

Resolution 19GA 2017/21 - Strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural heritage through fully supporting the Sustainable Development Goals and "Culture 2030 Goals"

The 19th General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Recalling the Hangzhou Declaration on 'Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies' adopted on 17 May 2013;

Recognizing the milestone document 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' adopted by the United Nations on 25 September 2015, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, or the 'Global Goals') for the period 2015-30, among which are Goal 11 to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" and Target 11.4 to "strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage, as well as numerous other Goals and Targets with direct and indirect references to culture and heritage;

Considering the complementary UN policy frameworks drawn by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, adopted in March 2015; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Development, adopted in July 2015; and the Paris Agreement, adopted in December 2015, at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;

Referring to the Quito Declaration on 'Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All' (or the 'New Urban Agenda') adopted at the third summit on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on 21 October 2016, which makes numerous references to culture and cultural heritage including Para. 10 of the Preamble, acknowledging that "culture and cultural diversity are sources of enrichment for humankind and provide an important contribution to the sustainable development of cities, human settlements, and citizens" and Para. 38 on "leveraging natural and cultural heritage in cities and human settlements, (...) both tangible and intangible, through integrated urban and territorial policies and adequate investments at the national, sub-national, and local levels, (...) the role that these play in the rehabilitation and revitalization of urban areas, and as a way to strengthen social participation";

Noting the Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development ('Culture: Urban Future') launched by UNESCO in October 2016;

Taking into account the year 2017 being designated by the UN as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development with Resolution A/RES/70/193, to raise awareness and mobilize all stakeholders in making tourism a catalyst for positive change;

Referring to the UN High-Level Meeting on the New Urban Agenda convened on 5-6 September 2017 in New York, to assess, enhance effectiveness of UN-Habitat after adoption of New Urban Agenda;

Recalling the Paris Declaration on 'Heritage as a Driver of Development' adopted by the 17th General Assembly of ICOMOS on 1 December 2011; the conclusions of the 17th ICOMOS General Assembly Symposium; the resolutions 17GA 2011/15 and 17GA 2011/27 and the series of initiatives undertaken by ICOMOS over many years in order to promote the inclusion of cultural heritage in the development process on which these documents were based;

Recalling Resolution 18GA 2014/37, adopted in November 2014 in Florence, on 'Ensuring that culture and cultural heritage are acknowledged in the proposed Goals and Targets on Sustainable Development for the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda';

Taking into consideration the Statement by ICOMOS on the Adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, issued on 8 October 2015 and the ICOMOS Concept Note 'Cultural Heritage, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the New Urban Agenda' issued in February 2016;

Referring to the ICOMOS Board decision, dated March 2017, on ‘ICOMOS work on UN SDGs’, updating the membership structure of the ‘Cross-ISC Task Force on Sustainable Development’ and rename it the ‘Task Force on Sustainable Development (TFSD)’; approving the inclusion of the SDGs and Agenda 2030 as a major element and focus of the cross-disciplinary theme of “Sustainability” chosen for 2018 in the ICOMOS Scientific Programme; and mandating the ICOMOS Focal Point on SDGs in collaboration with the ICOMOS TFSD to prepare a relevant Action Plan highlighting ICOMOS’ vision, principles, priority action areas;

Considers that, with the adoption of the United Nations’ post-2015 Development Agenda, ICOMOS has a historic opportunity to drive the recognition of cultural heritage within the broader sustainable development discourse and should thus strengthen its institutional position and membership engagement with this agenda;

Welcomes the results of the ICOMOS Coordination Meeting on the SDGs, convened by the ICOMOS Focal Point for the SDGs, on 4-5 February 2017 in Istanbul, expressed in the ICOMOS Action Plan ‘Cultural Heritage and Localizing the SDGs’, which sets forth a vision for “the recognition, mainstreaming and effective contribution of cultural heritage as a driver and enabler of sustainable development”, a mission “to achieve a coordinated and effective process of advocacy for the localization and monitoring of the SDGs and New Urban Agenda from the perspective of cultural heritage”, focusing on the three action areas of ‘Advocacy’ (mobilizing membership, building partnerships, awareness-raising), ‘Localizing the means of implementation’ (guidance for stakeholders, showcasing good practice), and ‘Monitoring’ (developing methodologies for UN-designated indicator on ‘per capita expenditure for heritage’ and other supplementary indicators);

Notes with satisfaction the work undertaken by members of the ICOMOS Task Force on Sustainable Development, the ICOMOS Focal Point for the World Urban Campaign (WUC), the ICOMOS International Scientific Committees on Historic Towns and Village (CIVVIH), Economics (ISCEC), Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change (ISCES+CC), Risk Preparedness (ICORP) and Cultural Tourism (ICTC), the Working Group on Rights-Based Approaches (RBA) and the teams of the ‘Our Common Dignity’ and ‘Connecting Practice’ projects, to support efforts integrating heritage and sustainable development, as well as the work of the ICOMOS National Committees of Bulgaria, Canada, Ecuador, Germany, Italy, Ireland, R. Korea, Morocco, Poland, Sweden, Turkey and the USA in supporting the organizing of ICOMOS events and advocacy with national and local governments in connection with sustainable development;

Reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, in particular Target 11.4, advocating the positive integration of culture and cultural heritage into sustainable urban planning and policy frameworks, most imminently for the robust and visible reporting on heritage in the UN High-Level Political Forum Review of SDG11 in 2018;

Encourages the ICOMOS Board, the Focal Point for the SDGs, the Chair of the TFSD and the Focal Point for the WUC in continuing their coordinated efforts toward the implementation of the Agenda 2030, particularly in terms of measuring and reporting progress;

Requests the ICOMOS Focal Point for the SDGs, in collaboration with the International Secretariat, the Chair of the TFSD and the Focal Point for the WUC, to continue developing partnerships with UNESCO, UN-Habitat, IUCN, UCLG, ICCROM, OWHC and other relevant international and non-governmental organizations, toward implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs;

Requests the ICOMOS Focal Point for the SDGs, with the support of the Task Force on Sustainable Development, to advance partnerships with the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and other relevant stakeholders that may emerge, toward developing mechanisms for measuring and reporting progress on the SDGs, building on the collaboration initiated during Habitat III and enhanced at the UCLG’s 2nd Culture Summit in May 2017 in Jeju, R. Korea;

Urges all ICOMOS National and Scientific Committees, as well as all individual and institutional members, to make efforts to take relevant actions and develop projects within the framework of the ICOMOS Action Plan 'Cultural Heritage and Localizing the SDGs';

Requests the ICOMOS Executive Committee, the Focal Point for the SDGs, the Chair of the TFSD and the Focal Point for the WUC, to ensure the representation of ICOMOS and affiliated heritage constituencies in the UN High-Level Political Forum Review of SDG11 and Target 11.4 in July 2018;

Calls on national governments to embrace the cultural heritage agenda in their work streams related to the UN Agenda 2030, in particular through the inclusion of SDG11, Target 11.4 and SDG 12 in their Voluntary National Reviews for the UN High-Level Political Forum Review of the SDGs in 2018;

Strongly recommends the Board to reaffirm the engagement of ICOMOS in the alliance of international networks working on the 'Culture 2030 Goal' campaign, promoting the explicit recognition of culture in future policy frameworks for sustainable development.