsequent ICOMOS charters have taken up that mission, establishing professional guidelines for specific conservation challenges and encouraging effective communication about the importance of heritage conservation in every region of the world.

These earlier ICOMOS charters stress the importance of public communication as an essential part of the larger conservation process (variously describing it as “dissemination,” “popularization,” “presentation,” and “interpretation”). They implicitly acknowledge that every act of heritage conservation—within all the world’s cultural traditions—is by its nature a communicative act.

From the vast range of surviving material remains and intangible values of past communities and civilisations, the choice of what to preserve, how to preserve it, and how it is to be presented to the public are all elements of site interpretation. They represent every generation’s vision of what is significant, what is important, and why material remains from the past should be passed on to generations yet to come.

The need for a clear rationale, standardised terminology, and accepted professional principles for Interpretation and Presentation is evident. In recent years, the dramatic expansion of interpretive activities at many cultural heritage sites and the introduction of elaborate interpretive technologies and new economic strategies for the marketing and management of cultural heritage sites have created new complexities and aroused basic questions that are central to the goals of both conservation and the public appreciation of cultural heritage sites throughout the world:

- What are the accepted and acceptable goals for the Interpretation and Presentation of cultural heritage sites?
- What principles should help determine which technical means and methods are appropriate in particular cultural and heritage contexts?
- What general ethical and professional considerations should help shape Interpretation and Presentation in light of its wide variety of specific forms and techniques?

The purpose of this Charter is therefore to define the basic principles of Interpretation and Presentation as essential components of heritage conservation efforts and as a means of enhancing public appreciation and understanding of cultural heritage sites.

* See definitions on page 3.
* Although the principles and objectives of this Charter may equally apply to off-site interpretation, its main focus is interpretation and presentation at, or in the immediate vicinity of, cultural heritage sites.
DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of the present Charter,

**Interpretation** refers to the full range of potential activities intended to heighten public awareness and enhance understanding of cultural heritage site. These can include print and electronic publications, public lectures, on-site and directly related off-site installations, educational programmes, community activities, and ongoing research, training, and evaluation of the interpretation process itself.

**Presentation** more specifically denotes the carefully planned communication of interpretive content through the arrangement of interpretive information, physical access, and interpretive infrastructure at a cultural heritage site. It can be conveyed through a variety of technical means, including, yet not requiring, such elements as informational panels, museum-type displays, formalized walking tours, lectures and guided tours, and multimedia applications and websites.

**Interpretive infrastructure** refers to physical installations, facilities, and areas at, or connected with a cultural heritage site that may be specifically utilised for the purposes of interpretation and presentation including those supporting interpretation via new and existing technologies.

**Site interpreters** refers to staff or volunteers at a cultural heritage site who are permanently or temporarily engaged in the public communication of information relating to the values and significance of the site.

**Cultural Heritage Site** refers to a place, locality, natural landscape, settlement area, architectural complex, archaeological site, or standing structure that is recognized and often legally protected as a place of historical and cultural significance.

OBJECTIVES

In recognizing that interpretation and presentation are part of the overall process of cultural heritage conservation and management, this Charter seeks to establish seven cardinal principles, upon which Interpretation and Presentation—in whatever form or medium is deemed appropriate in specific circumstances—should be based.

**Principle 1: Access and Understanding**
**Principle 2: Information Sources**
**Principle 3: Attention to Setting and Context**
**Principle 4: Preservation of Authenticity**
**Principle 5: Planning for Sustainability**
**Principle 6: Concern for Inclusiveness**
**Principle 7: Importance of Research, Training, and Evaluation**

Following from these seven principles, the objectives of this Charter are to:

1. **Facilitate understanding and appreciation** of cultural heritage sites and foster public awareness and engagement in the need for their protection and conservation.

2. **Communicate the meaning** of cultural heritage sites to a range of audiences through careful, documented recognition of significance, through accepted scientific and scholarly methods as well as from living cultural traditions.

3. **Safeguard the tangible and intangible values** of cultural heritage sites in their natural and cultural settings and social contexts.

4. **Respect the authenticity** of cultural heritage sites, by communicating the significance of their historic fabric and cultural values and protecting them from the adverse impact of
intrusive interpretive infrastructure, visitor pressure, inaccurate or inappropriate interpretation.

5. **Contribute to the sustainable conservation** of cultural heritage sites, through promoting public understanding of, and participation in, ongoing conservation efforts, ensuring long-term maintenance of the interpretive infrastructure and regular review of its interpretive contents.

6. **Encourage inclusiveness** in the interpretation of cultural heritage sites, by facilitating the involvement of stakeholders and associated communities in the development and implementation of interpretive programmes.

7. **Develop technical and professional guidelines** for heritage interpretation and presentation, including technologies, research, and training. Such guidelines must be appropriate and sustainable in their social contexts.

**PRINCIPLES**

**Principle 1: Access and Understanding**

*Interpretation and presentation programmes should facilitate physical and intellectual access by the public to cultural heritage sites.*

1. Effective interpretation and presentation should enhance personal experience, increase public respect and understanding, and communicate the importance of the conservation of cultural heritage sites.

2. Interpretation and presentation should encourage individuals and communities to reflect on their own perceptions of a site and assist them in establishing a meaningful connection to it. The aim should be to stimulate further interest, learning, experience, and exploration.

3. Interpretation and presentation programmes should identify and assess their audiences demographically and culturally. Every effort should be made to communicate the site’s values and significance to its varied audiences.

4. The diversity of language among visitors and associated communities connected with a heritage site should be taken into account in the interpretive infrastructure.

5. Interpretation and presentation activities should also be physically accessible to the public, in all its variety.

6. In cases where physical access to a cultural heritage site is restricted due to conservation concerns, cultural sensitivities, adaptive re-use, or safety issues, interpretation and presentation should be provided off-site.

**Principle 2: Information Sources**

*Interpretation and presentation should be based on evidence gathered through accepted scientific and scholarly methods as well as from living cultural traditions.*

1. Interpretation should show the range of oral and written information, material remains, traditions, and meanings attributed to a site. The sources of this information should be documented, archived, and made accessible to the public.
2. Interpretation should be based on a well researched, multidisciplinary study of the site and its surroundings. It should also acknowledge that meaningful interpretation necessarily includes reflection on alternative historical hypotheses, local traditions, and stories.

3. At cultural heritage sites where traditional storytelling or memories of historical participants provide an important source of information about the significance of the site, interpretive programmes should incorporate these oral testimonies—either indirectly, through the facilities of the interpretive infrastructure, or directly, through the active participation of members of associated communities as on-site interpreters.

4. Visual reconstructions, whether by artists, architects, or computer modelers, should be based upon detailed and systematic analysis of environmental, archaeological, architectural, and historical data, including analysis of written, oral and iconographic sources, and photography. The information sources on which such visual renderings are based should be clearly documented and alternative reconstructions based on the same evidence, when available, should be provided for comparison.

5. Interpretation and presentation programmes and activities should also be documented and archived for future reference and reflection.

**Principle 3: Context and Setting**

*The Interpretation and Presentation of cultural heritage sites should relate to their wider social, cultural, historical, and natural contexts and settings.*

1. Interpretation should explore the significance of a site in its multi-faceted historical, political, spiritual, and artistic contexts. It should consider all aspects of the site’s cultural, social, and environmental significance and values.

2. The public interpretation of a cultural heritage site should clearly distinguish and date the successive phases and influences in its evolution. The contributions of all periods to the significance of a site should be respected.

3. Interpretation should also take into account all groups that have contributed to the historical and cultural significance of the site.

4. The surrounding landscape, natural environment, and geographical setting are integral parts of a site’s historical and cultural significance, and, as such, should be considered in its interpretation.

