

Introductory remarks

At each ICOM General Conference, the General Assembly adopts Resolutions. These Resolutions play a key role in ICOM's activities, as they reflect the main focus and policies of ICOM's new mandate and will guide its work for the next three years. They provide a general framework for action on specific issues of importance to the global museum community.

This year, the Resolutions will be adopted at the 26th ICOM General Conference, which will take place in Prague from 20-28 August 2022. The Resolutions have been prepared in accordance with the procedure established by the Secretariat (Annex 1), to ensure that they are consistent with the mission, strategic plan and objectives of ICOM. The procedure and work calendar for the Resolutions were planned taking into account the hybrid format of the conference and the digitization of ICOM's activities, with the objective of giving more time to draft and discuss the texts and improving the results.

A call for Recommendations was launched on 16 December 2021 and ran until 27 February 2022, inviting National and International Committees, Regional Alliances and Affiliated Organisations to send their proposals for Resolutions to the [Resolutions Committee](#). In accordance with the procedure established by the ICOM Secretariat, these proposals were studied and reworked by the Committee in order to present draft Resolutions at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Advisory Council. The members of the Advisory Council were invited to make comments and ask questions, which were answered by the Resolutions Committee at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Advisory Council on 5 and 6 May 2022.

Following this meeting, the Resolutions Committee took into consideration the members' discussions and prepared the final Resolutions, which will be submitted to the vote at the General Assembly in Prague, on 24 August 2022 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:40 p.m. (Prague time).

Resolution n°1: “Collections management during and after armed conflicts”

Addressed to all National and International Committees and Regional Alliances of ICOM to call upon their national governments to respect the international conventions they have signed, ratified and implemented. Aiming at promoting and ensuring the protection of cultural goods during armed conflicts taking into account the economic crisis to avoid looting, cross of borders, illicit trafficking and museums acquiring cultural goods with undocumented or dubious origin.

Considering that:

- the world is facing armed conflicts on a scale that threatens many peoples, societies and the environment, affecting the identity of communities and causing enormous damage to cultural heritage;
- the loss, theft, looting or dismantling of cultural collections frequently occurs in times of armed conflict, contributing to the illicit trafficking of heritage and the creation of a black market that disseminates stolen or illegally exported cultural objects to different countries;
- the important relief efforts of NGO's involved in cultural property protection - which require strong coordination and communication - can become restricted when armed conflicts occur, making it difficult to ensure the necessary quick and efficient responses at national and international level.

Acknowledging the importance of preserving all tangible and intangible heritage, including those of religious and traditional interest, during armed conflict

Recalling the following Resolutions : Resolution No. 3 of the 31st General Assembly of ICOM, Milan, Italy, 9 July 2016 on “Strengthening the Protection of Cultural Heritage During and After Armed Conflict, Acts of Terrorism, Revolutions and Civil Strife”, Resolution No. 5 of the 28th General Assembly of ICOM, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 17 August 2013 on the “Protection of Cultural Heritage During and After Armed Conflict, Revolutions and Civil Strife”, Resolution n°5 of the 22nd General Assembly of ICOM Vienna, Austria, 24 August 2007 on “Disaster and Emergency Planning”, Resolution n°5 of the 19th General Assembly of ICOM, Melbourne, Australia, 16 October 1998 on the “Protection of the Cultural Heritage During and After Armed Conflict”, Resolution n°2 of the 18th General Assembly of ICOM, Stavanger, Norway, 7 July 1995 of the “Protection of the Cultural Heritage during Armed Conflict” and Resolution n°9 of the 9th General Assembly of ICOM, Munich, Germany, 9 August 1968 on the “Protection of Cultural Property”, and going back to the Resolution No. 4 adopted by the 1st interim General Assembly in 1947, which have led ICOM to put in place various actions and programmes like the *ICOM Red Lists of Cultural Objects at Risk*, the *International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods*, the ongoing work of the Heritage Protection Department, the direct interventions in countries in conflict in coordination with the Standing Committee DRMC (Disaster Risk Management Committee) and the creation in 2019 of an International Committee on these issues (DRMC).

Taking into account:

- The ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums, especially part II “Museums that maintain collections hold them in trust for the Benefit of society and its development” and articles 6.1 to 6.4 regarding the Origin of collections,
- The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954), First Protocol (The Hague,1954) and Second Protocol (The Hague,1999) and its implementation by the Blue Shield International and the Blue Shield National Committees,
- The UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970),
- The UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995),
- The Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (2017).

