

Dear CIPEG members, dear friends,

The 28th General Assembly of ICOM on 17 August, 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, adopted the

RESOLUTION NO. 5 – PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE DURING AND AFTER ARMED CONFLICT, REVOLUTION AND CIVIL STRIFE

which was drafted and recommended by CIPEG and two other committees:

In view of the current historical events in the Arabic world, such as in Syria, Egypt and other countries, ICOM expresses its deepest concern regarding the loss of unique cultural heritage resources due to violence, vandalism and ongoing looting of archaeological sites and museums. ICOM condemns the looting and vandalism suffered by museums, historical buildings and sites, and consequently the destruction of cultural heritage and the illicit traffic in artefacts.

ICOM alerts the worldwide community to this irretrievable loss of human history and culture and calls upon the worldwide museum community to raise awareness about the ongoing destruction of cultural heritage and cultural identity.

Noting that the 19th and 21st General Assembly of ICOM, in Melbourne, Australia (16 October, 1998) and Seoul, Korea (8 October, 2004), had already emphasised the significance of the Hague Convention of 1954 and its Protocol 1 and 2.

It is recommended by the 28th General Assembly of ICOM on 17 August, 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, that the newly elected President and the Executive Council:

- Explore ways in which the damaging impact on museums, monuments and archaeological sites could be mitigated and minimized, and supports any action that could be taken to protect the tangible and intangible heritage in museums and heritage sites.

- Further appeals to its members and network partners to intensify the efforts and cooperation with partners in the endangered countries in protecting their heritage, museum and archaeological sites.

- Renews the appeal to all governments to ratify The Hague Convention of 1954 and its First and Second Protocols.

- Welcomes the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) adopted on 2 April, 2013 by the United Nations General Assembly regulating international trade in conventional arms, and recommends that exemptions be included in such treaties or related international regulations to protect and safeguard museums with relevant objects and heritage resources.

- Develops a policy driven approach, through cooperation and coordination with primary and other stakeholders, for the rehabilitation of museums and heritage resources, both tangible and intangible, taking into consideration support for south countries.

The **ICOM General conference in Rio** was attended by 1,894 participants from 103 countries, including, for the first time, non-members of ICOM.

Prof. Dr Hans-Martin Hinz was elected to represent the International Council of Museums as its president for a second term.

Vice Presidents: George Okello Abungu (Kenya) and Teresa C. Moletta Scheiner (Brazil)

Treasurer: Anne-Catherine Hauglustaine-Robert (France)

Executive Council:

Laishun An (China), In-kyung Chang (Republic of Korea), Luisa de Peña Díaz (Dominican Republic), Willem De Vos (Belgium), Alberto Garlandini (Italy), Goranka Horjan (Croatia), Peter Keller (Austria), Diana Pardue (US), Merete Ipsen (Denmark). Ex-officio: Suay Aksoy (Turkey), Chair of the Advisory Committee.

We congratulate our CIPEG members Ossama A. W. Abdel Meguid (Egypt) and Regine Schulz (Germany) for being reelect!

The next ICOM General Conference will take place in 2016 in Milan, Italy!

With all best wishes

Gabriele Pieke
ICOM CIPEG