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By email: secretariat@icomos.org

Amendments to ICOMOS Statutes

Australia ICOMOS welcomes the opportunity to respond on the proposed amendments to the ICOMOS Statutes. This response draws on the comments of the Australia ICOMOS Executive Committee Office Bearers, our contribution to the 3rd consultation for the Revised Statutes in 2014, and the extensive first hand role and knowledge of our eminent member Peter Phillips who has been involved in the drafting of the current amendments and the undertaking of the review of the ICOMOS Statutes.

Australia ICOMOS has carefully considered the proposed changes to the Statutes and in general supports the proposed amendments. However, Australia ICOMOS recommends the following points for consideration by the Statutes Working Group and the Executive Committee:

(2) In Article 9-c, amend the sentence:

Unless specified otherwise in these Statutes, decisions shall be taken by a majority of the voting members, present and represented, provided that they come from at least a third of the National Committees,

as follows:

Unless specified otherwise in these Statutes, decisions shall be taken by a majority of the voting members, present and represented, provided that they come from at least a third of the National Committees which have voting members present at the General Assembly.

Comment:

There has been some confusion in the interpretation of the proposed amendment to Article 9-c. As it is read, the proposed change is a bit tautological and not what was intended in the original it is believed. As it is written we understand it to mean that for a motion has to pass by >50% voting ‘yes’, and that those who vote ‘yes’ must represent at least 1/3 of National Committees (NCs) at the meeting. It leaves us wondering

1. what happens if only small number of NCs are represented (1/3 of small is very small);
2. how this is to be established, especially if voting is by secret ballot; and
3. what if more NCs represented at the meeting vote ‘no’.

More problematic to Australia ICOMOS is that in our view the Article is mean to ensure that any decision is in the best interest of ICOMOS across the world, and to ensure there is sufficient representation in making the decision - hence is to mean 1/3 of all NCs that exist.

As such, Australia ICOMOS has concerns with the proposed amendment to Article 9-c as it is currently worded. A possible approach is to continue stipulate that minimum number of NCs (these could be qualified as accredited, financial and active NCs) must be represented in the vote but to reduce the number to a more realistically achievable but still representative number (e.g. 1/4 or 1/5?).

It is our opinion that the amendment should focus on the definition of NCs (accredited, financial or not etc.). For the reasons given above, Australia ICOMOS is reluctant to support the proposed amendment in its current form and recommends further consideration to the Article 9-c amendment.
(3) In Article 9-d-9, amend the sentence:

A retiring Board member who has served three consecutive terms may not be re-elected before the expiration of a minimum period of three years. The longest continuous term of service allowed as a member of the Board, elected or ex officio, is nine years.

as follows:

A retiring Board member who has served three consecutive terms in any one position may not be re-elected before the expiration of a minimum period of three years. The longest continuous term of service allowed as a member of the Board, elected or ex officio, is nine years, or twelve years if served in more than one position.

Comment:
Australia ICOMOS reiterates its 2014 suggestion on the shorter maximum terms of office to facilitate wider membership leadership development and participation. Australia ICOMOS acknowledges with gratitude the long service and dedication of past and present Board members but recognises the immediate and long term issue in even making the maximum term longer.

In Australia, the 3x2 year terms for Executive Committee members and maximum term of 3 years for the president has resulted in a dynamic and ever changing ICOMOS family and committee structure. Australia ICOMOS therefore would again recommend a maximum of two consecutive terms (two 3-year terms) with half of the members retiring at each election. This would mean that some of the first Board members elected under the new system would only serve for three years – however this could apply to those have already served on the previous Board. The issue would be removed thereafter. For the reasons given above, Australia ICOMOS is again reluctant to support the proposed longer term in office and the amendment to Article 9-d-9.

Australia ICOMOS congratulates the Statutes Working Group and the members of ICOMOS who contributed to the drafting of the amendments to the ICOMOS Statutes. Thank you for your consideration of the points raised above. We look forward to our continuing partnership and contribution in the finalisation and adoption of the amendments at the Istanbul GA in October 2016.

We would be happy to discuss any aspects of our submission further and note with appreciation the ongoing and significant contribution of Australia ICOMOS member Peter Phillips as the ICOMOS Vice President to the important work of the Statutes Working Group.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

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