

**CANDIDATE FOR THE BOARD OF ICOMOS
CANDIDAT AU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE L'ICOMOS**

FERNANDE BODO

CAMEROON – CAMEROUN



German and Cameroonian architect, who currently works as editor at the UNESCO World Heritage Center. Trained in architecture and urban planning in Germany, Brazil, Switzerland and China. Got Specialized in heritage, architecture/urban history during her master's thesis in 2017, which investigated the legislation of modern heritage in Africa. After becoming ICOMOS International member in 2019, she co-founded the ICOMOS Cameroon NC amid the COVID-19 Pandemic. Now she is in charge of activities as board member.

PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA

I am ready to devote myself as board member of ICOMOS International in the event that I get elected at the General Assembly in 2020.

This is a bold decision that I have made, it is also inevitable that I cannot compete with most applicants in terms of years of experience in heritage and management. Nevertheless, I do believe that my experiences are exactly the ones needed for a new and refreshed ICOMOS Board for the forthcoming years.

What can a candidate who is still in the early stages of her professional career, bring to the Board of ICOMOS and the international society?

Obviously, the fact that I am probably the youngest applicant stands out the most. Given my age and background I certainly have a different view of renowned institutions like ICOMOS and the possibilities to disseminate the importance heritage preservation. One of those possibilities, is the future of cultural heritage as a central core and how this can translate to younger generations at the same time infusing the sustainability of cultural heritage. Another focus will be on the SDG Goals, I am interested in increasing the visibility of ICOMOS and heritage issues in the eyes of the youth in the global south. Countries in the global south are rich in culture but do not always have the

necessary number of experts on site to preserve it. As ICOMOS continues to strengthen its number of heritage experts and institutional networks around the world, this will encourage more heritage professionals from the global South.

My personal interest in cultural heritage lies within modern cultural heritage. This explains why I am joining the International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage. As part of my master's thesis I did a field research on cultural heritage, titled "Immeuble de la mort – is modernist architecture a cultural heritage of Cameroon?". That is how I discovered my love for cultural heritage. One crucial element was how difficult it was to do research in Africa. This stemmed from a lack of a functional expert network in cultural heritage. However, it is through this research I gained a special understanding of the diverse components of heritage in general, especially about the dynamics of politics and culture and how it impacts on societies. Using the example of modern architecture from the era after the independence of African countries, I came to the conclusion that this era of 20th century cultural monuments could become a key element in terms of legislating heritage in order to strengthen or even establish a post-colonial national identity.

It was an honor for me to be recommended to the Secretariat last year (2019) to become an ICOMOS International member. This was a recommendation from like-minded Cameroonian compatriots, who are also involved in the work of heritage, with aim of establishing the new Cameroon National Committee in 2020. The formation of the Cameroon NC took place during the peak phase of the global COVID-19 pandemic. I perceive this as a success story, especially in a country with limited digital infrastructure. It took special logistical efforts to organize both the committee and elections online. Today I am member of the executive office of the Cameroonian NC and jointly responsible for activities targeting youth and young researchers for the next three years. At the first ever Regional Africa Meeting, I was appointed as the rapporteur for the proceedings. I currently work at the UNESCO World Heritage Center.

In conclusion I would like to point out that with this candidacy, it is very important to me to represent Africa and young emerging professionals. Because that is what I embody. My international background and the languages (German, French, English, Portuguese, Spanish) I speak, help facilitate communication skills at international levels. Having said that, I believe on the one hand that it is this international access, as an Africa representative which enables me to build new and strong relationships with young emerging experts and professionals and institutions from the cultural heritage sector in and outside Africa.

I confirm that, if elected, I will serve and attend Board meetings. I look forward to contribute and take part in managing, developing and improving these matters, but certainly also other matters that the Board has to deal with.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Fernande Bodo is a German and Cameroonian architect, who currently works as editor at the UNESCO World Heritage Center. She is trained in architecture and urban planning from world's leading architecture Universities in all corners of the world counting amongst them: TU Munich, ETH Zurich, Universidade de São Paulo and Tsinghua University in Beijing. Her specialization in heritage, architecture and urban history developed during her master's thesis in 2017, which investigated the legislation of modern heritage in Africa, on the example of Cameroon. After becoming an ICOMOS International member in 2019, she co-founded amid the COVID-19 Pandemic this year, the ICOMOS National Committee of Cameroon, together with other ICOMOS International members from Cameroon. Now she is in charge of activities as Board member.