

Meeting on 5-9 May, 2010 in Prague and Český Krumlov at the invitation of the National Committee of ICOMOS and the National Authorities of the Czech Republic to explore the context in which conservation theory and practice are operating currently and in the future, benefiting from valuable and challenging statements by the President and the Honorary President of ICOMOS, and presentations from members and participants,

The members of ISC-Theory would like to express their gratitude to the organisers and hosts for providing this opportunity to initiate a very relevant discussion on the accomplishment of the conservation goals and the statutory mission of ICOMOS in a global context under strong evolution whose impacts on the conservation fields require major attention. They would also like to acknowledge the paper *Protecting Heritage Places under the New Heritage Paradigm & Defining its Tolerance for Change – A Leadership Challenge for ICOMOS* submitted by the President of ICOMOS at the meeting of the Advisory Committee of ICOMOS, in Valetta (Malta) in October 2009 in the launching of that discussion.

In the very short time available for discussion, a number of points were raised in the context of the meeting which will be reported in the conference's Scientific Report for further discussion in future occasions. Members of ISC-Theory and participants would like to state the following elements:

1. The transformation of the context in which the conservation goals are pursued or achieved has been a concern of ICOMOS since its foundation and the subject of many meetings and conferences, including in the context of past General Assemblies. Yet, the current global changes create substantial shifts in the conservation challenges that need to be swiftly addressed.
2. The body of doctrine developed by ICOMOS in the course of its mission and through its regional activities, and the corpus of knowledge, practical experience, scientific principles, conservation traditions, national legislation, training systems as well as international institutions like the World Heritage system, exist and constitute a valid base for ICOMOS to reflect on ways to address these challenges. As a leading organisation of the conservation movement, ICOMOS has the opportunity to make its doctrine more user-friendly and more widely accessible, and develop new tools and methods for practice.
3. The conservation of cultural heritage – tangible and intangible, indissolubly interrelated – is based on values which have motivated protection and conservation actions in the past and continue to do so today.
4. The discussions pointed to the necessity for the next steps of this initiative to identify the crucial issues and challenges which are linked to the current changes, and to work out strategies to address them within the mission and statutory goals of ICOMOS and its work plan and priorities.
5. Among others, these strategies will have to the issues of limits of acceptable change, integrity, historic urban landscape, training and raising awareness of relevant professionals including architects, town planners, artists and craftsmen, as well as the broadening of the communication and conservation process to include communities and other stakeholders.

In conclusion and looking forward to the next steps of this discussion process, members of ISC-Theory and other participants of the conference propose to the authorities of ICOMOS that:

- a. This process aims at providing a report and a substantial contribution to the Scientific Symposium and Resolutions of the 17th General Assembly in 2011;
- b. The responsibility of coordinating responses and comments from National and International Committees of ICOMOS be entrusted to ISC-Theory as part of its given mandate; and
- c. A taskforce be set up to manage this process.