

ICOMOS ADCOM RECOMMENDATION 2016

Resolution 2016 Advisory Committee meeting

Our Common Dignity: advancing rights-based approaches to heritage conservation,
[submitted ICOMOS Norway, ICOMOS Australia, ICOMOS India, ICOMOS South Africa]

The 2016 Advisory Committee meeting in Istanbul:

Recalling 17GA 2011/30 'Our Common Dignity: Rights-based approaches to Heritage Management', Resolution 18GA 2014/36 Our Common Dignity: advancing rights-based approaches to heritage conservation, and the substantial progress made by the Working Group established by ICOMOS International Executive Committee in relation to this program 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.

Acknowledging the adoption by the World Heritage Convention GA of the Sustainable Development.

Acknowledging the continues collaboration between the Advisory Bodies to the WH Convention, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN,

Reflecting that while these issues are applicable to heritage conservation processes in many local contexts, the work in this program 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 IUCN, ICCROM and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

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

Recognizing that the ICOMOS Board at its meeting in Nov 2015 established a new Working Group for the topic, to be coordinated by Dr. Marie Louise Anker of ICOMOS Norway. The current Working Group members are Kristal Buckley, ICOMOS Australia; Gurmeet Sangha Rai, ICOMOS India; Ntsozi November, ICOMOS South Africa, and Marie Louise Anker. Peter Phillips, ICOMOS Vice President oversees/coordinates topic activities vis-à-vis the ICOMOS Board (appointed August 2016).

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

Noting the considerable and diverse work carried out by the Our Common Dignity Initiative, as well as the expanded/new/

ICOMOS Working Group on the topic established in 2015, including the participation in the SNIS-funded project investigating rights issues in World Heritage in Asia.

Noting that the topic shall provide constructive challenges and opportunities not only for ICOMOS and ICOMOS National Committees, but also for participation from the ICOMOS membership – and importantly investigating how diverse geo-cultural contexts can contribute to developing the topic for ICOMOS advisory role.

Supporting the approach taken by the initiative 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 contribute towards a relevant 'sustainability check' of all aspects of World Heritage work.

Noting with thanks financial support of the Norwegian Government for this now completed project, and the leadership provided by ICOMOS Norway to develop the work.

Requests that the ICOMOS Board continue to work on these issues within ICOMOS through the 'Our Common Dignity' component of the ICOMOS International Work Plan for 2014-2017, including:

- Reflection on the work completed 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.
- ICOMOS undertake to initiate policy work in order to enhance understanding and explore relevant policy responses.
- ICOMOS recognizes potentials and opportunities also for ICOMOS as Advisory Body through the AB Capacity Building program funded by the Norwegian Government and agreement signed in Hawaii in August 2016 between Norway and IUCN and ICCROM.
- incorporate the topic of advancing rights-based approaches to heritage conservation in the agenda for the scientific seminar at the forthcoming ICOMOS GA in New Delhi in 2017.