

Amendment of the ICOMOS Statutes
Joint Proposal by the Merged Working Group and the Executive Committee
Attachments to the Report by the Merged Working Group
Resolutions of the 17th General Assembly
Recommendations by the Merged Working Group (3rd consultation)

Resolution 17GA 2011/10 on the amendments to the ICOMOS Statutes

The 17th General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Decides to establish a working group with a view to submit to the 18th General Assembly in 2014 amendments to the ICOMOS Statutes as well as Rules of Procedure for approval;

Also decides that this working group shall be composed of representative of all regions and cultural groupings, including some persons, who served on the Statutes Task Force, and shall consist of: Mr Andrew Hall (South Africa, member of the former Task Force), Mr Gideon Koren (ICLAFI, member of the former Task Force), Ms Anne Magnant (ICOMOS France, member of the former Task Force), Mr Peter Phillips (Australia), Ms Bénédicte Selfslagh (ICOMOS Belgium, Chair of the former Task Force) as well as a representative of the ICOMOS Executive Committee and a legal councillor to ICOMOS;

Requests the working group to build upon the analysis and work already carried out, and focus on the following topics:

- a. Membership categories and financial stability
- b. Governance
- c. Elections
- d. Interaction of the Eger-Xi'an and Dubrovnik-Valletta Principles with the Statutes and Rules of Procedure
- e. Compliance with legislation;

Also requests that the starting point for the deliberations shall be the text of the Statutes without the provisions that need to be transferred to the Rules of Procedure, and that the working group formulates proposals for the two documents (Statutes and Rules of Procedure, as appropriate);

Further requests the working group to present a report to the Advisory Committee in 2012, and that given the work already undertaken, the proposals shall be presented as text amendments in 'track changes' together with their rationale;

Encourages the Advisory Committee meeting in 2012, to stipulate a time (max. 6 weeks) to allow the National and International Scientific Committees and the membership to send further comments in order to allow those who did not attend the Advisory Committee to participate in the consultation process;

Also requests, based on the above, the working group to submit to the Advisory Committee a revised version well in advance of its 2013 meeting, to allow the National and International Scientific Committees and membership to have the possibility to comment prior to and during the Advisory Committee meeting, and that based on the comments received, and the discussions and decisions made at the 2013 Advisory Committee meeting, the working group shall prepare the final version of the proposal to amend the Statutes, as well as the final proposal for the Rules of Procedure; and that these shall be sent to the membership four months before the opening of the 18th General Assembly in 2014, in accordance with Article 19 of the Statutes;

Further requests the working group to submit a progress report to the Executive Committee between the meetings of the Advisory Committee.

Resolution 17GA 2011/42 on Spanish as a working language

The 17th General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Recalling the Sofia Declaration, pronounced at the closing of the 11th General Assembly (Sofia, 1996), Resolution n° 18 on “Integrating Spanish in General Assemblies and Committee meetings” adopted by the 16th General Assembly (Quebec, 2008), and the output from Task Force 3 of the Advisory Committee meeting in Malta (2009);

Noting the increasing number of National Committees as well as the amount of members from Spanish speaking countries, corresponding to trends in the world’s social and demographic evolution;

Recognizing that the above mentioned situation has made Spanish one of the three most spoken languages in ICOMOS;

Acknowledging the importance of the scientific texts as well as the very large amount of expertise in heritage emanating from Ibero-American countries;

Considering that all possible ways should be explored to solve perceived or factual financial problems in each particular case;

Resolves to:

- a. **Request** the working group on the ICOMOS Statutes to study the feasibility of integrating a proposal towards the amendment of the ICOMOS Statutes to include Spanish as a working language;
- b. **Thank** the National Committee of Ireland for providing interpretation into Spanish at the Advisory Committee meeting in 2010, as well as the efforts made by Canada and France in trying to guarantee Spanish interpretation at the 16th and 17th General Assemblies;
- c. **Recognize** in particular the improvements in the use of the Spanish language made by the ICOMOS staff at the International Secretariat in Paris;

Recommendations submitted by the Merged Working Group for the 3rd consultation

During its analyses, the working group noted a number of issues that have a profound impact on the functioning of ICOMOS. When these did not result in draft amendments of the Statutes, the working group decided to present them as additional recommendations. Some of these recommendations contain already a solution (or a hint towards a solution), others invite for more reflection and action.

