

Rules of the International Committee of Memorial Museums for the Remembrance of Victims of Public Crimes

Article 1: Name, Address and Subject

The name of the ICOM International Committee is: International Committee of Memorial Museums for the Remembrance of Victims of Public Crimes, hereafter referred to as the Committee. Its address for purposes of correspondence is care of the Chairperson of the Committee.

Memorial museums for the remembrance of victims of public crimes can be defined as follows: These institutions function as museums with a stock of original historical objects, which generally includes buildings, and work in all the classical fields of museum work (collecting, preserving, exhibiting, doing research, providing education). Their purpose is to commemorate the victims of state and socially determined, ideologically motivated crimes. They are frequently located at the original historical sites, or at places chosen by the victims of such crimes for the purpose of commemoration. They are conceived as memorials admonishing visitors to safeguard basic human rights. As these institutions co-operate with the victims and other contemporary witnesses, their work also takes on a psycho-social character. Their endeavours to convey information about historical events are morally grounded and aim to establish a definite relationship to the present, without abandoning a historical perspective.

Article 2: Relationships with ICOM

The Committee is an International Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) established under Article 17, paragraph 3 of the ICOM Statutes. Its activities are at all times subject to the above mentioned Statutes and to these Rules, in accordance with Article 28 of the Statutes.

Article 3: Aims

The aims of the International Committee for Memorial Museums for Public Crimes against Humanity are to:

- I. support ICOM's aims and objectives, in particular with reference to the sector of Memorial Museums for Public Crimes against Humanity;
- II. contribute to the development and implementation of ICOM's program;
- III. formulate and carry out a program of activities related to places commemorating the victims and the consequences of state or public violations of human rights and using methods and techniques of museums;
- IV. provide a forum for communication, co-operation and information exchange, between museums, professional museum workers and others concerned with Memorial Museums for Public Crimes against Humanity;
- V. provide advice to ICOM on Memorial Museums for Public Crimes against Humanity and be a source of professional expertise to assist in the implementation of ICOM's program;
- VI. represent the interests of Memorial Museums for Public Crimes against Humanity within ICOM;
- VII. co-operate with National Committees and Regional Organisations of ICOM and with other International Committees and Affiliated Organisations in matters related to the Committee's specific mandate and to the broader interests of ICOM;
- VIII. create and spread publications relating to the items connected with the Committee aims and area of interest;

- IX. contribute to the research in the field of Memorial Museums for Public Crimes against Humanity and spread the results by all means.

Article 4: Committee Membership

- a) The membership of the International Committee shall comprise those persons being Individual Members or designated representatives of Institutional Members of ICOM who request membership of the Committee.
- b) Members of the Committees shall be either:
- I. Voting members, being members of ICOM who have nominated the Committee of Memorial Museums for Public Crimes against Humanity as the Committee of which they wish to be a voting member; or
 - II. Non-voting members, being members of ICOM who have sought membership of the Committee of Memorial Museums for Public Crimes against Humanity but being voting members of another International Committee.
- c) Members of ICOM wishing to join the Committee, shall inform ICOM headquarters, which shall forthwith transmit details of the Member's application to the Chairperson or the Secretary-General of the Committee, together with advice as to whether the member is a voting member of any other International Committee of ICOM.
- d) The Chairperson of the Committee shall refer all such applications to the Executive Board, which shall admit applicants to one or other of the classes of membership of the Committee depending on the voting affiliation (if any) of the applicant with another International Committee. A person shall not be denied the membership of the Committee on the grounds of lack of professional qualifications in the area of specialisation of the Committee.
- e) Membership of the Committee shall cease if the member:
- I. resigns from the Committee,
 - II. acts against the ICOM's Statutes or Code of Professional Ethics,
 - III. ceases to be a member of ICOM for any reason.

Article 5: Rights of Members

- a) Members shall have the right to participate in the activities and program of the Committee, and to participate in all its meetings.
- b) Voting members shall have the right to vote in the meetings of the Committee, to stand for election to the Executive Board, to vote in the Board Elections and to be designated as a representative of the Committee to vote at the General Assembly of ICOM and in the election of the Executive Council.
- c) Non-voting members shall have no right to vote and may not be elected in the Executive Board of the Committee.

Article 6: Meetings of the Committee

- a) The Committee shall hold such meetings as it considers necessary for the attainment of its objectives and the carrying out of its program and shall meet in plenary sessions each year if possible, and always in conjunction with the General Assembly of ICOM. The dates and places of plenary meetings shall be communicated at least six months in advance. The agenda of the triennial plenary meeting held in conjunction with the General Assembly of ICOM shall include the following items:

- I. a report on the work of the Committee during the preceding triennium,
 - II. a report on the finances of the Committee for the preceding triennium,
 - III. a review of the draft triennial program of ICOM and adoption of the work program of the Committee for the forthcoming triennium,
 - IV. a review of the activities of any working groups and renewal of their mandates if appropriate,
 - V. adoption of budget for the following triennium,
 - VI. election of the Executive Board.
- b) All meetings of the Committee shall be held in the three official languages of ICOM, or in a different language when a simultaneous translation service is available, or in accordance with the language spoken by the majority of participants.
 - c) The quorum of the triennial plenary meeting shall be 10% of the voting membership of the Committee present personally or by proxy.
 - d) Each voting member shall be entitled to represent by proxy a maximum of one other voting members. An institutional member may designate another member of the same institution to vote on his behalf, even if not member of ICOM or voting member of the Committee.
 - e) The Committee may establish working groups, represented by a voting member of the Committee who shall be responsible for the working group activities and shall report to the Committee at the annual plenary meeting.
 - f) In accordance with the Statutes, article 17, paragraph 10, the Chairperson of the Committee shall arrange date, place and subject of the Committee of Memorial Museums for Public Crimes against Humanity meetings with the Chairperson of the National Committee of the country where the meeting is expected to be held.

