

# **Dubrovnik - Valletta Principles for the ICOMOS National Committees**

**version adopted by the Advisory Committee and  
recommended for adoption to the Executive Committee,  
Valletta, Malta, 9 October 2009**

## **Introduction**

For some time ICOMOS has grappled with the issue of what to do with regard to its National Committees. While the number of genuinely dysfunctional Committees is not numerous, they are a dilemma that affects the credibility of the organization in a multitude of ways. ICOMOS is first and foremost a body the purpose of which is to fulfil a need amongst professionals in our sector of activity and as a result it wishes to guarantee that colleagues can benefit from the opportunities and networks that an efficiently run National Committee can provide.

A process of developing the methods to enhance the capabilities and functioning of the National Committees began at a meeting of the Advisory Committee in Edinburgh in 2006. At that meeting, it was resolved to create four Advisory Committee task teams to examine selected areas in which the functioning of National Committees could be enhanced and to make recommendations for that purpose. The teams were asked to focus on National Committee membership and statutes, regional cooperation among National Committees, their cooperation with International Scientific Committees, and their involvement in World Heritage work. The task teams were further asked to make appropriate recommendations to the ICOMOS Executive Committee. Later, a fifth task team was established to examine openness and transparency.

At the meetings of the Advisory Committee in Pretoria 2007, and in Quebec 2008, the National Committee Presidents and their representatives who participated in the discussion reached several decisions that promoted the consideration of a new model for the National Committees.

These Principles are meant to guide the individual activities of all ICOMOS National Committees, as well as the cooperative work among them, and their relations with all ICOMOS bodies and activities. One primary responsibility of each National Committee is to ensure the sharing and dissemination of knowledge and information among its members and with all ICOMOS bodies.

The National Committees are established and operate according to the Statutes of ICOMOS, consequently, their organization, structure and proceedings may be required to evolve if and when such Statutes are amended.

It is expected that in the very near future the first round of evaluations will take place and this will begin to establish an ongoing process that determines that at national level ICOMOS becomes a far more consistently active organization than has perhaps been the case in certain countries in the past. We therefore appeal to National Committees to, in their own interests, co-operate with its implementation and in so doing make our organization more credible, effective and better able to serve the interests and needs of its members, in the pursuit of the conservation of the monuments and sites of the world's cultural heritage.

**Gideon Koren**  
**Advisory Committee Coordinator of the 5 Task Teams**

# **Dubrovnik-Valletta Principles**

## **Valletta, Malta, 9 October 2009**

**version adopted by the Advisory Committee and recommended for adoption to the Executive Committee, Valletta, Malta, 9 October 2009**

These principles, recommended at the meetings of the National Committee Presidents and the Advisory Committee and approved by the Executive Committee (Note: Executive Committee approval still pending), are for use in determining levels of activity of, service delivery by, and general effectiveness of the National Committees of ICOMOS.

Their primary purpose is to guide the work of all ICOMOS National Committees and where necessary help the organization to assist National Committees to recommence effective operations in the service of heritage professionals in their countries and in the interests of the heritage of humankind.

The implementation and revision of these Principles shall be the responsibility of the Advisory Committee, and will first take place in 2011.

### **I. Members**

#### **A. General principles**

1. The credibility of ICOMOS depends on a minimum standard applying to all its international membership, while other issues can remain within the discretion of the individual National Committees, reflecting the cultural diversity of the Organization in accordance with Article 13. of the International Statutes.
2. It is the intention of ICOMOS that its National Committees continually gather a membership that will include recognized experts in their field of specialization, be representative of all of the world regions or pertinent regions, and recruit young professionals seeking such specialization; and that all be given ample opportunities and stimulus to become actively engaged in the work of the Committee.
3. All members shall be familiar with the Statement of Ethical Commitment adopted by ICOMOS in Madrid in 2002, and abide by it at all times. Failure to behave accordingly may result in dismissal.
4. Appeal against refusal of an application for membership or dismissal, shall be available to the ICOMOS Advisory Committee and to the ICOMOS Executive Committee.

