

ICOMOS

international council on monuments and sites

Resolution 19GA 2017/23

Our Common Dignity: Next steps for Rights-Based Approaches in World Heritage

The 19th General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Recalling the Resolutions 17GA 2011/30 of the 17th ICOMOS General Assembly (Paris, 2011) and 18GA 2014/43 of the 18th ICOMOS General Assembly (Florence, 2014), as well as the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee (October 2016, Istanbul) “Our Common Dignity: Advancing Rights-Based Approaches to Heritage Conservation”, and the substantial progress made by the Working Group established by the ICOMOS Board in relation to this programme since 2011;

Acknowledging the adoption by the 20th General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention of the “Policy on the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention” (Resolution 20 GA 13, November 2015);

Acknowledging the United Nations’ mainstreaming of Human Rights Based Approaches and the continued collaboration between the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Convention - ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN;

Noting that rights issues, including the involvement of communities, are a growing aspect of the work of international organizations working in the field of culture and heritage;

Supporting the global recommendations issued by the “Our Common Dignity” initiative to date;

Requests that the ICOMOS Board continues to advance these issues through the “Our Common Dignity” component of the ICOMOS General Programme 2018-2020, aiming at:

1. Encouraging the development of Rights Based Approaches, and raising its awareness and knowledge in heritage management;
2. Advocating for the adoption of a common language and conceptual framework across the World Heritage Committee, States Parties and the Advisory Bodies;
3. Strengthening the World Heritage tools and practice in regards to issues of rights, and the participation and ownership by communities;
4. Supporting national-level processes and policy development, to promote more inclusive and socially sensitive approaches to groups and communities living within, or in the vicinity, of World Heritage properties;
5. Furthering cross-cultural cooperation, awareness raising and mutual knowledge-building on the topic of rights in heritage management, continuing the “Our Common Dignity initiative” with shared global and geo-cultural diversity.

Resolution 19GA 2017/09
ICOMOS General Programme 2018 – 2020

The 19th General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Adopts the following as the objectives and strategies of the ICOMOS General Programme 2018 – 2020:

Mission: Foster active and wide membership links and connections for an empowering engagement in the future of heritage conservation

Objective: Develop our membership base and link public authorities, institutions and individuals to ICOMOS programmes, projects and activities.

Strategies:

- Engage members in the development of conservation theory and practice by opening pathways for meaningful participation in ICOMOS;
- Involve emerging professionals in all ICOMOS activities including training, mentorship, public advocacy and the dissemination of knowledge;
- Ensure the credibility of the National Committees by effectively monitoring their inclusiveness and activities;
- Identify targets for institutional membership;
- Clarify expectations for all members, be more inclusive and foster exchanges across disciplines and cultures;
- Analyse membership trends, including members' reasons for leaving ICOMOS.

Mission: Share research and knowledge of ICOMOS members through active participation, exciting initiatives and solid partnerships

Objective: Using the knowledge of our membership and partner institutions, develop cultural heritage- related knowledge and expertise through research and projects, and the creation of structures that facilitate all members to contribute and use these through effective information dissemination.

Strategies:

- Enhance interdisciplinary topics and partnerships by:
 - exploring initiatives that link nature and culture conservation,
 - engaging universities as forums of discussion,
 - bringing rights based approaches to heritage conservation and
 - creating special scientific programmes (e.g. reconstruction guidance, CultureNature Journey);
- Reinforce ICOMOS' open access resources (e.g. ICOMOS Photobank, ICOMOS Open Archive), and publications (e.g. toolkits, post-disaster documentation);
- Promote and diversify ICOMOS' website and social media activity.

Mission: Act as leaders in cultural heritage conservation to manage better the challenges of the future

Objective: Reaffirm the role of ICOMOS as a leading advocate and think-tank for the conservation of cultural heritage worldwide.

Strategies:

- Develop strategic analyses of the core topics of cultural heritage conservation;
- Encourage Emerging professionals to develop new initiatives;
- Disseminate the work and results of ICOMOS through its website, publications and conferences ;
- Engage actively with universities and academic institutions;
- Apply World Heritage experience and practices for daily use in all heritage places;
- Expand boundaries into new fields (e.g. new technologies, tangible and intangible heritage linkages, sustainable development) and develop collaboration on shared ideas within heritage and conservation (e.g. International Scientific Committees collaborations).

Mission: Nurture the strong ICOMOS network of expertise to benefit society

Objective: Share best practice and awareness on heritage issues throughout the world - enhance the ability of the full network of ICOMOS to provide assessments and technical assistance - identify heritage trends, share best practice and provide technical assessments and cooperation - use cultural heritage knowledge and expertise for the benefit of society in the spirit of cultural diversity.

