

**ICOMOS 14TH. GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE
27-31 OCTOBER 2003**

**REPORT BY THE RAPPORTEURS
ANGELA ROJAS (CUBA) AND ALFREDO CONTI (ARGENTINA)**

The ICOMOS 14th General Assembly was held at the Hotel Intercontinental Elephant Hills in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in October 27-31 2003. The opening Session took place on October 28th, it included the following:

1. Address by the President of the 13th General Assembly

Mrs. María Rosa Suárez-Inclán Ducassi thanked the organisers for the opportunity to learn about Zimbabwean culture and to appreciate its values. She also stated the significant role that African culture must play in our organisation and stressed the significance of its material and immaterial values. She asked African colleagues to continue being themselves instead of an interpretation of themselves. She dedicated her speech to the memory of Mr. Tafirenyka Masona, former president of ICOMOS Zimbabwe.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda of the 14th General Assembly was adopted.

3. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 14th General Assembly

Mr. Godfrey Mahachi (Zimbabwe) was elected President of the 14th General Assembly.

The following members were elected as Vice-presidents:

Mr. Zhang Bai (China)

Mrs. María Rosa Suárez-Inclán Ducassi (Spain)

Mrs. Faika Bejaoui (Tunisia)

Mrs. Angela Rojas (Cuba) was elected Rapporteur

Mr. Alfredo Conti (Argentina) as appointed as Assistant Rapporteur at the request of Mrs. Rojas

4. Election of Committees

The Credentials Committee was chaired by Mrs. Suzanna Sampaio (Brazil) and the members were Mrs. Hae Un Rii (Korea), Mrs. Bako Rasoarifetra (Madagascar), Mr. Andrezej Tomaszewski (Poland), and Mr. R.C. Agrawal (India).

The Resolutions Committee was chaired by Mr. Nobuo Ito (Japan) and the members were Mr. Guy Masson (Canada), Mrs. Ruth Shady (Peru), Mr. Ephraim Kamuhangire (Uganda), and Mr. Benjamin Mouton (France)

5. Presentation of Piero Gazzola Prize

Mrs. Birgitta Hoberg, Chairperson of the Gazzola Prize Committee, announced that Mr. Cevat Erder (Turkey) was awarded the Prize, taking into account his remarkable contributions to the field of heritage conservation and to ICOMOS. The Prize was given to Cevat Erder by Michael Petzet, President of ICOMOS.

Several members were declared Honorary Members of ICOMOS.

Mr. Robertson Collins (USA) - posthumously, Mr. Carl Filip Mannerstrale (Sweden) - posthumously, Mr. Mihaly Zador (Hungary) - posthumously, Ms. Rachele Anguelova (Bulgaria), Ms. Marta Arjona Perez (Cuba), Mr. Yves Boiret (France), Mr. Henry Cleere (U.K.), Mr. Jacques Dalibard (Canada), Mr. CL Temminck Groll (Netherlands), Mr. Krzysztof Pawlowski (Poland)

6. Addresses by representative of International Organisations

Addresses included Mr. Mounir Bouchenaki (UNESCO), Mr. Joseph King (ICCROM), Mr. G. Pwity (Pan African Association of Archaeologists), Mons. Tullio Poli (Holy See), Dr. Reuben Mutiso (International Union of Architects) and Mr. John Stubbs (World Monuments Fund).

Mr. Bouchenaki stated that without ICOMOS and ICOM, UNESCO would not be able to work in the field of cultural heritage. UNESCO is very interested in the theme of the General Assembly and he thanked the experts that participated in the adoption of the Convention on Intangible Heritage. Mr. King recalled that intangible aspects of heritage are included in ICCROM Programme "Africa 2009" and stressed the collaboration between ICOMOS and ICCROM. Mons. Poli transmitted salutations of Pope John Paul II and emphasised the importance of immaterial heritage. He stated that this consideration allows a more complete vision of heritage and encourages community participation. Dr. Reuben Mutiso recalled that Africa is the continent where our common ancestors lived and stressed the links between IUA and ICOMOS. Mr. John Stubbs mentioned a variety of projects that the World Monuments Fund is working on and also mentioned African sites inscribed on the most endangered sites List.