The 37th General Assembly of ICOM, Prague, Czech Republic, 24 August 2022:

1. **Encourages** all ICOM National Committees:

- With the support of the relevant ICOM International Committees, Regional Alliances and Affiliated Organisations, to unite and participate in strengthening timely measures and clear public policies to combat all forms of aggression against the cultural heritage for the preservation of identity and memory of humanity, calling on policymakers and lawmakers to adopt, where necessary, such policies in order to (a) ratify the international conventions, (b) implement the provisions of these conventions with the ultimate goal to preserve tangible and intangible heritage at national and international levels.
- To support the ongoing work of the ICOM Secretariat within their country to protect collections and cultural property and see how ICOM can go further.
- To support the creation of a national Blue Shield Committee where they do not exist developing local sections to prevent and react against events affecting the cultural heritage, increasing awareness on its conservation, and encouraging the local governments to place the Blue Shield emblem in front of the heritage that are protected by law and should be protected in situations of armed conflicts, natural and manmade disasters.
- To use all operational tools available such as *ICOM Red Lists of Cultural Objects at Risk* and the *International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in cultural goods* as well as the use of the *Object ID* standard to document museum’s collections.

2. **Supports** international cooperation with relevant stakeholders from intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.

3. **Recommends** that:

- ICOM, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, maintains and regularly updates its International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods website in order to prevent and fight the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage, and positions the Observatory to monitor other disaster that threaten cultural property, whether natural or man-made, at both national and international levels.
- Bilateral ties of cooperation and mutual and supportive assistance be strengthened between neighbouring countries to combat illicit trafficking by strengthening training programs for museums professionals together with police services, customs officials, as well as civilians within the framework of existing international legislation, and by

introducing mechanisms for cooperation, coordination, harmonization, and monitoring of States.

- The revision of the acquisition policies of museums and cultural institutions, both public and private, are reviewed at national level, if necessary, in order to establish regulations to prohibit the acquisition of cultural heritage without guarantee of origin, in line with standards provided in ICOM Code of Ethics for museums.

Developed from a draft recommendation submitted by ICOM Peru

Resolution n°2: “Language diversity and overcoming language barriers for equitable participation of all ICOM members”

Considering that language is essential to the expression of culture, forming part of intangible cultural heritage as well as a vehicle for the tangible cultural heritage, and that language diversity is a means of communicating values, beliefs and customs which have an important social function and foster feelings of group identity and solidarity.

Recognizing ICOM is not homogeneously represented in each country, as imbalances in access to resources for some Members and Committees are increasing, notably due to their geographical location, their country’s economy or the place of culture in their governing systems.

Understanding that:

- the pandemic has facilitated remote access and brought new solutions, in particular in terms of translation software, but has also heightened inequalities in digital access between the hyper-connected and the non-connected;
- Translation into languages other than the three official languages promotes multilingualism and therefore the inclusion of all our Members in our interactions.

Taking into account ICOM Statutes, the Final Report and Recommendations of the ICOM Working Group on the use of languages in 2004, the Resolutions adopted by the 28th General Assembly at Rio de Janeiro on 17 August 2013.

The 37th ICOM General Assembly, Prague, Czech Republic, 24 August 2022:

Recommends that ICOM, as the international organisation of museums and museum professionals, committed to the research, conservation, transmission and communication to society of the natural and cultural, present and future, tangible and intangible heritage, strengthens its use of different translation techniques, such as interpretation or voice recognition, in its mission, and to promote multilingualism by:

- **Facilitating** the use of official languages in Working Groups and Standing Committees meetings.
- **Encouraging** National and International Committees and, Regional Alliances to strengthen the use of official languages, and encouraging the use of local languages in their meetings, translation, and publication of important documents for their members such as the Standards, Statements, Resolutions and in particular the Code of Ethics.
- **Encouraging** cooperation between National Committees and Regional Alliances sharing the same language, to join forces to facilitate the translation, publication and diffusion of important documents to their Members such as Standards, Statements, Resolutions and in particular the Code of Ethics and ICOM Publications.
- **Supporting** the proofreading of working documents to be published by International Committees that do not have any Board Member who is a native speaker of one of ICOM’s official languages.
- **Extending** support from SAREC or other sources to Committees unable to translate and publish important documents into or from their local languages.
- **Implementing** a special programme to ensure that Members can participate in ICOM’s work, in this regard it is suggested that ICOM:

- Surveys the number of speakers of different languages among the members and identify Committees that are absent due to technical and linguistic reasons;
- Assesses Committees' requirements in terms of equipment, network, translation techniques and human resources, and training;
- Quantifies the needs and including them in the ICOM budget where possible;
- Plans the distribution of resources in order to support multilingualism in meetings of International Committees, Working Groups and Standing Committees, where possible.