5. Intangible elements of a site’s heritage such as cultural and spiritual traditions, stories, music, dance, theater, literature, visual arts, local customs and culinary heritage should be considered in its interpretation.

6. The cross-cultural significance of heritage sites, as well as the range of perspectives about them based on scholarly research, ancient records, and living traditions, should be considered in the formulation of interpretive programmes.

**Principle 4: Authenticity**

*The Interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage sites must respect the basic tenets of authenticity in the spirit of the Nara Document (1994).*

1. Authenticity is a concern relevant to human communities as well as material remains. The design of a heritage interpretation programme should respect the traditional social
functions of the site and the cultural practices and dignity of local residents and associated communities.

2. Interpretation and presentation should contribute to the conservation of the authenticity of a cultural heritage site by communicating its significance without adversely impacting its cultural values or irreversibly altering its fabric.

3. All visible interpretive infrastructures (such as kiosks, walking paths, and information panels) must be sensitive to the character, setting and the cultural and natural significance of the site, while remaining easily identifiable.

4. On-site concerts, dramatic performances, and other interpretive programmes must be carefully planned to protect the significance and physical surroundings of the site and minimise disturbance to the local residents.

**Principle 5: Sustainability**

*The interpretation plan for a cultural heritage site must be sensitive to its natural and cultural environment, with social, financial, and environmental sustainability among its central goals.*

1. The development and implementation of interpretation and presentation programmes should be an integral part of the overall planning, budgeting, and management process of cultural heritage sites.

2. The potential effect of interpretive infrastructure and visitor numbers on the cultural value, physical characteristics, integrity, and natural environment of the site must be fully considered in heritage impact assessment studies.

3. Interpretation and presentation should serve a wide range of conservation, educational and cultural objectives. The success of an interpretive programme should not be evaluated solely on the basis of visitor attendance figures or revenue.

4. Interpretation and presentation should be an integral part of the conservation process, enhancing the public’s awareness of specific conservation problems encountered at the site and explaining the efforts being taken to protect the site’s physical integrity and authenticity.

5. Any technical or technological elements selected to become a permanent part of a site’s interpretive infrastructure should be designed and constructed in a manner that will ensure effective and regular maintenance.

6. Interpretive programmes should aim to provide equitable and sustainable economic, social, and cultural benefits to all stakeholders through education, training and employment opportunities in site interpretation programmes.

**Principle 6: Inclusiveness**

*The Interpretation and Presentation of cultural heritage sites must be the result of meaningful collaboration between heritage professionals, host and associated communities, and other stakeholders.*

1. The multidisciplinary expertise of scholars, community members, conservation experts, governmental authorities, site managers and interpreters, tourism operators, and other professionals should be integrated in the formulation of interpretation and presentation programmes.
2. The traditional rights, responsibilities, and interests of property owners and host and associated communities should be noted and respected in the planning of site interpretation and presentation programmes.

3. Plans for expansion or revision of interpretation and presentation programmes should be open for public comment and involvement. It is the right and responsibility of all to make their opinions and perspectives known.

4. Because the question of intellectual property and traditional cultural rights is especially relevant to the interpretation process and its expression in various communication media (such as on-site multimedia presentations, digital media, and printed materials), legal ownership and right to use images, texts, and other interpretive materials should be discussed, clarified, and agreed in the planning process.

Principle 7:
Research, Training, and Evaluation

Continuing research, training, and evaluation are essential components of the interpretation of a cultural heritage site.

1. The interpretation of a cultural heritage site should not be considered to be completed with the completion of a specific interpretive infrastructure. Continuing research and consultation are important to furthering the understanding and appreciation of a site’s significance. Regular review should be an integral element in every heritage interpretation programme.

2. The interpretive programme and infrastructure should be designed and constructed in a way that facilitates ongoing content revision and/or expansion.

3. Interpretation and presentation programmes and their physical impact on a site should be continuously monitored and evaluated, and periodic changes made on the basis of both scientific and scholarly analysis and public feedback. Visitors and members of associated communities as well as heritage professionals should be involved in this evaluation process.

4. Every interpretation programme should be considered as an educational resource for people of all ages. Its design should take into account its possible uses in school curricula, informal and lifelong learning programmes, communications and information media, special activities, events, and seasonal volunteer involvement.

5. The training of qualified professionals in the specialised fields of heritage interpretation and presentation, such as content creation, management, technology, guiding, and education, is a crucial objective. In addition, basic academic conservation programmes should include a component on interpretation and presentation in their courses of study.

6. On-site training programmes and courses should be developed with the objective of updating and informing heritage and interpretation staff of all levels and associated and host communities of recent developments and innovations in the field.

7. International cooperation and sharing of experience are essential to developing and maintaining standards in interpretation methods and technologies. To that end, international conferences, workshops and exchanges of professional staff as well as national and regional meetings should be encouraged. These will provide an opportunity for the regular sharing of information about the diversity of interpretive approaches and experiences in various regions and cultures.
Preamble

As a result of the development of the sciences of conservation of cultural heritage, the new concept of Cultural Routes shows the evolution of ideas with respect to the vision of cultural properties, as well as the growing importance of values related to their setting and territorial scale, and reveals the macrostructure of heritage on different levels. This concept introduces a model for a new ethics of conservation that considers these values as a common heritage that goes beyond national borders, and which requires joint efforts. By respecting the intrinsic value of each individual element, the Cultural Route recognizes and emphasizes the value of all of its elements as substantive parts of a whole. It also helps to illustrate the contemporary social conception of cultural heritage values as a resource for sustainable social and economic development.

This more extensive notion of cultural heritage requires new approaches to its treatment within a much wider context in order to describe and protect its significant relationships directly associated with its natural, cultural and historical setting. Within this advance, the concept of the Cultural Route is innovative, complex and multidimensional. It introduces and represents a qualitatively new approach to the theory and practice of conservation of the cultural heritage.

Cultural Routes represent interactive, dynamic, and evolving processes of human intercultural links that reflect the rich diversity of the contributions of different peoples to cultural heritage.

Though Cultural Routes have resulted historically from both peaceful and hostile encounters, they present a number of shared dimensions which transcend their original functions, offering an exceptional setting for a culture of peace based on the ties of shared history as well as the tolerance, respect, and appreciation for cultural diversity that characterize the communities involved.

The consideration of Cultural Routes as a new concept or category does not conflict nor overlap with other categories or types of cultural properties—monuments, cities, cultural landscapes, industrial heritage, etc.—that may exist within the orbit of a given Cultural Route. It simply includes them within a joint system which enhances their significance. This integrated, interdisciplinary and shared framework creates new relationships among them by means of an innovative scientific perspective that provides a multilateral, more complete, and more accurate vision of history. This approach stimulates not only understanding and communication among the peoples of the world, but also increases cooperation to preserve cultural heritage.

The innovation introduced by the concept of “Cultural Routes” reveals the heritage content of a specific phenomenon of human mobility and exchange that developed via communication routes that facilitated their flow and which were used or deliberately served a concrete and peculiar purpose. A Cultural Route can be a road that was expressly created to serve this purpose or a route that takes advantage either totally or partially of preexisting roads used for different purposes. But beyond its character as a way of communication or transport, its existence and significance as a Cultural Route can only be explained by its use for such specific purpose throughout a long period of history and by having generated heritage values and cultural properties associated to it which reflect reciprocal influences between different cultural groups as a result of its own peculiar dynamics.

