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PROPOSAL FOR A NON-BINDING STANDARD-SETTING INSTRUMENT ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE ROLE OF MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS

OUTLINE

Source: 37 C/Resolution 43, 195 EX/Decision 35.

Background: Following the series of debates on the desirability of a standard-setting instrument on the protection and promotion of museums and collections held at the Executive Board at its 190th, 191st and 195th sessions and at the General Conference at its 36th and 37th sessions, it was decided that existing international standard-setting instruments relating to museums and collections should be supplemented by a new international non-binding instrument, in the form of a recommendation. The General Conference, at its 37th session, invited the Director General to submit a final draft text of such an instrument (37 C/Resolution 43) to its next session.

Purpose: This document presents the final report with a final draft text of the Recommendation on museums and collections, including a summary on the working method applied to elaborate this new instrument, for adoption by the General Conference at its 38th session, so that the question of the protection and promotion of museums and collections may be regulated at the international level by a Recommendation.

Decision required: paragraph 14.

I. BACKGROUND

1. In 2011, the General Conference at its 36th session expressed its desire to initiate a process of studying the relevant modalities to address the challenges faced in the protection and promotion of museums and collections that have not been exhaustively addressed in cultural normative instruments specifically devoted to this subject (36 C/ Resolution 46).

2. An expert meeting on the protection and promotion of museums and collections was hosted by the Government of Brazil and held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 11 to 14 July 2012. In the same year, the Executive Board at its 190th session acknowledged the evolving role of museums and recalled the need for UNESCO to assume a leadership role in formulating principles and guidelines to support Member States in the field, and requested the Director-General to submit a preliminary study on the desirability and feasibility of a standard-setting instrument on the subject for examination by its 191st session (190 EX/Decision 11).

3. In 2013, the Executive Board at its 191st session, having examined the preliminary study and taken note of the conclusions of the meeting in Brazil, recommended that the General Conference at its 37th session invite the Director-General to prepare a preliminary text of a new standard-setting instrument on the subject in the form of a draft recommendation (191 EX/Decision 8).

4. At its 37th session, the General Conference acknowledged that existing legal instruments were insufficient to cope with the new challenges relating to museums and collections, and requested the Director-General to prepare a preliminary text of a new non-binding standard setting instrument to complement existing international standard-setting instruments on the protection and promotion of museums and collections for its submission to its 38th session (37 C/Resolution 43).

5. The final draft text of the new proposed Recommendation on the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society, which was adopted on 28 May 2015 at the Intergovernmental Meeting (category II) at UNESCO Headquarters, is included in the Annex to this document, for examination by the General Conference.

II. WORKING METHODS

6. At its 36th session, the General Conference acknowledged the role of museums which contribute to the fundamental mission of the Organization and the development of related public policies of Member States in the field of culture and in contemporary contexts. It thus requested the Director-General to conduct an assessment of the range of possible modalities for the protection and promotion of museums and collections in times of war and in times of peace on the basis of the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and to submit that assessment to the Executive Board for examination at its 190th session. It also invited the Director-General to convene a meeting of experts in consultation with the International Council of Museums (ICOM) to assist her in the preparation of the above-mentioned assessment. The Government of Brazil offered the venue and hospitality for this meeting in July 2012.

7. The conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Meeting on the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections held in Brazil in July 2012 resulted in broad support for the initial review process concerning approaches and tools for museums and collections, and were included in document 190 EX/11 and Addendum. The Executive Board recalled the importance of UNESCO leadership in establishing principles and guidelines to support Member States in developing and strengthening their museum policies.

8. According to 190 EX/Decision 11, two independent preliminary studies on the technical, legal and museological aspects of the desirability of a new standard-setting instrument on the protection

and promotion of museums and collections were conducted in collaboration with ICOM. The Director-General also undertook close consultations with Member States, by circulating the two studies to all Member States by e-mail on 16 January 2013. Ten Member States replied. The conclusion of the independent studies was included in document 191 EX/8.

