

**ICOMOS**  
**International Scientific Committee on Historic Cities, Towns and Villages (CIVVIH)**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**June 5, 2020**  
**Via Zoom**

**PARTICIPANTS**

**PRESIDENT**

Claus-Peter ECHTER, GERMANY

**VICE-PRESIDENTS**

Samir ABDULAC, FRANCE  
Faïka BÉJAOUÏ, TUNISIA  
Zhang JIE, CHINA  
David LOGAN, AUSTRALIA

**SECRETARY GENERAL**

Kathleen CROWTHER, USA

**MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Gergely NAGY, HUNGARY  
Paula CORDEIRO, BELGIUM  
Elena DIMITROVA, BULGARIA  
Yuksel DINCER, TURKEY  
Marija NEMUNIENE, LITHUANIA  
Hae UN RII, KOREA  
Ofelia SANOU, COSTA RICA  
Pal Anders STENSSON, SWEDEN

**HONORARY EXPERT MEMBER**

Sofia AVGERINOÛ KOLONIAS, GREECE

The following is a summary of the meeting.

1. Approval of the Agenda: An agenda was distributed in advance of the meeting. David Logan asked that the CIVVIH work plan be added to the agenda today.
2. President's Report: President Claus-Peter Echter gave an extensive report. This report is posted on the CIVVIH website. Highlights from the report included the following:
  - a. A reminder of CIVVIH's purpose related to protection of heritage in cities.
  - b. CIVVIH complied with ICOMOS requirement for all ISCs to amend their bylaws with recommendations provided. Through the good work of a working group, CIVVIH complied

with all rules on a timely basis.

- c. CIVVIH has adapted the English translation of its name to be more accurate. Samir Abdulac is glad that the French name remains as it originally was..
- d. Communication with CIVVIH members has increased via the monthly Information of the President e-communication and via the establishment of a CIVVIH Facebook page. Facebook is great promotion for CIVVIH with 230+ members. Kathleen Crowther is trying to improve the website but needs cooperation from the Secretariat. Paula Cordeiro commented that text is still needed for the CIVVIH newsletter, she has texts but needs more. Claus-Peter Echter would like contributions from many countries, particularly from certain countries.
- e. It has been a very busy two years with seven (7) CIVVIH meetings and three (3) meetings in the near future. The Annual Meeting this year will be virtual. Samir Abdulac suggested a lively event even if CIVVIH cannot have its traditional scientific symposium. Claus-Peter Echter suggested that perhaps we would have a CIVVIH webinar.
- f. A partnership between CIVVIH and Organization of World Heritage Cities continues with a revised agreement signed in 2019. Claus-Peter Echter spoke with the new director of OWHC recently. There is appreciation for the involvement of Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias and Samir Abdulac. He is exploring additional opportunities to cooperate with CIVVIH.
- g. CIVVIH is involved with additional collaborations with UN-Habitat, World Urban Forum (WUF) and World Urban Campaign (WUC). Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias, Jeff Soule and Claus-Peter Echter have always attended these meetings. The Secretariat appreciates CIVVIH's collaboration. Claus-Peter Echter recently attended the WUF10 meeting in Abu Dhabi.
- h. CIVVIH is active in four (4) ICOMOS working groups. Samir Abdulac has been a vital force in the working group in Syria and Iraq, and contributes now in setting up the coming Syria National Committee. He also is assisting in reporting to World Heritage about the situation on-the-ground (Egypt, Iraq, Libya, etc.).
- i. CIVVIH experts have recently been called upon by World Heritage to evaluate these sites: World Heritage nominations: Nice (France), Bologna (Italy), As-Salt (Jordan), Gdańsk Shipyard (Poland), Ljubljana (Slovenia). Zhang Jie indicated that the meeting this year will go forward virtually in July 2020. Claus-Peter Echter will communicate with the panel for continued CIVVIH participation.
- j. A Scientific Working Group has begun the process to elaborate upon the Malta and Valletta Principles by including sustainable development and related concepts. Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias commented that COVID has changed the timetable for this project especially as travel prevented the first in-person meeting. Elaborating the principals will take time and entails a process. A recent meeting could not take place, but virtual meetings will be