Therefore, Cultural Routes are not simple ways of communication and transport which may include cultural properties and connect different peoples, but special historic phenomena that cannot be created by applying one’s imagination and will to the establishment of a set of associated cultural assets that happen to possess features in common.
Cultural Routes have sometimes arisen as a project planned a priori by the human will which had sufficient power to undertake a specific purpose (for example, the Incan and the Roman Empire Routes). On other occasions, they are the result of a long evolutionary process in which the collective interventions of different human factors coincide and are channeled towards a common purpose (such as in the Route to Santiago, the African trade caravan routes, or the Silk Route). In both cases, they are processes arising from the human will to achieve a specific objective.

Given the cultural richness and variety of both the interrelationships and the characteristic assets directly associated with the reason for the existence of Cultural Routes (such as monuments, archaeological remains, historic towns, vernacular architecture, intangible, industrial and technological heritage, public works, cultural and natural landscapes, transportation means and other examples of the application of specific knowledge and technical skills), their study and management requires a multidisciplinary approach that illustrates and reinvigorates scientific hypotheses and stimulates increased historic, cultural, technical and artistic knowledge.

Objectives of the Charter

- To establish the basic principles and methods of research specific to the category of Cultural Route as they relate to other previously established and studied categories of cultural heritage assets.
- To propose the basic mechanisms for the development of knowledge about, evaluation, protection, preservation, management and conservation of Cultural Routes.
- To define the basic guidelines, principles and criteria for correct use of Cultural Routes as resources for sustainable social and economic development, respecting their authenticity and integrity, appropriate preservation and historical significance.
- To establish the bases for national and international cooperation that will be essential for undertaking research, conservation and development projects related to Cultural Routes, as well as the financing required for these efforts.

Definition

Any route of communication, be it land, water, or some other type, which is physically delimited and is also characterized by having its own specific dynamic and historic functionality to serve a specific and well-determined purpose, which must fulfill the following conditions:

a) It must arise from and reflect interactive movements of people as well as multi-dimensional, continuous, and reciprocal exchanges of goods, ideas, knowledge and values between peoples, countries, regions or continents over significant periods of time;

b) It must have thereby promoted a cross-fertilization of the affected cultures in space and time, as reflected both in their tangible and intangible heritage;

c) It must have integrated into a dynamic system the historic relations and cultural properties associated with its existence.

Defining elements of Cultural Routes: context, content, cross-cultural significance as a whole, dynamic character, and setting.

1. Context: Cultural Routes occur in a natural and/or cultural context upon which they exert an influence and which they help to characterize and enrich with new dimensions as part of an interactive process.

2. Content: A Cultural Route must necessarily be supported by tangible elements that bear witness to its cultural heritage and provide a physical confirmation of its existence. Any intangible elements serve to give sense and meaning to the various elements that make up the whole.

1. The indispensable physical element that determines the existence of a Cultural Route is the communication route itself as an instrument serving a project designed or arising through human activity to accomplish specific goals.
2. Other basic substantive elements are the tangible heritage assets related to its functionality as a historic route (staging posts, customs offices, places for storage, rest, and lodging, hospitals, markets, ports, defensive fortifications, bridges, means of communication and transport; industrial, mining or other establishments, as well as those linked to manufacturing and trade, that reflect the technical, scientific and social applications and advances in its various eras; urban centers, cultural landscapes, sacred sites, places of worship and devotion, etc.) as well as intangible heritage elements that bear witness to the process of exchange and dialogue between the peoples involved along its path.

3. Cross-cultural significance as a whole: The concept of Cultural Route implies a value as a whole which is greater than the sum of its parts and gives the Route its meaning.

1. The cultural route constitutes a cultural asset enriched by the different cultures it has fertilized and which transcends them in overall value by offering a substantial number of shared characteristics and value systems.

2. Within its overall identity, the value of its parts resides in their common, shared, multi-faceted significance.

3. Its wider scale permits a cultural linking of peoples, countries, regions, and continents.

4. This breadth of scale is important from the point of view of both the territory included and of the comprehensive management of the various heritage elements included in it. At the same time the cultural diversity it implies provides an alternative to a process of cultural homogenization.

4. Dynamic character: In addition to presenting physical evidences of its historic path, along with cultural heritage elements, Cultural Routes include a dynamic factor that acts as a conductor or channel through which the reciprocal cultural influences have flowed.

1. The dynamic of a Cultural Route does not obey natural laws or casual phenomena, but rather exclusively human processes and interests, and is therefore understandable only as a cultural phenomenon.

2. This vital fluid of culture is manifested not only in material or tangible aspects, but also in the spirit and traditions making up the intangible heritage of Cultural Routes.

3. By understanding a Cultural Route as a set of dynamic elements of cultural communication between peoples, its cultural heritage assets can be appreciated in their true spatial and historical dimensions, which allows for a comprehensive and sustainable approach to the conservation of the Route as a whole.

5. Setting: The Cultural Route is closely linked to its setting and forms an inseparable part of it.

1. The geographical setting has helped to shape the Cultural Route, either determining its path or influencing its development over time.

2. The territorial setting, whether natural or cultural (urban or rural), provides the framework of the Cultural Route, gives it its particular atmosphere, characterized by elements and values of both physical and intangible nature, and is fundamental for the comprehension, conservation and enjoyment of the route.

3. A Cultural Route connects and interrelates geography and very diverse heritage properties, forming a unified whole. Cultural Routes and their setting are related to their different landscapes, natural or cultural, which are but just one of their components and have their own distinctive characteristics and identity depending on the different areas and regions they pass through in their course. The different landscapes contribute to characterize the diverse sections of the Route as a whole, enriching it with their diversity.
4. The relationship with nature is especially sensitive in some sections, in others it is the relationship with the urban or rural environment, and in the areas with monuments that are isolated from other buildings (such as chapels, monasteries, fountains, bridges, boundary crosses, etc.), it is the relationship of these monuments with their landscape setting which shapes the nature of that section of the Cultural Route.

5. The protection and conservation of the Cultural Routes requires a profound knowledge of the historic, natural and cultural characteristics of their surroundings. Any interventions that may be necessary must fit in with this context and respect its defining features by facilitating their understanding and not distorting the traditional landscape, whether it is natural, cultural or combined.

6. A delineation of the setting must be provided for the Cultural Route, clearly marking the boundaries of a well-defined, regulated buffer zone, which should allow the material and immaterial cultural values included in it to be preserved in their full authenticity and integrity. Such protection must include the values of the different landscapes forming part of the Cultural Route and providing its characteristic atmosphere.

Specific indicators

As basic differentiating indicators applicable to the category of Cultural Route, the following should be considered: the structure of the route and its physical substratum as well as historical data about its use to accomplish a specific goal; any physical structures associated with the concrete purpose and functionality of the Cultural Route; communication elements, and the existence of cultural manifestations of shared origin along (or at given points of) the route such as practices, traditions, customs, and common uses of a religious, ritual, linguistic, festival, culinary, or similar nature; reciprocal influences in music, literature, architecture, fine arts, handicrafts, scientific advances, technical and technological skills, and other material and immaterial cultural assets whose full understanding derives from the historic function of the Cultural Route.

Types of Cultural Routes

Cultural routes can be classified as follows:

- According to their territorial scope: local, national, regional, continental, or intercontinental.
- According to their cultural scope: within a given cultural region or extended across different geographical areas that have shared or continue to share a process of reciprocal influences in the formation or evolution of cultural values.
- According to their goal or function: social, economic, political, or cultural. These characteristics can be found shared across a multi-dimensional context.
- According to their duration in time: those that are no longer used versus those that continue to develop under the influence of socio-economic, political, and cultural exchanges.
- According to their structural configuration: linear, circular, cruciform, radial or network.
- According to their natural environment: land, aquatic, mixed, or other physical setting.

