



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS (ICOM)

Statutes

**As amended and adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly
on 9th June 2017 (Paris, France)**

Introduction.....	2
Article 1. Name, Legal Status, Location, Term and Fiscal Year	2
Article 2. Mission and Purpose.....	2
Article 3. Definition of Terms	2
Article 4. Membership	3
Article 5. Annual Membership Fee.....	4
Article 6. Membership Privileges	4
Article 7. Voting Rights at the General Assembly and the Election of the Executive Board.....	5
Article 8. Components of ICOM	5
Article 9. Governance Structure	6
Article 10. General Assembly.....	6
Article 11. Executive Board	8
Article 12. Auditing of Accounts	9
Article 13. Advisory Council.....	10
Article 14. National Committees.....	11
Article 15. National Correspondents	11
Article 16. International Committees	11
Article 17. Regional Alliances.....	11
Article 18. Affiliated Organisations	11
Article 19. General Triennial Conference	12
Article 20. Secretariat	12
Article 21. Income and Disbursements.....	12
Article 22. Languages.....	13
Article 23. Validation and Amendments	13
Article 24. Dissolution	13

Introduction

The Statutes of the International Council of Museums (hereinafter referred to as “ICOM”) is the basic document of the Organisation. The Internal Rules of ICOM and the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums define and complete these Statutes.

Article 1. Name, Legal Status, Location, Term and Fiscal Year

Section 1 – Name

The name of the Organisation is the ‘International Council of Museums’ (ICOM). Use of the name and acronym is subject to restrictions and may only be used by and for the uses and benefit of the Organisation and its Members.

Section 2 – Legal Status

Established in 1946, ICOM is a non-profit organisation subject to French law (the 1901 Associations Act) and a non-governmental organisation that maintains formal relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and has a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Section 3 – Location

The registered office of ICOM is located at Maison de l’UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Relocation of the registered office within the Paris Region is subject to the approval of the Executive Board. Relocation of the registered office to another part of France or another country is subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

Section 4 – Term of the Mandate

The term of ICOM shall be indefinite.

Section 5 – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall begin on 1 January and shall end on 31 December of each year.

Article 2. Mission and Purpose

Section 1 – Mission

ICOM is the international organisation of museums and museum professionals which is committed to the research, conservation, continuation and communication to society of the world's natural and cultural heritage, present and future, tangible and intangible.

Section 2 – Purpose

ICOM establishes professional and ethical standards for museum activities, makes recommendations on issues related thereto, promotes capacity building, advances knowledge and raises public cultural awareness through global networks and co-operation programmes.

Article 3. Definition of Terms

Whenever used in these Statutes, the following terms beginning with a capital letter shall bear the meaning defined in the present Article. No distinction shall be made between the singular or plural use thereof.

Section 1 – Museum

A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.

Section 2 – Institutions recognised by ICOM

After seeking the advice of the Advisory Council, the Executive Board, may recognise other institutions as having some or all of the characteristics of a Museum.

Section 3 – Museum Professionals

Museum professionals include all staff of the museums and institutions qualifying as museums in accordance with the definition stated within the scope of Article 3, Section 1 and 2 and persons who, in a professional capacity, have as their main activity to provide services, knowledge and expertise for museums and the museum community.

Section 4 – Member in Good Standing

An ICOM member in good standing is a person or an institution whose request for membership to ICOM has been accepted under the conditions defined within the scope of Article 4, Section 2 of these Statutes, and has paid the annual membership fee for the respective period and in amount stipulated by the Executive Board.

Section 5 – State

For the purposes of establishing National Committees, a State is defined as a sovereign country that is a member of the United Nations or any of its Specialised Agencies, or is a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

Article 4. Membership

Section 1 – Members

Membership shall be open to Museums, Institutions recognised by ICOM and Museum Professionals.

All persons eligible for membership shall indicate to ICOM that they wish to become Members, agreeing to accept and adhere to the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums, and shall complete the application form to request membership.

ICOM membership shall not be available to any person or institution (including its employees) that trades (i.e. buys or sells for profit) cultural property - including works of art and natural and scientific specimens - taking national laws and international conventions into consideration. Likewise, persons or institutions engaged in an activity that conflicts with ICOM's ethical standards shall not be eligible for membership.

