

**REPORT BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ACCREDITED  
TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE ON ITS  
CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

**Deadline: 15 February 2023  
for examination in 2023**

*File may be downloaded at:  
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>*

*Please provide only the information requested below.  
Annexes or other additional materials cannot be accepted.*

### **A. Identification of the organization**

#### **A.1. Name of the organization submitting this report**

A.1.a. *Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears on the official documents.*

International Council of Museums

A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.*

Conseil international des musées (ICOM)

A.1.c. *Accreditation number of the organization (as indicated in all previous correspondence: NGO-90XXX)*

90376

#### **A.2. Address of the organization**

*Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, please provide the address of the headquarters.*

Organization: ICOM

Address: 15 rue Lasson, 75012 Paris

Telephone number: +33 1 4734 0500

Email address: secretariat@icom.museum

Website: https://icom.museum

Other relevant information: Twitter: @IcomOfficiel / Instagram: @icomofficial / LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-council-of-museums/mycompany/

### A.3. Contact person for correspondence

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this report.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Ms

Family name: Turvey

Given name: Katharine

Institution/position: Head of Capacity Building Museums and Society

Address: 15 rue Lasson 75012 Paris

Telephone number: + 33 1 4734 3532

Email address: katharine.turvey@icom.museum

Other relevant information:

## B. Contribution of the organization to the implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels (Chapter III and Article 19 of the Convention, paragraph 156 of the Operational Directives)<sup>1</sup>

*Distinguish between completed activities and ongoing activities contributing to the eight thematic areas of the Convention's Overall Results Framework<sup>2</sup>, as well as to the preparation of periodic reports, nominations, proposals and requests under the Convention's international cooperation mechanisms. If you have not contributed, this should be indicated. Also describe any obstacles or difficulties that your organization may have encountered in such participation.*

**B.1.** Describe your organization's contribution to strengthening **institutional and human capacities** for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

In 2022, the new ICOM definition was approved by museum professionals from 126 National Committees from all over the world. The new definition highlights intangible heritage as one of the priorities in museum work; a stance that dates back to the ICOM Declaration on Intangible Heritage in 2004 in Seoul. While ICH has been part of the museum practice for much longer, the museum definition provides the framework for museum institutions and professionals to identify their concerns, as well as encouraging action and effort towards the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). It provides the capacity for pilot practices to emerge and gives way to an array of options and

1. In case your organization operates in several States, please indicate clearly which State or States are concerned by your answers where appropriate.
2. For further information on the Overall Results Framework, please refer to the Chapter 8 of the Basic Texts of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/basic-texts-00503>

reflections.

ICOM collaborated with the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Museums Project (IMP) in 2020. With a view to supporting action and bringing together museums engaged in fostering ICH, partners signed a joint declaration on [the dynamic engagement between a multiplicity of actors from the field of museums and intangible cultural heritage](#). Besides the declaration, five conferences and a final symposium were organised, and the IMP Book and the ICH and Museums Toolkit were published. The IMP Book is designed to inspire practices and contributions toward safeguarding CH by combining transformative approaches of our time. The ICH and Museums Toolkit was developed to accompany museum professionals in engaging with safeguarding living heritage. It combines pragmatic methodological tools, guidelines, recommendations, and brainstorming exercises, and was developed in co-creation with participants of the project.

**B.2.** Describe your organization's participation in activities related to the **transmission of and education for intangible cultural heritage**. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The International Journal of Intangible Heritage (IJIH) is a joint publication with ICOM, the National Folk Museum of Korea and ICOM Korea. The first international academic journal of its theme, IJIH is dedicated to promoting understanding of all aspects of intangible heritage worldwide and cares about communicating research and examples of good professional practices. The ICOM President is an ex-officio member of the editorial board.

In collaboration with the OECD, ICOM co-developed the [OECD-ICOM Guide for Local Governments, Communities and Museums](#). A learning, self-assessment and development tool aimed at local and regional governments and museums, it provides guidance for assessing and improving approaches to maximising the social and economic value of cultural heritage, strengthening museums' existing and potential linkages with the local economy and social fabric, and identifying concrete ways for museums, local governments and other stakeholders to partner.

During the reporting period, ICOM's network organized activities to ensure the transmission of and education for ICH. For example, the conference '[Intangible heritage, a challenge for management and collection policy](#)' was organised by ICOM South East Europe (ICOM-SEE), in Zagreb in 2019. The event featured lectures, workshops, film projections, formal and informal discussions to allow museum professionals of the region to exchange experiences in ICH and policies. The following topics were covered: initiating an international day of intangible heritage; challenges in collecting and documenting intangible heritage; ICH and Communities; Museum Management and Challenges of Decolonisation and Restitution; Sustainable Solutions for ICH; and Ensuring transfer of knowledge and skills to younger generations.

**B.3.** Describe your organization's participation in the **inventorying and research of intangible cultural heritage**. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

ICOM's International Committee for Documentation (CIDOC) created the Intangible Heritage Working group in 2014 to provide a dedicated platform for developing methodologies and sharing experiences pertaining to the Documentation of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In recent years, their focus has been on exploring ways of documenting and linking museum objects to ICH, in line with the museum definition and the UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage. In that respect, the working group is working toward generating vocabulary, standards and guidelines for ICH for documentation.