planned for the near future. David Logan discussed that the job is to update the Malta and Valletta Principles. Sofia indicated that it was decided that at first a draft would be developed by a small group and then circulated to the larger working group, then to CIVVIH at the right time. The update could take the form of an addendum to the Principles rather than a re-write of them. She indicated that there is a structure and schedule, that a draft will be distributed to the working group before all of CIVVIH. David Logan would like more communication among the members of the working group of which he is a member and that in Tunis it was decided to prepare an update, not an addendum. Ofelia Sanou suggested that all of the working group could write something related to the Principles. Zhang Jie underscored that the Valletta Principles are a strong start, and new concepts can be incorporated into it. It is very common in China, and he would like to cooperate. There needs to be a link to the Principles, he would be very supportive of this. Claus-Peter Echter closed the discussion by saying that Sofia has made a proposal as to how to proceed given the changed circumstances. Sofia will communicate with the working group at an appropriate time. Claus-Peter thinks this project is the most interesting part of the CIVVIH work program.

3. Pictures of the various CIVVIH meetings were shown.
4. Ibero-American group: Ofelia Sanou brought up the topic of CIVVIH members in Ibero-American regions. The group is using WhatsApp as a communication platform and it is quite active. There are six to eight people now, but the group will get bigger. Meetings were scheduled in Rio de Janeiro and Havana, but the meetings had to be cancelled due to Covid 19. The purpose of this group is to discuss not just the WH cities in the members' respective countries. The idea is to encourage collaboration, to discuss problem and opportunities endemic of these regions and to compare experiences. Ofelia Sanou will write about this matter.
5. CIVVIH First Webinar, *Resilience of Historic Cities in Times of COVID-19* on June 16<sup>th</sup>. It will be valuable to the CIVVIH community and good for recognition of CIVVIH's expertise. Fifty to one-hundred attendees are expected. Claus-Peter Echter is heading up this webinar and it is a great deal of work recruiting excellent speakers and organizing the logistics.
6. COVID Impact on CIVVIH: Claus-Peter Echter shared many comments from his readings and meetings about how the COVID virus is effecting cities. Many people are fearful and are struggling with the uncertainty, but attitudes should remain positive. Heritage appears not to be a priority at this time, yet is it more important than ever. Pal Anders Stensson asked if there was a digital platform for this discussion. At this time it is only email; perhaps it should be a topic at the annual meeting. CIVVIH could perhaps set up a working group. He will write some of these concepts to share with CIVVIH. Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias mentioned that the European Council of Planners is preparing a manifesto on Covid 19 for release in the fall.
7. CIVVIH Work Plan: In addition to the approved work plan, there is the need to update CIVVIH's materials to reflect the new English name. We need new efforts to include emerging professionals. There is the desire to update the CIVVIH website. Intensified efforts with UNESCO on WH sites is possible. David Logan was asked by Australia ICOMOS about CIVVIH's strategic

priorities. He underscored the importance of prioritizing the updating of the Malta and Valletta Principles, and to disseminate the new English name so others in ICOMOS see we have the word “cities” in our name.

8. Next Annual Meeting: Paula Cordeiro offered that the next Annual Meeting 2021 can be held in Brussels. She has the support of ICOMOS Brussels. Claus-Peter Echter recommends that we plan for the end of October 2021. Samir Abdulac recommended that CIVVIH leave time between the ICOMOS annual General Assembly and the CIVVIH Annual Meeting.
9. Conclusion: Heartfelt goodbyes were expressed to those in attendance, to stay safe.

Minutes prepared by Kathleen H. Crowther, Secretary General, approved by Claus-Peter Echter, President

December 26, 2020