

Proposals for amendments for the Recommendation draft to
UNESCO RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF MUSEUMS,
THEIR DIVERSITY AND THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY
submitted by the ICOM National Committee Slovakia

Paragraph concerned 11: Add following sentence to the proposed wording of the text concerning mobility of collections: ... stakeholders and new presentation risks. **These include circumstances when cultural artefacts become a subject of increasing restitution claims, controversial custody or/and judicial auctioning. The challenges of globalization** could also lead to a situation...

Justification: Hereby we join the concerns as articulated by the Federative Republic of Brazil earlier in its observations (point e) and wish to formulate the impact of globalization and mobility of collections with their potentially negative effects for museums' functions. Apart from this, we can recall some recent issues, when precious objects from public collections, being abroad as loans to foreign museums, remained (temporarily) kept by authorities as conceivable financial compensation even in cases that were not connected to activity of museums by any means.

Paragraph concerned 18: Add following statement to the wording of the text: ... and helping them fulfil their role in society. **Museums use any effort to make their inventories accessible to the public in order to spread and maintain knowledge of the basic content of their collections.** It also facilitates the sound...

Justification: Making the inventories, an essential tool for protecting museums, a public document can increase an independent and unrestricted record-keeping of cultural heritage and reduce a risk of illicit trafficking, and illegal acting with the cultural artefact. N.B. Information contained in the inventories should thus be of no confidential nature (e.g. prices, personal data etc.)

Paragraph concerned 19: Add following sentence to the current wording: ...Research, including the study of collections, is another primary function of museums. **Research can be carried out both by museum professionals as well as specialists from the external institutions of academic nature.** It is only through the understanding gleaned...

Justification: The addition aims at the clarifying of the research roles, mechanisms and authorities in museums making the curators and internal museum's staff not the exclusive holder of these rights.

Paragraph concerned 20: Add following text to the current wording: ...of temporary exhibitions, **virtual exhibitions** and public events, publications...

Justification: The addition reflects a changing environment of IT-based ways of communication and promoting of collections.

Paragraph concerned 32: Reject the whole paragraph.

Justification: The Recommendation to be submitted 2015 is a result of natural need of the world museum community to adapt its standards to the social, political and technological changes over the last few decades. Recalling or re-activating the principles of 1960' Recommendation

document and encouraging the Member states to include those principles into the actual laws might question the core functions of the current document and needs of its applicability.

Paragraph concerned 33: Change the number of the paragraph to “**32**”.

Justification: *As a result of a previous change.*

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CC: Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
Delegation of the Slovak Republic at UNESCO Paris