Identification, Integrity and Authenticity

- **Prima facie indicators**

  For identification and assessment purposes, the following aspects may initially be considered as *prima facie*, non-conclusive evidence of the existence of a Cultural Route:

  - Expressions of dynamic social, economic, political, and cultural processes which have generated exchanges between different cultural groups of related areas;
  - Distinguishing characteristics that are shared by different geographical and cultural areas connected by historical bonds;
  - Evidences of mobility and of relationships forged between peoples or ethnic groups of different cultures;
  - Specific cultural features rooted in the traditional life of different communities;
• Heritage elements and cultural practices—such as ceremonies, festivals and religious celebrations representative of shared values for different communities within (a) specific cultural and historic area(s)—related to the significance and functionality of the Route.

• **Identification process**

The process for identifying a Cultural Route will necessarily take into account its specific functionality to serve a concrete and well-determined purpose, the tangible and intangible values of its heritage dynamically generated as a results of reciprocal cultural influences, its structural configuration, its whole geographic and historic context, its natural and cultural setting, whether the latter is urban or rural, and its corresponding characteristic environmental values, its relationships to the landscape, its duration in time, and its symbolic and spiritual dimension, all of which will contribute to its identification and to the understanding of its significance.

The intangible assets of a Cultural Route are fundamental for understanding its significance and its associative heritage values. Therefore, material aspects must always be studied in connection with other values of an intangible nature.

For the purpose of its comparative evaluation, the temporal duration and historic significance of the different sections of the Route in relation to the whole should also be taken into account.

In the case of a living Cultural Route, the relationships and dynamic functions associated with the specific and well-determined purpose that gave rise to its existence and serves to define and identify the route should be maintained, even if the historic processes have undergone change over time and new elements have been incorporated. These new elements should be evaluated within the framework of their functional relationship to the Cultural Route, and the case may occur where properties that have heritage values in themselves cannot be considered as components of the Cultural Route because they do not form part of it.

• **Authenticity**

Every Cultural Route should fulfill authenticity criteria demonstrably and credibly expressing its value in terms of both its natural and cultural environment, and concerning both its defining elements and its distinctive features of a material and immaterial nature:

• These criteria should be applied to each section under study to assess its significance in relation to the overall meaning of the Route throughout its historical development, and to verify the authenticity of its structural layout through the vestiges of its path.
• Authenticity should also be evident in the natural and cultural context of each stretch of the Route subject to analysis and assessment, as well as in the other tangible and intangible heritage elements included within its historic functionality and its setting.
• Even if in certain sections the material traces of a Cultural Route are not clearly preserved, its existence in these areas could be shown through historiography, intangible elements and immaterial sources of information that prove their real meaning as integral components of that Route and evidence its authenticity.
• The techniques and methodologies used for the protection, conservation and management of the Cultural Routes, whether traditional or newly implemented, must respect the authenticity criteria.

• **Integrity**

The verification of the integrity of a Cultural Route must necessarily be based on a sufficiently representative set of both tangible and intangible evidences and elements that witness to its global significance and values as a whole and ensure the complete representation of the features and importance of the historic processes which generated the Cultural Route.

Evidences of the historic relationships and dynamic functions essential to the distinctive character of the Cultural Route should be maintained. In addition, regard must be had for whether its physical fabric and/or its significant features are in good condition and the impact of deterioration processes controlled, and whether or not the Route reflects any possible side effects of development, abandonment or neglect.
Methodology

The concept of Cultural Route requires a specific methodology for its research, assessment, protection, preservation, conservation, use and management. Given its breadth and its value as a whole, as well as its territorial dimensions, this methodology requires the establishment of a system of coordinated and integrally managed activities.

It is essential to start with the identification both of the Route as a whole and of its individual sections, along with an inventory of the assets that comprise it and an analysis of their state of conservation which will facilitate the elaboration of a strategic plan for its preservation. This plan should necessarily include measures for raising awareness of the Route and creating interest in it among public and private entities. It also requires the formulation of coordinated measures and specific legal instruments for the protection, use and management of all of its elements as substantive parts of the value and significance of the Route as a whole.

1. Research

The study of cultural routes may extend across different geographical areas, possibly widely separated from each other. It is therefore advisable to set up several research teams located at the main characteristic points of the Route under study.

The research methodology, along with the adoption of practices and the attachment of indicators for proper identification and assessment of the heritage values in the different sections of a Cultural Route, should never lose sight of the meaning of the Route as a whole, in order to avoid any loss in the meaning or historic significance of the route.

Research teams working on this cultural heritage category should be of a multidisciplinary and co-operative nature. Common working criteria should be established based on the principle of starting with an investigation of the parts, but without losing sight of the project as a whole. Similarly, common methodological instruments—standardized in advance—should be used for the collection of data. The project plan should include coordinating mechanisms that will facilitate communication and cooperation among the researchers in order to make it possible to transmit data about the work and achievements of each team.

Researchers should keep in mind that the presence of various types of cultural heritage properties along the path of a Cultural Route does not, in and of itself, imply that they are necessarily integral components of that route or are appropriate objects of study in relation to it. The only elements that should be highlighted in the scientific investigation of a Cultural Route are those related to the specific goal of the Route and any influences arising from its functional dynamic.

2. Funding

Given the scope of the tasks involved in identifying and highlighting the value of a vast Cultural Route, funding should be obtained in stages that will allow for balanced, coordinated progress in the research projects as well as the preservation, use, and management projects related to its various sections. It is advisable to establish a joint estimation of the values to be preserved so as to allow the setting of a scale of priorities for action and the implementation of the corresponding strategies. This requires that funding be obtained through bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements, as well as through the creation of bodies specifically devoted to researching and highlighting the value of the Route. Along the same lines, regional bodies whose jurisdictions coincide totally or partially with the historic path of a Cultural Route should determine how they can best gain the interest of the States involved and obtain their cooperation. It is also important to attract, if possible, the cooperation of philanthropic institutions and private donors.

3. Protection – Assessment – Preservation / Conservation

Cultural Routes and their setting require new instruments for their assessment, protection, conservation and evaluation. It is not sufficient to guarantee protection of their heritage
elements on a partial or random basis. The preparation of rigorous inventories of these elements, as well as an assessment of their authenticity and integrity should take place in order to identify impacts on the values of the Cultural Route and therefore impacts on its significance. It is also necessary to control the impact of deterioration processes, and to develop a strategy to prevent the adverse effects of development and neglect. All of this requires the establishment of a system of coordinated legal measures and appropriate instruments that guarantee that the Route will be preserved and its value and significance highlighted in a holistic fashion. Understanding heritage values is fundamental prior to any intervention on Cultural Routes that may impact/change their significance.

4. **Sustainable Use – Relationship to Tourist Activities**

With regard to its use, a Cultural Route can be used to promote an activity of social and economic interest of extraordinary importance for stable development.

Special care should be taken to avoid confusion between the concepts of tourist routes—even including those of cultural interest—and Cultural Routes. However, it should also be recognized that a Cultural Route is a reality that can have great importance for territorial cohesion and sustainable development. From this point of view, efforts should be made to promote knowledge about Cultural Routes, along with their appropriate and sustainable use for tourism purposes, always with the adoption of appropriate measures aimed at eliminating risks. For this purpose, protection and promotion of a Cultural Route should harmoniously integrate a supplementary infrastructure – for tourist activities, access routes, information, interpretation and presentation – with the essential condition that it does not jeopardize the meaning, authenticity and integrity of the historic values of the Cultural Route as key elements to be conveyed to visitors.

Tourist visits should be managed on a rational basis in accordance with prior environmental impact studies and with plans for public use and community participation, as well as control and monitoring measures intended to prevent the negative impacts of tourism.

The development of a Cultural Route for tourism purposes should guarantee in any case that priority is given to the participation of the local community and to local and regional tourist companies. Every effort should be made to prevent the creation of monopolies by large international companies or by powerful companies based in the more developed countries through which the historic path of the Cultural Route passes.

