

09-2015

## RESOLUTION

Endorsing ICOMOS Concept Note on Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development for the United Nations Post-2015 Agenda and the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) and for other purposes

### **The ICOMOS International Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH)**

**Noting** that the international community is currently engaged in articulating a new global framework for sustainable development and that this “Post-2015 development” agenda-setting effort is simultaneously culminating in several processes, each of which – whether intentionally or not – will be informed by culture and heritage and each of which will undoubtedly have profound consequences on cultural heritage,

**Noting** with satisfaction that one key element of the Post-2015 process is the setting of new 15-year sustainable development goals (the “SDGs”) for the world, expected to be adopted by the UN General Assembly in the fall of 2015, which includes an explicit heritage target, Target 11.4, calling for making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.

**Noting** that Target 11.4 is contained within the so-called “Urban SDG,” a set of sustainable development targets related to cities and settlements. There is a close relationship between the articulation of the Urban SDG and the once-every-20-years meeting to establish a New Urban Agenda for world’s cities and settlement being held in October, 2016 called “Habitat III.” Because the heritage target, 11.4, is located within the Urban SDG, the elaboration of the role of heritage in the Post-2015 development agenda is closely linked to the Habitat III process as well.

**Observing** that the integration of cultural heritage conservation with sustainable development is critical for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the UN SDGs at all levels, from local to international, better urban places, stronger and more resilient communities, and better safeguarding of precious and fragile heritage resources,

**Recalling** that ICOMOS in general and CIVVIH in particular are committed to recognizing and enhancing the intersection of cultural heritage and resilient and sustainable cities, as articulated in *The Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Managing of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban Areas*, adopted by ICOMOS at its 17th General Assembly 2011 in Paris and in the foundational text of the Valletta Position Paper on Historic Cities and Sustainable Urban Development Policies adopted by CIVVIH meeting at Valletta, Malta on 10 April 2010, with its conclusion that historic cities could serve as a source of inspiration for defining policies for sustainable urban development,

**Recalling** recent UNESCO documents on culture and development including the landmark Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscapes, the Hangzhou Declaration “Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies,” the Declaration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> UNESCO World Forum on Culture and the Culture Industries, UNDP-UNESCO *Creative Economy Report*, UN System Task Force Thematic Think Piece on *Culture: A Driver and an Enabler of Sustainable Development*, the *Habitat III Issue Paper on Urban Culture and Heritage*, and the UCLG *Culture 21 Actions*,

**Recalling** the Paris Declaration on heritage as a driver of development adopted by the 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ICOMOS on 1 December 2011 based on a series of initiatives and actions that have been

undertaken by ICOMOS over the last several years in order to promote the inclusion of cultural heritage in the development process,

**Recalling** the conclusions of the 2011 17th ICOMOS GA symposium that heritage - with its value for identity, and as a repository of historical, cultural and social memory, preserved through its authenticity, integrity and 'sense of place' - forms a crucial aspect of the development process; that it is necessary to take up the challenge of conserving this fragile, crucial and non-renewable resource for the benefit of current and future generations; and that among the indispensable roles heritage plays in sustainable development and urbanization, is fostering socio-economic regeneration; increasing the density of urban cores while containing the anarchic spread of new buildings; enhancing tourism benefits by preserving cultural resources as a fundamental asset of long term tourism development; strengthening social fabric and enhancing social well-being, and enhancing the appeal and creativity of regions,

**Recalling** ICOMOS General Assembly Resolution 18GA 2014/37 entitled "*Ensuring that culture and cultural heritage are acknowledged in the proposed Goals and Targets on Sustainable Development for the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda*" which demonstrates the support of ICOMOS for the integration of cultural heritage in the Post-2015 Urban Development Agenda, including through recognition that safe, resilient and sustainable cities each have a unique identity and sense of place which protects cultural heritage as key to unlocking creativity, among others, including in connection with the World Urban Campaign and UN Habitat; and which concluded by calling on governments to effectively implement in the final Sustainable Development Goals the role for culture recognized in the Outcome Document and on National Committees of ICOMOS to take urgent action towards their governments in support of a prominent role of culture and cultural heritage in sustainable development in the elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda,

**Observing** the need to synthesize and update existing CIVVIH and ICOMOS doctrines and charters relating to sustainable urban development and cultural heritage in order to address the contemporary context posed by the Post-2015 Development agenda and accompanying processes,

**Endorses** the ICOMOS Concept Note for the United Nations Post-2015 Agenda and the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) entitled "Cultural Heritage, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the New Urban Agenda,"

**Thanks** ICOMOS members Jyoti Hosagrahar, Jeff Soule, Luigi Fusco Girard, and Andrew Potts for preparing the Concept Note on Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development,

**Calls** upon the National Committees and the Scientific Committees of ICOMOS and to take urgent action towards their Governments for supporting the prominent role of culture and cultural heritage in sustainable development in the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and urges such Committees to participate in their respective National Habitat Committees as appropriate, to provide coordination of Habitat agenda partners and to monitor and report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, as it regards culture, heritage and sustainable urbanization, consistent with the Concept Note,

**Calls** upon the Scientific Committees of ICOMOS to develop guiding actions that can help with integrating cultural heritage with inclusive sustainable urban development, and

**Urges** all ICOMOS members to engage the World Habitat Day, the World Cities Day and the "Urban October", 2015 as a platform for informing citizens in the role of culture and heritage in the preparations for Habitat III.