2022-2028 ICOM international council of museums

What is this Plan about?

This Plan is about change – the changes that museums are facing, and the changes that will equip ICOM to support its network in the future.

ABOUT ICOM

Established in 1946, the International Council of Museums (ICOM) is an independent, non-governmental museum membership association with a global remit.

As an international body, ICOM currently has **44 686 individual members** in **138 countries** who participate through:

118 National Committees,6 Regional Alliances,32 International Committees and22 Affiliated Organisations.

OUR VISION

By 2028, we will be a more transparent, agile, collaborative and democratic organisation, supporting our network to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world.

OUR MISSION

We connect and represent museum professionals across the world and provide a network for sharing **knowledge and practice**.

We advocate at an international level for the vital role that museums play in supporting peaceful, healthy and sustainable communities.



OUR COMMITMENT

We are committed to **supporting our members** in the stewardship of museums, in the custodianship of collections and in the service of heritage and the public.

We face contemporary challenges together.

We work for the protection of cultural and natural heritage.

We foster diversity, inclusion and equity.

We address **decolonisation and climate change** and work for the sustainability of our sector in a post-Covid world.

OUR VALUES

We are international in outlook.

We are **professional** in focus.

We are **collaborative** in practice.

OUR PRIORITIES

ICOM strengthens its position as the **global voice** for the international museum community.

ICOM implements best practice in **governance and** management.

ICOM leads a global museum network **engaging** with change.



IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

This Plan has evolved from a detailed consultative process. Each part of the Association has been involved in its development and every part will have a role to play in its implementation.

After adoption by the General Assembly during the ICOM Triennial Conference in Prague (August 2022), the Strategic Planning Committee will work with the International and National Committees, Regional Alliances, Standing Committees, Working Groups, the Secretariat and the Executive Board to develop specific implementation plans based on a selection of those objectives most relevant to the work which they do.

In a spirit of collaboration and resource sharing, this Plan will encourage National Committees, International Committees, Regional Alliances and partners to work with the Secretariat and the Executive Board to fulfil specific strategic objectives.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN

3 focus areas

ICOM

is the global voice for the museum community

ICOM

implements best practice in governance and management

ICOM

supports a global museum network dealing with change

STRATEGY 1 global positioning **STRATEGY 1**

governance

STRATEGY 2

financial principles

STRATEGY 3

communication

STRATEGY 4 diversity

STRATEGY 1

sustainable funding

STRATEGY 2

climate change

STRATEGY 3

digital futures

STRATEGY 4

leadership

STRATEGY 5

decolonisation

10 strategic objectives

Global positioning

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

ICOM is recognized as the trusted, objective voice for the global museum sector.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

ICOM offers an international perspective from which to communicate the role of museums to the public and to promote a deeper understanding of their contribution to societies.

What will this look like

ICOM promotes museums in international forums and leads the sector in addressing issues of global significance to museums.

How will we get there

BRANDING

Build on the 2014 branding study to position ICOM on the basis of its values, its professional benefits and its impact in areas of significance to the

Implementation

Communications Department and the Executive Board

Monitoring progress

Membership increases especially among young adults.

CAMPAIGNS

museum sector.

Build on ICOM's role as a leader in Heritage Protection by increasing its engagement with intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies to raise awareness for enhanced museum security and emergency response planning to deal with increasing military conflict and environmental events.

Heritage Protection Relevant partners

Increased number of initiatives that address museum security and risk management training are reported.

PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIANCES

Reactivate ICOM's participation in UN Committees..

Review existing partnerships to ensure they are current ,relevant and impactful.

Identify relevant likeminded organisations with which to form new partnerships or influential networks.

Executive Board and Director General, relevant partners ICOM is a visible presence on UN Committees/ Existing partnerships are reviewed and the results reported/New partners are identified.



Governance

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

Best practice standards in governance and management.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

To build membership confidence in ICOM's elected bodies and the decisions they take and to implement ICOM's 2019 Resolution on Sustainability in relation to Sustainable Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

What will this look like	How will we get there	Implementation	Monitoring progress
ICOM builds membership confidence and trust through implementing the recommendations of the 2022 External Governance Review.	ESTABLISH a Working Group on Governance Reform (WGGR) as recommended by the External Review.	Executive Board, Advisory Council	Working Group established.
20.20	DEVELOP A Governance Reform action plan.	Working Group on Governance Reform (WGGR)	Action Plan endorsed. Progress reported.
	CLARIFY the roles and relationships between (a) President and Director-General (b) President, Director General and Executive Board (c) the Executive Board, Committees and Working Groups (d) the mandates, time commitment and skills required to participate on Standing Committees, Working Groups and the Executive Board.	Executive Board, Director- General, Advisory Council spokespeople, WGGR	Roles and responsibilities clarified and changes to Statutes & Rules recommended.
	DEVELOP transparent processes for appointing the Director-General and ESTABLISH effective annual review processes.	Executive Board, Legal Department	Procedures approved by the Executive Board.
	REVISE Statutes and Internal Rules in line with governance reform.	Working Group on Statutes and Rules, Legal Department	Changes to Statutes and Rules adopted by the General Assembly in Dubai 2025
ICOM achieves Association unity through implementing the Strategic Plan.	IMPLEMENT the Strategic Plan across the Association by working with Committees, Working Groups, Regional Alliances, the Secretariat and Executive Board to develop implementation plans.	Strategic Plan Committee, Executive Board, Secretariat, Committees and Working Groups	Workplans developed. Annual reports identify progress against the Strategic Plan
	MONITOR the progress and implementation of the	Strategic Plan Committee, Executive	Strategic Plan is re-assessed in 2025.



Board, Secretariat

Strategic Plan after 3 years.

Financial principles

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

Financial transparency, fiscal clarity and strategic use of resources ensure the sustainability of the Association.

expectations.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Members feel confident that funds are used effectively and efficiently in the best interests of the Association.

What will this look like	How will we get there	Implementation	Monitoring progress
Financial transparency and clarity increase trust and confidence across the membership.	CONSULT the Advisory Council in the development of the annual budget and provide sufficient background information to build confidence and understanding in the process.	Executive Board Treasurer, FIREC, Advisory Council	The draft budget is presented annually to the AC November meeting
	DEVELOP a transparent risk assessment procedure to evaluate the issues associated with major project expenditure.	Executive Board, FIREC, Treasurer, Secretariat	Risk assessment process adopted and implemented.
	COLLABORATE with National Committees to ensure that fees and member details are received in a timely manner to allow for budget management.	Membership, Finance Department, National Committees	More timely receipt of fees and members' details.
	IMPLEMENT a system to monitor the impact of ICOM's growth and development against available resources to ensure adequate provision, informed selection of activities and reasonable	President, Director- General, Treasurer, FIREC	System is developed and implemented. On-going monitoring of resources vis-a-vis growth is monitored and reported.



Communication

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

ICOM's membership are confident that they are well informed about and can engage with ICOM's activities and decisions.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Transparent, accessible communication is key to the effective functioning of the Association.

What will this look like	How will we get there	Implementation	Monitoring progress
ICOM is confident that its internal communications are impactful.	CONDUCT an internal audit of communication channels within the Secretariat.	Communications and Heads of Department	Audit completed and reported to the Executive Board.
	APPOINT an Internal Communications Co- ordinator to (a) liaise with the National Committees and (b) work with all Committees to develop an Internal Communication Plan which provides an accessible flow of information in two directions.	Internal Communications Co-Ordinator, NCs, ICs, RAs, SCs and WGS	Plan adopted and implemented.
	ESTABLISH regular open forums for the President and Director General to answer questions on specific topics raised by the membership and committees.	Internal Communications Co-Ordinator, President, Director General	Open forums conducted. Fewer questions about lack of information.
	CONTINUE to build the website Member Space, to ensure that critical institutional memory remains accessible as leadership changes within ICOM.	Communications Department	More page views; longer dwell time; fewer requests for existing information
	ENGAGE the NCs and ICs to identify areas for database improvement.	Membership Department, National and International Committees	Database fully functional by 2024. Committees report improved communication with their members.



Diversity

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

ICOM's global diversity is represented across all components of the Association.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Museums serve diverse publics. In accordance with UN Sustainable Development Goal 10 (to reduce inequality within and among countries) ICOM and the museums it represents must reflect and serve diversity in governance, operations and engagement.

What will this look like	How will we get there	Implementation	Monitoring progress
ICOM actively seeks greater diversity in the Executive Board, Secretariat, Committees and Working Groups.	DEVELOP a policy that supports diversity in the membership of the Executive Board, Committees, Working Groups and the Secretariat.	Executive Board, Director- General, ETHCOM	Increased global diversity in membership of EB, Standing Committee, WG and Secretariat.
ICOM seeks to diversify its membership.	SUPPORT National Committees in underrepresented regions to increase their membership.	Membership Department, National Committees	Increased membership from the global south.
	EXPLORE the feasibility of developing a 5th category of membership for poorest countries.	Membership Department	Feasibility study reported and decision taken.
ICOM supports its network to implement policies and practices which promote internal diversity and social inclusion.	SUPPORT museums through capacity building programs that develop inclusive practices for diversity and social inclusion across governance, staff, programming and audience engagement.	Capacity Building Department	Attendance at capacity building programs and feedback from attendees.
	CUSTOMISE capacity building programs to reflect regional realities.	Capacity Building Department	Feedback from Regional Alliances, National Committees.



Sustainable funding

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

The value of museums to society is recognized through sustainable government investment.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Museums are active contributors to the social cohesion of communities, the well-being of individuals and an informed and active citizenry. Adequate levels of public funding are necessary for them to sustain and develop this role.

What will this look like	How will we get there	Implementation	Monitoring progress
ICOM makes the case for sustainable government funding for museums.	DEVELOP an international campaign for sustainable public investment in museums through promoting the value and social contribution of museums to societies.	Executive Board, Communications, National Committees	The campaign is used by NCs to advocate with governments at a national level.
	RESEARCH global patterns of public funding for museums, identify impacts and examine emerging business models.	Executive Board and other relevant partners	Research findings received by Dec 2023.
Museums confidently advocate for sustainable government funding at a national level and are aware of emerging business models.	SUPPORT the advocacy work of National Committees to make the case for sustainable government funding through publishing the Advocacy Training Manual and providing associated training.	Executive Board, Director-General, Communications, Capacity Building, relevant Committees	Advocacy Manual is published. Training for National Committees is developed and provided. NCs report impact on public funding for museums.
	BUILD capacity through programmes that facilitate the sharing of information on sustainable business models.	Capacity Building Department	Capacity building programmes on advocacy and business models are established.



Climate Change

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

ICOM fulfils its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with specific reference to Goal 13 (Climate Action).

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Museums are recognised as trusted sources of knowledge and valuable resources for engaging communities to imagine and create sustainable futures for our planet (ICOM's Resolution on Sustainability, Kyoto 2019).

What will this look like	How will we get there	Implementation	Monitoring progress
ICOM works proactively to address the role that museums can play in tackling climate change.	DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT a 2030 Action Plan to fulfil ICOM'S commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	Working Group on Sustainability, Museums and Society Department	Action Plan is produced, adopted and actioned.
	ADOPT a policy: that will see ICOM become a carbon neutral organisation by 2028.	Executive Board, Secretariat	Policy is established, adopted and actioned.
ICOM supports museums to implement policies and programs which address climate change.	DEVELOP and IMPLEMENT capacity building programs for museums to address climate change in their operations (to become carbon neutral by 2028), in public engagement and in advocacy with stakeholders.	Capacity Building Department, Museums and Society Department	Programs launched and promoted.
	PUBLISH a special issue of Museum International on climate change and sustainability.	Publications Department	Edition published.