Given the fact that a Cultural Route is an instrument for cooperation and understanding which provides a holistic reading of the encounter of cultures and civilization that form that Route, we should also keep in mind that independently of the relative importance of each one of its parts, the promotion of positive developments in each one, leads to increased interest on the Route and benefits for the other parts.

5. **Management**

“Understanding of Cultural Routes Significance” becomes the basic / fundamental principle associated to management of cultural routes. This implies ensuring that all activities related to their research, assessment and social dissemination of knowledge about them are carried out in a coordinated and harmonious manner. This also requires a cross coordination that guarantees the combination of policies relating to protection, preservation, conservation, territorial organization, sustainable development, use and tourism. Therefore, joint projects need to be prepared that ensure sustainable development on a national (at the provincial, regional, local level, etc.) and international scale, as well as the establishment of management tools designed to protect the Route against natural disasters and all kinds of risks which could impact on the integrity and authenticity of the Cultural Route and therefore on its significance.
6. **Public participation**

The protection, conservation/preservation, promotion and management of a Cultural Route calls for the stimulation of public awareness, and the participation of the inhabitants of the areas which share the Route.

**International cooperation**

There are notable examples of Cultural Routes whose historic paths involve various countries. For this reason, international cooperation is essential for research, assessment, and preservation of the assets that make up international Cultural Routes.

When Cultural Routes exist which involve countries with different degrees of development, it is recommended that the more developed countries provide the means for economic, technical, and logistic cooperation as well as assistance in the exchange of information, experience, and researchers.

It is highly desirable that UNESCO and other international organizations should establish mechanisms of cooperation (financial, technical, and logistic) to help foster and implement projects related to Cultural Routes that are of interest to more than one country.

Cultural Routes should be seen as symbols of union between peoples. The historic ties developed along Cultural Routes can serve to promote projects based on renewed cooperation between peoples who shared certain values and knowledge in the past.
THE QUEBEC DECLARATION
ON THE PRESERVATION OF THE SPIRIT OF THE PLACE

Adopted at Québec, Canada, October 4th 2008

Preamble

Meeting in the historic city of Québec (Canada), from 29 September to 4 October 2008, at the invitation of ICOMOS Canada, on the occasion of the 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS and the celebrations marking the 400th anniversary of the founding of Québec, the participants adopt the following Declaration of principles and recommendations to preserve the spirit of place through the safeguarding of tangible and intangible heritage, which is regarded as an innovative and efficient manner of ensuring sustainable and social development throughout the world.

This Declaration is part of a series of measures and actions undertaken by ICOMOS over the course of the past five years to safeguard and promote the spirit of places, namely their living, social and spiritual nature. In 2003, ICOMOS focused the scientific symposium of its 14th General Assembly on the theme of the preservation of social intangible values of monuments and sites. In the ensuing Kimberly Declaration, ICOMOS committed itself to taking into account the intangible values (memory, beliefs, traditional knowledge, attachment to place) and the local communities that are the custodians of these values in the management and preservation of monuments and sites under the World Heritage Convention of 1972. The ICOMOS Xi’an Declaration of 2005 draws attention to the conservation of context, defined as the physical, visual and natural aspects as well as social and spiritual practices, customs, traditional knowledge and other intangible forms and expressions, in the protection and promotion of world heritage monuments and sites. It also calls upon a multidisciplinary approach and diversified sources of information in order to better understand, manage and conserve context. The Declaration of Foz Do Iguacu, drawn up in 2008 by ICOMOS Americas, specifies that the tangible and intangible components of heritage are essential in the preservation of the identity of communities that have created and transmitted spaces of cultural and historical significance. The new ICOMOS charters on Cultural Routes and on Interpretation and Presentation, formulated after extensive consultations and presented for ratification at the present 16th ICOMOS General Assembly, also recognize the importance of intangible dimensions of heritage and the spiritual value of place. Because of the indivisible nature of tangible and intangible heritage and the meanings, values and context intangible heritage gives to objects and places, ICOMOS is currently considering the adoption of a new charter dedicated specifically to the intangible heritage of monuments and sites. In this regard, we encourage discussion and debates in order to develop a new conceptual vocabulary that takes into account the ontological changes of the spirit of place.

The 16th General Assembly, and more specifically the Youth Forum, the Aboriginal Forum and the Scientific Symposium, have provided an opportunity to further explore the relationship between tangible and intangible heritage, and the internal social and cultural mechanisms of the spirit of place. Spirit of place is defined as the tangible (buildings, sites, landscapes, routes, objects) and the intangible elements (memories, narratives, written documents, rituals, festivals, traditional knowledge, values, textures, colors, odors, etc.), that is to say the physical and the spiritual elements that give meaning, value, emotion and mystery to place. Rather than separate spirit from place, the intangible from the tangible, and consider them as opposed to each other, we have investigated the many ways in which the two interact and mutually construct one another. The spirit of place is constructed by various social actors, its architects and managers as well as its users, who all contribute actively and concurrently to giving it meaning. Considered as a relational concept, spirit of place takes on a plural and dynamic character, capable of possessing multiple meanings and singularities, of changing through time, and of belonging to different groups. This more dynamic approach is also better adapted to today’s globalized world, which is characterized by transnational population movements, relocated populations, increased intercultural contacts, pluralistic societies, and multiple attachments to place.

The spirit of place offers a more comprehensive understanding of the living and, at the same time, permanent character of monuments, sites and cultural landscapes. It provides a richer, more dynamic, and inclusive vision of cultural heritage. Spirit of place exists, in one form or another, in practically all the cultures of the world, and is constructed by human beings in response to their
social needs. The communities that inhabit place, especially when they are traditional societies, should be intimately associated in the safeguarding of its memory, vitality, continuity and spirituality.

The participants of the 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS therefore address the following Declaration of principles and recommendations to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, national and local authorities and all institutions and specialists in a position to contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protecting and promoting the spirit of place.

**Rethinking the Spirit of Place**

1. Recognizing that the spirit of place is made up of tangible (sites, buildings, landscapes, routes, objects) as well as intangible elements (memories, narratives, written documents, festivals, commemorations, rituals, traditional knowledge, values, textures, colors, odors, etc.), which all significantly contribute to making place and to giving it spirit, we declare that intangible cultural heritage gives a richer and more complete meaning to heritage as a whole and it must be taken into account in all legislation concerning cultural heritage, and in all conservation and restoration projects for monuments, sites, landscapes, routes and collections of objects.

2. Because the spirit of place is complex and multiform, we demand that governments and other stakeholders call upon the expertise of multidisciplinary research teams and traditional practitioners in order to better understand, preserve and transmit the spirit of place.

3. Since the spirit of place is a continuously reconstructed process, which responds to the needs for change and continuity of communities, we uphold that it can vary in time and from one culture to another according to their practices of memory, and that a place can have several spirits and be shared by different groups.

**Identifying the Threats to the Spirit of Place**

4. Since climatic change, mass tourism, armed conflict and urban development lead to the transformation and disruption of societies, we need to better understand these threats in order to establish preventive measures and sustainable solutions. We recommend that governmental and non-governmental agencies, and local and national heritage organizations develop long term strategic plans to prevent the degradation of the spirit of place and its environment. The inhabitants and local authorities should also be made aware of the safeguarding of the spirit of place so that they are better prepared to deal with the threats of a changing world.

5. As the sharing of places invested with different spirits by several groups increases the risk of competition and conflict, we recognize that these sites require specific management plans and strategies, adapted to the pluralistic context of modern multicultural societies. Because the threats to the spirit of place are especially high amongst minority groups, be they natives or newcomers, we recommend that these groups benefit first and foremost from specific policies and practices.