Developed from draft recommendations submitted by ICOM ARAB, ICOM Brazil, ICOM France, ICOM Lebanon, ICOM Mozambique, ICOM Morocco, ICOM Oman, ICOM Portugal and endorsed by ICOM Belgium, ICOM Burkina Faso, ICOM Egypt, ICOM Greece, ICOM Spain, ICOM EUROPE

Resolution n°3: “For active participation of all National Committees and balanced access to ICOM resources”

Considering that:

- ICOM, represented in 135 countries, is a unique forum for forward thinking on museums. However, our organisation is not homogeneously represented in all of those countries. Imbalances in access to resources for some members and committees, due to their geographical location, their country’s economy, the place of culture in the systems that govern them, have not decreased but, worse, have increased;
- for several years, a certain number of National Committees have not responded to requests for participation from ICOM bodies, such as ICOM statutory meetings, consultations or calls for projects;

Recalling the Resolution No. 2 adopted by the 22nd General Assembly at the General Conference in Vienna in 2007 on “Accessibility of Information and Communication”, where the Assembly resolved:

- “to develop better tools for more effective and regular communication throughout its membership and partner networks;
- to improve multilingual communication tools to reflect the diversity of its members and partners;
- to use the three languages of ICOM (French, English, and Spanish) on an equal basis; and
- to reinforce close cooperation with regional alliances to provide access to the main statements, policies, and documentation of ICOM in different languages (e.g. Arabic or Swahili)”

The 37th ICOM General Assembly, Prague, Czech Republic, 24 August 2022:

Recommends to the various of ICOM bodies and the Secretariat to:

- Establish an inventory of the participation of National Committees in recent years in the different consultation, calls for projects and meetings.
- Identify the National Committees that do not participate and the reasons for this non-participation such as excessive workload, malfunctioning in their internal organisation, lack of equipment, network connection, access to technical and human means of translation and training capacities.
- Adopt measures, such as administrative support, the development of other channels of information, and the dissemination or the provision of electronic means, to promote the participation of all ICOM Members and National Committees within our Organisation.
- Facilitate participation at international events for 3rd and 4th category countries, as well as their participation in the Executive Board, including providing financial input where necessary.

Encourages the development of special programmes to promote our organisation in countries that do not have an ICOM National Committee or institutions and that do not work with ICOM, and to make International Committees access to these regions a priority programme.

Developed from draft recommendations submitted by ICOM Belgium and ICMAH

Annex 1

**ICOM GENERAL CONFERENCE 2022:
RESOLUTIONS PROCEDURE**

CONTEXT

In view of ICOM's 26th General Conference that will take place in Prague (Czech Republic) from 20 to 28 August 2022, the Secretariat has prepared this document in order to guide the Resolutions Committee as well as all ICOM bodies entitled to formulate or endorse recommendations. The document outlines the rules regarding the role of the Resolutions Committee, the formulation, and the adoption of resolutions.

LEXICON

- Recommendation: a proposal any ICOM National or International Committee, Regional Alliance or Affiliated Organisation may put forward on the initiative of any of its members, providing he or she respects the rules set out in this procedure.
- Draft resolution: a recommendation reviewed by the Resolutions Committee, which its Chair will present and submit to the General Assembly for its review.
- Resolution: the final text adopted by the General Assembly through a decision by vote.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	THE RESOLUTIONS ISSUED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE	10
1.1.	Holding of the General Conference	10
1.2.	Purpose of the General Conference	10
1.3.	Adoption of resolutions during the General Conference	10
1.4.	Implementation of the resolutions	11
2.	THE PREPARATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS	11
2.1.	Formulation or endorsement of recommendations	11
2.2.	Formulation of recommendations:	12
2.2.1.	Entities authorised to formulate recommendations	12
2.2.2.	Scope of the recommendation	12
2.2.3.	Form requirements	12
2.2.4.	Language requirements	12
2.3.	Submission of recommendations and endorsements	12
2.3.1.	Submission to the Resolutions Committee	12
2.3.2.	Deadline for submission	13
3.	THE ROLE OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE	14
3.1.	Organisation of the Resolutions Committee	14
3.1.1.	Composition of the Resolutions Committee	14
3.1.2.	Designation and status of the Resolutions Committee	15
3.1.3.	Meetings of the Resolutions Committee	15
3.2.	Role of the Resolutions Committee	15
3.2.1.	Role before the General Conference	15
3.2.2.	Role during the General Conference	16
3.2.3.	Role after the General Conference	16
4.	SUMMARY OF THE PROCEDURE FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTIONS	16

1. THE RESOLUTIONS ISSUED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

1.1. Holding of the General Conference

ICOM holds a General Conference every three (3) years in accordance with **Article 19, Section 1 of its Statutes**. A Triennial General Conference comprises meetings of the ICOM Executive Board, Advisory Council, General Assembly, National Committees, International Committees, Affiliated Organisations and Regional Alliances.