7. Official opening of the 14th General Assembly

The opening of the General Assembly included addresses by Mr. Godfrey Mahachi, President of the 14th General Assembly, Dr. Michael Petzet, President of ICOMOS, the Minister of Home Affairs of Zimbabwe, and His Excellence the President of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe.

Mr. Mahachi expressed his gratitude for having been elected President of the General Assembly. He also expressed his gratitude to Mrs. María Rosa Suárez-Inclán and to the organisers of the 15th General Assembly to be held in China. He encouraged the relationship among all the bodies of ICOMOS and focused on assistance for countries facing economic difficulties to attend General Assemblies.

Mr. Petzet thanked the President of Zimbabwe, the Minister of Home Affairs and the Deputy Director General of UNESCO for their presence. He recalled the spirit of Victoria Falls and quoted the ICOMOS Stockholm Declaration. He encouraged the reconciling of conservation with sustainable development and thanked benefactors, Getty Grant Programme, "Africa 2009" Programme, the Norwegian National Committee of ICOMOS and the French Embassy in Harare for their support. With a minute of silence he expressed his homage to the memory of Mr. Tafirenyka Masona.

His Excellence the President of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe, welcomed all delegates and recalled that the 14th General Assembly was the first General Assembly of ICOMOS in Africa.

8. Introductory conferences to the Scientific Symposium

The afternoon session was dedicated to introductory conferences of the Scientific Symposium. The session included keynote speeches by Mr. Olabiyi Babalola Joseph Yai, Mr. Mounir Bouchenaki, Mr. Dawson Munjeri, Mr. Michael Petzet and Mr. Dinu Bumbaru.

**After the Scientific Symposium, the General Assembly continued on October 31.
The following subjects were treated:**

1. Report by Mr. Michel Petzet

The most important points of Mr. Petzet's report were:

- Review of the ICOMOS Statutes. Mr. Petzet stressed the work done, something to be discussed during the afternoon session.
- Work with UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre. Mr. Petzet pointed out the work done for a more representative World Heritage List. He stressed the need to identify gaps in Africa and to determine what is lacking. There is much work to do, including typological, regional/chronological and thematic frameworks. He hopes to get some results in the forthcoming weeks, in order to present them in the next World Heritage Committee meeting.
- Situation in Iraq. He also introduced the pilot project for the conservation of the remains of the Bamiyan Buddhas of Afghanistan.
- Publications: Mr. Petzet announced the continuation of the Heritage at Risk series. The Series "Monuments and Sites" will include the reports of this Symposium. Ray Bondin promised to look after a new ICOMOS Newsletter, including an electronic newsletter.
- In response to the President's address, Mr. Dawson Munjeri proposed an ICOMOS Master Plan for Africa including a holistic approach. In order to complete Mr. Munjeri's intervention, Mrs. Birgitta Hoberg recalled that there is a Programme for Africa, "Africa 2009".

2. Report by Mr. Dinu Bumbaru

- Mr. Bumbaru thanked the Zimbabweans for hosting the General Assembly in Victoria Falls and described the organisation of this General Assembly as a historic success. The most notable points of his address were the following:
- He referred to the improvement in the communication between President, Secretary General, Treasurer and Deputy Secretary. They met often and the Secretary General also had the chance to meet with several National and International Committees.
- The Symposium in Victoria Falls must be the starting point of a path to be continued including new subjects. Among the scientific subjects he announced funerary heritage (Belgium), and tourism and historic towns (USA, in connection with OVPM and IUA).
- There is a need to strengthen the relationship with partner organisations, such as TICCIH and DOCOMOMO.
- The membership fee framework will be modified according to resolutions taken in Madrid. The Executive Committee has approved the new scheme that includes another way of evaluating the economic position of every country.
- He announced the publication of a handbook for ICOMOS members in order to welcome and help new members.
- The work done with Africa will continue in 2005 in Asia. The reflection will have to continue over 2004 and 2005 on historic towns, cultural landscapes and cultural routes. New subjects to continue scientific work are military heritage and religious heritage (meeting in September 2004 in Montreal).

