

Draft Recommendation on the Protection and Promotion of Museums, their Diversity and their Role in Society

“One of the main changes to the present draft as compared to the original one is the fact that this Recommendation will focus specifically on Museums, and not on Museums and Collections, considering different definitions in legal and cultural terms worldwide. Therefore, the initial provisional title has been changed to “Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums, their Diversity and their Role in Society”. In so far as it emphasizes the diversity of museums and their educational, social and economic role, this Recommendation is in line with the evolution of these institutions and with their perception by both professionals and the public.

Secondly, emphasis should be given to the influence of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) on this version of the document, which makes it far more clear from the conceptual point of view, and depurated from certain questions that could be raised and are provided for by the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums.

Particularly praiseworthy is the attention given to the social and economic role of museums and to the impact of changes brought about by globalization in the past decades. Focus is given to the need for a balance between the social role of museums, considering their close relationship with the communities, and their economic role, related to national and international tourism.

Finally, this document conforms to the recommendations given to UNESCO Member States regarding museum policies as follows:

- To develop and implement national legislation concerning the protection and promotion of cultural and natural heritage, in its tangible and intangible forms, and the fight against illicit traffic of cultural property;
- To ensure the protection and promotion of museums by supporting the human, physical and financial resources necessary to their functioning;
- To develop active policies for preservation, research and communication by encouraging collaboration among museums, the community and the public;
- To take appropriate measures for drawing up inventories based on international rules of procedure;
- To promote and disseminate good practices such as the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums;
- To ensure that museums employ qualified personnel;
- To encourage cooperation and partnerships among museums.

Therefore, we are in agreement with the new Recommendation proposed by UNESCO concerning the protection and promotion of museums, their diversity and their role in society, as it can be beneficial for museums and their social and cultural potential.