

**16th General Assembly of ICOMOS
Quebec, Canada
30 September – 4 October 2008**

RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

Composition of the Committee - President: Werner von Trützscher (Germany); Rapporteur: Joan Domicelj (Australia); Members: Beverley Crouts-Knipe (South Africa), Francois Leblanc (Canada), Michèle Prats (France), Ruth Shady Solis (Peru), Jordi Tresseras (Spain).

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Québec, Canada, in October 2008:

- Expresses ICOMOS' gratitude to Canadian Officials and organisers, and especially to the Canadian Government, Parks Canada, the Government of Québec, the City of Québec and the University of Laval for the success of this General Assembly. We also express our gratitude to the many volunteers who have assisted in the success of the conference, in particular to all those who contributed to the First International Forum of Young Researchers and Professionals in Cultural Heritage,
- Accepts with pleasure the invitation by the Iranian National Committee to hold the 17th Session of the General Assembly in Isfahan in 2011,
- Expresses appreciation to the Getty Conservation Institute and The Getty Foundation for their support of international programmes and for the granting of funds to support attendance at this General Assembly by those unable to attend otherwise,
- Expresses support for UNESCO Director General, Koïchiro Matsuura, and the World Heritage Centre in increasing significance and effectiveness of the World Heritage Convention,
- Expresses appreciation to ICOMOS' partner organisations, ICCROM, ICOM, IUCN, IFLA TICCIH, UIA, DoCoMoMo and OWHC,
- Recognizes the significant contribution to the work of ICOMOS of the following members who have passed away and expresses condolences to their families and the National Committees: Emmanuel Esteves (Angola), Freddi Guidi (Argentina), Yarazdat Harutunyan (Armenia), Gertrud Tripp (Austria), Jacques Dalibard (Canada), Robin Letellier (Canada), Claire Mousseau (Canada), Edgar Vargas Vargas (Costa Rica), Marta Arjona (Cuba), Mario Gonzalez Sedeno (Cuba), Pefkios Georgiadis (Cyprus), Hernán Crespo Toral (Ecuador), Anna Nurmi Nielsen (Finland), Gilles Nourissier (France), Andras Roman (Hungary), Bagher Shirazi (Iran), Alfred Steinmetzer (Luxembourg), Jaime Litvak King (Mexico), Constantino Reyes Valerio (Mexico), Rob Apell (Netherlands), Stephan Tschudi-Madsen (Norway), Nabi Ahmed Khan (Pakistan), Kausar Bashir Ahmed (Pakistan), Richard Howland (USA), Hamilton Morton (USA), Saidee Newell (USA), Jan Hird Pokorny (USA), Robert Stipe (USA), Ann Webster Smith (USA)

In memory of these persons, a minute of silence is asked.

* It should be noted that: Resolutions act as a link between ICOMOS members and the ICOMOS Executive Committee. The Resolutions Committee studies and coordinates all resolutions for balance in substance and in form. It assesses questions of validity and relevance, but not financial implications nor factual accuracy. That analysis is the responsibility of the Executive Committee. Following adoption by the General Assembly, the resolutions are circulated to all members and ICOMOS partners. The outcome of the resolutions is reported annually to the Advisory Committee by the President of ICOMOS.

A. CURRENT ISSUES

1. Protecting vernacular heritage in the aftermath of natural disasters

Considering that:

- In the words of the Charter on Built Vernacular Heritage, which was adopted in 1999 by ICOMOS, it would be unworthy of the heritage of man if care were not taken to conserve the traditional harmonies that constitute the core of man's existence, even in the aftermath of natural disasters of immense proportions,
- Vernacular heritage constitutes a continuing process including necessary changes and adaptation as a response to social and environmental constraints,

Recognizing that:

- In the aftermath of the terrible tragedies affecting several parts of the world - tsunamis in Asia and hurricanes in America and the earthquake in China just to name a few - there is a pressing need to ensure the recovery of familiar environments and traditions transmitted by previous generations,
- In the haste to provide emergency shelter and rebuilding, vernacular traditions are increasingly threatened and forgotten,
- It is important that the planning of reconstruction be based on sound traditional characteristics, as well as to review those that have failed on the affected region,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Address to the countries afflicted by disaster an expression of its profound solidarity and assurance that the most experienced experts and specialists are at their disposal to assist, if necessary, in the drawing up of emergency measures for the salvaging, conservation and restoration of vernacular architecture.