Section 2 – Approval of Membership

National Committees shall forward the application form and annual subvention of new Members to the ICOM Secretariat as soon as possible. If there is no National Committee in the applicant's country of citizenship, the applicant may apply directly to the ICOM Secretariat. Moreover, the Executive Board may have membership applications reviewed.

Only Honorary Members, as defined below in Section 3 of this Article, are exempt from this review process. Their candidacy shall be proposed by the Executive Board to the General Assembly, which shall decide on whether to accept or reject it by a majority vote.

Section 3 – Categories of Membership

- i. **Individual Members:** Museum professionals, as defined in Article 3 Section 3, still working or retired, or other persons as defined in Article 4 Section 1 shall be eligible to become individual members.
- ii. **Institutional Members:** Museums or other institutions that comply with the definition of a Museum as defined in Article 3.
- iii. **Student Members:** Persons enrolled in museum-related academic programmes may be proposed for admission into this category of membership by a National Committee.
- iv. **Honorary Members:** Persons who have rendered exceptional services to the international museum community or to ICOM. All former elected ICOM Presidents are deemed Honorary Members.
- v. **Supporting Members:** Persons or institutions providing substantial assistance to ICOM both financially and otherwise, due to an interest in museums and the international co-operation between museums.

No categories of ICOM membership other than those described in the Statutes shall be deemed valid or applicable by ICOM at any level.

Section 4 – Termination of Membership

ICOM membership may be voluntarily withdrawn or revoked by a decision of the Executive Board for one of the following reasons:

- i. Change of professional status;
- ii. Infringement of ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums;
- iii. Actions deemed substantially incompatible with the objectives of ICOM;
- iv. Non-payment of fees after formal notice of the payment due.

Article 5. Annual Membership Fee

Section 1 – Amount and Payment of the Membership Fee

Each Individual, Institutional, Student, and Supporting Member of ICOM shall pay an annual membership fee at a rate stipulated by the Executive Board and approved by the General Assembly.

Section 2 – Period Covered by the Membership Fee

The annual membership fee shall cover the calendar year in question.

Article 6. Membership Privileges

Section 1 – Membership Card

Members in good standing shall receive a membership card.

Section 2 – Right to Seek Election

Individual Members in good standing may stand for election (i) to the Executive Board, (ii) as the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Council or (iii) as the Chairperson of a National Committee, an International Committee, or a Regional Alliance.

Section 3 – Designated Institutional Representatives

Institutional Members can designate three (3) persons to represent them on National Committees and International Committees, as well as at the General Conference and General Assembly. These persons need not be Individual Members of ICOM.

The names of the designated representatives shall be conveyed to the Chairpersons or to the Director General in writing signed by the head of the Institution concerned according to the circumstances at hand.

Designated representatives elected to assume a position within the board of a National Committee, an International Committee or a Regional Alliance, who, during their term, leave the employment of the Institutional Member must either become individual Members (if entitled to do so) or abandon their elected position.

Section 4 – Student Participation

Student Members shall be entitled to participate in the activities of National and International Committees, and shall also be entitled to attend and participate in General Conferences and General Assemblies, but they shall not be entitled to vote or stand for an office in ICOM.

Section 5 – Special Status

Honorary and Supporting Members shall be entitled to membership rights and privileges but shall not be entitled to hold an elected office in ICOM.

Article 7. Voting Rights at the General Assembly and the Election of the Executive Board

Only ICOM Members in good standing are entitled to vote.

Section 1 – Committee Vote

Each National and International Committee shall be entitled to appoint five (5) of its members (Individual Members or designated representatives of Institutional Members) to vote on its behalf on matters brought before the General Assembly. Voting Members appointed by the Committee shall not be entitled to more than five (5) proxies.

Section 2 – Regional Alliance and Affiliated Organisation Vote

Each Regional Alliance has the right to appoint three (3) of its members and each Affiliated Organisation has the right to appoint two (2) of its members (Individual Members or designated representatives of Institutional Members) to vote on its behalf on matters brought before the General Assembly. Voting Members appointed by the Regional Alliance shall not be entitled to more than three (3) proxies. Voting Members appointed by the Affiliated Organisation shall not be entitled to more than two (2) proxies.

Section 3 – Non-Voting Members

Student, Supporting and Honorary Members shall not be entitled to vote at the General Assembly of ICOM.