Article 7: Management of the International Committee

- a) The Committee shall be managed by an Executive Board consisting of a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons, one Secretary-Treasurer and three to six Councillors, elected by the Committee voting members. No person may serve as a member of the Board for a continuous period of more than six years, unless subsequently elected as Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson. No person may serve as Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson for a continuous period of more than six years.
- b) No more than four members from any one country may be elected to the Executive Board.
- c) Any voting member of the Committee in good standing, including a designated representative of an Institutional Member, is eligible to stand for election to the Executive Board subject to the limitations imposed by the Statutes, Article 17, para 4.
- d) The Executive Board shall be elected in conjunction with the triennial plenary meeting of the Committee. The outgoing Executive Board shall invite nominations for the next Executive Board at least four months before the triennial plenary meeting, and shall inform the voting members of the names and qualifications of candidates at least two months prior to the date of commencement of the meeting. A voting member who is unable to attend the triennial plenary meeting may authorize, in writing, another voting member to vote on his or her behalf at the election of the Executive Board or may vote by mail.
- e) If a member of the Executive Board ceases to office for any reason during the period between the triennial plenary meetings, the position may be filled by co-optation of another voting member of the Committee until the next triennial plenary meeting is held.
- f) A member of the Executive Board shall cease to hold office if the member:
 - I. Resigns from the Committee or from ICOM;
 - II. Is no longer a voting member of the Committee.

- g) The Executive Board shall meet at least once in each year.
- h) The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Board shall be five members of Board present personally.

Article 8: Finance of the Committee

- a) The Committee is entitled to raise such funds for its operations as it considers necessary, including sponsoring, donations, grants and profits coming from the publications produced by the Committee itself.
- b) The Committee may not impose any annual membership subscription on ICOM members, but is entitled to demand contributions for specific services.
- c) Subject to confirmation by the Executive Council in the light of the annual budget of ICOM, the Committee shall receive a subvention from ICOM for each voting member which, on request from the Committee, shall be paid no later than 30 June in each calendar year.
- d) The Committee shall not enter into any contract or any legally binding agreement involving expenditure by ICOM without the approval of the Executive Council first being obtained (other than contracts and agreements that relate to its own activities and can be paid for from its own funds).
- e) All money received by the Committee shall be deposited in a bank account established for the purpose and all payments made on behalf of the Committee shall be made from that bank account. The Board shall advise the Treasurer of ICOM of the account name and number and the name of the bank at which the account is established.
- f) The Committee shall keep proper accounts of all payments received and expended on an annual basis and shall present to the members a report on the finances of the Committee at each plenary meeting of the Committee. The Committee shall transmit a copy of the above mentioned report to the Secretary-General of ICOM for presentation to the Executive Council.

Article 9: Role and Responsibilities of the Executive Board.

- a) The Executive Board is responsible for managing the affairs of the Committee and for ensuring that the requirements of the Statutes of ICOM, and of these Rules are met.
- b) The Executive Board shall, before any meeting of the Committee is held in a State, satisfy itself that no impediment will be placed in the way of any member of the Committee attending the meeting, by the Government of the host State.
- c) The Executive Board shall prepare each calendar year a report on the Activities of the Committee during the preceding year, which shall be transmitted to the Secretary-general for submission to the Executive Council and Advisory Committee of ICOM.
- d) The Executive Board shall appoint two voting members of the Committee to vote on behalf of the Committee itself in conjunction with the General Assembly and with the election of the Executive Council. That vote may also be transmitted by mail.
- e) The Executive Board shall, six months prior to the General Assembly , submit to the ICOM Secretary-General its comments on the draft triennial program of ICOM and a draft of its own proposed triennial program of work for inclusion in the final triennial program of ICOM for consideration at the General Assembly.
- f) The Executive Board may publish a regular News-letter to keep the Committee members fully informed of the work of the Board.

Article 10: Amendments

- a) The present Rules of the Committee, adopted at the plenary meeting held in Barcelona may be amended at any subsequent annual plenary meeting of the Committee.
- b) Any suggested amendment to the Rules must be proposed and seconded by voting members of the Committee. The text of any proposed amendment, together with any explanatory material, shall be sent to the voting members of the Committee at least one month prior to annual plenary meeting at which they are to be considered.
- c) Adoption and amendment of the Rules shall require a three-quarters majority of the members voting, either personally or by proxy.

Article 11: Dissolution of the International Committee

- a) The Committee shall be dissolved by decision of the Executive Council taken in accordance with the Statutes, Article 17, paragraph 12.
- b) In the event that the Committee is dissolved, its assets (if any) shall be transferred to the ICOM General Secretariat.

Adopted at the plenary meeting held in Barcelona on July 3, 2001 and amended at the annual membership meeting held in Vienna on August 21, 2007