1.2. Purpose of the General Conference

The ICOM General Conference is the principal forum at which members of ICOM from all over the world can meet online or onsite and exchange views. The General Conference is organised around a museum-related topic which is reflected on and discussed by speakers of the museum community and international experts.

The General Conference also serves as the platform for the discussion and adoption of resolutions, which reflect the major orientations and policies of the Association.

ICOM 26th General Conference (Prague, 2022)

Theme: The Power of Museums

1.3. Format of the General Conference

In 2022, for the first time in the ICOM's history, the General Conference will be hybrid, adding a digital dimension to the conventional event. It will be more inclusive, ensuring ICOM members worldwide equal opportunities to attend the conference.

With the digitalisation of the event, voting on resolutions will take place online over several days, starting before the statutory meetings. This will allow all voting members to exercise their vote at any time and place, regardless of the time zone from which they will be connecting. Once the voting process has started, it will no longer be possible to make changes to the Resolutions.

As a result, the resolutions, which used to be finalised during the General Conference, will be defined in spring, in particular during the Preliminary Meeting of the Advisory Council on 6 May 2022. However, the Resolutions Committee will organise a roundtable during the General Conference.

1.4. Presentation of the resolution

During the Preliminary Meeting of the Advisory Council the Chair of the Resolutions Committee will present the draft resolutions to the ICOM committees. This Forum will allow members to discuss and finalise the resolutions to be submitted to the vote of the General Assembly during the General Conference.

1.5. Adoption of resolutions during the General Conference

The finalised resolutions will be submitted to an online vote for adoption by the General Assembly before and during the General Conference.

The Chair of the Resolutions Committee will present the resolutions to the Membership at a roundtable and at the General Assembly, allowing Members to ask questions about the resolutions submitted to the vote.

1.6. Implementation of the resolutions

The resolutions adopted during the General Assembly shall be implemented during the three-year period following their adoption.

The ICOM Executive Board oversees the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, with the support of its network and the Secretariat.

2. THE PREPARATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

According to **Article 19.2 of the Statutes of ICOM**, the “General Conference shall be entitled to propose resolutions arising from its discussion for consideration to be made by the General Assembly”.

2.1. Formulation or endorsement of recommendations

Each ICOM National Committee, International Committee, Regional Alliance or Affiliated Organisation may only:

- formulate one (1) recommendation or;
- endorse two (2) recommendations or;
- formulate one (1) recommendation and endorse another (1);

2.2. Formulation of recommendations:

All authorised Members wishing to formulate recommendations must submit them to the Resolutions Committee by respecting the present procedure and by completing the form established by the ICOM Secretariat.

2.2.1. Entities authorised to formulate recommendations

Any ICOM National Committee, International Committee, Regional Alliance or Affiliated Organisation in good standing (up to date in the payment of its membership dues for 2021) may submit a recommendation.

2.2.2. Scope of the recommendation

The recommendations submitted to the Resolutions Committee must:

- comply with ICOM statutory purposes;
- be in accordance with ICOM's missions and ICOM's Strategic Plan.

They may relate to ICOM's programmes, the missions of its various Committees or the use of its resources to exert its influence throughout the world by promoting the role and contribution of museums to the betterment of society.

2.2.3. Form requirements

The name and surname of the Member submitting a recommendation shall be indicated.

The submitted recommendations should be no longer than 300 words.

2.2.4. Language requirements

The recommendation must be submitted in one of the three official languages of ICOM (English, French or Spanish). In order to facilitate the work of the Resolutions Committee, members are encouraged to submit a recommendation in all three languages.

2.3. Submission of recommendations and endorsements

2.3.1. Submission to the Resolutions Committee

All recommendations and endorsements shall be submitted to the Resolutions Committee by using the e-mail address indicated in the form annexed to this document.

2.3.2. *Deadline for submission*

All recommendations and endorsements shall be submitted to the Resolutions Committee in due time and shall respect the work plan established for each General Conference. This deadline allows for sufficient time for the Resolutions Committee to analyse the recommendations and reword them if necessary, as well as processing their translation in the two others official languages of ICOM.

2.4. **Calendar for the Resolutions Committee's working process**

This calendar sets out the working process of the Resolutions Committee. It has been established by the ICOM Secretariat based on the Nomination process¹ adopted by the Executive Board.