Mr. Dawson Munjeri referred to the payment of membership fees. He mentioned paying the fees in local currencies for some National Committees instead of paying them in American dollars. He proposed the possibility that National Committee support or sponsor each other, stating that this General Assembly is successful because of the contribution provided by some countries.

3. Adoption of doctrinal texts

The drafts to be discussed were the "Principles for the Preservation and Conservation-Restoration of Wall Paintings" and "ICOMOS Charter for the Analysis, Conservation and Structural Restoration of Architectural Heritage".

Concerning the principles on Wall Painting, Mr. Petzet introduced the principles stating that the drafts took years of discussion, and that after several versions they were finally ready but still open for slight alterations. Mrs. Cecilia Calderón stated that charters must include general principles and that it is necessary to develop norms for different regions. She proposes to leave the charters as guidelines to follow and to proceed to the elaboration of norms. Mr. Sumanov stated that it is not possible to define principles for every case and proposes to adopt this text as general principles.

The Principles are adopted by the General Assembly. Mr. Nimal de Silva thanks the Assembly.

Mr. Axel Mikleby asked if one or two documents had been adopted and what happened with the second charter. Mr. Tamas Fejerdy stated that the adoption method was not clear enough and that it is not possible to adopt two documents at the same time. The second charter is also accepted by the General Assembly.

4. Invitation to the General Assemblies in China and Canada.

The Chinese representatives presented a video including the invitation to the 15th General Assembly to be held in 2005. Mr. Guy Masson invited the members to the 16th General Assembly to be held in Canada in 2008 and announced that on 18th November a press conference is foreseen together with the Mayor of Quebec City.

5. Discussion and adoption of Resolutions

Mr. Guy Masson, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee, reported that the Committee received 21 proposals of resolutions that were arranged along four thematic lines: urgent matters, statutes and doctrinal texts, various and Declaration of Kimberley.

Resolutions concerning urgent matter (1.a to 1.e) were adopted by the Assembly.

Prior to the discussion about Statutes (Resolution 2.a and 2c), Mr. Werner von Trützschler, President of the Working Group on Statues, explained the work done. He referred to three main points: mixed (postal and personal) voting system, two co-Chairs for the Advisory Committee (one for National Committees and another one for International Scientific Committees) and recognition of new National Committees by the Executive Committee instead of by the General Assembly.

Mr. Ito stated that if the Statutes Committee does not come to conclusions the Resolution will not be useful. Mr. Petzet answered that the Committee does not have a final decision.

At 4.00 p.m. a break was proposed, following the Assembly Programme, in order to proceed to the Victoria Falls tour. After the visit to the Falls, there was a proposal of dealing with other resolutions, not following the order of the Resolutions Committee's proposal.

Resolution 4.a concerning Committees in Africa was treated.

Resolution 4.b refers to the Kimberley Declaration. The General Assembly took note of this Resolution and adopted it.

A discussion started on the Resolutions 2.a and 2.c, referring to the possibilities of changing the voting system including postal vote. There was an agreement for voting for resolutions 2.a, 2.b and 2.c. Mrs. Suzanna Sampaio, President of the Credentials Committee read the list of countries present at the Assembly and the number of votes per country.

When the voting session was about to start Mr. von Trützschler stated that the total number of voters did not provide the necessary quorum to proceed to vote. At 8.00 p.m. the President of the General Assembly proceeded to close the Assembly announcing that the subjects that had not been treated would remain for the 15th General Assembly.

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