2. Nomination of World Heritage properties in the Pacific Ocean region

Bearing in mind the extraordinary cultural diversity of the wider Pacific Ocean region and its under-representation on the World Heritage list, and bearing in mind also that paramount chief Tumu Te Heuheu of New Zealand has finished his term as chair of the World Heritage Committee,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Extend its best wishes to Chief Tumu and to wish him well in all his future endeavours for his people, and
- Call on the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to take all steps possible to support the processes leading to the nomination of properties in the Pacific Ocean region.

3. Support for the Province of Sichuan (China)

ICOMOS members have been deeply moved and concerned by the severity of the earthquake that hit the Chinese province of Sichuan on 12 May 2008. It greatly affected the local population and the cultural heritage in all its aspects.

This event mobilized all Chinese provinces and administrative authorities, which came to the rescue of this province in a most efficient and prompt way to evaluate damages and first aid actions.

For its part, ICOMOS answered the call of its Chinese colleagues, for which these latter were extremely grateful.

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Express its most sincere solidarity to the Chinese population and wishes to provide its total support to ICOMOS China in these extreme circumstances, and in its work in favour of the preservation, conservation and restoration of its cultural heritage. After a proper overview of the situation, ICOMOS China proposed that an international workshop should be held in the earthquake area. The involvement of ICOMOS Scientific Committees and international colleagues will be warmly welcomed.

4. Alburnus Maior (Romania)

Regarding the Roman site of Alburnus Maior in Roşia Montana, an outstanding mining settlement and cultural landscape in Romania, as a potential World Heritage Site,

With reference to:

- The Resolution n° 20 of the 13th General Assembly of ICOMOS held in Madrid, Spain,
- The Resolution of the 14th Extraordinary General Assembly, held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe,
- The resolution of the ICOMOS Conference, held in Pécs, Hungary, 22-27 May 2004,
- The ICAHM Statement on the mining concept at Roşia Montana in Lyon, France, at the European Archaeological Association Conference on 9 September 2004,
- The Resolution of the 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China, in October 2005,
- The resolution of the XXIII World Congress of the UIA – the International Union of Architects, in Torino in 2008, and

Taking into consideration:

- The official statements of the Romanian Academy, those of all the religious communities involved and also those of professional bodies, such as the European Council of Architects and the Romanian Chamber of Architects,
- That the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development of Romania interrupted the licensing procedure for the mine proposal and suspended the evaluation of the environmental impact study prepared by Roşia Montana Gold Corporation,
- Recent irrevocable court decisions in Romania that annulled an archaeological discharge certificate issued earlier to exploit the Carnic Massif and also ascertained the illegality of Roşia Montana's urban plans, and also
- Recent information about steps taken for starting mining operations in Roşia Montana and also other similar threats upon the archaeological, architectural and historical heritage of the cultural landscape of the Apuseni Mountains,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Reiterate its deepest concern about the planned mining operations that have led to and threaten to continue the destruction of the archaeological site of Alburnus Maior in Roşia Montana, Romania, and its surroundings,
- Call for the urgent intervention of the National Authorities to ensure the appropriate protection of the site,
- Call for further evaluation of the significance of the site as a cultural landscape and its archaeological, architectural and ethnographic heritage together with its spiritual values in the context of the cultural heritage of Europe and the world, and
- Express once again its will to collaborate with the Romanian authorities and other organizations to achieve these actions and calls for the involvement of the relevant ICOMOS International Scientific Committee and UNESCO for that purpose.

5. The destruction of the historic cemetery of Jugha (Autonomous Republic of Nachitchevan, Azerbaijan)

One of the famous Armenian sites, Jugha, was the hub of commerce and crafts since historic times. In the 15th and 16th centuries it was recognized as a center of vernacular architecture, epigraphy, writing, the processing of precious stones and tapestry. The historic cemetery of Jugha, as one of the outstanding examples of historic monuments, was composed of tens of thousands of khatchkars (cross stones) that bore witness to the talent of construction and to the artistic skill of the master masons of Jugha.

