Juliette Raoul-Duval's candidacy for the presidency of the Advisory Council.



Dear ICOM members,
Dear colleagues,

For more than 25 years, I have spent my career working on the ground in museums, at the Palais de la Découverte and the Musée des Arts et Métiers in Paris. Before that, I was responsible for museum policy at the French Ministry for Research and Education.

I joined ICOM 22 years ago, because I quickly understood how *essential* our organisation is to our profession and for building ties between museums and with the public, so that their role as key partners in dialogue is recognised in all countries.

From the start, I have been heavily involved in the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Science and Technology - CIMUSET. I was elected to its board in 2010 and remain its Vice-President. I have become convinced that the heart of ICOM is its international committees, because they bring together members from all over the world who work together to advance the same field of knowledge.

In 2016, I was elected Chair of ICOM France.

I have put all my energy into two things: *serving* our members and relentlessly fostering discussion about a wide range of relevant and sometimes difficult issues: restitutions, museum professions, the definition of museum, ethics, research, and more. My goal has been for these exchanges to be truly *international* - and for this reason, I invited members from different regions to each event and implemented systematic simultaneous interpretation. These discussions have brought me into contact with many of you, and have convinced me that we have so much to learn from each other, no matter what position we hold in our museum, or what place our museum holds in the world.

This is what I want to stand for today with the utmost conviction:

ICOM's members are our strongest asset, and it is essential that they all be afforded the opportunity to shape its decisions and policies. Our unity is built on this and our strength lies in our unity.

I have been elected by my peers to an international committee and a national committee, and this gives me a duty towards those who have put their trust in me. ICOM is structured by its Committees and Alliances which elect their representatives. This is what makes ICOM democratic, and I am convinced that this way of working must be strengthened.

I am also involved in the governance of ICOM and have agreed, whenever I've been given the opportunity, to take part in working groups or standing committees such as SAREC and DEFINE.

I believe in the strength of the bond between members and between committees. That's why I responded to the SAREC call for proposals at the beginning of the pandemic. With partners in Europe and the Middle East, we have created a "solidarity" network that has worked remarkably well, and continues to strengthen dialogue. Over 1,000 members from various museum professions have participated online, and more than 74

representatives from 17 countries have spoken. These experiences have given me the opportunity to hear from a large number of colleagues to help me understand their expectations.

In 2022, with a network of 10 countries around the world, I submitted a new project to SAREC which will look into why some of our members are staying away. As we know, some countries and regions have had less access to ICOM resources. These disparities are unfair and prevent us from being as representative as we could be.

ICOM is the network for all museums, and those that are the most remote are the ones which most need everyone's support. If elected, **I want to work on this**. There are certain minimum conditions that need to be met, both in terms of equipment - because our working methods have changed with digital technology -, and in terms of language - because we need to do more than "communicate". We need to understand and make an impact on the world of the future and harness all our different ideas and views. Linguistic diversity is the way to do this.

I would like to explain why it is so important to me that we systematically use all our current official languages, and those that may yet be recognised as such. It is not about favouring one language or another, but rather about promoting all of them equally, because expressing oneself in one's own language, or in the one with which one is most familiar, fosters more productive, more innovative and more inclusive reflection.

Of course, this has a "cost" and some think it's too high. However, investing in what unites us makes us stronger and more useful, and truly does enrich us. Moreover, modern tools are increasingly bringing the cost down. We will be talking about this in Prague, and everyone will be invited to give their views on this subject.

If I am elected Chair of the Advisory Council, I will put all my energy into making this body a space for **dialogue and proposals:**

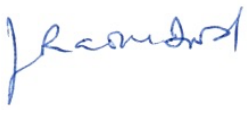
. with the Executive Committee, in a constructive approach that encourages the unity of ICOM for a shared vision of the future;

. with the General Secretariat. ICOM's headquarters are in Paris, which, by good fortune, facilitates my relationship with the permanent staff team and my understanding of the rules and laws that govern our organisation.

. with committee spokespersons and the next Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council, in order to draw on the experience of the Committees, Alliances and Affiliates by strengthening their current solidarity.

With 50,000 members, our organisation needs to rethink its methods and tools in order to remain **a legitimate and powerful organisation that protects the ethics and vitality of museums** around the world. The founding mission that led to the creation of ICOM - the idea that museums contribute to building lasting peace - is more important and relevant than ever. Our organisation is celebrating its 75th anniversary. We must never lose sight of this deeper purpose of our organisation.

In putting myself forward for the Advisory Board, I promise to work with determination, sincerity, and openness.



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