Digital futures

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

A forward-thinking museum sector that can use digital to connect in new ways with their communities, better manage their collections, and provide unprecedented access to the publics they serve.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Digital is changing. ICOM needs to support the museum sector to embrace the next generation of digital technology.

What will this look like	How will we get there	Implementation	Monitoring progress
ICOM models digital best practice in its operations.	CREATE an Expert Advisory Group to keep ICOM abreast of new developments in the digital field to address.	Executive Board, external experts	Expert Group reports to EB and Secretariat on a regular basis.
	MODEL best practice by using digital in innovative ways to communicate with and engage the ICOM network.	Communications Department	Digital enhances communication across the network.
	EXPLORE the feasibility of a digital ICOM membership card.	Membership Department	Report on feasibility by Dubai 2025.
Museums confidently plan for and participate in a digital future.	ACTIVATE the network to share solutions and best practice examples of using digital customised to regional realities.	Capacity Building Department, National and International Committees	Digital, capacity building programs reflect regional differences.
	COMMISSION new ways of employing digital using a program of webinars, workshops and podcasts.	Capacity Building Department, National and International Committees	New ways of using digital are tested and trialled.



Leadership

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

A leadership culture which is inspired, innovative and progressive in the face of change.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Effective leadership is a key factor in the health of the Association and the sustainability of the museum sector.

What will this look like	How will we get there	Implementation	Monitoring progress
ICOM recognises the importance of effective leadership. It works to enhance the leadership of the Association.	DEVELOP and implement an orientation program for new Executive Board members covering International corporate governance, ICOM structure, roles and responsibilities.	Executive Board	Orientation program developed and implemented.
	REVIEW the Executive Board Code of Conduct at the beginning of each new Executive Board term.	Executive Board	Code of Conduct reviewed.
	ESTABLISH an Executive Board Communication Plan.	Executive Board, Internal Communications Co-ordinator	Executive Board Communication Plan produced.
ICOM supports capacity building for emerging and existing leaders.	SUPPORT current museum leaders to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2015 UNESCO Recommendation through a professional development program.	Working Group on Sustainability, Capacity Building, Museums and Society	Webinars developed, promoted and attended.
	PROMOTE the Advocacy Manual and Training to leaders throughout the network.	Communications and Capacity Building	Feedback from museum leaders.
	CONDUCT a 2nd study of museum leaders to acquire a longitudinal picture of global leadership trends	Relevant International Committees	2nd global study of museum leadership conducted and published.



Decolonisation

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

ICOM leads a global forum to clarify the issues and identify best practice on decolonising museums.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

ICOM recognises the role that museums have played in the colonising process and actively upholds international normative instruments, including the 2015 Recommendation on Museums, the 2001 Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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What will this look like	How will we get there	Implementation	Monitoring progress	
ICOM proactively addresses decolonisation and the role that museums have played in the colonising process.	ADOPT a policy on decolonisation that highlights the ethical issues underlying the decolonisation process and ESTABLISH an action plan.	Executive Board, Museums and Society	Policy developed and adopted. Action Plan developed and implemented.	
	CREATE an Expert Group on Decolonisation to advise on policy, practice and program development.	Executive Board, External experts	Expert group is established and reports to Executive Board and Secretariat on a regular basis.	
	LEAD a global conversation to clarify what is encompassed within the concept and practice of Decolonisation in museums.	Museum & Society, Executive Board, Expert Group, Heritage Protection	Decolonisation is the subject of a program of events and training	
	UPDATE the Code of Ethics to reflect ICOM's policy on Decolonisation.	Executive Board, ETHCOM	Amended Code of Ethics adopted in Dubai 2025	



ESTABLISH a series of open forums to discuss museums, decolonisation and solutions to the legacy of colonialism.

Capacity Building, Museums and Society

Open forums held.

PUBLISH an issue of
Museum International
dedicated to museums and

decolonisation

Publications Department

Edition published.



STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITTEE 2020-2022

CHAIR

Ole WINTHER (Denmark)

MEMBERS

Ani AVAGYAN (Armenia) John BARNES (UK) Ech-Cherki DAHMALI (Morocco) Robin HIRST (Australia) Jane LEGGET (New Zealand) Claudia PORTO (Brazil) Luis RAPOSO (Portugal) Antonio RODRIGUEZ (USA) Joana SOUSA MONTEIRO (Portugal).

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Laishun AN (China) Carol SCOTT (UK)

SECRETARIAT

Francesca POLLICINI

COMMUNICATIONS **WORKING GROUP**

John BARNES (Convenor) Ani AVAGYAN Claudia PORTO Alexandra FERNANDEZ Francesca POLLICINI

SURVEY WORKING GROUP

Robin HIRST Jane LEGGET Antonio RODRIGUEZ Carol SCOTT Ole WINTHER

GLOSSARY

STANDING COMMITTEES

DRMC / Disaster Risk Management Committee ETHCOM /Ethics Committee FIREC /Finance and Resources Committee ICOM Define / Museum Definition LEAC /Legal Affairs Committee SAREC /Strategic Allocation Review Committee SPC /Strategic Plan Committee

WORKING GROUPS

NCWG /Working Group National Committees WGSR /Working Group Statutes and Rules WGS /Working Group Sustainability ICWG /Working Group International Committees

REGIONAL ALLIANCES

ICOM ARAB /Arab countries ICOM ASPAC /Asia-Pacific countries ICOM EUROPE /Europe countries ICOM LAC /Latin America & Caribbean countries ICOM NORD /Northern European countries ICOM SEE /South-East Europe countries CIMAO /West Africa countries

ITC /International Training Centre ICOM-IMREC /International Museum Research and Education Centre

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES

COSTUME/ Museums and Collections of Costume, Fashion and Textiles ICAMT/Architecture and Museum Techniques AVICOM /Audiovisual, New Technologies and Social Media COMCOL /Collecting

ICOM-CC /Conservation CIDOC / Documentation

CECA-Education and Cultural Action

CIPEG-Museums and Collections of Egyptology

ICEE /Exhibition Exchange

DEMHIST /Historic House Museums ICLCM /Literary and Composers' Museums ICFA /Museums and Collections of Fine Arts GLASS / Museums and Collections of Glass

NATHIST /Museums and Collections of Natural History CAMOC /Collections and Activities of Museums of Cities

ICEthics /Ethical Dilemmas

MPR /Marketing and Public Relations

ICMEMO / Memorial Museums in Remembrance of the Victims of Public

ICOMON /Money and Banking Museums ICOFOM /Museology

INTERCOM / Museum Management

ICMS /Museum Security ICMAH /Museums and Collections of Archaeology and History ICOMAM / Museums and Collections of Arms and Military History ICDAD / Museums and Collections of Decorative Arts and Design

ICME /Museums and Collections of Ethnography

CIMCIM /Museums and Collections of Instruments and Music CIMUSET / Museums and Collections of Science and Technology

ICR /Regional Museums

ICTOP /Training of Personnel UMAC /University Museums and Collections

DRMC (IC) /Disaster Resilient Museums

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OUR MISSION

OUR VISION

By 2028 ICOM will be a be a more **transparent**. agile, collaborative and democratic organisation, supporting our network to meet demands of a rapidly changing world.

OUR COMMITMENT

We support our members in the stewardship of museums, in the custodianship of collections and in the service of heritage and the public. We face challenges together, fostering diversity, inclusion and equity and addressing decolonisation, climate change and sustainability.

OUR VALUES

We are

The global voice for museums

Leading a global museum network engaging with

collaborative

in practice

We connect and represent museum professionals across the world & provide a network for sharing knowledge and practice. We advocate at an international level for the vital role that museums play in supporting peaceful, healthy and sustainable communities.