#### **B. Membership categories**

1. The 4 membership categories for Membership shall be as defined in Article 6. of the ICOMOS Statutes.
2. The list of professions and occupations in Article 6. (a) (1) should not be taken to exclude any other professions, occupations or trades engaged in the conservation of monuments and sites.
3. National Committees may wish to have a class of Associate members. Associate membership can only include members of the National Committees, and shall have no voting rights. It is intended as a means of encouraging new individual members and for providing additional income to the National Committees.
4. Young Professional membership shall be a sub-category of Individual membership and subject to the same membership criteria as Individual members. Young Professional members should continue to be encouraged by means of discounted

dues. The discount should continue to be a centrally set fixed percentage (currently 50%) of the regular dues. The discount shall apply to new members under the age of 30, or within the first 5 years of their professional career in conservation.

5. Student membership shall be a sub-category of Associate membership and subject to the same membership criteria as Associate members. Student members should continue to be encouraged by means of discounted dues, as applied to Young Professional membership.

### **C. Membership dues**

1. In general, membership privileges, including membership cards and voting rights at General Assemblies, should be granted only after the payment of dues.
2. The Executive Committee may, in special circumstances of genuine need, wish to grant a reduction in dues without loss of privileges.
3. It is desirable for National Committees to set dues at a higher level than the dues payable to ICOMOS International, so that some of this money is available for the work of the National Committees.

## **II. National Committee Cooperation**

1. Regional co-operation within ICOMOS has long been a declared goal. The National Committees are the vehicles through which ICOMOS brings together, develops and serves its worldwide goals. ICOMOS expects the National Committees to be at the heart of scientific inquiry and exchange in their domains and to share knowledge among them to foster a multi-disciplinary approach to heritage protection and management, in fulfilment of the ICOMOS goals to "Gather, study and disseminate information concerning principles, techniques and policies" related to heritage protection. ICOMOS will support its National Committees to actively pursue regional co-operation, in order to promote greater understanding in the heritage field and to guarantee the generational renewal of all heritage professions within and outside of ICOMOS.
2. The National Committee regions are to continue to meet annually in the regional division as adopted by UNESCO.
3. ICOMOS wishes to encourage regional co-operation, and especially have wealthier and more active National Committees encourage and support new or struggling National Committees in the same region, subject to appropriate protocols to ensure independence. An international database will provide better opportunities for professional co-operation between members and National Committees.
4. The National Committees are to encourage bilateral or trilateral activities between National Committees, based not only on geographical convenience, but also on other common nominators and mutual interests such as linguistic efficiency or common heritage. Examples for cooperation between different regions are OAS – Organization of American States, Organization of IBERO – American States, MERCOSUR, CARICOM, Council of Europe, etc.
5. Given the vehicles for efficient regional cooperation, ICOMOS as a trans-national organization maintaining ideological, political and religious neutrality, may provide effective post-disaster/post-conflict response in afflicted regions and be used for bridge building between cultures.
6. Mapping of inter-governmental and inter-academic organizations worldwide to assist in the network of cooperation.

7. A meeting of National Committee Presidents, or their designated representatives, may take place as and when need arises and to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern.

### **III. International Scientific Committee & National Committee Cooperation**

1. The National Committees regard the work performed by the International Scientific Committees as an important pillar in ICOMOS' ability to accomplish its goals. As such, the National Committees see great significance in having full cooperation between the National Committees and the International Scientific Committees.
2. All National Committees should encourage membership in all International Scientific Committees, under the terms of the Eger-Xian Principles, and in mirrored National Scientific Committees, wherever available.
3. National Committees shall encourage the establishment of National Scientific Committees, to operate in the same fields as the existing International Scientific Committees. The purpose of the National Scientific Committees is to act as the combining link between the scientific work performed at the national level and the scientific work performed at the international level. The International Scientific Committees should report to the National Scientific Committees and vice versa, and as such, there shall be integration of all the knowledge and expertise amongst the members of the National Scientific Committees and the International Scientific Committees leading to further advancement of the ICOMOS goals.
4. In order to guarantee the interaction between the National Scientific Committees and the International Scientific Committees, the chairperson of the National Scientific Committee, wherever available, shall be appointed as the voting member in the International Scientific Committee, and that person shall be in charge of the sharing of information between the two. In the case of National Committees that have not formed National Scientific Committees, the chairperson of the National Committee shall be in charge of communication with the International Scientific Committee and shall act to create adequate representation of Expert members of the National Committee in the International Scientific Committees.
5. The Minutes and Protocols of all International Scientific Committee meetings shall be published on the ICOMOS website in as many languages as possible, in order to guarantee openness and accessibility. If such publication is not available, copies shall be sent to the National Committee chairpersons.
6. National Scientific Committee Presidents shall be encouraged to exchange information with other National Scientific Committees working in the same field and in interdisciplinary intersections between the fields.
7. The National Committees shall be encouraged to be involved in the preparation of the International Scientific Committees' doctrinal papers in order to guarantee full cooperation between the National Committees and the International Scientific Committees, and to further ICOMOS' goals.

