

## Resolution 21GA 2023/15 – Climate Change and Indigenous Heritage

*Voted on online platform*

The 21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of ICOMOS,

**Acknowledging** the rights of Indigenous Peoples as established under the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP 2007);

**Acknowledging** that ICOMOS has a leadership role in recognising and incorporating Indigenous heritage action in the face of widespread climate change, which includes working, where appropriate and feasible, with Indigenous communities to anticipate, assess and help manage worsening and future climate impacts on their heritage;

**Conscious of** the ongoing and projected increase of direct and indirect impacts, and loss and damage to Indigenous heritage worldwide, including tangible and intangible cultural, natural and combined heritage, as catalogued in *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability* (IPCC 2022); *The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging cultural heritage in climate action* (ICOMOS 2019); and *Global Research and Action Agenda on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change* (ICSM CHC 2023);

**Acknowledging** the importance of heritage to its Indigenous owners and custodians as critical to the maintenance of their land, lifeways and religious, social and cultural life, and to Indigenous wellbeing, as noted in UNDRIP 2007; IPCC 2022; and the United Nations *Sustainable Development Goals* (2030 Global Agenda 2015);

**Recognising** the cultural and governance structures of Indigenous Peoples who can, when given tangible and material opportunities, shape the terms, appropriate actions and framing of climate change mitigation and adaptation on their own lands and oceans as noted in the *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (IPBES 2019); ICSM CHC 2023; and the 2010 *Mandaluyong Declaration*;

**Resolves** that ICOMOS, through its Board, Advisory Committee and Scientific Council, builds on previous initiatives and collaboratively responds to threats of climate change and global impacts on Indigenous heritage by:

1. Partnering with allied organizations and Indigenous communities to
  - a. raise international attention and awareness of the importance and value of Indigenous heritage to Indigenous Peoples, our shared planet and humanity consistent with the *ICOMOS Triennial Scientific Plan 2021-2024* Objective 1; and in alignment with the *Warsaw Loss and Damage Mechanism* (UNFCCC), *Anchorage Declaration* (2009), and the *Kioa Climate Emergency Declaration* (2022);
  - b. encourage the preparation of climate risk assessments, adaptation and disaster risk management plans, based on diverse and appropriate knowledge systems, internationally through appropriate bodies in partnership;
  - c. urge the international community and national governments to recognise, study and act in agreement and collaboration to ethically co-develop and enact climate work plans;
  - d. recognise Indigenous sovereignty and control over their land and knowledge when seeking to use Indigenous Knowledge as part of effective climate responses and initiatives;
  - e. promote the need for culturally-appropriate Intellectual Property protective clauses when engaging with and sharing Indigenous Knowledge;
2. Requesting the ICOMOS Indigenous Heritage Working Group to take the lead in formulating advice to ICOMOS on appropriate action within ICOMOS and when ICOMOS acts in partnership with other organisations, with regard to Indigenous Peoples, their heritage and climate impacts and to effectively monitor this;
3. Encouraging members, Committees and Working Groups in their work to offer all possible assistance to ensure that the appropriate representation, consultation, participation and active

involvement of Indigenous Peoples is implemented in culturally-appropriate ways when considering potential impacts of climate change and Indigenous heritage and proposing appropriate mitigation measures;

4. Facilitating the implementation of these objectives through promoting the outcomes of successful collaborations through the ICOMOS Climate Change Resource Portal as proposed in the *ICOMOS Triennial Scientific Plan 2021-2024*; ensuring collaborations and outcomes shared through the Portal have informed consent or IP Provisions as developed through templates and procedures; showcasing ICOMOS leadership in respectful ICOMOS discourse with Indigenous Peoples about climate change issues, particularly in relation to scholarly publications.
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