OUR PRIORITIES

ICOM strengthens its position as the global voice for the museum community

ICOM implements best practice in governance and management

ICOM leads a global museum network engaging with change

We are

in outlook

international professional in focus

We are

FOCUS AREAS

Best practice in governance and management

IMPLEMENTATION

This is **your** Plan (https://agora.icom.museum/). After adoption at the General Assembly, reach out to the Strategic Plan Committee (ole@kum.dk). They will work with you to develop your own implementation Plan based on a selection of the strategies most relevant to the work you do.

ICOM STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-28



Principles

- **Consultation**: involving the ICOM membership, Committees, Regional Alliances, Secretariat and Executive Board in the development of the plan.
- Ownership: the Strategic Plan must be 'owned' and implemented across the ICOM community.

Process - what the SPC has done

2021

STAGE 1

CONSULTATION WITH CHAIRS OF RAS, SPOKESPEOPLE FOR NCS AND ICS, COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP CHAIRS, EB AND SECRETARIAT

Responses guide survey development.

STAGE 2

SURVEY SENT TO ICOM MEMBERSHIP (AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2021)

1628 responses

Report to Advisory Council
November 2021

Report to EB December 2021

2022

STAGE 3

RESULTS OF MEMBERSHIP SURVEY GUIDE DRAFT OF STRATEGIC PLAN.

Draft plan sent to Chairs of Committees, Working Groups and Regional Alliances, Secretariat and Executive Board for comment.

Interviews with Director- General and Secretariat Heads of Departments.

Meetings with EB.

STAGE 4

RESPONSES TO DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN ANALYSED.

Revised plan goes to EB for approval at June meetings.

Approved plan goes to General Assembly in Prague for adoption.



< Product - a vision for change >

By 2028, ICOM will be a more transparent, agile, collaborative and democratic organisation, supporting our network as it faces the demands of a rapidly changing world.

The global voice for the museum community



Global Positioning

Governance Communication Financial Principles Diversity



Best practice in governance and management

Supporting a Network Dealing with Change



Sustainable Funding
Climate Change
Digital Futures
Leadership
Decolonisation



What people said about the plan

Great in the sense that 'it does not look like a copy and paste from the past'. Really a new one. Ambitious looking towards the future.

Making the SP a guide for the Committees as well; Useful that partners outside Sec and EB are identified.

The main focus areas have been well defined and how they will be achieved and measured.

The values are very well phrased

It is clear and well structured. The process has been inclusive. The output is professional.

Very focused – an improvement on the last plan; More workable from the perspective of the Secretariat; General previous plan less easy to develop workable objectives from

ICOM will commit to transparent governance and strategic management. It addresses current issues such as inclusion, diversity and climate change.

Broad, three focus areas are useful...Overall address the topics that are important to the membership. Useful instrument to get feedback from the membership about what is important and the overall direction of the Association

More specific, concrete and clear. Current challenges are taken into account.

Provides a clear path for the next years

It Is written briefly, clearly and precisely. The goals, responsibilities etc. are well clarified

The plan is clear and concise and addresses many of the issues brought forward by membership.

Contact: Ole Winther/ Chair Strategic Planning Committee/ ole@kum.dk

ICON international council of museums

Next steps

01

ICOM Triennial

When we meet in Prague at the ICOM Triennial Conference in August 2022, the General Assembly will be asked to adopt the new Strategic Plan and set the directions for the Association until 2028.

02

Your role

This is your plan. Upon adoption by the General Assembly during the ICOM Triennial in Prague (August 2022), the Strategic Planning Committee will work with the International and National Committees, Regional Alliances, Standing Committees and Working Groups to develop implementation plans based on a selection of those strategies which are most relevant to the work you do.

03

ICOM's role

Strategic plans are always important but this is a momentous time as museums progressively reopen post-Covid, count the cost of closures during the pandemic and reimagine the future in a changing world. Leading the global museum community through this period of transition is ICOM's role and we have an opportunity to plan how the Association can best fulfill this role in the next decade.