Given that in recent years the historic and cultural heritage has suffered from wars, conflicts and political tensions, this heritage that once enjoyed its worthy place among the treasures of the world's heritage can no longer be transmitted today to future generations,

Considering that despite international efforts in heritage protection, and particularly the measures taken by ICOMOS in the field of World Heritage in Danger, as recommended by the 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS on the protection of cultural heritage outside borders,

With the aim of preventing that such events are repeated, the 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Draw the attention of the Azerbaijani authorities, as a State Party to the Convention on the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, to the destruction of the Jugha cemetery and to transmit to them the concern of the international community of conservation experts,
- Ask the Azerbaijani authorities to facilitate the access of an expert delegation from UNESCO and/or ICOMOS in order to study the site and inform the international community of the results.

6. Heritage in danger in Peru

Considering that:

- The declaration of sites and monuments as Peru's cultural heritage is achieved through technical dossiers drawn up and evaluated by professionals, following national and international regulations in force,
- The cultural heritage is being affected by the action of "demonumentalization", which is to withdraw the monument status from monuments that had already been declared as national assets, to facilitate their destruction, without complying with the technical procedure,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Recommend to the National Institute of Culture and the Government of Peru that the decision to remove the monument status of an asset declared cultural heritage can only be the responsibility of a "technical committee", composed of experts, with the participation of ICOMOS Peru, and based on the respective technical dossier, prepared by specialized personnel.

7. Response to articles in the popular media that glamorize looting of archaeological sites

Considering that:

- The scientific and historic value of artefacts can only be fully realized if they are found and recorded by professional archaeologists *in situ*,
- In the past year, articles recommending artefacts taken from archaeological sites as investments have appeared in TIME magazine, and numerous television shows have appeared on the Travel Channel that encourage the looting of archaeological sites for excitement and profit,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves that:

- ICOMOS will, to the best of its ability, publicly condemn pieces appearing in the media (including magazines, newspapers, television shows, and websites) that extol the collecting or purchase of artefacts obtained inappropriately from archaeological sites.

8. Tomo-No-Ura (Japan)

Considering that Tomo-no-Ura is recognized as a place of exceptional significance as it is a historic port town with temples dating from the 15th Century, merchant houses and streetscapes from the 18th Century, stone harbour facilities, and a relationship with the sea which has long been recognized as exceptionally beautiful,

Recognizing that the port, town and landscape of Tomo-no-Ura, as a unique ensemble of international significance, cannot be considered separately and that their conservation should embrace the visual environment, including the adjoining sea, the islands and mountain backdrop and consider the historical role of the port including its function, especially as part of the cultural route between Japan and Korea,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Urge the National Government of Japan:
 - to suspend the authorization of the Tomo bridge project by the Government of Hiroshima Prefecture and the Government of Fukuyama City.
- Ask the Government of Hiroshima Prefecture:
 - to respect the value of the port, town and landscape of Tomo-no-Ura as a unique and inseparable ensemble,
 - to withdraw its application for the authorization of the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism,
 - to abandon the bridge building project and reconsider the alternatives that will not harm in any way this unique ensemble.

- Ask the Government of Fukuyama City:
 - to respect the value of the port, town and landscape of Tomo-no-Ura as a unique and inseparable ensemble,
 - to withdraw its application for the authorization of the Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture,
 - to abandon the bridge building project and reconsider the alternatives that will not harm in any way this unique ensemble.

9. Heritage Protection in Moldova

Considering the rich heritage of Moldova, a country at the crossroads of many cultures in history and facing increased vulnerability from economic and social changes,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Call for the authorities of Moldova to enhance its protection and conservation system along the lines of Article 5 of the World Heritage Convention, which it signed in 2002, in cooperation with scientific and professional organizations,
- Offer the assistance of ICOMOS, and its professional and international network, for the benefit of Moldova and its cultural heritage.

10. Twentieth Century Heritage at Risk

Noting the:

- Extraordinary contribution of Russian modernism to Twentieth Century heritage, and the threats and deterioration which are currently occurring to many places of outstanding international significance in Russia including the Rusa Kovrus Workers Club, the house and the studio of the architect Konstantin Melnikov and the neglected Narkomfin building,
- Imminent threats to the Gettysburg Cyclorama, designed by Richard Neutra in 1962, determined eligible for the U.S.A National Register of Historic Places in 1998 but not protected from demolition; and the Third Church of Christ, Scientist and Christian Science Monitor Building, designed by I.M. Pei, completed in 1971, a designated landmark building in Washington, USA, currently the subject of a demolition proposal,
- Recent international competition by the Regione Sicilia to conserve The Hangar at Augusta, Sicily, Italy, now vacant, designed for the Italian Air Force in 1920, a rare survivor of the era of airship transport and the important wartime heritage of Sicily, and
- Ongoing evolution of development proposals for visitor and religious community facilities in close proximity to the Ronchamp Chapel, France, designed by Le Corbusier 1954/55, to ensure that it reinforces the authenticity of the outstanding landscape which is inseparable from this outstanding building,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Note that there is a threat to the heritage of the Twentieth Century worldwide,
- Urge the relevant national authorities and professional organizations in Russia, the United States, Italy and France, and other countries, to act with urgency to safeguard their conservation and maintenance, to prevent ongoing deterioration or loss, or damage to their settings and secure their sustainable future as important components of the heritage of the Twentieth Century.

11. The restoration of the historic Manège militaire de la Grande Allée, in Québec, Canada

Considering the historical and architectural significance and remarkable presence of the Manège militaire de la Grande Allée in the historic ensemble of Québec and its designation as a National Historic Site by the Government of Canada,

Considering the considerable damage caused to the Manège by the March 2008 fire but also the fact that the building remains significantly present,

Considering ICOMOS promptly offered the Prime Minister of Canada assistance after the fire to help in the approach and methods for the restoration of this historic monument,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Call upon the Government of Canada to repair the Manège militaire de la Grande Allée and protect its remains from winter and the weather in an adequate manner during the development of a model conservation project for this historic building with the aim of ensuring the continuity of the heritage values associated with this national historic place of Canada,

- Renew the offer of ICOMOS to assist the Government of Canada in defining an appropriate approach to make this an outstanding restoration project,
- Encourage the Canadian authorities to take all preventive measures to reduce the risk of such disasters happening again with historic buildings under their authorities.

12. The historic centre and World Heritage Site of Québec (Canada)

Considering the remarkable and fruitful setting given to the meetings and symposiums of the 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS by the city of Québec, embellished and lively on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of its foundation,

Considering that the historic district of Québec has been inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of its outstanding universal value and the firm commitment of governmental and municipal authorities to ensure the protection and conservation of the Old Québec as a historic urban ensemble,

Noting the existence of private and public construction projects, demolition works or uncertainty on the protection and enhancement of important elements of the architectural or archaeological heritage of the World Heritage Site and adjacent heritage areas, all of which remind of the persisting challenges relating to the management of the site as required by its inscription on the World Heritage List,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Thank profoundly the authorities of the Governments of Canada and Québec, the City of Québec and all the other partners, professionals and volunteers who made it possible to hold such a memorable meeting in the beautiful historic city of Québec,
- Call for all the authorities in charge of the management, protection and conservation of the World Heritage Site and the adjacent heritage areas to reinforce their commitment for a development model that ensures that precedence is given to the protection, conservation and enhancement of this designated heritage over construction pressures which are or could affect it, and to implement policies and best practices consequently,
- Offer to the Canadian and Québec authorities and to the City of Québec the availability of its professional network to assist them in this work so as to make Québec the model of excellence in appropriate policies and practices in the conservation of historic cities.

B. ORGANISATION

13. Representation of membership diversity

Considering that:

- ICOMOS aspires to having a global reach which reflects the cultural diversity of humanity,
- ICOMOS National Committees are not fully inclusive of this diversity,
- At ICOMOS statutory meetings, there is frequently a limited representation of National Committees particularly from certain regions of the world,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Call upon the Executive Committee to commission a study to investigate and clarify the insufficient outreach of ICOMOS in the regions, the barriers to full participation in statutory meetings of ICOMOS and to take appropriate measures to resolve the issues addressed in the study.

14. Institutionalization of youth participation

Considering:

- The necessity of encouraging and supporting the involvement of young researchers and professionals in the field of heritage in ICOMOS,
- The success of the *First International Forum of Young Researchers and Professionals in Cultural Heritage* held in Quebec, Canada from 27 to 28 September 2008,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to encourage:

- ICOMOS and its committees to pursue efforts to welcome and encourage the involvement of a greater number of young researchers and professionals,
- ICOMOS to continue the initiative of organising the *International Forum of Young Researchers and Professionals in Cultural Heritage*,
- The involvement of young researchers and professionals in the issues, goals and actions discussed by the ICOMOS Executive Committee, the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly,
- The International Scientific Committees to inform young professionals, especially participants of the Forum, of their activities via the ICOMOS International Secretariat,
- The National Committees to take the necessary proactive measures to welcome and involve a greater number of young researchers and professionals, and assure them a sufficient representation.

