# General Assembly July 2020

Via Zoom, 23 and 24 July 2020

**No.** | **Topic** | **ICOMOS GENERAL ASSEMBLY July 2020** | **Reference** | **Deadline** | **Progress**
---|---|---|---|---|---
| Thursday 23 July 2020 | 1 | Opening of the July 2020 General Assembly | | | |
| 1-1 | Welcome by the President of ICOMOS | Ms Gaia Jungeblodt (Director, International Secretariat) declared the meeting open at 12:07 CEST with 442 colleagues online and asked that members only use the chat to ask questions. She introduced the Zoom panellists: Mr Toshiyuki Kono (President, Japan), Mr Peter Phillips (Secretary General, Australia), Ms Laura Robinson (Treasurer General, South Africa), the Rapporteur Ms Maureen Thibault (International Secretariat) and the Head Teller and 2 Assistant Tellers: Mr Gideon Koren (Israel), Mr James Reap (USA) and Ms Sanaa Niar (Algeria). Ms Laura Maxwell (International Secretariat) made a short technical announcement on how the meeting would run. She explained that the first four Resolutions would be voted on via Zoom and asked that only the voting members who are against or wish to abstain from voting, to answer the Zoom poll.

Mr Toshiyuki Kono (President, Japan) thanked Ms Gaia Jungeblodt for the introduction and welcomed all participants to the July 2020 ICOMOS General Assembly, and noted that the organisation of this General Assembly was made possible by technology and by a French law, valid until 31 July 2020, allowing all organisations, for a limited time, to hold any required meeting of the organisation as a virtual meeting, even if the rules of the organisation do not permit this. This temporary law therefore provides certainty that a General Assembly held virtually, within the period that the law is in force, would be legally valid in France, where ICOMOS is registered. If the General Assembly approved Resolution GA2020-07-5, then a similar virtual General Assembly would take place in the second half of this year. This type of virtual meeting may have been a first opportunity for new possibilities for ICOMOS as a global organisation.

Mr Toshiyuki Kono (President, Japan) thanked the members for their attendance. | | | |
| 2 | Organisation of the meeting | Ms Laura Robinson (Treasurer General, South Africa) presented the report by the Credentials Committee on behalf of Mr Robert Quarles von Ufford (Netherlands), chair of the Credentials Committee, who could not attend the meeting.

The Composition of the Committee proposed by the ICOMOS Board, and endorsed by the Advisory Committee to act for both the July 2020 GA and the 20th Triennial General Assembly is as follows:
- Mr Robert Quarles von Ufford (Netherlands) – chair
- Ms Fauzia Qureshi (Pakistan)
- Mr Saúl Alcántara Onofre (Mexico)
- Ms Laura Robinson (ex officio) (South Africa). | | | |

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**Statutes art** 9a 1, 2, 3, 4

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All 4 members of the Committee attended the meeting on 9 July 2020 between 16:30 and 18:00 CEST via Zoom. Ms Gaia Jungeblodt, Director of the International Secretariat, and Ms Laura Maxwell, Administrative Assistant of the International Secretariat, attended the meeting of the Credentials Committee.

Resolution GA2020-7-1 (via ZOOM polling)
The General Assembly of ICOMOS held on 23 July 2020:

Noting that Article 9-c of the ICOMOS Statutes requires that General Assembly decisions should be taken by a majority of the voting members present or represented from at least one third of the National Committees - i.e. 28.

Having regard to the report of the Credentials Committee;

Takes note that:
- As of 31 December 2019 there were 1125 voting members from 85 National Committees and 75 individual members from countries with no National Committees; that is a total of 1200;
- This 23 July 2020, there are 653 designated voting members expressing 844 votes and representing 58 National Committees up to date with their dues and having sent their list of voting members and proxies;
- The Credentials Committee’s decision to add 5 potential voting members to the above; bringing the overall figure of possible voting members to 849;

Adopts the report of the Credentials Committee and notes that the requirements of Article 9-c of the Statutes for the validity of decisions at this General Assembly have been met.

Ms Laura Robinson (Treasurer General, South Africa) expressed her appreciation of the work of the International Secretariat and noted that National Committees need to pay greater attention to instructions on voting, in particular to the rule that voting rights are based on membership payments in the year preceding the GA.

Ms Gaia Jungeblodt (Director, International Secretariat) invited only voting members who wished to vote against or to abstain from voting, to cast their vote in the Zoom poll appearing on the screen. Those who voted were asked to please put their name and committee in the chat box. Voting members in agreement with the resolution were asked not to vote in the Zoom poll. The vote closed at 12:40 CEST.

