

## **PRESIDENTIAL AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SAFEGUARDING THE CULTURAL ASSETS RESIDING IN MUSEUMS**

Presidential agreement that establishes the minimal requirements for safeguarding the integrity and preserving the cultural assets residing in federally owned museums or in museums financed through federal funds, dated February 19th, 1986. Presidency of the Republic, Miguel de la Madrid H., constitutional president of the United Mexican States, exercising the power conferred to me by section I, article 89 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States and based upon articles 38, sections XX and XXI of the Federal Public Administration Entity Law; articles 2nd, 7th and 8th of the Federal Law on Archeological, Artistic and Historic Monuments And Zones and article 2, first paragraph and section XIII of the Organic Law of the National Institute of Anthropology and History, and

### **WHEREAS**

Protection and safeguarding of the cultural heritage residing in museums is a matter of the highest priority and of the highest public and social interest, therefore, it is considered convenient to implement throughout the country minimal standards that allow at any time and place to preserve said heritage from any contingencies or risks that may affect it or put it at risk.

Such minimal standards, which already exist in some museums in the country, must be the basis for giving structure to an ideal, integrated security system which, while taking into consideration the features of the museums and of the cultural assets residing therein, defines specific responsibilities for the application of and compliance with the applicable regulations.

Participation of entities belonging to the civil society in the tasks of security and protection of the cultural heritage is undeniably important and therefore it is considered convenient to promote it through the appropriate means.

It is convenient to designate the Ministry of Public Education, given its legal attributions, for the purpose of assuring compliance with the corresponding regulations, reason for which I have considered it useful to issue the following

### **AGREEMENT**

#### **Chapter I General provisions**

Article 1. These standards have the goal of establishing minimal conditions for safeguarding the integrity of and preserving the cultural assets residing in museums and which are applicable to all federally-owned museums or to museums financed through federal funds in the national territory.

Article 2. Security, as contemplated within these standards, includes the set of measures, devices and actions for the purpose of protecting and adequately maintaining the cultural assets residing in museums, as well as to prevent any contingency, natural, human or of a delinquent nature that may affect said cultural assets and/or the facilities and areas of the museums.

Article 3. Design, application and control of security measures shall have a high priority within the budgeting, organization and management processes of each museum.

## **Chapter II Application of and compliance with the security and safeguard measures.**

Article 4. Direct responsibility for the application of and compliance with these standards and the measures deriving here from will be the museums' directors or that of the people in charge, regardless of any parallel responsibilities by the security department director in cases where museums have a section specifically dedicated to complying with these functions.

The museum's director or the security director of a given museum, in compliance with the security measures, shall have the support of the administrator and of the person in charge of upkeep, as well as that of the people in charge of substantive and technical units that constitute the inner structure of the museum.

Article 5. The Ministry of Public Education, within its attributions, shall ensure the correct application of and compliance with these standards.

## **Chapter III Security System**

Article 6. The security system is the assembled set of preventive elements, actions and devices ensuring the protection, preservation and care of the museum and of the cultural assets within it.

Article 7. All security systems will include security staff in charge of protecting and safeguarding the museum, as well as the adoption of museological standards that are adequate for ensuring the protection and safeguard of the assets within it.

Article 8. In all museums, the security mechanisms shall contemplate, at least, the existence of appropriate locks at all ways of access, doors and windows, as well as fire extinguishers. All exhibited assets, especially when they are pieces of an exceptional value, should at least be shown within protected cases, which are also protected by locks ensuring their adequate safe keep.

Article 9. Those pieces which, given their extraordinary value or any other circumstance, to be determined by the director or by the person in charge of the museum, make it advisable to adopt special safekeeping measures shall be subjected to said special security measures, always seeking not to affect the pieces' visibility. To this end, appropriate safekeeping construction measures shall be adopted, as well as any readjustment judged to be adequate.

Article 10. The director or the person in charge of a museum shall determine which pieces of singular value shall need safekeeping in a security vault, in a storeroom or, as the case may be, in places with special protection; and such persons shall also determine the form in which they may be shown to the public, always taking into account such pieces' maximum protection and care.