Recently, the working group has been working on a project on documenting ICH in Asia, with participants from Iran, Taiwan, Singapore and India, among others. The latest action project was at the Community Museum in Gya village, Ladakh, India, exploring the range and nature of ICH in the Indian context, test the formats, forms, and domains and list the ICH elements of the diverse regions of India as models for other such studies. Another project involves the elaboration of ICH standards for registration in museums. The working group will initiate several test-cases based on the recommendations from the study, and then continue working on a theoretical, deontological and technical proposal around registration in museum systems based on this practical phase. Both projects will be presented at the CIDOC annual conference in September 2023.

**B.4.** Describe your organization's participation in developing **policies, as well as legal and administrative measures**, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

A core function of ICOM is standard setting in the field of museums. Two major projects during the reporting period are:

The ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums is the global reference that sets minimum professional standards and encourages the recognition of values shared by the international museum community. It addresses diverse museum-related topics such as acquisition procedures, compliance with legislation, management of resources, security, returns and restitutions. The Code also advocates strong principles playing a key role in the fight against illicit traffic, for

instance concerning due diligence and provenance. ICH is integrated in the first principle of the Code, which states that: 'Museums are responsible for the tangible and intangible natural and cultural heritage.' The Code also mentions international legislation that the museum policy should acknowledge, including the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003). The Code has been translated into some 40 languages.

The Museum Definition, approved by the ICOM General Conference in 2022, is part of ICOM's standard-setting work in the field. The definition was the result of a lengthy consultation process and was voted with over 90% of members in support. The new definition maintains the mention of tangible and intangible heritage in museums.

**B.5. Describe your organization's participation in promoting the *role of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding in society*. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.**

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Members of the ICOM network have worked on a number of collaborative projects which shed light on various ICH projects in museums and around the world:

- The abovementioned IJH covers topics related to the role of ICH and its safeguarding in society. The most recent issue, for example, highlighted ICH contributions from Belgium, Cambodia, China, India, Korea, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Spain and Turkey, among others. It includes a wide range of articles on aspects of intangible cultural heritage that are organised under a number of subject headings: discussions of aspects of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage; folklore and mythology; festivals; museology; intangible cultural heritage and places; and craft. This volume also carries a special contribution by Michelle L. Stefano on the role of intangible cultural heritage in the discourse around and development of the new ICOM definition of a museum.
- The IMP book project addressed this topic and was designed to address the role of ICH in transformative times for society. The book combines the different ICH activities undertaken by museum professionals as well as communities and individuals, promoting diverse, holistic, and integrated approaches toward ICH. It describes the ways in which collaboration with ICH communities can strengthen the engagement of museums toward its safeguarding and increase the social impact of museums.
- Finally, ICOM Voices is a communication platform provided by ICOM for its members to promote local museum projects in line with contemporary themes. In April 2022, ICOM Voices covered an ICH project at the Centre for Memories, Museu Sporting in Lisbon on '[Intangible Heritage as a Tool for Intergenerational Dialogue](#)'.

**B.6. Describe your organization's participation in *raising awareness* about intangible cultural heritage. Explain, in particular, how your organization cooperates with communities, groups and, where relevant, individuals.**

*Not to exceed 250 words*

During the reporting period, awareness raising initiatives were undertaken throughout the network:

- In 2019, ICOM chose the theme "Museums as Cultural Hubs: The future of tradition" for two of its major events, namely International Museum Day and its General Conference in Kyoto. This was an opportunity to address one form of manifestation of ICH: traditions.
- The objective of International Museum Day (IMD) is to raise awareness of the fact that museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples. Every 18th of May since 1977, ICOM has organised International Museum Day, promoting events and activities around the world. In 2023, IMD will highlight the role of museums for health and well-being.
- ICOM also uses its social media platforms to raise awareness on the current themes for museums. [ICOM Voices](#) (mentioned above) is one example; Intangible Heritage features as one of the main topics for which articles can be shared. The articles are then published on ICOM's website and social media, contributing to creating awareness on ICH topics.

**B.7. Describe your organization's participation in *facilitating the engagement* of communities, groups and individuals, as well as other stakeholders, for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.**

*Not to exceed 250 words*

As an international professional network, ICOM's engagement of communities, groups and individuals works through a diverse network of national and international committees. ICOM's 121 National Committees are the point first of contact for nearly 50,000 individual and institutional members working across all museum related fields, including ICH.

Every year on 18 May, ICOM coordinates International Museum Day (IMD). The objective is to raise awareness of museums as an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples. Events and activities are organised by local committees and individual museums and frequently involve artistic performances, craft workshops, and other ICH related activities in the museum. In 2022, more than 37,000 museums participated in the event in about 158 countries and territories.

From 2016 to 2020, ICOM was a partner in the EU-LAC Museums Project, an international team of museum professionals, community leaders, researchers and policymakers across the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) coordinated by the University of St Andrews. This international collaboration has jointly

developed new wisdom about museum community development, youth work, and digital curation, to examine and promote a vision of museums focused on community needs and ethical considerations. The project successfully facilitated exchanges and improved relations between 154 countries, with 108,365 people engaging in person or online with the project activities and its primary web portal (<http://www.eulacmuseums.net>) and social media channels.

