

RESOLUTION

Proposed by:

ISC on Cultural Landscapes (ISCCL)

ISC on Earthen Architectural Heritage (ISCEAH)

ISC on Energy and Sustainability + Climate Change

ISC on Risk Preparedness (ICORP)

ISC on Documentation (CIPA)

ICOMOS Canada

ICOMOS Ireland

ICOMOS Maroc

ICOMOS Turkey

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Submitted by ICOMOS Board

19GA 2017/xx – Mobilizing ICOMOS and the Cultural Heritage Community To Help Meet the Challenge of Climate Change

The 19th general Assembly of ICOMOS,

ACKNOWLEDGING that climate change has become one of the most significant and fastest growing threats to people and their heritage worldwide; that unequivocal scientific evidence shows that unprecedented concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHG), driven by human activities including burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, are contributing to climate changes including warming of the oceans and atmosphere, rising sea levels and diminished snow and ice; that such trends are predicted to worsen; and that the adverse impacts are greatly increasing.

RECALLING the long engagement by ICOMOS on climate change and cultural heritage including the resolution of the 15th General Assembly (Xi'an 2005); as well as the important work done by the Scientific Council (SC) and Scientific Committees (ISCs) including the ISCs on Energy and Sustainability (ISCES); Earthen Architectural Heritage (ISCEAH), Polar Heritage (IPHC), and on Risk Preparedness (ICORP), as well as by the Advisory Committee (AC) and numerous National Committees (NCs).

RECALLING the expert meeting held in the host city for this 19GA -- Delhi, India -- on 22 May 2007 entitled "The International Workshop on the Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage," which recognised the role of cultural heritage solutions to climate change adaptation and heritage's potential to contribute to the global climate change regulatory regime.

RECALLING the SC Symposium entitled “Cultural Heritage and Global Climate Change” held in Pretoria, South Africa on 7 October 2007, which underlined that loss and destruction is as much a dimension of climate change and heritage as preservation; noted the “serious local social impact” from such loss; and called for communities to take part equitably in establishing related priorities.

RECALLING the ‘Strategy to Assist States Parties to the Convention to Implement Appropriate Management Responses’ endorsed by the WH Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius 2006) and the ‘Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties’ (Policy Document) adopted by the General Assembly of States Parties of the WH Convention at its 16th session (UNESCO 2007) and the positive role of ICOMOS in the formulation of both;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the enabling role of cultural heritage in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015 including SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action); the explicit roles identified for heritage in SDG Target 11.4, as well as in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN New Urban Agenda; and the ongoing work of the ICOMOS Sustainability Task Force in connection with the SDGs.

NOTING the adoption in 2015 of the Paris Agreement during the 21st session of the Conference of Parties (COP21)(Paris 2015) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as the decision taken at the 41st session of the World Heritage (WH) Committee (Krakow 2017) stating that “growing evidence of climate impacts across World Heritage properties confirm that urgent and rapid action to reduce global warming is essential and the highest degree of ambition and leadership by all countries is needed to secure the full implementation of the Paris Agreement.”

NOTING “*Mālama Honua – to care for our island Earth,*” a Statement of Commitments from participants in the joint ICOMOS-International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Nature-Culture Journey held at the World Conservation Congress in Hawai’i, USA in 2016, which calls on the nature and culture sectors to work together to address urgent global challenges by, among other things, advancing integrated nature-culture solutions to achieving the Paris Agreement.

NOTING decision 41 COM 7 of the 41st session of the WH Committee (Krakow 2017) which asks that “in view of the urgency of the issue of climate impacts on WH properties, the WH Centre and the Advisory Bodies aim, subject to available time and resources, to prioritize work on a proposed update to the [Policy Document], for consideration by the Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.”

NOTES with appreciation the significant work undertaken by ICOMOS Members, ISCs and NCs in providing cultural heritage voices in the processes of the UNFCCC, including COP21, COP22 (Marrakech 2016), and COP23 (Bonn 2017); in promoting climate action throughout the ICOMOS network.

NOTES with appreciation the work of UNESCO, including the World Heritage Centre, the Culture Sector, the Natural Sciences Sector and other programs to provide leadership on issues related to climate change and heritage.

EMPHASIZES (i) that cultural heritage is both impacted by climate change and a source of resilience for communities; (ii) that heritage sites as well as local communities' intangible heritage, knowledge and practices constitute an invaluable repository of information and strategies to address climate

change, even while those resources are themselves at risk from climate impacts; (iii) the value of cultural heritage-based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

WELCOMES the adoption of the Paris Agreement and ENCOURAGES all ICOMOS Members to strengthen their efforts to aid in implementing the Paris Agreement, emphasizing cultural heritage and landscape-based solutions, noting the need for rapid and deep reductions in emissions to reverse the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C; that adaptation efforts should take into consideration vulnerable communities and ecosystems, and enhance understanding and action with respect to loss and damage from climate change; and the need for solidarity with those nations most impacted by, or least able to bear the cost of, climate change to enable them to safeguard their heritage.

WELCOMES the decision of the IPCC at its 43rd Session to pay special attention in its Sixth Assessment Report cycle (AR6) to the impacts of climate change on cities and to prepare three additional special reports; and to include in AR7 (2023-2028) a Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, and NOTES the opportunity to improve the connection between these IPCC processes and the scientific work of ICOMOS and its Members, including a potential Special Report on Climate Change & Cultural Heritage in a future IPCC cycle.

WELCOMES the climate change-related decisions of the WH Committee at its 40th and 41st sessions and the subsequent formation by the Director-General of an ICOMOS Working Group on Climate Change and Heritage (WG) to aid the Secretariat (WH units) in addressing the requests made of ICOMOS by the WH Committee.

REQUESTS the Board, in coordination with the SC and the AC and with the support of the Director-General and the Secretariat, subject to available time and resources, to prioritize action on, and to develop appropriate mechanisms for overseeing ongoing development of, ICOMOS's climate change policies and engagement in light of the implementation of the Paris Agreement; experiences gained from the work of ISCs and NCs; IPCC work and science updates; and the work of UNESCO, IUCN, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), and other relevant organizations, and taking advantage of the assistance offered by the WG as appropriate.