15. Timing of statutory meetings

Considering that:

- ICOMOS National and Scientific Committees comprise members of diverse cultures and faiths, and that
- These faiths have holy days which involve fasting, festivals and rituals which might be tied to specific localities and are not conducive for travelling away from home,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves that:

- When determining the timing of statutory meetings of ICOMOS, the Executive Committee should seriously consider the religious holy days of its membership, as communicated to the International Secretariat by its National Committees, in order to facilitate the broadest possible participation in such meetings.

16. National Committee Statutes

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Warmly welcome the new model statutes for National Committees, drawn up by the International Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues (ICLAFI) and to request the Executive Committee to promote their consideration by National Committees.

17. ICOMOS support for the Open Access to scientific literature

Considering that:

- The evolution of new technologies is provoking a true digital revolution in the sharing of scientific information across the internet,
- The politics of management of the publishing houses, and above all the disproportionate increase of subscription prices to Journals, has instigated over the past few years several initiatives and demonstrations which have led to the creation of the *Open Access Initiative* (OAI), a movement for the free access to scientific publications through the internet. The OAI is linked to projects or initiatives that favour free access, open and without restriction, to all of the works produced by scientific communities, that is to say a free access, without economic barriers, but which nonetheless reaffirms the rights of the authors over the articles,
- ICOMOS, being the only organization working at the international level dedicated to promoting the theory, methodology and technical applications to the conservation, protection and promotion of monuments and sites, should support and subscribe to the *Open Access Initiative*, by signing the *Budapest Open Access Initiative*,
- The creation of an *open access* archive in ICOMOS (already approved by the Executive Committee in January 2007) in order to simplify the distribution of all scientific works could fall within ICOMOS' responsibilities (Article 5 b of the Statutes of ICOMOS) and at the same time could increase the organization's visibility and prestige through the heritage scientific community,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Support the Open Access Initiative, understanding by "open access" the open access through the internet of all full-text scientific documentation, permitting every user to read, download, copy, distribute or print these texts, while at the same time respecting the existing legal rights of the authors,
- Recommend that ICOMOS sign the *Budapest Open Access Initiative*,
- Encourage all National and International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS to make available all their scientific documentation through the ICOMOS Open Access Archive.

18. Integrating Spanish in General Assemblies and Committee Meetings

Considering:

- That the Iberic American countries in ICOMOS represent an important portion of it, and that they are composed of 24 countries of which 14 are present today,
- That ICOMOS holds cultural diversity as one of its principles,
- That language represents an important factor in intercultural understanding,
- That in the General Assemblies, Advisory Committee and Scientific Council meetings, as well as in the documents produced by them, Spanish translation is neither mandatory nor frequent, even though Spanish speaking members use one of the four official languages of ICOMOS,
- The need to guarantee the equal access by the members to the valuable information produced during the above mentioned meetings and documents,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Request the hosts of the 17th General Assembly to consider and to use their best endeavours to provide Spanish translation in the 17th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium.
- Request the Executive Committee to assess the financial, practical and statutory implications of introducing Spanish as a working language and to report back to the 17th General Assembly on the outcomes of this assessment.

19. Raymond Lemaire International Fund

Considering Resolution 29 adopted by the 12th General Assembly in Mexico aiming at the establishment of a *Raymond Lemaire International Fund* designed to raise funds for training young heritage professionals,

Considering that the funds collected will serve to provide scholarships to young heritage professionals, enabling them to take part in post-graduate courses or traineeships in conservation and restoration throughout the world, thus ensuring highly qualified membership,

Considering that the Fund has received support from eminent ICOMOS members and that the sum of 5000 Euros has been raised,

Considering that the Fund, endorsed by the Executive Committee in March 2008, has been presented at the Youth Forum organised within the framework of the present General Assembly,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to request the Executive Committee to:

- Disseminate information concerning the *Raymond Lemaire Fund for next generation skills* to all ICOMOS members and invite them to contribute to the Fund,
- Conclude cooperation agreements with training centres in conservation and restoration in the world,
- Develop criteria for attributing scholarships,
- Entrust the management of the Fund to the International Secretariat,
- Organize the attribution of the scholarships during the triennial General Assemblies together with the Piero Gazzola Prize, so that the names of the two founding fathers of ICOMOS are reunited by two different but complementary initiatives.

20. Financial management of ICOMOS

Considering that:

- The ICOMOS Executive Committee has important financial responsibilities, managing an annual budget of more than €1 Million and providing membership services to more than 9,000 members,
- The policies and procedures used by the ICOMOS Executive Committee and the ICOMOS International Secretariat for financial management, accounting and governance should be regularly reviewed to ensure that they are appropriate and relevant,
- Recent changes in the world's economy are likely to affect the economies of most States and also the operations and finances of ICOMOS in the coming years,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves that:

- The Executive Committee consider setting up two standing committees, a Finance Committee and an Audit Committee, made up of Executive Committee members and others with competence, including experts who are not necessarily ICOMOS members, to advise the Bureau of ICOMOS on financial policies and planning, accounting procedures, risk analysis, corporate governance and disaster recovery, in order that ICOMOS can adapt and thrive in changing times.

21. Transparency in Consideration of Scientific Symposia Papers

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves that:

- The provisions for evaluation of proposed papers submitted for the Scientific Symposium be revised, in order to improve transparency in the evaluation process, by providing in advance the methodology adopted by the evaluation committee as well as the evaluation criteria.

22. Assessment Framework for Twentieth Century Heritage

Noting the recommendation of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee WHC-07/31.COM/24 to "prepare an evaluative framework for a thematic study on modern architecture",

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada in October 2008 notes the increasing urgency of such work for the conservation of Twentieth Century Heritage places in general and resolves to:

- Urge ICOMOS to seek extra budgetary funding to prepare an evaluative framework for a thematic study on Twentieth Century heritage in 2008/2009, which includes designed landscapes, town and urban planned environments, industrial sites as well as architectural structures. The project will be supervised by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage in consultation with the International Committee for documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the modern movement (DOCOMOMO) and the International Union of Architects (UIA).

23. Heritage Alerts Programme: Pilot study

Recognising the frequency of requests for ICOMOS to react to threats to heritage sites and monuments, the Scientific Council and Advisory Committee have endorsed a project proposal from the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC20) to trial a system of Heritage Alerts. The ISC20 Heritage Alerts project aims to deal systematically with the increasing need to respond to the urgent threats which impact the conservation of the heritage of the Twentieth Century. An assessment process to understand the threats to individual sites is proposed, together with an electronic information distribution methodology. A trial period is proposed, after which a refined project will be offered for adoption by ICOMOS Scientific and National Committees more generally. It may become a component of the ICOMOS Observatory.

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada in October 2008 notes the useful scope and applicability of this work and resolves to:

- Urge the ICOMOS Executive Committee to provide modest logistical support to the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage to undertake a pilot study for Twentieth Century Heritage Alerts and report back to the Scientific Council and Advisory Committee on the results of such a trial.

24. Criteria for ICOMOS Doctrinal Texts

Considering that ICOMOS and its Committees have furthered the protection and conservation of heritage with the development and dissemination of Doctrinal Texts to professionals and institutions in the field, using a set procedure to that effect,

Considering the valuable work of the ICOMOS International Committee on the Theory and Philosophy of Conservation in examining the current corpus of such Doctrinal Texts at the request of the Executive Committee as part of the 2005-2008 Triennial Action Plan, and its conclusions which were supported by the Advisory Committee at its meeting in Quebec, Canada, on 28 September 2008,

Underlining the interest for clearer definitions, format and sources for future Doctrinal Texts for ICOMOS,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves that:

- The survey of current Doctrinal Texts and Declarations of ICOMOS, including those presented to the 16th General Assembly at its meeting in Québec, Canada, be completed in order to draft criteria for guiding the production of future Doctrinal Texts for ICOMOS, including those planned for submission to the 17th General Assembly in 2011,
- Draft criteria be submitted to the Advisory Committee at its meeting in 2009 for its consideration and recommendation to the Executive Committee for adoption of such criteria in Doctrinal Texts being planned for the 17th General Assembly in 2011.