### **IV. Involvement of National Committees in the World Heritage Work of ICOMOS**

1. One of ICOMOS' most important roles is the evaluation of World Heritage as outlined in the World Heritage Convention and the current Operational Guidelines. It is the State

Party's role to identify and to nominate World Heritage Sites and this may usefully be with the support of National Committees.

2. National Committees are encouraged to develop working relationships with the National Commission for UNESCO in their states.
3. There are varying degrees of involvement of the National Committees in the process of compiling the Tentative List and in selecting sites to be nominated for inscription in the World Heritage List. National Committees are encouraged to contribute to the selection of sites for inclusion in Tentative Lists or preparation of nominations for inscription.
4. National Committees are encouraged to respond to requests from the ICOMOS World Heritage Unit for opinion on nominations, and that such opinions are confidential between ICOMOS and the National Committee.
5. A dialogue should be established between the ICOMOS World Heritage Unit and National Committees over the identification of appropriate experts to undertake missions or to write desk reviews for evaluations.
6. Once a site has been inscribed as a World Heritage site by the World Heritage Committee, the State Parties and ICOMOS should urge the National Committees to support the protection, conservation and management of inscribed sites, including preventive monitoring, wherever possible.
7. National Committees are encouraged to participate in visits for expert evaluations or monitoring missions to their countries, as invited by the ICOMOS World Heritage Unit.
8. With the exception of the work of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel, the ICOMOS Bureau, as well as the Executive Committee and International Secretariat, National Committees shall not take a resolution, provide opinion, or issue a statement relating to heritage issues in any active National Committee's country, before a draft is sent in due time to the relevant National Committee for its review and comments. At times when such consultation is not available within the time constraints of the ICOMOS World Heritage Unit, wherever possible, consultation should be undertaken.
9. In order to facilitate greater dialogue and transparency, the ICOMOS World Heritage Unit should keep the National Committees informed of all key World Heritage issues in their country.

## **V. National Committee Management and Statutes**

### **A. Elections**

1. Each National Committee must conduct elections for its Bureau or Executive Committee at least once every three years. The Bureau or Executive Committee shall comprise at least three officers, of whom one shall be the National Committee President.
2. Each National Committee shall decide whether the President shall be elected from the members of the National Committee, or if the National Committee shall first elect the Bureau or Executive Committee and it shall elect the President from within.
3. A President shall not serve more than three consecutive three-year terms in office.
4. Subject to the provisions of national laws, and after reasonable consultation, if the National Committee does not conduct elections in accordance with these Principles, the Executive Committee of ICOMOS may facilitate elections being held among all ICOMOS members of that country, including members recognised by ICOMOS International.

## **B. Compliance**

1. The statutes of all ICOMOS National Committees shall comply with these Principles and with the Statutes of ICOMOS.
2. All existing National Committees are encouraged to revise their statutes and to bring them into compliance with these Principles.
3. Each National Committee shall hand in an Annual Report to the Advisory Committee and the International Secretariat. In the report the National Committee must describe its compliance with the following criteria:
  - Non-Complying with these Principles, or with ICOMOS Statutes.
  - The National Committee does not pay its dues to ICOMOS.
  - The National Committee does not submit its Annual report.
  - Operating against the aims and objectives of ICOMOS.
  - Acting in breach of decisions of the Advisory Committee, the ICOMOS Executive Committee or the General Assembly.
  - The National Committee did not hold elections.
4. The Advisory Committee shall review the activities of the National Committees. Where it finds that a National Committee is out of compliance with the provisions of these principles, it may provide advice and guidance to the National Committee to assist the National Committee to come into compliance.
5. Where a National Committee remains out of compliance, the Advisory Committee shall refer the matter to the Executive Committee with recommendations for corrective action.
6. In exceptional cases, the non complying National Committee shall not be allowed to participate in the Advisory Committee meetings or to vote in the ICOMOS General Assembly.