

Report of the Resolutions Committee to the 21st ICOMOS General Assembly

In accordance with Articles 44-1 and 44-2 of the Rules of Procedure, the 2022 Annual General Assembly through resolution AGA22/11 appointed a Resolutions Committee for the 21st General Assembly, consisting of: Adnan Adas (Saudi Arabia), Aliyu Abdulfattah (Nigeria), Eve Wertheimer (Canada), Marcela Clot (Argentina), Yoloxochitl Lucio (Mexico) and Grainne Shaffrey (Ireland) as Chair. The Committee consulted with the Treasurer Pamela Jerome and the Director General Marie-Laure Lavenir during the review process and was supported by Gaia Jungeblodt, Director of the International Secretariat, and Gabriel Losada, Project and Network Coordination Assistant of the International Secretariat. The Chair of the Resolutions Committee sincerely thanks the entire team for their commitment, hard work and time.

The role of the Resolutions Committee is to examine, co-ordinate and evaluate the draft resolutions presented, in order to obtain a balance in substance and in form. Toward this aim, the Resolutions Committee may discuss the need of the draft resolution and its text with the proponents. The work of the Committee is guided by Articles 44, 57 and 58 of the Rules of Procedure.

Call for draft resolutions

With the help of the ICOMOS International Secretariat, the submission of resolutions was invited from all National Committees, International Scientific Committees and ICOMOS individual members in advance of the General Assembly, on 04.05.2023 (Info for Members 62, 04.05.2023).

The call for draft resolutions was circulated via the National Committee and International Scientific Committee mailing lists and the ICOMOS Info for Members newsletter, as well as made available on the ICOMOS website. A resolution template was provided for helping to formulate the submissions and fulfil the requirements of Article 57 of the Rules of Procedure. The prior preparation of a Heritage Alert was required for the site-specific resolutions.

Draft resolutions submitted

The following draft resolutions were received from the membership and from ICOMOS Bodies:

Resolutions on statutory matters

- Resolution on Amendments to the Rules of Procedure
- Resolution on Amendments to Article 121 of the Rules of Procedure

Resolutions on other heritage issues

- Resolution on Climate Change and Indigenous Heritage
- Resolution on the Cultural Dimensions of the SDGs
- Resolution on the Implementation of a Human Rights-Based Approach in Cultural Heritage Management
- Resolution on Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Values and Interconnections between Culture and Nature in the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Sites

Resolutions on organizational matters

- Resolution on the Proposal to Review the Current Membership Fees Structures to Provide an Equitable and Sustainable System
- Resolution on Gender Diversity in ICOMOS
- Resolution on Indigenous Inclusion throughout ICOMOS

Business resolutions based on the Statutes

- Attendance and quorum: adoption of the report of the Credentials Committee
- Election of the President, Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteurs of the 21st General Assembly
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Adoption of the minutes of the 2022 Extraordinary and Annual General Assemblies
- Confirmation of the members of the Elections Committee
- Presentation of the report of the Candidatures Committee
- Reports on the triennium 2020 – 2023 and adoption of annual accounts

- Approval of the general programme and budgetary guidelines for 2024 – 2026
- Approval of the 2024 budget
- Appointment of the Credentials Committee of the 2024 Annual General Assembly

All draft resolutions submitted by the membership were found to have been submitted by the deadline of 25th June 2023, most being consistent with the required format in a minimum of two languages, English and French, as well as with the required number of proposers and support. The Board's proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure (subject to two separate Resolutions) was published on 4th May 2023 as it was considered equivalent to a statutory matter proposal requiring a 4 months' publication time.

In its coordination task, the Resolutions Committee negotiated with the proponents concerning the extent to which the relevant actions proposed were within the competence of ICOMOS, as well as with the Treasurer and the International Secretariat on the implications that the proposed actions would have on human and financial resources. These negotiations resulted in refinements to the initial texts.

The Resolutions Committee received some early drafts in advance of the 25th June deadline which enabled early and constructive discussions with the proponents and the Resolutions Committee.

During the drafting, negotiation and consultation phase, the Resolutions Committee has met virtually in 5 meetings and in several negotiations virtually and through emails. The International Secretariat has provided the translations for the working phase and the final drafts, where these were not already provided by the proponents.

Consultations with the membership

A total of 8 draft resolutions were published for review on 7th July. A 9th Resolution, which was received by deadline of 25th June, was published on 14th July following discussion with proponents to agree refinements to the published draft. Two online information sessions were held on 12 July, at 10.00 CET and 18.00 CET, to facilitate access by all members. Written comments were sought from members by deadline of 17th July with publication of final drafts on 25th July.

The 25th August is the deadline for written submissions of:

- Any requests for clarifications to be addressed at the GA forum on 4th September
- Formal amendments to be considered by the Board
- Any urgent and important matters requiring resolutions for consideration by the Board

There were few responses: there may be a need to raise members' awareness of their potential role to contribute to the resolution process. The schedule may also be a little tight: the timetable can put the members under a lot of pressure and prevent fruitful contributions in the consultation process. The Resolutions Committee thanks the members who responded for their contributions.

Following the General Assembly, the adopted resolutions will be circulated within 60 days to all members and ICOMOS partners including UNESCO. The results, effects and implementation of the resolutions are then annually reported to the Advisory Committee by the Secretary General of ICOMOS.

Recommendations of the Resolutions Committee concerning the learnings from the process

The members of the Resolutions Committee encourage ICOMOS members to commit and take the opportunity to participate in the resolutions, and recommend to the future Committees and Assemblies the following:

- Early meeting of the Resolutions Committee. This first meeting of the Committee should be a preliminary session for the Resolutions Committee to be familiarized with the work and processes ahead;
- Continue to take on board the useful recommendations of the 2020 Resolutions Committee which remain relevant;
- It is very important that proponents of draft resolutions formally address the implications of the resolution on human and financial resources of the organization. The template for resolutions provides for this, however not all submissions complete this section;

- If the implementation of the resolution will affect other ICOMOS bodies, or requires their action and input, the proponents need to consult and engage with those bodies when drafting the resolution to ensure the resolution is capable of being implemented effectively;
- Early engagement with the Resolutions Committee by proponents can be very helpful to allow the necessary time to refine draft resolutions. To allow this, a longer period for the Resolutions Committees task may be beneficial and should be considered;
- Those members and Committees which support draft resolutions should ensure they have fully read and considered the resolution in advance;
- For those considering submitting a resolution to address an issue of concern, they should first consider if a resolution is the best way to address this issue. Resolutions may not always be the best way to effect change.

Resolution drafts for vote at the 21st General Assembly

As a result of the preparatory procedure, the Resolutions Committee submits the agenda items 5-3, 5-4, 5-5 in English and French as attached to this report to the 21st General Assembly for adoption.