25. Inventories and Listing Processes

Considering the fundamental importance of the identification of monuments, sites and other types of heritage places as a primary action and prerequisite to their protection and conservation, a point stressed in the World Heritage Convention's Article 5 in relation to each country's entire heritage,

Considering the necessity to develop and improve the means to identify heritage as part of an adequate conservation system at the national and local levels, in particular the inventories, registers and listing records of monuments and sites, their settings and intangible dimensions or traditions,

Considering the work of many ICOMOS National and International Committees, among others that of CIPA on documentation and recording methods and technology, for the benefit of an interdisciplinary and effective approach to fulfil ICOMOS aims,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Encourage the various competent authorities in each country to reinforce their inventory and listing processes at the national, regional, local or community levels in a coordinated way in support for improved protection and conservation of heritage structures, sites and areas, their setting, associated objects, commemorative or living intangible dimensions, and uses,
- Ask National and International Committees of ICOMOS to identify, collate, and share examples of best practices in inventory and listing processes and their effective use in the protection and conservation of such heritage so as to develop recommendations and interdisciplinary and regional cooperation in support of this action.

26. Heritage at Risk Series

Considering the publication since 2000 by ICOMOS of five World Reports on Monuments and Sites in Danger and three special editions on Underwater Cultural Heritage, Soviet Heritage and European Modernism, and Natural Disasters and Cultural Heritage, with numerous contributions from our National and International Committees as well as ICOMOS members and partners, constituting the Heritage at Risk Series,

Thankfully noting the support of UNESCO, the German Federal Government Commissioner for Cultural Affairs and the Media for this ICOMOS initiative,

Noting the impact of the Heritage at Risk Series and its dissemination in printed or web format, to raise a more global awareness of the state of heritage sites, structures and areas around the world and on the effectiveness of their protection and conservation to face threats of increasing diversity and intensity,

Considering the decisions of the Executive Committee on the establishment of an ICOMOS "Observatory" (working title) on the protection and conservation of monuments, sites and other types of heritage places as part of the 2005-2008 Triennial Work Plan,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Request the Heritage at Risk Series to be continued and that actions be taken to enhance its communication and impact so as to support protection and conservation of the cultural heritage world-wide, and to better serve ICOMOS and its Committees to define priorities and strategic goals,
- Request National and International Committees to reinforce their contribution to the content, production, dissemination and discussion of the World Reports and Special Editions with their members and partners,
- Request that the Heritage at Risk Series and ICOMOS «Observatory» project be coordinated through the International Secretariat to enhance their consistency and impact.

27. Preventive Monitoring

Considering the importance of pre-emptive measures to ensure the protection and the conservation of heritage sites, structures and areas as noted in the ICOMOS charters as well as the World Heritage Convention,

Considering the useful context provided by the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines defining monitoring as a professional and cooperative mechanism to improve the state of conservation of heritage sites, and by the experience of ICOMOS as an Advisory Body to support the work of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, in particular related to monitoring activities for World Heritage properties,

Noting the valuable initiatives, activities and experiences of many National Committees to monitor World Heritage sites and other aspects of conservation practice in their country, often resulting in more effective interventions by ICOMOS,

Taking note of the positive discussions at the Advisory Committee of the message sent by the President of ICOMOS to all Committees, encouraging them to take an active part in Preventive Monitoring in coordination with the International Secretariat and of the work of the Executive Committee on the proposal of an ICOMOS "Observatory" (working title),

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Acknowledge and stress the importance of preventive actions and monitoring as keys to successful protection and conservation of heritage,
- Request that the concept of an ICOMOS Observatory be further developed and implemented through national, regional or thematic pilot projects as part of the next triennial work programme,
- Invite all National and International Committees to take part in and contribute to this initiative, and request that they report their observations, requests and recommendations to the International Secretariat of ICOMOS to avoid potentially detrimental effects of addressing them directly to other bodies like UNESCO where they relate to World Heritage sites and ensure the effectiveness of the interventions of ICOMOS.

