

Resolution 21GA 2023/17 – Implementation of a Human Rights Based Approach in Cultural Heritage Management

Voted on online platform

The 21st General Assembly of ICOMOS,

Recalling the *Buenos Aires Declaration marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, issued by the ICOMOS General Assembly 2018, which embraced the principle of free, prior and informed consent of source communities before adopting measures concerning their specific cultural heritage;

Reflecting on the UN reform 'Human Rights Based Approach to Development Cooperation and Programming', May 2003, which recommended the development of capacities of 'duty-bearers' to meet their obligations towards rights-holders;

Considering the duties of State Parties as defined in the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention, which imply that the State Party or the representatives of the State Parties are the World Heritage duty-bearers;

Acknowledging that the 'Operational Guidelines to implement the World Heritage Convention' (2021) in its paragraph 12 encourage States Parties to the Convention to adopt a "human rights-based approach, and ensure gender-balanced participation of a wide variety of stakeholders and rights-holders";

Recalling Decision 43 COM 12 of the World Heritage Committee, Baku 2019, regarding the reform of the nomination process, which decided to endorse the principle of a two-phase nominations process, as a key measure for restoring the balance and the credibility of the World Heritage List;

Supporting the ICOMOS initiative to review rights issues in the World Heritage nomination dossiers, during the ICOMOS evaluation process;

Requests that ICOMOS supports and contributes to a Human Rights-Based Approach through systematic screening of rights issues in Heritage management, as well as stewardship and development of cultural heritage.