The GA adopted the resolution by simple majority (4 votes against, 13 abstentions).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>ICOMOS GENERAL ASSEMBLY July 2020</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-2</td>
<td>Election of the President, Vice-President, Rapporteur, and Tellers</td>
<td>According to article 9.b. of the new Statutes of ICOMOS «… For each meeting, the General Assembly shall elect its President, up to three Vice-Presidents, and a Rapporteur whose term of office shall be the duration of the meeting”. Resolution GA2020-7-2 (via ZOOM polling) The General Assembly of ICOMOS held on 23 July 2020 elects as: President: Toshiyuki Kono (President of ICOMOS) Vice-President: Mikel Landa (Advisory Committee President) Rapporteur: Maureen Thibault (International Secretariat) Head Teller and 2 Assistant Tellers: Gideon Koren, James Reap (ICLAFI) and Sanaa Niar (Algeria, EPWG) The above text of Resolution GA2020-07-2 was presented on the Zoom shared screen in both English and French. Ms Gaia Jungeblodt (Director, International Secretariat) invited only voting members who wished to vote against or to abstain from voting, to cast their vote in the Zoom poll appearing on the screen. Those who voted were asked to please put their name and committee in the chat box. Voting members in agreement with the resolution were asked not to vote in the Zoom poll. The vote closed at 12:51 CEST. The GA adopted the resolution by simple majority (2 votes against, 15 abstentions).</td>
<td>Statutes art 9b</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
<td>Adoption of the agenda (Resolution GA2020-07-3)</td>
<td>Mr Toshiyuki Kono (President, Japan) introduced the next item, the Adoption of the agenda (Resolution GA2020-07-3). Resolution GA2020-7-3 (via ZOOM polling) The General Assembly of ICOMOS held on 23 July 2020 adopts its Agenda. Mr Toshiyuki Kono (President, Japan) invited only voting members who wished to vote against or to abstain from voting, to cast their vote in the Zoom poll appearing on the screen. Those who voted were asked to please put their name and committee in the chat box. Voting members in agreement with the resolution were asked not to vote in the Zoom poll. The vote closed at 12:57 CEST. The GA adopted the resolution by simple majority (1 vote against, 18 abstentions).</td>
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<td>2-4</td>
<td>Adoption of the minutes of previous meeting: AGA 2019 (Resolution GA2020-07-4)</td>
<td>Resolution GA2020-7-4 (via ZOOM polling) The General Assembly of ICOMOS held on 23 July 2020 adopts the minutes of the previous Annual General Assembly, held in Marrakesh (Morocco), 16 October 2019. Mr Toshiyuki Kono (President, Japan) invited only voting members who wished to vote against or to abstain from voting, to cast their vote in the Zoom poll appearing on the screen. Those who voted</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Resolution on Statutory matters</td>
<td>were asked to please put their name and committee in the chat box. Voting members in agreement with the resolution were asked not to vote in the Zoom poll. The vote closed at 13:02 CEST.</td>
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<td>The GA adopted the resolution by simple majority (0 votes against, 16 abstentions).</td>
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| 3-1 | Confirmation of the validity of holding all 2020 statutory meetings as virtual meetings held not necessarily in conjunction (Resolution GA2020-07-5) | Resolution GA2020-7-5 (via Voting platform)  
The ICOMOS General Assembly held on 23 July 2020:  
Taking into account that  
- the COVID-19 pandemic has caused serious disruption to normal global activity, and continues to be out of control in some parts of the world;  
- virtually all countries have imposed bans on international travel (with some exceptions for citizens returning to their own country), in addition to restricting large gatherings of people and closing many public venues;  
- Australia ICOMOS, which had been selected by the Board to host the 20th triennial General Assembly, reluctantly took the decision in April 2020 that it could not host the General Assembly in Sydney in October 2020 as planned;  
- the Statutes of ICOMOS require the General Assembly to meet once a year, with an election for the Board every third year (Article 9-b);  
- the Statutes also require that the Advisory Committee meeting be held in conjunction with the annual General Assembly;  
- although meetings by teleconference are not specifically prohibited in the Statutes, the Statutes and Rules of Procedure are silent on how the required actions of the General Assembly listed in Article 9-d of the Statutes are to be accomplished should circumstances prevent it from taking place as a physical meeting.  
Considering  
- the special law recently passed by the French government allowing all organisations, including French Law 1901 associations such as ICOMOS, to hold any required meeting of the organisation up until 31 July 2020 as a virtual meeting.  
Acknowledging that  
- the 2020 Triennial General Assembly and Advisory Committee meeting will need to be held as virtual meetings to enable ICOMOS members to attend the meetings and participate in voting in sufficient numbers;  
- due to the nature of virtual meetings, it is not practical to necessarily hold meetings in conjunction with each other – as when they are at the same physical venue.  
Resolves | Statutes art 9d1 | | | | |
Mr Toshiyuki Kono (President, Japan) introduced Resolution GA2020-07-5 as validation of holding all 2020 ICOMOS statutory meetings as virtual meetings and invited Mr Peter Phillips (Secretary General, Australia) to provide further explanation.