**Safeguarding the Spirit of Place**

6. Because in most countries of the world today the spirit of place, in particular its intangible components, do not currently benefit from formal educational programs or legal protection, we recommend the setting up of forums and consultations with experts from different backgrounds and resource persons from local communities, and the development of training programs and legal policies in order to better safeguard and promote the spirit of place.

7. Considering that modern digital technologies (digital databases, websites) can be used efficiently and effectively at a low cost to develop multimedia inventories that integrate tangible and intangible elements of heritage, we strongly recommend their widespread use in order to better preserve, disseminate and promote heritage places and their spirit. These technologies facilitate the diversity and constant renewal of the documentation on the spirit of place.
Transmitting the Spirit of Place

8. Recognizing that spirit of place is transmitted essentially by people, and that transmission is an important part of its conservation, we declare that it is through interactive communication and the participation of the concerned communities that the spirit of place is most efficiently safeguarded, used and enhanced. Communication is the best tool for keeping the spirit of place alive.

9. Given that local communities are generally in the best position to comprehend the spirit of place, especially in the case of traditional cultural groups, we maintain that they are also best equipped to safeguard it and should be intimately associated in all endeavors to preserve and transmit the spirit of place. Non-formal (narratives, rituals, performances, traditional experience and practices, etc.) and formal (educational programs, digital databases, websites, pedagogical tools, multimedia presentations, etc.) means of transmission should be encouraged because they ensure not only the safeguarding of the spirit of place but, more importantly, the sustainable and social development of the community.

10. Recognizing that intergenerational and transcultural transmission plays an important role in the sustained dissemination and the preservation of the spirit of place, we recommend the association and involvement of younger generations, as well as different cultural groups associated with the site, in policy-making and the management of the spirit of place.
"ICOMOS was not conceived as a place for people to boost their own sense of self-worth, but as a way of serving the universal community".

That is how, when in 1993 he retraced how ICOMOS had come into being, Raymond Lemaire emphasized the need at that time to bring together people from all the disciplines of the conservation and restoration of the heritage. He wanted an association of members who were highly professionally qualified, guaranteeing scientific seriousness and at the same time being open to and respectful of differences of conception and sensibility. ICOMOS "is not a platform for vanity, but for dedication. The idea of servus servorum culturae is the very core of the responsibilities we agree to bear. That is what makes it possible to promote understanding and friendship". For Raymond Lemaire, "the special contribution of ICOMOS to peace and understanding between men is not a secondary objective".

About the Fund

Professors Piero Gazzola and Raymond Lemaire, two of the founders of ICOMOS, attached the greatest importance to training young professionals and welcoming them into the ICOMOS family.

Since 1981, at every General Assembly, ICOMOS has awarded the Gazzola Prize to a person or group of persons who has worked with distinction towards the objectives of ICOMOS. In 1999, the General Assembly in Mexico passed Resolution 29, which envisaged the creation of an International Fund named after Raymond Lemaire designed to raise funds for training young heritage professionals. Thanks to study bursaries and cooperation arrangements with training organisations, these young heritage professionals would be enabled, throughout the whole world, to take part in post-graduate courses or traineeships in conservation and restoration.

With the creation of this Fund, endorsed in March 2008 by the Executive Committee, the names of the two founding fathers of ICOMOS are reunited by two different but complementary initiatives. The Fund has received particular support from Carmen Añon, Jean Barthélémy, Françoise Choay, Maria Pia Gazzola, Marie-Jeanne Geerts, Bernadette Gradis, Donald Insall, Jukka Jokilehto, Mark Laenen, François Leblanc, Jean-Louis Luxen, Andries Van den Abeele, ICOMOS Belgium and the children of Raymond Lemaire. The sum of 5000 Euros has been raised to launch the Fund.

About Raymond Lemaire

Born on 28th May 1921 in Uccle, Brussels, into a family of architects, Raymond Lemaire was trained in History, Art History, and Archaeology at the Catholic University of Louvain. His doctorate thesis (1949) was on "The Origin of the Gothic Style in Brabant". A lecturer since 1947, he was appointed to a professorship in 1954.

He is one of the authors of the "Venice Charter", which he drafted during the 2nd International Congress of Architects and Monument Technicians in 1964, at the request of his colleague and friend Piero Gazzola. The "Venice Charter" later became the basis for the creation of ICOMOS in 1965. After almost ten years as Secretary General of ICOMOS, Raymond Lemaire succeeded Piero Gazzola as President of ICOMOS in 1975.

A teacher in many Universities, Raymond Lemaire was above all a "visionary, a master and a conservator without equal", in the words of Dr. Roland Silva, past president of ICOMOS. During his life, he was particularly concerned with the education of young professionals. In 1976, he founded, as part of the College of Europe in Bruges, the Centre for Conservation of Historic Towns and Buildings, under the patronage of ICOMOS. In 1981, the Centre moved to the K.U.Leuven. It has up to this date trained more than 700 young heritage professionals and today bears the name "The Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation" (RLICC).
In her tribute at his funeral in 1997, Françoise Choay summed up the essence of Raymond Lemaire’s personality as follows: "For all of us who came from the four corners of the world to the Centre to study, search, work, explore our potential, for all us students, educators, researchers, and also for his colleagues, he was simply ‘The Professor’: an affectionate designation which did not just indicate his knowledge and authority, but also the effect of his presence, that fatherly spirituality which, in conversation with him, made the other person bring out that what was best in themselves”. This, then, shall also be the aim of the Raymond Lemaire International Fund.

Donate to the Fund

By donating to the Fund, you will be helping the professionals of tomorrow to secure the best training. By enabling them to hone their skills in the best centres all over the world, you will help young people to develop that frame of mind so dear to Raymond Lemaire: learning to respect the differences of conception and sensibility of all peoples and all civilisations.

The Executive Committee of ICOMOS will decide on the method of disbursal and the Fund will be managed by the International Secretariat.

If you want to help the Fund, send your donations to the ICOMOS account:

IBAN: FR76 3007 6023 5211 5890 0020 018
BIC / SWIFT Code: NORDFRPP

Please mark your donation “Fonds Raymond Lemaire”
ICOMOS - 49/51, rue de la Fédération 75015 Paris – France
The expansion of ICOMOS into a more dynamic, authoritative, responsive and participatory organization will require a careful reassessment of what merits to be kept, what needs to be restructured, which obsolete elements need to be abandoned and which new ones will have to be invented. For the Executive Committee, it presents the double challenge of ensuring that the ongoing work of ICOMOS will continue uninterrupted and seamlessly while institutional renewal is achieved.

To reach this goal, President Gustavo Araoz developed a Strategic Planning Process, approved by the Executive Committee, which distils the vision of organisational renewal into seven priority areas of work, each under the responsibility of an elected officer of ICOMOS supported by a working group. It will build on the groundwork already done by the Advisory Committee Task Forces. As with any such process, it will require lots of research and discussion, plus the gentle guidance and coordination from ICOMOS’ elected leadership. Its ultimate success will depend on the willingness of each ICOMOS member to contribute with their work, ideas and expectations, which is why the seven priority areas have been widely circulated for opinions among the ICOMOS membership.