**B.8.** Describe your organization's **engagement in cooperation at the bilateral, subregional, regional or international levels** for the implementation of the Convention, including initiatives such as the exchange of information and experience, and other joint initiatives.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

One of the core functions of ICOM is leading an international diplomatic forum of museum professionals. ICOM's flagship event is the General Conference, the world's largest museum conference with thousands of participants. Held every three years, the ICOM General Conference contains a statutory meeting element, during which museum professionals decide on key issues in the field, and a scientific and social programme, where museum professionals have the opportunity to share their experiences and network internationally with one another. ICH topics are regularly explored by museum professionals in this context. The event is also enriched by a wide range of cultural activities that allow delegates to discover local heritage and establish relationships with local professionals in the host country. During the reporting period, General Conferences were held in Kyoto (2019) and Prague (2022).

ICOM's international engagement flows through its committees, which represent museums and museum professionals within the association. They contribute to the resources, energy and diversity of ICOM. National Committees organise ICOM's members at a national level and ensure the interests of museums and museum professionals in their respective countries. They represent their members within ICOM and contribute to the realisation of the association's programmes. The 32 International Committees bring together experts of museum specialties in global think tanks on museum and heritage matters. They define standards, develop recommendations, and share professional experience and scientific information. The 7 Regional Alliances are forums that promote dialogue and information exchange between the National Committees of a given geographical area.

**B.9.** Describe your organization's involvement in or contribution to the drafting of the national Periodic Report on the implementation of the Convention.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

n/a

**B.10.** Describe your organization's participation in the preparation of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List or Representative List, requests for International Assistance or proposals of Good Safeguarding Practices.

*Not to exceed 250 words*

n/a

## C. Cooperation with UNESCO

Has your organization carried out activities in cooperation with UNESCO? If yes, please tick the relevant boxes and provide information in the box below.

- Direct cooperation with UNESCO (Headquarters and Field Offices)
- Activities for which you have received the authorization to use the emblem of UNESCO/of the 2003 Convention
- Cooperation through the 2003 Convention's Global Network of Facilitators
- Cooperation with Category 2 Centres
- Cooperation with National Commissions for UNESCO
- Cooperation with UNESCO Chairs
- Financial support from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund
- Financial support from the Participation Programme
- Other types of cooperation

Not to exceed 250 words

## D. Participation in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

**D.1** Has your organization participated in the sessions of the Committee? If so, please indicate which sessions you attended and whether you had any specific role during these meetings.

Not to exceed 250 words

**D.2** Has your organization served as a member of the Evaluation Body (paragraphs 26 to 31 of the Operational Directives), or as a member of the Consultative Body (between 2012 and 2014)? If so, please indicate the period.

Not to exceed 100 words

**D.3** In what way(s) has your organization provided advisory services to the Committee (paragraph 96 of the Operational Directives) or in what way(s) do you foresee that it might provide such services in the future?

Not to exceed 500 words

## **E. Capacities of your organization to evaluate nominations, proposals and requests (paragraphs 27 and 96 of the Operational Directives):**

- E.1.** *Nominations, proposals and requests are available for evaluation only in English or French. Do members of your organization or your staff have a very good command of English or French? If so, please indicate which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Yes. ICOM's network spans more than 120 countries, with hundreds of active members with diverse fields of expertise that can be called upon to participate in the evaluation of nominations, proposals and requests. The official working languages of ICOM are English, French and Spanish, and our Secretariat is operational in those languages, among others.

- E.2.** *Does your organization have experience in working across several intangible cultural heritage domains? Please describe your experiences.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

ICOM's involvement in the context of ICH in relevance to all museum-related domains. Our network of nearly 50,000 museum professionals worldwide have expertise across all ICH domains.

- E.3.** *Describe the experience of your organization in evaluating and analysing documents such as proposals or applications.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

ICOM initiates a large number of projects and is very frequently involved in the process of evaluating documents and proposals from professionals worldwide. In particular, the Strategic Allocation Review Committee (SAREC) coordinates an annual call for projects, which it analyses and evaluates for the allocation of funding for projects on a range of museum topics and from across the globe.

- E.4.** *Does your organization have experience in drafting synthetic texts in English or French? Please describe your experience and indicate in which language(s) and the number of those members or staff.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Yes. Our international secretariat is skilled in drafting synthetic documents in English, French and Spanish.

- E.5.** *Does your organization have experience in working at the international level or the capacity to apply local experience to an international context? Please describe such experience.*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

Yes. As mentioned in section B, ICOM's network is composed of National Committees representing around 50,000 professional and institutional members from more than 120 countries. This enables experiences for local museums to be applied in the international context of ICOM's networks.

## F. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to (continue to) be part of the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the decision of the Committee to maintain the accreditation of your organization.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

Yes

No

## G. Signature

The report must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of your organization.

Name: Peter Keller

Title: Director General of ICOM

Date: 15 / 02 /2023

Signature:

