



ICOM ETHICS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE & MANDATE

Article 1 – Status

The Ethics Committee is a Technical Committee of ICOM.

Article 2 – Purpose of the Ethics Committee

The purpose of the Ethics Committee is to provide expertise for the museum community on all matters relating to museum professional ethics.

The Ethics Committee assists ICOM in advancing and promoting knowledge, best practices and informed actions focusing on ethical issues for museums and museum professionals.

Article 3 – Composition of the Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee shall be composed of eight (8) members appointed in accordance with the provision of Article 5 of ICOM's Internal Rules and Regulations.

The President of ICOM shall appoint the Ethics Committee's Chairperson in consultation with the Executive Council and the Director General.

The President shall appoint the eight (8) members of the Ethics Committee, based upon their knowledge and proven senior expertise in ethics and specifically in art and cultural heritage ethical issues, in consultation with the Ethics Committee's Chairperson and the Director General.

Further members may be appointed from among the Executive Council.

The Ethics Committee includes, *ex officio*, the President and the Director General of ICOM, and an appointed member of ICOM Secretariat.

Article 4 - Term of Mandate

The term of the Ethics Committee lasts three (3) years and is considered terminated unless a renewal decision is explicitly taken. It starts and ceases in the year following the triennial elections of the Executive Council.

Article 5– Functions of the Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee shall act in accordance with ICOM's mission and purpose expressed in Article 2 of ICOM's Statutes.

The Ethics Committee shall notably:

1. Monitor the application of the *ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums*, inform the Executive Council of serious violations of the Code, and eventually request that certain recommendations be published by all means of ICOM's communication channels;
2. Recommend to the Executive Council and the General Secretariat any changes or additions to the *ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums* that may be found necessary or appropriate;
3. Review on behalf of ICOM other ethics standards that may be developed by the subordinate bodies of ICOM in accordance with their specialised domains;
4. Maintain awareness and advise the Executive Council and the General Secretariat on evolving ethical issues affecting museums and their work within the cultural heritage sector;
5. Conduct, with the approval of the Executive Council and the General Secretariat, concerted reflections on identified issues of particular importance, and explore the possibility of working for the development of instruments intended for the museum community.

The Ethics Committee may seek appropriate expertise from ICOM Members, scholars or other concerned parties whenever necessary and shall inform the General Secretariat.

The President and the Director General of ICOM may seek advice and expertise from the Ethics Committee members on any matter mentioned above.

They may invite the Ethics Committee's Chairperson for reporting.

The opinion of the Committee regarding a specific matter will only be released after the approval of all its members, the Executive Council, and the Director General of ICOM.

Article 6 – Meeting and Reporting

The Ethics Committee meets at least once a year when convened by the Chairperson on his initiative in consultation with ICOM's Director General.

It may meet at distance, by all useful means (particularly videoconference and teleconference). The notice of meeting must then state the means used and arrangements for holding the meeting.

The agenda of the meeting is determined by the Chairperson, in consultation with the Director General, and in collaboration with the Secretariat.

The Ethics Committee reports to and operates under the authority of the Executive Council.

According to ICOM's Internal Rules and Regulations, the Chairperson of the Ethics Committee shall submit an annual report to the Executive Council, in consultation with the Director General.

The Committee shall submit a general report on the its work during the preceding triennium to each General Assembly coinciding with the General Conference of ICOM.

Article 7 – Confidentiality

Members of the Ethics Committee keep the activity of the Committee and all related discussions and documents confidential.

Article 8 – Compensation of Members of the Ethics Committee

ICOM does not compensate the Members of the Ethics Committee nor reimburse expenses incurred in fulfilling their function such as travel, accommodation and others costs.