Following the 3rd consultation, the wording of recommendations has been brought in line with the proposal for the amendment of the Statutes, but this did not affect their content. Only recommendation 17 has been slightly revised as a result of the 3rd consultation.

Members and financial stability

Recommendation Nr 1 – Increasing the membership in National Committees

To achieve ICOMOS' aim of being a forum for discussion, reflection and exchanges on cultural heritage conservation at national and international levels, the working group recommends to the National Committees to develop their membership.

Recommendation Nr 2 – ICOMOS' presence in the world

The working group recommends to the Advisory Committee and to the Board (current Executive Committee) to examine the evolution of the membership in the National Committees and countries where ICOMOS is represented, as well as the list of countries where ICOMOS is not yet represented. It suggests that the Advisory Committee organise a discussion on this matter with a view to submit recommendations to the Board that take into account the needs of the National Committees and countries. The working group recommends to the Board that it adopt a strategy to improve the representation of ICOMOS in all countries.

Recommendation Nr 3 – Decreasing membership dues

In order to stimulate membership growth in the National Committees and as a complementary measure to resolution 17 GA 2011/18 and to the new system for the allocation of votes (see article 9-a-1 in the proposed Statutes), the working group recommends to the Board that it include a scale for decreasing membership dues for the National Committees with more [200] members and/or 10 members per million inhabitants in its proposals on membership dues to the General Assembly.

Recommendation Nr 4 – Transfer of membership dues to the International Secretariat

The working group recommends to the National Committees to make every possible effort to transfer the membership dues in the beginning of the year, prior to the General Assembly which should take place in April or May at the latest (see Recommendation Nr 9).

Recommendation Nr 5 – Handling of membership cards

The working group recommends to the Board to develop - in consultation with the Advisory Committee and with the help of the International Secretariat - procedures allowing: members who paid their membership due to receive their membership card by 1st January; members who pay their membership dues later, to receive their cards within a reasonable amount of time; the International Secretariat to receive the transfer of the corresponding membership dues without delays; and the National Committees and International Secretariat to improve the management of members and membership dues.

Recommendation Nr 6 – Publication of the annual accounts

The working group recommends to the Board that the annual accounts approved by the General Assembly be published not later than 6 months after the closing of the financial year.

Recommendation Nr 7 – Gifts

The working group recommends to the Board that it include several levels for gifts ("dons manuels") by benefactor members (see article 10-d-12 and 9-d-4) in its proposals to the General Assembly. It further recommends that the Board ensures that the International Secretariat make use of all means – such as the annual report, the electronic newsletter, call for contributions – to give due publicity to the possibility to support ICOMOS and its activities.

General Assembly

Recommendation Nr 8 – Organisation of statutory meetings

The working group recommends to the Advisory Committee that it identify the conditions that encourage participation to the statutory meetings – for example the combination with a scientific activity, reducing their length, location chosen to limit expenses and to share distances equitably over the long term, Victoria Falls Fund etc. – and that it communicate them to the Board. The working group further recommends to the Board that it take all measures that could contribute to increasing the participation to the statutory meetings, in particular the participation to the General Assemblies every third year, which are (or should be) a privileged moment of exchanges between the members.

Recommendation Nr 9 – Calendar of statutory meetings

The working recommends to the Board that the annual meeting of the General Assembly be organised in the beginning of the year (April or May at the latest) to allow it to approve the accounts of the previous year and to vote the annual budget. It recommends that such a short meeting (max. 2h) be organised in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Advisory Committee. The objective is that those who participate in the annual meetings of the Advisory Committee shall participate in the General Assembly and shall carry proxies. However, these are two distinct meetings with different agendas, lists of participants, presidency, quorums, majorities etc.

Recommendation Nr 10 – Announcement of dates and location of statutory meetings

The working group recommends that the Board take its decision about the dates and location of the statutory meetings at least 18 months in advance and that it make full use of the opportunities at the new ICOMOS Headquarters whose meeting rooms have sufficient capacity to accommodate, from time to time, the meetings of the Advisory Committee and Scientific Council.