2021

28 October – 28 November 2021	⇒ Call for applications by the NCs, ICs, RAs and AOs; are sent to the Secretariat .
28 November 2021	⇒ Deadline for applications .
29 November 2021	⇒ Review of eligibility by the Secretariat
2 – 3 December 2021	⇒ Selection of members by the Executive Board.
8 December 2021	⇒ Information of the members of the Resolutions Committee.
15 December 2021	⇒ First Meeting of the Resolutions Committee (14:00 CET)
17 December 2021	⇒ Publication of the Call for Resolution Proposals

2022

27 February 2022	⇒ Deadline for the submission of resolution proposals .
March-April 2022	⇒ Discussion of the proposals, consultation with the proposing committees and editing of the draft resolutions
6 May 2022	⇒ Open discussion of the Draft Resolutions at a Preliminary Meeting of the Advisory Council .

¹ https://icom.museum/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/EN_NominationsProcedure_Final.pdf

May-June 2022	⇒ Final editing of the Resolutions
23 August 2022	⇒ Roundtable during the 26 th ICOM General Conference
24 August 2022	⇒ Adoption of the Resolutions by the Ordinary General Assembly.

3. THE ROLE OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

3.1. Organisation of the Resolutions Committee

3.1.1. Composition of the Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee is composed of up to 12 members:

- one (1) Committee Chair;
- five (5) to nine (9) ICOM Members in good standing;
- ICOM's President and Director General as *ex officio* members of the Committee.

MEMBERS OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE 2019 KYOTO GENERAL CONFERENCE

Chair:

Olga Chistanova (NC, ICOM RUSSIA)

Members:

Rashad Mohammed Bukhash (NC, ICOM UAE)

Amalia Castelli-González (NC, ICOM PERU)

Freddy Alberto Coello Espín (NC, ICOM ECUADOR)

Sabari Christian Dao (NC, ICOM BURKINA FASO)

Nicole Gesché-Koning (NC, ICOM BELGIUM)

Islam Serajul (NC, ICOM BANGLADESH)

Penelope Theologi-Gouti (NC, ICOM GREECE)

Noga Raved (IC, ICR)

Giuliana Ericani (RA, ICOM EUROPE)

***Ex officio* Members:**

Alberto GARLANDINI (ICOM President)

Peter KELLER (ICOM Director General)

3.1.2. Designation and status of the Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee is an *ad hoc* Committee created with the occurrence of each ICOM General Conference.

The Chair and the Members of the Resolutions Committee are appointed following the Nomination Process² implemented in February 2021 by the Executive Board of ICOM. Members of ICOM are invited to send their application (short statement + CV) to the ICOM Secretariat before **28 November 2021**. Valid applications have been reviewed by the Executive Board at the 156th Session of the Executive Board. In a letter sent on 7 December, the selected candidates were informed by the Secretariat of their appointment.

3.1.3. Meetings of the Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee will begin its task upon nomination and publication of its composition.

Following the calendar established by the ICOM Secretariat (see 2.4.), **the first meeting of the Committee will take place on 15 December 2021** (14:00 CET). The Committee will hold the number of meetings that it considers appropriate in order to complete its work within the set time.

3.2. Role of the Resolutions Committee

3.2.1. Role before the General Conference

The Resolutions Committee shall, before the General Conference:

- receive recommendations and endorsements from authorised Members (Rule 2.2.1. of this procedure);
- confirm that such recommendations are eligible with regard to the procedure in force and the scope defined;
- check the conformity of such recommendations with ICOM's Statutes;
- check if the recommendations are in accordance with ICOM's missions and ICOM's Strategic Plan;
- examine recommendations, group all those that meet the criteria by subject or orientation and summarise them;

² The Nomination Process is available [here](#). Please note that the Nomination Process is now in a pilot phase and will be reviewed further over the coming year based on the outcomes of using the process and in the context of the recommendations of the External Review and the Working Group on Statutes and Rules.

- draw up three to five final draft resolutions;
- ensure the translation of draft resolutions in the three official languages of ICOM.
- hold an open discussion of the Draft Resolutions (work calendar of the Resolutions Committee)

3.2.2. Role during the General Conference

During the General Conference, the Resolutions Committee, speaking through its Chair, shall inform the General Assembly of the manner in which she/he has directed the work of the Resolutions Committee.

The Chair of the Committee shall present the resolutions during a roundtable and at the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall examine the resolutions and adopt them by taking a decision.

3.2.3. Role after the General Conference

The Resolutions Committee shall contact all National Committees and encourage them, to the best of their abilities, to translate all new Resolutions into the working languages of their Committees and make them available through the different means of communication accessible to them.

4. SUMMARY OF THE PROCEDURE FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTIONS

