

ICOMOS

international council on monuments and sites

Resolution 18GA 2014/43

Our Common Dignity: advancing rights-based approaches to heritage conservation

The 18th General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Recalling resolution 17GA 2011/30 'Our Common Dignity: Rights-based approaches to Heritage Management', and the substantial progress made by the working group established by the ICOMOS Executive Committee in relation to this programme since 2011;

Acknowledging that rights issues, including the involvement of communities, are a growing aspect of the work of international organisations for culture and heritage, and that this is a complex field of work that involves many activities;

Reflecting that while these issues are applicable to heritage conservation processes in many local contexts, the work in this programme has focused on the World Heritage system, due to the potential for positive contributions of the World Heritage Convention in building international understanding of cultural and natural diversity, and the ability to work collaboratively with other organisations to develop robust approaches, including the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre;

Recognizing the importance of integrating rights concerns into processes and practices for heritage identification and conservation;

Noting that potentially adverse outcomes can occur when heritage processes do not adequately take account of rights concerns;

Supporting the approach taken by the programme to date which has focused on improving awareness and practices within ICOMOS, building relationships, sharing and analysis of case studies and the identification of enabling factors for rights-based approaches to heritage management that can act as a 'sustainability check' in all phases of these activities;

Noting with thanks the financial support of the Norwegian Government and the leadership provided by ICOMOS Norway in this work;

Requests that the Executive Committee continue to work on these issues within ICOMOS through the 'Our Common Dignity' component of the ICOMOS International Work Plan for 2015-2017, including:

- Reflection on the work completed in the period 2011-2014 and development of work plans that identify next steps and strategies;
- Continued consideration of rights-based approaches in the work of ICOMOS in relation to its role as an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Convention;
- Facilitating continued dialogue within ICOMOS networks to enhance understanding of these matters.