Recommendation Nr 11 –Victoria Falls Fund

The working group recommends to the Board to ensure that the International Secretariat makes more publicity for the Victoria Falls Fund with a view to collect additional funding, thus allowing greater participation at the meetings of the General Assembly and the Advisory Committee.

Recommendation Nr 12 – Guidance for the Credentials Committee

The working group recommends to the Secretary General the verify that the International Secretariat keeps a register of the accredited National Committees as well as a list of the National Committees and members for which it received membership dues, and that it provides this information to the Credentials Committee: voting rights at the General Assembly are restricted to members and membership entails payment of dues.

The working group also recommends to the Secretary General to verify that measures be taken allowing the quorum to be checked at the opening of the General Assembly. It further recommends that the rules on voting rights be implemented in a consistent and transparent way and that the report by the Credentials Committee be published. It recalls that the proposed calendar for the meeting of the General Assembly (recommendation Nr 9) will simplify issues linked to the timely transfer of membership dues and thus to the voting rights.

Recommendation Nr 13 – Conduct of General Assemblies

The working group notes that:

- The President of the General Assembly must announce the number of voting members present and represented and check the quorum at the opening of the meeting participants and these figures must be recorded in the minutes;
- Resolutions (decisions) by the General Assembly must be taken by voting members only;
- For each agenda item the minutes must provide the results of the votes (adoption by consensus, or number of voting members, required majority, votes in favour, votes against, abstentions, invalid votes etc.).

The working group recommends that the same voting system(s) be used at all General Assemblies, for resolutions (decision-making) and for the elections. It further recommends that the system(s) be placed under the responsibility of the International Secretariat and that its (their) costs be covered at the international level and not by the host National Committee.

Recommendation Nr 14 – General Assembly resolutions

The working group recommends that the existing provisions in the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly concerning the adoption of resolutions be enforced and that better working conditions be provided to the Resolutions Committee and to the volunteers who translate the draft resolutions.

Board

Recommendation Nr 15 – Election system

The working group recommends a 2-step election system to ensure that the different regions or continents will be represented in the Board by at least one Board member. The election procedure shall be spelled out in the Rules of Procedure.

Recommendation Nr 16 – Regional Groups

Based on ICOMOS' longstanding tradition, the working group recommends using the existing regional groups (or continents) to check that there is minimal representation of all regions in the activities and in the Board:

- Africa and the Arab countries,
- Americas (UNESCO region of Latin America, plus Canada and the United States),
- Asia Pacific,
- Europe (merger of 2 UNESCO regions, without Canada and the United States).

The UNESCO regions shall be taken as a starting point but a National Committee wishing to join another group may inform the Advisory Council and the regional group concerned shall be consulted.

Recommendation Nr 17 – Profile of candidate Board members

The working group invites the candidate Board members to demonstrate in their cv that they have the competences and experience that make them suitable to lead a large international association.

Recommendation Nr 18 – Relation between the Board and the World Heritage Panel

The working group, considering the important responsibilities of both the Board and the World Heritage Panel, the different expertise as well as the important commitment in terms of time required from the volunteers participating in the work of both organs, endorses recommendation Nr 19 made by Mr Jad Tabet in his audit of ICOMOS' World Heritage work¹, that the World Heritage Panel consist of "a 'hard core' formed by certain members of the Executive Committee (note: Board) familiar with World Heritage texts and procedures and on the other hand a larger number of international experts chosen for their competency in the various regions and invited on an annual basis depending on the categories of the properties to be examined". The working group recommends to the Board that it implement the proposal by M. Tabet.

Languages

Recommendation Nr 19 – ICOMOS tools to facilitate the use of languages

The working group recommends to the Board to ensure that the existing ICOMOS tools – such as the translation teams, the ICOMOS Open Archive, the ICOMOS Members and Experts database, the thesaurus etc. - are used to facilitate access to knowledge and expertise on cultural heritage conservation regardless of the languages in which this knowledge and expertise are available.

Recommendation Nr 20 – Section on languages in the Rules of Procedure

The working group proposes that the use of languages as included in article 21 of the proposed amended Statutes be spelled out in the ICOMOS Rules of Procedure that the Board needs to develop.

¹ TABET Jad, Review of ICOMOS' working methods and procedures for the evaluations of cultural and mixed properties, ICOMOS, 2010 (available on the ICOMOS website)