Article 8. Components of ICOM

ICOM is composed as follows:

- i. General Assembly
- ii. Executive Board
 - Bureau: a (1) President; two (2) Vice-Presidents; a (1) Treasurer
 - Ordinary Members
- iii. Advisory Council
- iv. National Committees
- v. National Correspondents

- vi. International Committees
- vii. Regional Alliances
- viii. Affiliated Organisations
- ix. Secretariat.

Article 9. Governance Structure

ICOM's primary authority resides in its Members. The General Assembly is ICOM's supreme decision-making and legislative body, composed of all Individual and representatives designated by Institutional Members, Student, Supporting, and Honorary Members.

The Executive Board, composed of the Bureau and Ordinary Members elected by the General Assembly, is responsible for ICOM's executive aspects.

The Advisory Council has an advisory role and is composed of chairs or delegated representatives of National and International Committees and Regional Alliances and Affiliated Organisations.

Article 10. General Assembly

Section 1 – Authority

The General Assembly is ICOM's supreme decision-making and legislative body.

Section 2 – Members

The General Assembly consists of all Individual, Student, Supporting, and Honorary Members and the designated representatives of Institutional Members. They are represented by the National Committees, International Committees, Regional Alliances and Affiliated Organisations. Only Individual Members and designated representatives of Institutional Members in good standing who have been appointed as voting members by National Committees, International Committee, Regional Alliances and Affiliated Organisations in accordance with Article 7 Section 1 have the right to vote at the ICOM General Assembly.

Section 3 – Meetings

Ordinary General Assembly

The General Assembly shall hold an ordinary session at least once (1) a year at the time of the Advisory Council's annual meeting.

An Ordinary General Assembly quorum is a simple majority held between Voting Members. The decisions are taken by a simple majority of the members present and represented.

If this quorum is not obtained, the General Assembly shall convene again at the same venue within a period of twenty-four (24) hours at the latest. Irrespective of the number of Members present and being represented at the time, the General Assembly shall have the power to deliberate. The Ordinary General Assembly shall take decisions by means of attaining a simple majority between the Members present and being represented.

The Ordinary General Assembly makes decisions on recommendations issued by the Executive Board, the Advisory Council, as well as by National and International Committees, Regional Alliances and Affiliated Organisations.

The President of ICOM shall set the agenda of the General Assembly in consultation with the Executive Board, the Chair of the Advisory Council and the Director General, and shall be deemed Chairperson of the General Assembly

The Ordinary General Assembly elects the members of the Executive Board.

The General Assembly shall hold an ordinary session at least once (1) a year at the time of the annual meeting of the Advisory Council and within six (6) months following the closure of the fiscal year, to rule on accounts.

In the year in which a General Conference is held, the Ordinary General Assembly shall be one (1) of the elements that constitutes the Triennial General Conference, as described in Article 19 of the present document.

Extraordinary General Assembly

The President, on the recommendation of the Executive Board, the majority of the Advisory Council or one-third (1/3) of the National Committees shall be entitled to call an Extraordinary General Assembly to:

- adopt amendments to the Statutes, as defined in Article 23 of the Statutes;
- dissolve ICOM, as defined in Article 24 of the Statutes.

Only the Extraordinary General Assembly shall have the authority to amend the Statutes or to dissolve ICOM.

The quorum for an Extraordinary General Assembly is a two thirds (2/3) majority held between Voting Members. If this quorum is not obtained, the Extraordinary General Assembly shall convene again at the same venue within a period of twenty-four (24) hours at the latest and shall have the power to deliberate with the minimum of fifty per cent (50%) of the Voting Members.

The decisions are taken by a two thirds (2/3) majority of the members present and represented for amendments of the Statutes, as defined in Article 23 of the Statutes, and a three fourth (3/4) majority for dissolving ICOM, as defined in Article 24 of the Statutes.

Section 4 – Official invitation to the Assemblies

The President of ICOM set the agenda in consultation with the Executive Board, the Chair of the Advisory Council, and the Director General, and convenes the Assembly at least thirty (30) days before the date fixed for the meeting. An official invitation to an Ordinary General Assembly shall be sent at least thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting by the Director General to all the members of ICOM composing the assembly.

An official invitation to an Extraordinary General Assembly shall be sent at least sixty (60) days before the date of the meeting on amendments of the Statutes or at least thirty (30) days before the date of a meeting on dissolving ICOM.

An announcement shall be published on the ICOM Website and communicated in a manner deemed most efficient.

The official invitation shall include the date, time and place of the meeting, as well as the assembly's agenda. Documents shall be made available in sufficient time for reflection and debate among ICOM's members, preferably at the time of the official invitation.

The meetings of the assemblies will take place at UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France, or in any other location indicated in the official invitation.

Section 5 – List of Participants

An attendance sheet shall be signed during every General Assembly by the members present and by representatives that have been appointed as proxies. The President shall review the attendance sheet and attest to its accuracy.

Section 6 – Authority of the President

The President of ICOM shall set the agenda of the General Assembly in consultation with the Executive Board, the Chair of the Advisory Council and the Director General, and shall be deemed Chairperson of the General Assembly.

Section 7 – Minutes

A report on the deliberations and decisions of each Assembly shall be prepared by the Director General and approved by the President. Copies or extracts shall be made available to members in electronic or printed form.

The minutes must indicate the date, place and agenda of the meeting, the mode of convening and the names of the members present or being represented, the documents and reports submitted for discussion, a summary of the debates, and the texts of the resolutions in addition to the results of the votes and the texts of decisions.

Article 11. Executive Board

Section 1 – Organisation

The Executive Board is the executive decision-making body of ICOM. It consists of not less than nine (9) and not more than fifteen (15) elected members, as well as the Chairperson of the Advisory Council as an *ex-officio* member.

The members of the Executive Board shall be elected by the Ordinary General Assembly and serve a three (3)-year term of office. If elected, they shall be permitted to serve a second term in the same position, either as Ordinary Member or Member of the Bureau. An Ordinary Member of the Board may subsequently be elected as a member of the Bureau. No person shall be permitted to serve more than four (4) consecutive terms as an Executive Board member. The serving time of the Chairperson of the Advisory Council is counted as serving time as Executive Board member.

Only Individual Members shall be entitled to be elected to the Executive Board. Persons elected to the Executive Board shall not be permitted to hold additional offices within ICOM, unless they have been authorised to do so by the Executive Board.

Each Executive Board member including the Chairperson of the Advisory Council shall be entitled to one (1) vote. In the event of a deadlock, the President shall be entitled to exercise a casting vote.

Section 2 – Meetings

The Executive Board shall convene an ordinary session at least twice (2) a year. One (1) of these meetings shall be held on the occasion of the annual Ordinary General Assembly, which shall be held at the same time and at the same venue.

Section 3 – Duties of the Executive Board

The Executive Board is the elected head of the organisation vested with the responsibility of implementing the strategies identified by the General Assembly and shall take necessary actions to implement the General Assembly's decisions.

The Executive Board shall ensure the good management of ICOM, and shall oversee ICOM's various resources (financial, human, intellectual and technical) and the development thereof. It shall undertake to protect ICOM's reputation, international esteem and public regard and shall provide direction to the Secretariat.

It shall recommend the amount for the membership fees that shall be subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

Section 4 – Quorum and Decisions

The quorum of an Executive Board meeting shall be deemed as being a simple majority held between its members. All decisions of the Executive Board are taken by a simple majority.

Section 5 – The Bureau

The Bureau of the Executive Board consists of the following:

- a (1) President
- two (2) Vice-Presidents
- a (1) Treasurer

The **President** shall be elected by the triennial General Assembly for a three (3)-year term of office and can be re-elected for a second term consisting of the same duration. The President shall set the strategic orientation pertaining to ICOM's activities in its capacity as an international organisation representing museums and museum professionals. The President shall represent ICOM within the scope of all civil acts. The signature of the President binds ICOM in agreements with third parties. The President shall convene and chair General Assembly and Executive Board meetings.

Between the sessions of the Executive Board, the decisions taken by the President shall be within the framework of the Strategic Plan, the budget, in addition to other issues and decisions taken by the Executive Board and the General Assembly.

The President shall be entitled to address urgent issues and provide *ad hoc* solutions in co-operation with the Bureau. Such actions shall be reported to the Executive Board at the earliest opportunity with an explanation of the emergency and the subsequent action.

The President shall delegate authority to the Director General to manage ICOM's day-to-day operations. As the Director General's superior, the President shall ensure that the Director General implements the decisions taken by the President, the Executive Board and the General Assembly.

The **two (2) Vice-Presidents** shall be elected by the triennial General Assembly for a three (3)-year term of office and can be re-elected for a second term consisting of the same duration. The Vice-Presidents shall carry out the functions and tasks assigned to them by the President; they provide any assistance required by the latter and, in the event of his/her absence, convene and chair meetings.