Article 11. Museums exhibiting pieces or collections of exceptional value shall have, aside from mechanical security devices, electronic protection measures making it possible to permanently guard the exhibition areas.

Article 12. In those museums which operate out of buildings which are themselves classified as historical or artistic monuments, adoption of the security measures previously set out shall be carried out in such a way as to preserve the physical and cultural integrity of the building.

Article 13. The directors or the persons in charge of museums shall adopt specific security measures for intensifying the securing of areas destined to house irreplaceable assets which are most vulnerable to the risks of theft or deterioration.

Article 14. Whenever maintenance or museological set-up tasks are to be performed in a museum, access to the area in question should be restricted to the people therefore authorized by the director or by the person in charge of the museum.

Article 15. Every museum must have trustworthy personnel specializing in security tasks, the number of which will be determined by the amount of assets on exhibition, their quality and importance and the characteristics of the building housing said assets. These personnel shall receive an adequate training in security systems and, in those cases where the director in charge of the institution may so determine, this staff will be organized into a specific department.

Article 16. The director or person in charge of a museum shall establish the necessary coordination mechanisms with the police, in order to assemble a complete security system for the museum, both internal and external. In addition, such person shall at all times be free to require help from the public forces. The police shall lend its aid in connection with the above in compliance with applicable standards.

Article 17. Internal security staff, regardless of whether such staff is part of a specific department for this purpose or not, shall receive an appropriate training regarding appreciation and knowledge of the cultural heritage and shall have to have at least completed middle school.

Article 18. The security department chief, when this position exists, shall have an ideal training for the job and will directly report to the person in charge or to the director of the institution.

Article 19. Security personnel shall serve in successive shifts ensuring 24-hour coverage. Whenever applicable, the service shall be organized by rounds. These personnel shall receive permanent training in security techniques, both regarding natural risks and illicit or criminal behavior.

Article 20. The director or person in charge of the museum, upon a proposal from the security department chief, shall adopt any and all measures conducive to allowing the security staff to have permanent control over all access ways and exhibition areas of the institution. These measures must contemplate immediate reporting to the hierarchical superior of any anomalous fact detected during surveillance.

Article 21. The hierarchically highest authority within the institution responsible for each museum shall permanently ensure the introduction of all necessary museological infrastructure measures so that the facilities may provide maximum security for the assets they house.

#### **Chapter IV Assistance mechanism**

Article 22. Federal agencies or institutions in charge of managing museums may enter into agreements or coordination mechanisms with state or municipal authorities, as well as with other federal authorities to set up, with the greatest possible efficacy, the security measures these standards provide for. Also, agreements may be entered into with entities of civil society to allow the latter to voluntarily participate in complying with the programs for the security and safe keep of the cultural heritage and with the need to rigorously preserve it.

Article 23. The Security programs implemented by the authorities or institutions in charge of the administration of the museums will necessarily comprehend awareness-raising actions of its own personnel and of the community as a whole regarding the importance of the cultural patrimony and of the need of its rigorous preservation.

#### **Chapter V – Movement of objects and collections of the museums**

Article 24. Movement of cultural assets to and from the museums shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions established by the applicable regulations.

### **Transitory**

FIRST.- This Agreement shall enter into force the day after its publication in the Official Gazette of the Federation.

SECOND.- Federal agencies and institutions in charge of museum administration shall be held fully responsible for, within ninety calendar days after these standards enter into force, carrying out all necessary adaptations of the internal regulations determining the organization and functioning of museums so as to be in compliance herewith; they shall also implement any and all necessary preventive and security measures contemplated herein.

Given at the residence of the Federal Executive Power, in Mexico City, Federal District, on February the nineteenth, nineteen eighty-six.- Miguel de la Madrid H.- Signature.- The Minister of Public Education, Miguel González Avelar.- Signature.- The Minister of the Interior, Manuel Bartlett Díaz.- Signature.  
Feb 20 1986