9. According to 191 EX/Decision 8, the Executive Board recognized the new challenges that have emerged and the new approaches that have been developed concerning the protection and promotion of museums and collections, while considering the economic, social and educational roles of museums, and their role in the fight against illicit trafficking. It also recommended the adoption by the General Conference of a resolution in order to move forward in this initiative.

10. Following the adoption of 37 C/Resolution 43, and on the basis of the above-mentioned independent studies, a preliminary report on the draft Recommendation was prepared and submitted by the Director-General to Member States in September 2014 (at least 14 months before the 38th session of the General Conference, in accordance with Article 10.1 of the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution), in order to consult Member States with a view to elaborating the draft Recommendation for examination by an intergovernmental meeting of experts prior to its submission to the General Conference at its 38th session.

11. At its 195th session, the Executive Board authorized the Director-General to convene an intergovernmental meeting of experts (category II) in May 2015 at UNESCO Headquarters (195 EX/35).

12. On the basis of the comments received by Member States on the preliminary report of September 2014, the draft Recommendation on the Protection and Promotion of Museums, their Diversity and their Role in Society was elaborated by UNESCO in close cooperation with ICOM, and submitted to Member States in April 2015, in conformity with the Rules of Procedure concerning recommendations to Member States and international conventions covered by the terms of Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Constitution, according to which Member States were asked to make comments and observations on the first draft text of the Recommendation to be discussed at an Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts (category II). This category II Expert Meeting took place at UNESCO Headquarters on 27 and 28 May 2015.

III. SUMMARY REPORT OF CATEGORY II EXPERT MEETING, 27-28 MAY 2015[1]

13. In pursuance of General Conference resolution 37 C/Resolution 43 and Executive Board decision 195 EX/Decision 35, an Intergovernmental Meeting of Legal and Technical Experts (category II) related to a draft recommendation on the protection and promotion of museums, their diversity and their role in society took place at UNESCO Headquarters on 27 and 28 May 2015. In addition to 18 observer organizations, a total of 73 Member States participated in the category II expert meeting (list available online). The initial draft Recommendation reflected comments and observations on the preliminary report by 32 Member States. The suggestions of amendments which had been received from 21 Member States on the draft Recommendation in writing by 9 May 2015 were incorporated by the Secretariat into a compilation report. A revised draft text was discussed and refined during the expert meeting. On 28 May 2015, a final draft text of the new UNESCO Recommendation on the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society was adopted by the expert meeting. This final draft text is proposed for adoption by the 38th session of the General Conference and is included in the Annex to this document.

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1 All the related documents are available at: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/museums/recommendation-on-the-protection-and-promotion-of-museums-and-collections

IV. PROPOSED RESOLUTION

14. The General Conference may wish to adopt the following resolution:

The General Conference,

Taking note of the final report on the elaboration of a standard-setting instrument on the museums and collections in the form of a Recommendation,

Recognizing the significance of museums and collections in some of the fundamental missions and actions of the Organization, notably in heritage preservation, creativity, promotion of cultural and natural diversity, education, scientific progress, and communication,

Considering that museums are among the most prominent institutions for safeguarding heritage in its all forms, tangible and intangible, movable or immovable, and that they play an ever increasing role in stimulating creativity, providing opportunities for research and for formal and informal education, thus contributing to social and human development across the world,

Further considering that museums play a fundamental role in promoting sustainable development and intercultural dialogue,

1. *Express appreciation to* governments and international partner organizations that have contributed to the review process and supported UNESCO over the last four years to set forth principles and guidelines for the protection and promotion of museums and collections;

2. *Invites* Member States to take the appropriate steps to: adapt this new instrument to their specific institutional and socio-cultural contexts; disseminate it widely across the territories under their jurisdiction and their control; facilitate its implementation through the formulation and adoption of supporting policies and guidelines; and to monitor its impact on the protection and promotion of museums and collections;

3. *Encourages* Member States and relevant local authorities to identify, within their specific contexts, the critical steps to implement the new instrument, which may include the following:

   (a) undertake comprehensive surveys and mapping of museums and collections in the territories under their jurisdiction or their control, analyzing their general conditions relating to socio-economic and other pressures;

   (b) explore the modalities of adapting their existing legal, administrative and institutional frameworks and/or developing appropriate principles and guidelines through consultations, especially with museum authorities, stakeholders and other partners;

   (c) assess the specific conditions of museums and collections, especially from the point of view of preservation (conservation, inventory and storage) and institutional vulnerability (human resources, management, financial means) in order to better guide the process of adaptation of the existing frameworks in light of their specificities;

   (d) integrate museums and collections into a wider framework of national and regional cultural policy development, which shall provide indications of fields that require careful attention to planning, design and implementation of projects relating to museums and collections;

(e) prioritize actions for the preservation and development of museums and collections;

4. *Recommends* that Member States develop the appropriate partnerships and cooperation framework at national, regional and international levels for supporting the increased role of museums in heritage preservation, social, educational and economic development and enjoyment, as well as in sustainable development and intercultural dialogue;

5 *Further recommends* that Member States provide their support in strengthening UNESCO's action for preserving heritage and fostering museums' role in social, educational and economic development, including through the extrabudgetary-funded high-level forum on museums;

6. *Decides* to adopt the Recommendation on the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society, which is annexed to document 38 C/25.

ANNEX

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS, THEIR DIVERSITY AND THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY [2]

The General Conference,

Considering that museums share some of the fundamental missions of the Organization, as stipulated in its Constitution, including its contribution to the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice, liberty and peace, the foundation of the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity, full and equal opportunities for education for all, in the unrestricted pursuit of objective truth, and in the free exchange of ideas and knowledge,

Also considering that one of the functions of the Organization, as laid out in its Constitution, is to give new impulse to popular education and to the dissemination of culture: by collaborating with Members, at their request, in the development of educational activities; by instituting collaboration among countries to advance the ideal of equality of educational opportunity without regard to race, gender or any distinctions, economic or social; and to maintain, increase and disseminate knowledge,

Recognizing the importance of culture in its diverse forms in time and space, the benefit that peoples and societies draw from this diversity, and the need to strategically incorporate culture, in its diversity, into national and international development policies, in the interest of communities, peoples and countries,

Affirming that the preservation, study and transmission of cultural and natural, tangible and intangible heritage, in its movable and immovable conditions, are of great importance for all societies, for intercultural dialogue among peoples, for social cohesion, and for sustainable development,

Reaffirming that museums can effectively contribute towards accomplishing these tasks, as stated in the 1960 Recommendation concerning the Most Effective Means of Rendering Museums Accessible to Everyone, which was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 11th session (Paris, 14 December 1960),

Further affirming that museums and collections contribute to the enhancement of human rights, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular its Article 27, and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in particular its Articles 13 and 15,

Considering museums' intrinsic value as custodians of heritage, and that they also play an ever-increasing role in stimulating creativity, providing opportunities for creative and cultural industries, and for enjoyment, thus contributing to the material and spiritual well-being of citizens across the world,

Considering that it is the responsibility of every Member State to protect the cultural and natural heritage, tangible and intangible, movable and immovable, in the territory under its jurisdiction in all circumstances and to support the actions of museums and the role of collections to that end,

Noting that a body of international standard-setting instruments – adopted by UNESCO and elsewhere – including conventions, recommendations and declarations, exists on the subject of the role of museums and collections, all of which remain valid,[i]

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[2] As adopted at the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on the museums and collections (category II) at UNESCO Headquarters, 28 May 2015

Taking into account the magnitude of socio-economic and political changes that have affected the role and diversity of museums since the adoption of the 1960 Recommendation concerning the Most Effective Means of Rendering Museums Accessible to Everyone,

Desiring to reinforce the protection provided by the existing standards and principles referring to the role of museums and collections in favour of cultural and natural heritage, in its tangible and intangible forms and to related roles and responsibilities,

Having considered proposals on the Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society,

Recalling that a UNESCO recommendation is a non-binding instrument that provides principles and policy guidelines addressing different stakeholders,

Adopts this Recommendation on the XXth of November 2015.

The General Conference recommends that Member States apply the following provisions by taking whatever legislative or other measures may be required to implement, within their respective territories under their jurisdiction, the principles and norms set forth in this Recommendation.

INTRODUCTION

1. The protection and promotion of cultural and natural diversity are major challenges of the twenty-first century. In this respect, museums and collections constitute primary means by which tangible and intangible testimonies of nature and human cultures are safeguarded.

2. Museums as spaces for cultural transmission, intercultural dialogue, learning, discussion and training, also play an important role in education (formal, informal, and lifelong learning), social cohesion and sustainable development. Museums have great potential to raise public awareness of the value of cultural and natural heritage and of the responsibility of all citizens to contribute to their care and transmission. Museums also support economic development, notably through cultural and creative industries and tourism.

3. This Recommendation draws the attention of Member States to the importance of the protection and promotion of museums and collections, so that they are partners in sustainable development through the preservation and protection of heritage, the protection and promotion of cultural diversity, the transmission of scientific knowledge, the development of educational policy, lifelong learning and social cohesion, and the development of the creative industries and the tourism economy.

I. DEFINITION AND DIVERSITY OF MUSEUMS

4. In this Recommendation, the term *museum* is defined as a “non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purpose of education, study and enjoyment”. [ii] As such, museums are institutions that seek to represent the natural and cultural diversity of humanity, playing an essential role in the protection, preservation and transmission of heritage.

5. In the present Recommendation, the term *collection* is defined as “an assemblage of natural and cultural properties, tangible and intangible, past and present” [iii]. Every Member State shall define the scope of what it understands by *collection* in terms of its own legal framework, for the purpose of this Recommendation.

6. In the present Recommendation, the term *heritage* is defined[iv] as a set of tangible and intangible values, and expressions that people select and identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their identities, beliefs, knowledge and traditions, and living

environments, deserving of protection and enhancement by contemporary generations and transmission to future generations. The term *heritage* also refers to the definitions of cultural and natural heritage, tangible and intangible, cultural property and cultural objects as included in the UNESCO Culture Conventions.

II. PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF MUSEUMS

Preservation

7. The preservation of heritage comprises activities related to acquisition, collection management, including risk analysis and the development of preparedness capacities and emergency plans, in addition to security, preventive and remedial conservation, and the restoration of museum objects, ensuring the integrity of the collections when used and stored.

8. A key component of collection management in museums is the creation and maintenance of a professional inventory and regular control of collections. An inventory is an essential tool for protecting museums, preventing and fighting illicit trafficking, and helping them fulfil their role in society. It also facilitates the sound management of collections mobility.

Research

9. Research, including the study of collections, is another primary function of museums. Research can be carried out by museums in collaboration with others. It is only through the knowledge obtained from such research that the full potential of museums can be realized and offered to the public. Research is of utmost importance for museums to provide opportunities to reflect on history in a contemporary context, as well as for the interpretation, representation and presentation of collections.

Communication

10. Communication is another primary function of museums. Member States should encourage museums to actively interpret and disseminate knowledge on collections, monuments and sites within their specific areas of expertise and to organize exhibitions, as appropriate. Furthermore, museums should be encouraged to use all means of communication to play an active part in society by, for example, organizing public events, taking part in relevant cultural activities and other interactions with the public in both physical and digital forms.

11. Communication policies should take into account integration, access and social inclusion, and should be conducted in collaboration with the public, including groups that do not normally visit museums. Museum actions should also be strengthened by the actions of the public and communities in their favour.

Education

12. Education is another primary function of museums. Museums engage in formal and non-formal education and lifelong learning, through the development and transmission of knowledge, educational and pedagogical programmes, in partnership with other educational institutions, notably schools. Educational programmes in museums primarily contribute to educating various audiences about the subject matters of their collections and about civic life, as well as helping to raise greater awareness of the importance of preserving heritage, and fostering creativity. Museums can also provide knowledge and experiences that contribute to the understanding of related societal topics.

III. ISSUES FOR MUSEUMS IN SOCIETY

Globalization

13. Globalization has permitted greater mobility of collections, professionals, visitors and ideas which has impacted museums with both positive and negative effects that are reflected in increased accessibility and homogenization. Member States should promote the safeguarding of the diversity and identity that characterize museums and collections without diminishing the museums' role in the globalized world.

Museum relations with the economy and quality of life

14. Member States should recognise that museums can be economic actors in society and contribute to income-generating activities. Moreover, they participate in the tourism economy and with productive projects contributing to the quality of life of the communities and regions in which they are located. More generally, they can also enhance the social inclusion of vulnerable populations.

15. In order to diversify their sources of revenue and increase self-sustainability, many museums have, by choice or necessity, increased their income-generating activities. Member States should not accord a high priority to revenue generation to the detriment of the primary functions of museums. Member States should recognize that those primary functions, while of utmost importance for society, cannot be expressed in purely financial terms.

Social role

16. Member States are encouraged to support the social role of museums that was highlighted by the 1972 Declaration of Santiago de Chile. Museums are increasingly viewed in all countries as playing a key role in society and as a factor in social integration and cohesion. In this sense, they can help communities to face profound changes in society, including those leading to a rise in inequality and the breakdown of social ties.

17. Museums are vital public spaces that should address all of society and can therefore play an important role in the development of social ties and cohesion, building citizenship, and reflecting on collective identities. Museums should be places that are open to all and committed to physical and cultural access to all, including disadvantaged groups. They can constitute spaces for reflection and debate on historical, social, cultural and scientific issues. Museums should also foster respect for human rights and gender equality. Member States should encourage museums to fulfil all of these roles.

18. In instances where the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples is represented in museum collections, Member States should take appropriate measures to encourage and facilitate dialogue and the building of constructive relationships between those museums and indigenous peoples concerning the management of those collections, and, where appropriate, return or restitution in accordance with applicable laws and policies.

Museums and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

19. The changes brought about by the rise of information and communication technologies (ICTs) offer opportunities for museums in terms of the preservation, study, creation and transmission of heritage and related knowledge. Member States should support museums to share and disseminate knowledge and ensure that museums have the means to have access to these technologies when they are judged necessary to improve their primary functions.

IV. POLICIES

General policies

20. Existing international instruments relating to cultural and natural heritage recognize the importance and social role of museums in their protection and promotion, and in the overall accessibility of this heritage to the public. In this regard, Member States should take appropriate measures so that museums and collections in the territories under their jurisdiction or control benefit from the protective and promotional measures granted by these instruments. Member States should also take appropriate measures to strengthen museum capacities for their protection in all circumstances.

21. Member States should ensure that museums implement principles of applicable international instruments. Museums are committed to observe the principles of international instruments for the protection and promotion of cultural and natural heritage, both tangible and intangible. They also should adhere to the principles of the international instruments for the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property and should coordinate their efforts in this matter. Museums must also take into account the ethical and professional standards established by the professional museum community. Member States should ensure that the role of museums in society is exercised in accordance with legal and professional standards in the territories under their jurisdiction.

22. Member States should adopt policies and take appropriate measures to ensure the protection and promotion of museums located in the territories under their jurisdiction or control, by supporting and developing those institutions in accordance with their primary functions, and in this regard develop the necessary human, physical and financial resources needed for them to function properly.

23. The diversity of museums and the heritage of which they are custodians constitutes their greatest value. Member States are requested to protect and promote this diversity, while encouraging museums to draw on high-quality criteria defined and promoted by national and international museum communities.

Functional policies

24. Member States are invited to support active preservation, research, education and communication policies, adapted to local social and cultural contexts, to allow museums to protect and pass down heritage to future generations. In this perspective, collaborative and participative efforts between museums, communities, civil society and the public should be strongly encouraged.