The **Treasurer** shall be elected by the triennial General Assembly for a three (3)-year term of office and can be re-elected for a second mandate consisting of the same duration. The Treasurer shall establish the guidelines necessary for ICOM's financial policy, in collaboration with the Director General, for the approval of the Executive Board, for examining the financial results of ICOM, and for periodically reporting to the Executive Board and the General Assembly.

Section 6 – Vacancies

In case of vacancy or impeachment of the President's office, the Executive Board shall appoint one (1) of the Vice-presidents to assume the presidency until the following election of members of the Executive Board by the General Assembly.

In case of vacancy of the office of Vice-president, the Executive Board shall appoint an ordinary member to assume this function until the following election of members of the Executive Board by the General Assembly.

In case of vacancy of the Treasurer office, the Executive Board shall appoint one (1) of its members to assume this function until the following election of members of the Executive Board by the General Assembly.

In case of vacancy of the position of an Ordinary Board member, the position shall remain vacant until the following election is held by the General Assembly.

Article 12. Auditing of Accounts

At its annual meeting, the Executive Board shall appoint a qualified person or organisation as auditor of ICOM. The person or organisation appointed as auditor shall prepare an annual report of ICOM's accounts.

Article 13. Advisory Council

Section 1 – Organisation

The Advisory Council is the advisory body of ICOM. It consists of Chairpersons (or their appointed representatives) of National and International Committees, Regional Alliances, and Affiliated Organisations.

Section 2 – Functions of the Advisory Council

The Advisory Council advises the Executive Board and the General Assembly on matters concerning the policies, programmes, procedures and finances of ICOM, and may propose amendments to the Statutes. It advises on matters and activities in the general interest of ICOM, as recommended by the Executive Board and other ICOM components. The activities of the Advisory Council shall be reported to the General Assembly for approval at its next meeting.

Section 3 – The Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, the spokesperson for National Committees, and the spokesperson for the International Committees

The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Council shall be elected by the membership for a three (3)-year term of office. The Advisory Council Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson may serve two (2) consecutive terms.

The Chairperson of the Advisory Council shall prepare, convene and chair the meetings of the Council, and shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the Executive Board, and as an *ex officio* member of the Board of all Regional Alliances.

The Vice-Chairperson carries out the functions and tasks assigned to him/her by the Chairperson; he/she provides any assistance required by the latter and, in his/her absence, convenes and chairs meetings.

If the office of Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson becomes vacant, during its next meeting, the Advisory Council shall elect one (1) of its members to be Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson to deputise the former Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson for the duration of his or her remaining term of office.

One (1) spokesperson of the National Committees and one (1) spokesperson of the International Committees shall be elected by the chairs or delegated representatives of the National Committees and the International Committees respectively for a period of three (3) years beginning from the year following a General Conference to the year after the next General Conference.

They shall only be permitted to be re-elected a single (1) time.

Each spokesperson prepares, convenes and chairs each separate meeting of the National and International Committees at the Advisory Council sessions and co-operate with the Chair of the Advisory Council.

If the office of spokesperson of the National or International Committees becomes vacant, during its next meeting, the Chairpersons or delegated representatives of National and International Committees respectively shall elect one (1) of its members to be a spokesperson for the National or International Committees and deputise the former spokesperson for the duration of his or her remaining term of office.

Section 4 – Annual Meeting

The Advisory Council meets at least once (1) a year within the scope of an ordinary session, held on the same date and at the same venue as the General Assembly.

Section 5 – Voting

Each National and International Committee, Regional Alliance and Affiliated Organisation shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

A member of the Advisory Council (other than the Chairperson) may be represented by another member of ICOM at a meeting of the Council, but no person may hold more than one (1) proxy.

Section 6 – Quorum and Decisions

The quorum for a meeting of the Advisory Council shall be fifty per cent (50%) of its members. If this quorum is not obtained, the Advisory Council shall be convened again at the same place within a period of twenty-four (24) hours. Regardless of the number of members present and being represented at that time, the Advisory Council shall have the power to deliberate. The Advisory Council decisions shall be subject to a simple majority between the members present and being represented.

Article 14. National Committees

A National Committee, is a separate legal entity composed of a minimum of eight (8) ICOM Members and may be authorised by the Executive Board to represent the interests of museums and the museum profession and to organise the activities of ICOM in that State. National Committee activities shall conform to the ICOM Rules for National Committees.

Article 15. National Correspondents

Should no National Committee in a State exist, a Member of ICOM may be appointed by the Executive Board to be the National Correspondent of ICOM for that State.

Article 16. International Committees

A group composed of a minimum fifty (50) ICOM Members may be authorised by the Executive Board to create an International Committee to implement programmes and activities and to serve as a channel of communication between Members of ICOM with similar scientific and professional interests. International Committees' activities shall conform to the ICOM Rules for International Committees.

Article 17. Regional Alliances

A Regional Alliance may be authorised by the Executive Board to serve as a forum for the exchange of information and co-operation between National Committees, museums and museum professionals in the region. The activities of Regional Alliances shall conform to the ICOM Rules for Regional Alliances.

Article 18. Affiliated Organisations

The Executive Board may grant affiliated status to an international organisation with the purpose of serving the interest of museums or the museum profession on an international level. It can be regionally or thematically defined. Affiliated Organisations' activities shall conform to the ICOM Rules for Affiliated Organisations and adhere to the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums.

Article 19. General Triennial Conference

Section 1 – Triennial Meeting

ICOM shall hold a General Conference every three (3) years.

In addition to holding meetings of the Executive Board, the Advisory Council and General Assembly, the General Conference is a joint meeting venue for all the International Committees as well as for other parts of ICOM.

At the General Conference, the members of the Executive Board and the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Council are elected, and elections are held for most of the International Committees.

Section 2 – Resolutions

The General Conference shall be entitled to propose resolutions arising from its discussions for consideration to be made by the General Assembly.

Article 20. Secretariat

Section 1 – Role

The Secretariat, consisting of the Director General and other staff members of ICOM, is the operational centre of ICOM. It initiates, realizes and evaluates programmes, handles membership files, records and manages finances, and protects and promotes the identity of the Organisation.

Section 2 – The Director General

The Director General is the chief executive officer employed by ICOM. The Director General is appointed by the ICOM President with the approval of the Executive Board, and reports directly to the President. The President sets his or her compensation and evaluates the performance of his or her duties. The Director General is responsible for the efficient and effective management of ICOM's resources required for the daily operations of the Secretariat, the promotion of the interests of ICOM and the communications with its Members, committees and working groups.

Article 21. Income and Disbursements

Section 1 – Income

The financial resources of ICOM consist of the following:

- i. subscription fees paid by the Members;
- ii. income from ICOM assets and activities;
- iii. grants and private donations, received directly, and contributions from the ICOM Foundation;
- iv. payments received within the framework of contractual agreements for services rendered by ICOM.

Section 2 – Disbursements

Expenditure of ICOM funds shall only be permitted to be made in accordance with the annual budget prepared under the guidelines established by the Treasurer and approved by the Executive Board.

Article 22. Languages

Section 1 – Official Languages

English, French, and Spanish shall be deemed the official languages of ICOM, and each may be used at ICOM meetings.

Section 2 – Other Languages

The General Assembly may adopt other languages, provided the costs thereof are borne by the Members.

Article 23. Validation and Amendments

Section 1 – Implementation

These Statutes shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the General Assembly.

Section 2 – Official Document

Since ICOM is registered in France as an Association governed by the French 1901 Associations Act, the French-language version of these Statutes shall be deemed the official document on which all future translations are to be based.

In the event of litigation or misunderstanding, the French-language Statutes shall be deemed applicable for the purposes of clarification.

Section 3 – Amendments

The Executive Board, the Advisory Council, National and International Committees, Regional Alliances, and Affiliated Organisations shall be permitted to propose amendments to the Statutes as well as to the Internal Rules of ICOM.

All Members must be duly convened in compliance with Article 10 Section 4.

The Extraordinary General Assembly can adopt amendments to the Statutes in compliance with Article 10 Section 3.

Article 24. Dissolution

Section 1 – Authority for Dissolution

Members of ICOM shall be permitted to take a decision to dissolve the Organisation in compliance with Article 10 Section 3.

All Members must be duly convened, in compliance with Article 10 Section 4.

Section 2 – Assets of the Organisation

In accordance with the provisions of the French 1901 Associations Act, any assets owned by ICOM at the time of dissolution shall be transferred to an organisation having similar aims to those of ICOM.