Strategies:

- Establish systems for cross-regional relationships such as twinning among National Committees;
- Promote collaborative/shared meetings and scientific symposia, and develop toolkits to share best practice documents freely;
- Facilitate remote participation and reduce the burden of travel to enable participation and voting in meetings;
- Increase targeted and effective communication in all activities;
- Seek financial and human resources to achieve ICOMOS' goals and to support ICOMOS solidarity funds.

Resolution 19GA 2017/20

“The Florence Declaration on Cultural Heritage Conservation and Sustainable Tourism for Development”

The 19th General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Recalling the United Nations World Tourism Organization’s (UNWTO) International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017 (IYSTD); UNWTO’s Chengdu Declaration on “Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals”, adopted 13 September 2017; and UNESCO’s Hangzhou Declaration on “Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies”, adopted 17 May 2013;

Recognising that the UNESCO UNWTO Siem Reap “Declaration on Tourism and Culture - Building a New Partnership Model”, 5 February 2015, made an important contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and highlights the importance of relationships between tourism and heritage sectors at national government and international institutional levels, reaffirming commitment to new partnership models between tourism and culture whilst promoting and protecting cultural heritage, aiming to foster sustainable development through cultural routes, to establish closer linkages between tourism, living cultures and cultural and creative industries, and to support the contribution of cultural tourism to urban development;

Acknowledging the Statement by ICOMOS on the Adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, 8 October 2015 and the ICOMOS Concept Note “Cultural Heritage, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the New Urban Agenda”, February 2016;

Recalling the historical decision by UNWTO to approve a Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics, 15 September 2017, on the responsibilities of all stakeholders in the development of sustainable tourism, recommending an ethical and sustainable mode of operation including the right to tourism, the freedom of movement for tourists and the rights of employees and professionals;

Accepting that the UNESCO World Heritage Convention 1972 only mentions tourism once, in the context of threats potentially warranting the inclusion of a site in the List of World Heritage Sites in Danger, whilst the 2016 Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention cover tourism in terms of visitor management and providing appropriate facilities and interpretation for visitors, emphasising the potential economic benefits tourism can bring to World Heritage destinations;

Building on ICOMOS charters, declarations and reports, specifically the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (The Venice Charter, 1964), The Nara Document on Authenticity (1994, jointly developed by UNESCO, ICCROM and ICOMOS), International Cultural Tourism Charter – Managing Tourism at Places of Heritage Significance (1999), the Paris Declaration on Heritage as a Driver of Development (2011), ICOMOS-IUCN Connecting Practice Report (2015), the “Our Common Dignity: advancing rights-based approaches to heritage conservation” report presented to ICOMOS Advisory Committee (2016);

Restating the importance and continuing relevance of the almost 20-year-old ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Charter which, in acknowledging tourism as a vehicle for cultural exchange, a personal experience, not only of that which has survived from the past, but of the contemporary life and society of others, and also acknowledging the need to provide a worthwhile visitor experience, presaged the broadening of the concept of cultural heritage and the need for promotion of authentic products and programmes of host communities and also the wide enjoyment of the heritage of others as an inclusive and no longer elitist leisure pastime;

Noting that through an emphasis on stakeholder involvement with communities of interest, the Nara+20 process “On heritage practices, cultural values, and the concept of authenticity” (2015) implicitly signals the diminishing role played by the State in the heritage field, and by extension that of the expert and the scientific discourse from which modern conservation evolved;

Affirming the importance of the role and responsibilities of tourists as major stakeholders in safeguarding and protecting cultural heritage and cultural diversity through their multiple and dynamic interactions with the places they visit and the people they encounter in formal and informal settings at a destination, an inter-relationship expressed by Irina Bokova, former Director-General UNESCO: “Every tourist must be a custodian of world heritage, an ambassador of intercultural dialogue. This is why safeguarding cultural heritage must move forward with sustainable tourism”;

Taking into account the economic influence of private sector interests on conservation decision-making and priorities relating to the historic built environment, living heritage in urban areas and on individual monuments and sites;

Taking also into account the public sector’s focus on cultural tourism development within strategic planning processes designed to redevelop, reenergise and encourage community enterprise as part of the regeneration initiatives which all too frequently lead to the gentrification and homogenisation of historic urban landscapes and disappearance of local communities in favour of the creation of the 21st century phenomenon of the “tourist historic city” (UN Sustainable Development Goals Target 11.4);

Reiterating that heritage is a way by which societies culturally value, represent and understand the past and is widely recognised as an increasingly important resource not only produced, exhibited and consumed, but also key in shaping, projecting and challenging identities at all levels from that of the individual to the nation state; and that there is a danger that without a set of parameters for cultural heritage and tourism development in this era described as “mass cultural tourism” the balance may shift in favour of exploitation at the expense of shaping identities;

Conscious too that in creating and providing local cultural products and services to visitors (e.g. in creative hubs), cultural heritage is a key source of job creation and poverty alleviation worldwide in towns and cities and across rural territories, in line with Target 8.9 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals which promotes culture as defining distinctiveness and difference for visitor engagement at a tourism destination and which is enhanced by authenticity, integrity and sustainable practices;