25. Member States should take appropriate measures to ensure that the compilation of inventories based on international standards is a priority in the museums established in the territory under their jurisdiction. The digitization of museum collections is highly important in this regard, but should not be considered as a replacement for the conservation of collections.

26. Good practices for the functioning, protection and promotion of museums and their diversity and role in society have been recognized by national and international museum networks. These good practices are continually updated to reflect innovations in the field. In this respect, the Code of Ethics for Museums adopted by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) constitutes the most widely shared reference. Member States are encouraged to promote the adoption and dissemination of these and other codes of ethics and good practices and to use them to inform the development of standards, museum policies and national legislation.

27. Member States should take appropriate measures to facilitate the employment of qualified personnel by museums in the territories under their jurisdiction with the required expertise.

Adequate opportunities for the continuing education and professional development of all museum personnel should be arranged to maintain an effective workforce.

28. The effective functioning of museums is directly influenced by public and private funding and adequate partnerships. Member States should strive to ensure a clear vision, adequate planning and funding for museums, and a harmonious balance among the different funding mechanisms to enable them to carry out their mission to the benefit of society with full respect for their primary functions.

29. The functions of museums are also influenced by new technologies and their growing role in everyday life. These technologies have great potential for promoting museums throughout the world, but they also constitute potential barriers for people and museums that do not have access to them or the knowledge and skills to use them effectively. Member States should strive to provide access to these technologies for museums in the territories under their jurisdiction or control.

30. The social role of museums, along with the preservation of heritage, constitutes their fundamental purpose. The spirit of the 1960 Recommendation concerning the Most Effective Means of Rendering Museums Accessible to Everyone remains important in creating a lasting place for museums in society. Member States should strive to include these principles in the laws concerning the museums established in the territories under their jurisdiction.

31. Cooperation within the museum sectors and institutions responsible for culture, heritage and education is one of the most effective and sustainable ways of protecting and promoting museums, their diversity and their role in society. Member States should therefore encourage cooperation and partnerships among museums and cultural and scientific institutions at all levels, including their participation in professional networks and associations that foster such cooperation and international exhibitions, exchanges and the mobility of collections.

32. The collections defined in paragraph 5, when held in institutions that are not museums, should be protected and promoted in order to preserve the coherence and better represent the cultural diversity of those countries' heritage. Member States are invited to cooperate in the protection, research and promotion of those collections, as well as in promoting access to them.

33. Member States should take appropriate legislative, technical, and financial measures, in order to design public planning and policies enabling to develop and implement these recommendations in museums situated in the territories under their jurisdiction.

34. In order to contribute to the improvement of museum activities and services, Member States are encouraged to support the establishment of inclusive policies for audience development.

35. Member States should promote international cooperation in capacity-building and professional training, through bilateral or multilateral mechanisms including through UNESCO, in order to better implement these recommendations and especially to benefit the museums and collections of developing countries.

[i] List of the international instruments directly and indirectly relating to museums and collections:
The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954), and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999);
The Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property 1970;
The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972);
The Convention on Biological Diversity (1992);
The UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995);
The Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001);
The Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003);
The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005);
The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
The Recommendation on International Principles Applicable to Archaeological Excavations (UNESCO, 1956);
The Recommendation concerning the Most Effective Means of Rendering Museums Accessible to Everyone (UNESCO, 1960);
The Recommendation on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Export, Import and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (UNESCO, 1964);
The Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO, 1972);
The Recommendation concerning the International Exchange of Cultural Property (UNESCO, 1976);
The Recommendation for the Protection of Movable Cultural Property (UNESCO, 1978);
The Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore (UNESCO, 1989);
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1949);
The UNESCO Declaration of Principles of International Cultural Cooperation (1966);
The UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity 2001;
The UNESCO Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage (2003);
The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)

[ii] This definition is the one given by the International Council of Museums (ICOM), which brings together, at an international level, the museum phenomenon in all of its diversity and transformations through time and space. This definition describes a museum as a public or private non-profit agency or institution.

[iii] This definition reflects partially the one given by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

[iv] This definition partially reflects the one given by Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society.