

PRESS RELEASE: 18 December 2017:

ICOMOS Principles for the Conservation of Wooden Built Heritage 2017

The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Wood (IISC) is pleased to announce that in a session of the 19th General Assembly of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) held in Delhi on 15th December 2017 the new “Principles for the Conservation of Wooden Built Heritage” were adopted as an ICOMOS doctrinal text. These new Principles replace those adopted previously in 1999.

The full wording of the **ICOMOS Resolution** is below.

Agenda Item GA 2017: 6.3.4

Resolution 19GA 2017/19 – Adoption of the “Principles for the Conservation of Wooden Built Heritage”.

The 19th General Assembly of ICOMOS:

Considering the need to update the “Principles for the Preservation of Historic Timber Structures” adopted by ICOMOS at the 12th General Assembly in Mexico, October 1999;

Acknowledging the updating process which began in Guadalajara, Mexico (2012), Himeji, Japan (2013) and continued in Falun, Sweden (2016);

Acknowledging the recommendation supporting adoption of the “Principles for the Conservation of Wooden Built Heritage” made by the ICOMOS Board Meeting of March 2017 and recommended by the Advisory Committee on 11th December 2017;

Adopts the “Principles for the Conservation of Wooden Built Heritage” as an ICOMOS doctrinal text. These new Principles replace those adopted previously in 1999.

Background:

Ever since the ICOMOS International Wood Committee was established in 1975, the need for a set of conservation principles has been a continuous theme in the Committee’s ongoing deliberations and activities. The scope of an ICOMOS Wood Committee “Principles” was first discussed during the IISC Committee meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal in November 1992. A 1st draft of the Principles was presented and discussed at the 9th IISC international symposium in Himeji, Japan, March 1994. A 2nd draft (dated May 1994) was distributed to the Wood Committee members in February 1995 inviting comments, and from that review the 3rd draft (dated November 1995) was prepared and discussed during the IISC’s 10th international symposium in the UK in April 1996 and during the IISC Committee meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria, in October 1996. In August 1996, Dr. Jukka Jokilehto of ICCROM contributed a significantly improved version of the draft revised Principles. His proposals, together with the comments from the 10th international symposium, the Sofia meeting and other proposals from the Wood Committee members, were included in a 4th draft (dated October 1996). This version was eventually adopted as an ICOMOS doctrinal text at the 12th General Assembly in Mexico, October 1999.

At the 16th ICOMOS General Assembly in Quebec 2008 a revision and update of the 1999 Principles was proposed. The main reasons that led to the revision of the Principles were: To recognise a wider variety of wooden heritage including its intangible side; to better recognise the diversity of cultural heritage and the subsequent diversity of approaches, and therefore to reflect the Nara Document on Authenticity (Japan 1994); to improve its organization and applicability; and to update its content adapting it to present day concerns, knowledge and processes.

Updating the Principles was discussed at the 18th IWC international symposium in Guadalajara, Mexico 2012, at the 19th IWC international symposium in Himeji, Japan (2013), and again at the 20th IWC international symposium in Falun, Sweden 2016. The Falun meeting appointed a committee to finalise the draft of the revised Principles; the drafting committee consisted of members from Canada, Greece, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The resulting document, the “Principles for the conservation of wooden built heritage” was recommended for adoption by the ICOMOS Advisory Committee at the Annual Assembly meeting in Istanbul 2016.

The IWC is looking forward to working with individuals, institutions and organisations around the world to encourage and promote the dissemination and use of the 2017 Principles, to work on its adaptation to specific cultures, and to apply it in the work ICOMOS does to advance the application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques to the conservation and protection of our cultural heritage.

The **2017 Principles for the Conservation of Wooden Built Heritage** are available for download at: <http://iwc.icomos.org/papers.html#documents>

For further information please go to:

IWC Website: <http://iwc.icomos.org/index.html>

Or email:

IWC President. E: icomos.iwc.president@gmail.com

IWC Secretariat: E: icomos.iwc.secretariat@gmail.com