28. Monuments of Nature initiative

Considering that Cultural Landscapes and Monuments of Nature had been proposed by ICOMOS as the theme of the 2007 International Day of Monuments and Sites on 18th April, resulting in activities and reflections by ICOMOS Committees and members on this theme, not only on that day but in general in 2007, particularly the holding of an international meeting in Manaus, Brazil, to reflect the concept of Monument of Nature used by Alexander von Humboldt in his 1799 exploration of the Amazonia,

Considering the increased acknowledgement of the fundamental importance of human dimensions in the heritage value of natural sites due to their spiritual, cultural, aesthetic, scientific or memorial values, and the need to raise awareness so that they are effectively respected and safeguarded in the protection and conservation of these sites,

Considering the many uses of the concept of "monument" in laws, by-laws and policies, including the World Heritage Convention to designate a diversity of natural sites including, for example mountains, waterfalls, geological formations or remarkable trees, and the resulting increasing interest for a closer dialogue between the fields of cultural and natural conservation for which ICOMOS needs to be prepared,

Noting the invitation made to all National and International Committees to inform ICOMOS on the general concept of "Monuments of Nature" in terms of illustrative cases in their country and examples of legal or other relevant references, and the creation of a Task Force under the President to further the subject in the framework of ICOMOS' statutory aims and objectives and its activities, particularly in support of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention through interdisciplinary activities,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Invite all National and International Committees of ICOMOS to continue to reflect on the concept and the values of "Monuments of Nature" in their cultural context and on actions to be taken to understand their cultural associations and ensure their conservation,
- Request that ICOMOS reinforces its cooperation with other organisations, including the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), to support and enhance this initiative,
- Request the National and International Committees to identify a contact person among their members to help in the development of this initiative.

29. Energy Savings and Sustainable Development

Recognizing the legitimate concern of reducing energy consumption and the use of fossil fuels, and of developing new energies,

Recalling the declaration adopted unanimously in Paris on 13 November 2000 by the Advisory and Executive Committees of ICOMOS: *Heritage is a cultural exception ... where regulatory standards which are not adaptable to it cannot be applied. A moratorium should be imposed immediately ... to start the work of experts and specialists for specific and appropriate responses... and that transitional measures are appropriate.*

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Urge the members of ICOMOS to approach their respective governments and the European Commission to develop specific responses for existing built heritage and for landscapes, using a comprehensive and qualitative approach based on a case by case diagnosis, by heritage specialists, for an appropriate and consistent application of sustainable development objectives compatible with heritage preservation taking advantage of the heritage assets,
- Urge the ICOMOS International Secretariat to provide a well-publicised on-line forum for the continuous reporting by members of their efforts and results,
- Urge the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues to provide periodic up-to-date reports on tax and incentive structures that result in a reduction of energy consumption while encouraging the conservation of heritage.

30. Working themes for the ICOMOS International Scientific Committees for the next triennium

Noting the spirit of the Eger-Xi'an Principles, the work of the Scientific Council since 2005 and its primary mandate to advance interdisciplinary scientific research, and acknowledging the challenge to conservation in the 21st century due to Social, Technological and Climate Change:

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Welcome the development by the Scientific Council of a scheme for interdisciplinary scientific cooperation for the next triennium entitled, *Changing World: Changing Views of Heritage, the impact of global change on cultural heritage*, and to
- Warmly invite all ICOMOS National Committees, International Scientific Committees and members worldwide to participate and contribute in its elaboration in relation to the diversity of cultures, regions and disciplines of ICOMOS.

31. Access to Grey Literature by Legitimate Researchers

Considering that:

- When public funds are expended to conduct archaeological research, the results are not always disseminated beyond sponsoring agencies,
- Too often information from such 'development archaeology' is unavailable as 'grey' literature, and that
- It is understood that certain information must be kept confidential to protect heritage values, but other research results are needed to meet the ethical obligations of archaeological inquiry to inform the public and ensure future generations have knowledge of the cultural past,

The 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves that

- ICOMOS and its National Committees encourage government heritage agencies to enable public access to the results of archaeological inquiry undertaken as part of development projects, environmental impact statements and other non-research based archaeology.

32. Places of Worship

Considering the joint proposal by ICOMOS Palestine and ICOMOS Israel, the 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Quebec, Canada, in October 2008 resolves to:

- Recommend that places of worship be accessible to all humans, respecting the feelings of the relevant communities and their sensitivities and religious practices,
- Recommend that local communities be consulted and participate in the planning process of archaeological excavations in their locations. The communities should enjoy and benefit from the sites, improving their quality of life and economy and enriching their culture. All historic periods should be respected, studied and enhanced, in accordance with the Venice Charter, the ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites, and other relevant documents.