General co-ordination
M. Gustavo Araoz, President

Objective 1: Secure Financial stability
Chair: Mr. Jadran Antolovic, Treasurer General

Objective 2: Strengthen and activate National Committees and foster cooperation of new ones
Chair: Mr. Andrew Hall, Vice-President

Objective 3: Strengthen and fully empower the Scientific Council
Chair: Ms. Kristal Buckley, Vice-President

Objective 4: Strengthen ICOMOS performance in World Heritage
Chair: Mr. Olivier Poisson, Vice-President

Objective 5: Broaden ICOMOS’ pool of advisers and enlarge membership
Chair: Mr. Guo Zahn, Vice-President

Objective 6: Improve communication with and among full members
Chair: Mr. Francisco Lopez Morales, Vice-President

Objective 7: Evaluate the professional programmes and activities of the ICOMOS Secretariat
Chair: Ms. Bénédicte Selfslagh, Secretary General
A co-opted member shall:

a) Be an individual active member of ICOMOS in good standing for at least three years,
b) Be an active professional,
c) Contribute to a greater equity in the representation of regions of the World on the Executive Committee,
d) Not be duplicating a country already represented on the Executive Committee except for the President’s country,
e) Not be an unsuccessful candidate to the elections that constituted the current Executive Committee,
f) Be able to fully take part in meetings and contribute to the work of the Executive Committee,
g) Be able to develop National Committees and activities in their region;
h) Contribute to a greater equity in the representation of women on the Executive Committee,
i) Not be co-opted previously unless justified by exceptional circumstances;
These rules of procedure are adopted in terms of Article 8 of the ICOMOS Statutes, which amongst other things require that the Executive Committee and Bureau shall adopt (their) own rules of procedure with regard to (their) mode of operation. They replace the pre-existing Rules of Procedure.

ARTICLE 1. PLACE OF MEETING

a) The Executive Committee in ordinary session and the Bureau shall meet at the home of the ICOMOS Secretariat or a place decided upon by its members at a previous meeting, or if that is not possible by using the procedure for decisions between meetings as set out below.

b) The Members of the hosting country shall make their best efforts in order to assure the necessary visas are issued by the hosting country to all participants.

c) In the event that the host country cannot provide such a guarantee the meeting shall be held in another country unless the business of the meeting requires on-site visits relating to matters that require attention in terms of the agenda.

ARTICLE 2. CONVOCATION

a) The President shall convocate members at least three months in advance of the date and place of an ordinary session, and at least thirty days in advance of the date and place of an extraordinary session of the Executive Committee.

b) The President may invite the Director General of UNESCO, the President of the International Council of Museums, the Director General of ICCROM and the Presidents of other partner organisations as appropriate to send observers to the Executive Committee meetings.

c) The Executive Committee shall meet in ordinary session at least once a year in years that the General Assembly does not meet, and twice in years when the General Assembly meets, once before and once after the meeting of the General Assembly.

d) The Bureau shall meet, at the invitation of the President, and as required. It shall follow the procedure for extraordinary meetings of the Executive Committee.

f) Between ordinary sessions of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee may be convoked in extraordinary session or approve decisions according to the procedure set out in Article 11.

ARTICLE 3. AGENDA

a) The draft agenda of a meeting shall be communicated to all members at least thirty days in advance for an ordinary session, and at least fifteen days in advance for an extraordinary session. Procedures for decision making between meetings are set out separately under Article 11.

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1 Article 8 of the Statutes of ICOMOS:
   a. The administrative organisation of ICOMOS shall consist of the:
      - General Assembly
      - Executive Committee and Bureau
      - Advisory Committee and Bureau
      - National Committees
      - Specialised International Committees
      - Secretariat
   b. Each of these bodies shall adopt its own rules of procedure with regard to its mode of operation, including the election of its officers, according to the ICOMOS Statutes.

2 This provision accords with articles 10e and 11a of the Statutes of ICOMOS

3 This provision accords with article 16 of the Statutes of ICOMOS

4 This provision accords with article 10.e of the Statutes of ICOMOS.
b) The draft agenda shall be prepared by the President in conjunction with the Director and Secretary-General and after contributions have been solicited from all members. In the case of meetings of the Bureau all members of the Executive Committee shall also be invited to contribute to the Agenda.

c) At the start of a meeting, the agenda shall be submitted to the Committee for its approval and may be modified on a decision from the Committee.

d) The agenda of an ordinary meeting of the Executive Committee shall amongst other things consist of the following items:
   i) Adoption of the agenda.
   ii) Matters arising, including follow-up reports on implementation of previous decisions that have not yet been fully implemented.
   iv) Reports from the President, Secretary-General, Treasurer-General and Director
   v) Financial report and statements

e) Agendas for extraordinary meetings and meetings of the Bureau shall address only those matters for which they have been convened.

ARTICLE 4. RECORDING AND MINUTES

a) The Secretary-General with the support of the Secretariat and any rapporteur/s whom the Committee may appoint shall record, publish and distribute the minutes and all such other records of proceedings.

b) Decisions shall be formally adopted at the conclusion of discussion of the relevant agenda item, and recorded in writing. It shall be indicated in the minutes who is responsible for implementation of each decision.

c) The Secretary-General with the support of the Secretariat and the rapporteur/s will circulate the minutes and decisions within 15 days for correction by the Executive Committee members.

d) Within 30 days of any meeting, the final minutes and decisions, revised as appropriate shall be circulated to all members of the Executive Committee and a report on the meeting posted on the ICOMOS website.

e) Discussion and decision that are confidential, whether marked as such or by their nature, shall not be made public nor disclosed to any third party.

ARTICLE 5. DOCUMENTS TO BE AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS:

The following documents must be available at all meetings:

a) Statutes
b) These rules
c) The triennial action plan and other plans
d) The programme and budget
e) Agreements with partner organisations
f) The General Assembly Resolutions
e) The Minutes and Recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the Scientific Council for the past three years
g) The Minutes and Decisions of the Executive Committee and Bureau for the past three years
h) Follow-up reports on the implementation of resolutions (General Assembly), Recommendations (Advisory Committee) and decisions (Executive Committee)
i) Progress reports on subcommittees and projects
j) Progress reports on the implementation of plans
k) Report on membership and the state of Committees
l) Instructions to the Director.
m) Financial reports and statements
n) Supporting documents of items to discuss

Supporting documents of items to discuss shall be communicated at least fifteen days in advance of the meeting. Documents will not necessarily be distributed in hard copy at all meetings.
ARTICLE 6. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Any member unable to attend a session of the Executive Committee may be represented by another member of this Committee, on condition that this designation be made written, signed and dated proxy. No member may represent more than two other members.

ARTICLE 7. QUORUM

The quorum for a meeting of the Executive committee shall be a simple majority of the members present and represented.

ARTICLE 8. VOTING AT MEETINGS

a) Decisions shall as far as possible be by consensus, but when necessary shall be taken by a simple majority of the members present and in the case of parity the President shall have the casting vote.
b) A decision shall be voted on by secret ballot whenever two or more Executive Committee members shall so request or if the President so decides. The designation of the co-opted members is made by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 9. PLANS

a) A triennial plan shall be adopted by the Executive Committee following the General Assembly. It shall integrate decisions of and directions indicated by the General Assembly.
b) Before the commencement of each financial year the Executive Committee shall adopt an Annual Work Plan for the organisation based upon the targets set out in the triennial plan and drawn up by the Secretary-General.
c.) The Annual Work plan shall amongst other things include:
   i) The annual budget as drawn up by the Treasurer-General.
   ii) An assessment of non-financial resources available and needed.
   iii) A plan of operations with target dates and key deliverables.