Mr Peter Phillips (Secretary General, Australia) noted that a background paper had been published and that 3 information sessions for members had been held. The ICOMOS Statutes do not prohibit virtual meetings, although they are written for in-person meetings. The Covid-19 pandemic has made in-person meetings difficult for international organisations such as ICOMOS. As an organisation registered in France, ICOMOS was able to hold today's meeting thanks to a temporary French law which validates virtual statutory meetings until 31 July 2020. The ICOMOS Board felt it was important that the GA meet and validate the proposal to hold the rest of the 2020 ICOMOS statutory meetings online. This principle will be reviewed at the GA later this year with regards to ICOMOS statutory meetings in 2021.

Discussion:
Question via the Zoom chat from Ms Dorothee Boesler (Germany): Is it only a decision for virtual meetings in 2020 or for all meetings in the future?
Response by Mr Toshiyuki Kono (President, Japan): In 2020 only.

Question via the Zoom chat from Mr Dinu Bumbaru (Canada): Does this mean there are two General Assemblies in 2020?
Response by Mr Peter Phillips (Secretary General, Australia): Yes, there will be two General Assemblies this year. The GA today was held at the request of the majority of members of the ICOMOS Board.

Question via the Zoom chat from Mr Pierre-Marie Tricaud (France): Could we adopt virtual meetings for all ICOMOS meetings, to limit the emission of greenhouse gases?
Response by Mr Peter Phillips (Secretary General, Australia): A taskforce has been appointed to study the question of sustainability and communication. However, online meetings also have their disadvantages; for example, communication is not as easy.

Mr Peter Phillips (Secretary General, Australia) invited voting members to access the ballot via Euro-Vote and to cast their vote by 8:00 CEST on 24 July 2020. Mr Toshiyuki Kono (President, Japan) explained how, when and where to vote on this Resolution.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Reference</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Closing of the General Assembly</td>
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<td>4-1</td>
<td>Announcement of the date of the 20th triennial General Assembly/</td>
<td>Mr Toshiyuki Kono (President, Japan) noted that the announcement of the date of the 20th Triennial General Assembly depends on the adoption of Resolution GA2020-07-5. The 20th Triennial General Assembly will take place between 3 and 16 December 2020. There will be three or four short Zoom meetings corresponding to the votes on resolutions and the successive stages of the elections. Further information will be provided by the beginning of October.</td>
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<td>4-2</td>
<td>Vote of thanks to Secretariat</td>
<td>Mr Toshiyuki Kono (President, Japan) expressed his gratitude to the International Secretariat for their extremely hard work to prepare this online General Assembly.</td>
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<td>Adjournment of the meeting</td>
<td>The meeting closed at 13:39 CEST.</td>
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<td>4-3</td>
<td>Announcement of the results of the vote</td>
<td>Mr Gideon Koren (Israel) thanked Assistant Tellers Mr James Reap (USA) and Ms Sanaa Niar (Algeria). The vote for this General Assembly was divided into two parts, one part of the vote was held via Zoom on 23 July 2020, the other part of the vote was held via the Euro-Vote platform from 8:00 CEST on 22 July 2020 to 8:00 CEST on 24 July 2020. Mr Gideon Koren (Israel) presented the results and resolutions displayed in English and French on the shared screen. Four votes took place on 23 July 2020 for Resolution GA2020-07-1 to Resolution GA2020-07-4 via the Zoom platform. Since some attendees who voted via Zoom were not eligible voters, the Tellers checked that those who cast their votes during the meetings were in fact voting members. After verification, the results of the four votes did not change and the resolutions were adopted as announced on 23 July 2020. The vote for Resolution GA2020-7-5 took place via the Euro-Vote platform to confirm the validity of holding all 2020 statutory meetings as virtual meetings held not necessarily in conjunction. Mr Gideon Koren (Israel) explained that five back-up email addresses were available for eligible voters who had wrongly registered email addresses; one address was used due to a mistake in the list found after the sealing of the platform. Therefore, four unused back-up emails were deducted from the total potential number of votes. Out of 845 potential votes, 662 votes were cast via the Euro-Vote platform.</td>
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The GA adopted the resolution by simple majority (649 votes for, 7 votes against, 6 abstentions).

**End of meeting**

Mr Toshiyuki Kono (President, Japan) thanked Mr Gideon Koren (Israel) and noted that based on the adoption of the resolution, the Board and Advisory Committee could begin the necessary preparations for the virtual GA to be held in December 2020. Mr Kono also expressed his sincere gratitude to the Tellers, the Credentials Committee and the Rapporteur for their wonderful work and thanked the attendees for their participation.

The meeting closed at 12:28 CEST.