

## **CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDAT AU POSTE DE VICE-PRÉSIDENT**

### **ASSAAD SEIF**

**LEBANON - LIBAN**



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Assaad Seif is currently Associate Professor at the Lebanese University; holds a Ph.D. in Archaeology Ethnology and Prehistory from Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne; serves as Scientific Consultant at the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research in addition to his leading role in the creation of the Archaeometry Laboratory at the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission. ICOMOS Mission Expert (2015-) and Expert Member with the ISC on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM, 2012-), Assaad also serves as ICAHM VP for Arab States.

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## **PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA**

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Actively involved in the Heritage domain, I have held first order responsibilities within the Lebanese Ministry of Culture since 1996. I further served as Acting Director General of Antiquities between 2011 and 2015 and then as advisor to the Minister of Culture on World Heritage-related matters for more than three consecutive years. During my whole mandate, I tried to understand the problems related to heritage management and thrived to seek sustainable solutions. All this has given me a wide background in Heritage Governance and deepened my theoretical knowledge and practical experience in Heritage Management.

Moreover, my experience in the public domain as well as my contact with several officials and administrations of the Arab countries, helped me gain in-depth knowledge of the cultural heritage management systems in these countries. In addition, my various ICOMOS missions in the different sites of the Arab region have given me detailed knowledge of the various and varied problems from which the World Heritage suffers in the Arab countries.

This has been said, and being from the Arab States, if elected to the Board and whether subsequently elected or not to the office of Vice-President, I will thrive to personally engage in, and assist ICOMOS Board, Bureau and Secretariat in the following:

- Closely engage in the enhancement of the capacities of heritage professionals in the Arab Region and help in providing them, as much as possible, with the knowledge and expertise required in the field of World Heritage through targeted capacity-building workshops and activities;
- Assist in the process of enhancement, and collaborate with the different international organizations for the protection and conservation of World Heritage properties and sites of potential Outstanding Universal Value in the Arab Region;
- Actively engage in the building of a network of heritage professionals in the field of World Heritage with whom stakeholders can easily work in the Arab Region and beyond;
- Foster for the increase in the participation of regional professionals in the ICOMOS advisory mission, namely the evaluation, advisory, or monitoring tasks for the WH Committee (evaluation or monitoring missions, desk reviews, etc.).

I will also actively foster for, and personally engage and assist in the establishment of ICOMOS National Committees in the Arab countries where they are not yet established.

Furthermore, I pledge to actively engage, whenever and wherever needed, in the process started with the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session (Decision 42 COM 12A), and the following reflection meeting of experts which took place in Tunis concerning the reforming of the nomination and evaluation process tentatively called “Preliminary Assessment” which aims to enhance the integrity of the World Heritage Convention by adding more credibility to the World Heritage List.

I also confirm that I will consciously serve in the office of Vice-President and attend Board and Bureau meetings if elected, and if not elected to the Bureau, I will still serve as a Board member and attend Board meetings.

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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Currently Associate Professor at the Lebanese University, Assaad SEIF holds a Ph.D. in Archaeology Ethnology and Prehistory from Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne University. He also holds a position of Scientific Consultant at the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research, in addition to his leading role in the creation of the Archaeometry Laboratory at the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission.

Former member of the UNESCO Lebanese National Commission, Dr. Seif is an ICOMOS member since 2011 and Mission Expert since 2015. He is ICOMOS/ICAHM Vice President for the Arab States since 2016. Since 2009, he is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of CMAS (A publication dealing with the Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites; Taylor & Francis, UK). Dr. Seif was appointed as Honorary Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Archaeology – University College London, UCL, between September 2010 and September 2018.

Assaad Seif, worked extensively with the UNESCO World Heritage Center on capacity building programs for different Arab countries on World Heritage Management Planning and Heritage Impact Assessment. Since 2017, he developed targeted practical and hands on methods for the Heritage Management training Workshops. He also shared, through targeted workshops for selected Arab countries, his knowledge and experience regarding the management large archaeological projects during the post-War reconstruction of urban centers.

Recently in 2018 and 2019, Mr. Seif was a member of the team of trainers at the ICOMOS capacity-building workshop for World Heritage professionals in the Arab region. A workshop created by the ICOMOS Evaluation Unit in close collaboration with the Arab Regional Center for World Heritage. The purpose of the workshop was to build capacity for professionals in the Arab region and to increase the participation of regional professionals in assessment and reactive monitoring mission activities.