ARTICLE 10. WORKING GROUPS

The Executive Committee may entrust tasks and projects to one or more of its members or working groups made up of members of the organisation provided that:

a) Working groups shall be chaired by a member of the Executive Committee.
b) Clear timeframes are set for the completion of tasks or projects.
c) Reports on progress and activities be submitted to each ordinary session of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 11. DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR

The Director shall provide the following services to the Committee:

a) Assist the President with the drafting of the agenda and its distribution.
b) Call for items for inclusion in the agenda and documents to be distributed with it.
c) Assist the President to collect reports and follow up on execution of decisions taken by the Executive Committee.
d) Inform relevant partners and the membership of ICOMOS of changes in the membership of the Executive Committee.
e) Follow up on matters upon the request of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 12. WORK ETHIC

Members are bound by the following obligations:
a) Commitment: Every member shall, after discussion in the Executive Committee, be allocated a portfolio / area of specific responsibly by the President, and shall prioritise work in areas for which they are responsible.

b) Serving All: The function of the Executive Committee and therefore its members is to serve all branches of and individuals in the organisation rather than the interests of a national or scientific committee, or other narrow constituency.

c) Conflict of Interest: Care must be taken to avoid situations which may result in a conflict of interest with their work on an ICOMOS committee and, where this is not possible, to declare such conflicts of interest and absent themselves from discussion and decision making associated therewith.

d) Independence: Members should be independent and receive no instructions from their National or International Specialised Committee nor any other third party.

e) Collegiality: Members should work in a spirit of collegiality and mutual support of efforts to achieve the goals of ICOMOS.

f) Confidentiality: Matters which are of a sensitive or confidential nature shall not be disclosed to any third party.

g) Openness and Transparency: The work of the Executive Committee and Bureau shall, other than in instances requiring confidentiality, be conducted in an open and transparent manner that fosters understanding of the inner workings of ICOMOS on the part of its members and partner organisations.

h) Equity: Ensuring that all members of ICOMOS share in the opportunities presented by membership of the organisation.

ARTICLE 13. DECISIONS BETWEEN MEETINGS

The following procedure shall be used for the making of decisions between meetings of the Executive Committee and Bureau:

a) Methods of decision making:
   i) Decisions between meetings may be made in extraordinary session, Articles 2-8 applying mutatis mutandis, or by electronic mail or teleconferencing (eg: telephone, voice over Internet, etc.).
   ii) The provisions of article 13 will be used when good governance of the organisation requires decisions between meetings.

b) Agendas and initiation of discussion:
   i) In the case of either method, an agenda must be e-mailed to all members of the Executive Committee in advance (in the case of a teleconference a minimum of 72 hours before discussion commences) along with relevant documentation and a discussion introducing the topic and motivating why the issue in question must be resolved upon before a conventional meeting can be held. This document must also include a proposed decision.
   ii) The request for a decision may be initiated by the President, or four members of the Executive Committee. Required documentation shall be sent to the Director who, within no more than a single French Working Day (meaning any of Monday – Friday, which is not a public holiday in France) shall, in consultation with the Secretary-General, if contactable, compile an agenda and circulate it with relevant documentation.
   iii) All E-mail referred to in article 13 will be done through the Executive Committee list-serv only.

c) Decisions via teleconference:
   i) Decisions will be made in the same way as occurs in a formal meeting, ie: following discussion and either via consensus or the taking of a vote at the end of the conference.
   ii) In the case of a vote members may be given 24 hours after the conference to consider their opinions and to vote via e-mail, which vote shall be via the same process set out below.

d) Decisions via e-mail:
   i) After circulation of the Agenda and associated documents, members are permitted ten French Working Days to put views and counterviews and to discuss the matter via whatever medium and with whichever members they choose.
   ii) An amendment to a proposed decision, or an alternative decision, may be submitted to and circulated by the Director provided that it has the support of no less than two members, in which case time allowed for discussion will be extended by 48 hours. In
the event that a second amendment or alternative decision is submitted discussion time will not be further extended.

iii) A proposed decision, an amendment thereto, or an alternative decision may in the conventional way be withdrawn by the proposers at any time in the course of deliberations.

iv) At the end of the period allowed for discussion members are allowed a further 48 hours in which to vote on the proposed decision. In the event that the decision is not adopted and if there is an amended, or an alternative decision, a further 48 hours will be permitted for a second round of voting and so on in order of the submission of alternatives to the proposed original decision.

v) Voting will be by individual e-mail to the address of the Director who shall announce the outcome of voting via a message to all members of the Executive Committee.

e) Determining of urgency:

i) Should two members of the Executive Committee indicate within 72 hours of the commencement of the e-mail process that they believe that the decision should delayed until a meeting in person can be convened, the Director shall in the course of the next normal French Working Day put the question of whether or not to proceed with consideration of the matter under discussion to the vote allowing 72 hours for voting. The view of the majority of respondents shall prevail. Should the motion not be adopted no additional time for discussion will be added to the permitted ten days.

ii) In the case of a teleconference should two or more members indicate at the commencement of the discussion that they believe that the matter should rather be dealt with by an e-mail process, or be delayed until a formal meeting, the President shall immediately put the question of whether or not proceed with consideration of the matter under discussion to the vote.

ARTICLE 14. THE BUREAU

a) The Bureau shall act and decide in all matters in its power according to the ICOMOS Statutes or referred to it by the Executive Committee, and in particular co-ordinate the work of the Executive Committee and ensure that decisions are implemented.

b) The Bureau shall meet at such frequency as may be required by the affairs on the agenda and in accordance with the provisions of Article 1 above.

c) Articles 2-8 above shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the Bureau, provided however, that the provisions of Article 3 regarding an extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee shall apply with regard to the submission of the agenda to the participants.

d) Agendas and minutes of the Bureau shall be circulated to all members of the Executive and opportunity allowed for comment on minutes at the formal meeting of the Executive Committee immediately following a meeting of the Bureau.
HOW TO SUPPORT ICOMOS?

Individuals, organisations, institutions and companies... can support:

• the work of ICOMOS as a whole, or one of its international programmes,
• the International Heritage House, our new headquarters, and/or
• the Victoria Falls/Mosi-oa-Tunya Fund, which facilitates the participation of members at institutional meetings
• the Raymond Lemarie Programme for Next Generation Skills, which provides scholarships for Young Professionals in the field of Conservation
• an initiative of an ICOMOS National or Scientific Committee,

by corporate volunteering and/or by transferring a gift, bequest or subvention to:

Account:
ICOMOS
49-51, rue de la Fédération
75015 Paris – France
IBAN: FR76 3007 6023 5211 5890 0020 018
BIC / SWIFT Code: NORDFRPP
Bank address: Credit du Nord / 50, rue d'Anjou / 75008 Paris / France

For more information, please contact:
Director of the International Secretariat of ICOMOS
49-51, rue de la Fédération
75015 Paris
France
Tel.: +33 (0)1 45 67 67 70
Fax: +33 (0)1 45 66 06 22
E-mail: secretariat@icomos.org

HOW TO DO VOLUNTARY WORK FOR ICOMOS ?

ICOMOS relies on the voluntary work of its membership and also welcomes interns and volunteers through both its National Committees and International Secretariat on a need basis. If you are interested in volunteering contact the National Committee of your choice or the International Secretariat.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ICOMOS?

Individual membership is open to any individual engaged in the conservation of monuments, groups of buildings and sites as a member of the scientific, technical or administrative staff of national, regional or local monuments, fine arts or antiquities services, a decision-maker or a specialist engaged in the conservation, restoration, rehabilitation and enhancement of monuments, groups of buildings and sites. Individual membership may be accorded in exceptional cases to other individuals interested in supporting the aims and objectives of ICOMOS.

Institutional membership is open to:

• All institutions or organizations, of any kind, who work in the field of preservation, conservation, restoration, the use, the running/management or the presentation of monuments, ensembles and sites;
• Institutions who own monuments, buildings and sites or under whose authority these are placed;
• Institutions devoting all or part of their activity to one or more of the functions previously listed

Membership applications are handled by the ICOMOS National Committees – the full list of National Committee contact addresses is available on http://www.icomos.org

If there is no National Committee in your country, please send your membership application to the ICOMOS International Secretariat.