

This letter is submitted 25 June 2020 by the ICOM Spokesperson of the ICOM International Committees and has been created in collaboration with a group of current ICOM chairs in the ICOM International Committee Working Group in the period 21 to 25 June 2020.

TO THE PRESIDENT, EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND GENERAL DIRECTOR OF ICOM

The signatory Chairs of ICOM's International Committees, National Committees, Regional Alliances, Affiliated Organisations and Working Groups acknowledge with both sadness and concern the resignation of our President, Suay Aksoy. We wish to thank her for her relentless dedication and contribution to the work of our organization and trust that indeed her leadership "towards a progressive path which is not easily reversible" will carry forward to the next governance.

This is not a solitary event; in addition to the resignation of the President we have, over the last few weeks, become aware of several other instances of people resigning or leaving office; elected members of the ICOM Executive Board have resigned, appointed members have left the Museum Definition, Prospects & Potentials committees and the Legal Affairs Committee and one employee has left the ICOM Secretariat. We are very concerned about the underlying issues that may have led to these resignations and demand to know why they stepped down from their elected or appointed positions and how the ICOM Office will act in the period to come.

Upholding the shared values of democracy, transparency and respect for diversity of opinions, we ask, given the President's consent and provided that privacy is fully warranted, the following to be shared with us by 1st July 2020:

- the letter of resignation addressed to the Executive Board of ICOM on 19 June 2020 which the president refers to as including the motives for her decision,
- the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Board for the years 2019 and 2020,
- the minutes of the procedures behind the election of the new president and the disposition in the statutes that regulated the election.

Both the outgoing re-elected president and her appointed successor have referred to the shared values of democracy and transparency as fundamental core principles to guide our actions. It is in this spirit that we ask the Executive Board and the Director General to come before us and offer us any information that could possibly lead us to better understand the situation that prompted this resignation. It seems that to ignore these events is to fail in our responsibility to further the democracy and transparency we proclaim.

At such critical times, when our efforts are being multiplied in order to serve our respective bodies, sharing all possible tools and the most updated information, during these challenging times when we look to work ever more closely together, it would be

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helpful for us to have access to all views and to collaborate in finding the threads that unite us so we can move forward together, respectfully, in understanding.

We, as elected chairs, request your responses and remain committed on behalf of our constituencies to work closely with the ICOM Secretariat, ICOM National, International and Standing Committees, Working Groups, Regional Alliances, Affiliated and all other organizations, together, to further the goals of ICOM.

25 June 2020

Signatories:*

Additional signatories included 28 June and 1 July 2020.

International Committees (ICs)

1. Michael H. Faber, Chair, ICOM AVICOM
2. Joana Sousa Monteiro, Chair, ICOM CAMOC
3. Kristiane Strætkevørn, Chair, ICOM CC
4. Marie Clarté o'Neill, Chair, CECA
5. Frank P. Bär, Chair, ICOM CIMCIM
6. Ech cherki Dahmali, Chair, ICOM CIMUSET
7. Tine Bagh, Chair, ICOM CIPEG
8. Danielle Kuijten, Chair, ICOM COMCOL
9. Diana R. Pardue, Chair, ICOM DRMC
10. Kathrin Pabst, Chair, ICOM IC Ethics
11. Teresa Medici, Chair, ICOM GLASS
12. Nana Meparishvili, Chair, ICOM ICAMT
13. Kai Lobjakas, Chair, ICOM ICDAD
14. Antonio Rodríguez, Chair, ICOM ICEE
15. Christoph Lind, Chair, ICOM ICFA
16. Ralf Ceplak, Chair, ICOM ICME
17. Ophelia Leon, Chair, ICOM IC MEMO
18. Anette Hansen, Chair, ICOM ICMS
19. Bruno Brulon Soares, Chair, ICOM ICOFOM
20. Paul van Brakel, Chair, ICOM ICOMAM
21. Irena Žmuc, Chair, ICR
22. Goranka Horjan, Chair, ICOM INTERCOM
23. Matthias Henkel, Chair, ICOM MPR
24. Dorit Wolenitz, Chair, ICOM NATHIST
25. Marta C. Lourenço, Chair, ICOM UMAC

National Committees (NCs)

26. Silvia Mancini, Vice-Chair, ICOM Argentina
27. Mathew Trinca, Chair, ICOM Australia

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28. Ruth Linton, Chair, ICOM Barbados
29. Teresa Villegas de Aneiva, Chair, ICOM Bolivia
30. Renata Vieira da Motta, Chair, ICOM Brazil
31. Leonardo Mellado González, Chair, ICOM Chile
32. William Alejandro Gamboa Sierra, Chair, ICOM Colombia
33. Eunice Baez Sánchez, Chair, ICOM Costa Rica
34. Moraima Clavijo Colon, Chair, ICOM Cuba
35. Søren la Cour Jensen, Chair, ICOM Denmark
36. Luisa De Peña Díaz, Chair, ICOM Dominican Republic
37. Juan Carlos Fernández-Catalán, Chair, ICOM Ecuador
38. Melissa Campos, Chair, ICOM El Salvador
39. Beatriz Quevedo, Chair, ICOM Guatemala
40. Rachelle C. Doucet, Chair, ICOM Haiti
41. Guðný Dóra Gestsdóttir, Chair - ICOM Iceland
42. Nava Kessler, Chair, ICOM Israel
43. Inkyung Chang, Chair, ICOM Korea
44. Louisa Onuoha, Chair, ICOM Nigeria
45. Atle Ove Martinussen Chair, ICOM Norway
46. Eduardo Ugarte y Chocano, Presidente ICOM Perú
47. Kaja Širok, Chair, ICOM Slovenia
48. Medea Ekner, Chair, ICOM Sweden
49. Edgar Ernesto González, Chair, ICOM Venezuela

Regional Alliances (RAs)

50. Beatriz Espinoza Neupert, Chair, Regional Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, ICOM LAC
51. Søren la Cour Jensen, Interim Chair, Regional Alliance Nord, ICOM Nord

Working Groups

52. Morien Rees, Chair, ICOM Working Group on Sustainability

Affiliated Organizations (AOs)

53. Rachel Erickson, President of the Board, Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM)
54. Linda Norris, Global Networks Program Director, on behalf of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC)

*Documentation of the receipt of authorization from the signatories is kept by the ICOM IC Spokesperson.