Requests the ICOMOS Board to support, in the context of tourism, the formulation of a framework for an integrated place-based approach to protecting and safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage; encouraging empowerment of multi-cultural and mono-cultural and indigenous communities; and developing various methods of directly or indirectly engaging visitors to contribute to enhancement of respect and safeguard of tangible and intangible heritage values, contributing to

a shared experience that explicitly or implicitly supports heritage conservation, and that we contend is an essential prerequisite for distinctive self-confident communities, as well as individual well-being;

Invites the ICOMOS Board, in collaboration with IUCN, ICCROM, UNESCO, UNWTO and other international bodies concerned with setting standards for heritage conservation, to formulate an agenda to provide a framework document to address pertinent issues and provide guidance on Cultural Heritage Conservation and Sustainable Tourism for Development, including:

- Management of the visitor experience to support sustainable tourism for development;
- Planning to enable positive interactions between local people and visitors;
- Regulation to counter over-tourism in historic towns and cities and iconic World Heritage sites;
- Guidance on the appropriate use of replicas;
- Promotion and engagement of visitors in conservation practices and activities;
- Parameters for immersive living heritage experiences;
- Awareness of decision-making priorities for conservation in the sustainable tourism context;
- Measures to promote many varied and creative conservation achievements relating to the historic environment;
- Methodologies for harmonising the exploitation of cultural and natural heritage resources with their protection;
- Local economic development that complements and enhances heritage values rather than abuses and diminishes them;
- Inclusion of cultural resource management practices in visitor management at natural heritage destinations;
- Participation of tourists in supporting communities in heritage reconstruction following natural disasters and armed conflict.

Confirms the position stated by ICOMOS to UNWTO in response to the invitation from UNWTO to contribute to the Discussion Paper on “Sustainable Tourism for Development” (June 2017), “For ICOMOS it is axiomatic that where cultural heritage is concerned tourism development cannot be described as sustainable if heritage protection, safeguarding and actions in favour of conservation are compromised over the short, medium and long term.”

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 United Nations (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 to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21);

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 and enhance the effectiveness of UN-Habitat after adoption of the New Urban Agenda;

Recalling the Paris Declaration on ‘Heritage as a Driver of Development’ adopted by the 17th General Assembly of ICOMOS (Paris, 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 by the 18th General Assembly of ICOMOS (Florence, 2014), 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-International Scientific Committee 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 Villages (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, South 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, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), United Cities and Local Governments (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, South Korea;

Invites all ICOMOS National and International 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 Board, the Focal Point for the SDGs, the Chair of the TFSD and the Focal Point for the WUC within their financial capacities, 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 ICOMOS 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.

Resolution 19GA 2017/27 Indigenous Heritage

The 19th General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Noting that the World Heritage Convention considers that the “deterioration or disappearance of any item of the cultural or natural heritage constitutes a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world” and the need to “adopt new provisions [...] establishing an effective system of collective protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value, organized on a permanent basis and in accordance with modern scientific methods”;

Recalling that ICOMOS has expressed its commitment to cultural diversity and respect for the rights of Indigenous peoples in a number of statements and charters such as the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice Charter, 1964), the Charter for the Protection and Management of Archaeological Heritage (1990), the International Cultural Tourism Charter - Managing Tourism at Places of Heritage Significance (1990), the Nara Document on Authenticity (1994), the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter, 2013), and the ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value (2010);

Considering that a number of international conventions and commitments, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), state the rights of Indigenous peoples to identify, protect, share, manage, and live their cultural heritage;

Recognizing that an increasing number of World Heritage nomination proposals address in whole or in part cultural heritage of Indigenous significance;

Considering that Indigenous cultural heritage is characterized by relations between nature and culture, and intangible and tangible heritage;

Recognizing the challenges of evaluating the comparative significance and state of conservation of cultural heritage of Indigenous significance with current methods and tools, and the need for ICOMOS to be able to fully assess these matters in the course of its work;

Acknowledging the rights of Indigenous people to define and implement the best methods to conserve heritage of significance to their culture;

Recognizes that the definition and conservation of Indigenous cultural heritage requires the development of guidance that reflects the form and nature of this heritage;

Further acknowledges that the inclusion of Indigenous peoples and of their perspectives in the development of this guidance is a goal that needs to be pursued through the work of ICOMOS National and International Scientific Committees;

Resolves to set up a working group composed of ICOMOS National and International Scientific Committees members within the first year following the adoption of this resolution. The mandate of this working group is to develop guidance on the theory and best practices related to the identification and conservation of Indigenous cultural heritage. A secretariat may be hosted by one of the National Committees to support the work;

Notes that, while this working group will strive to include the leadership of Indigenous peoples from around the world, it is understood that it will not legitimately reflect all the views or impede on the rights of Indigenous peoples.