

Advisory Council

Election Candidates

2025-2028



آيکوم دبي
ICOM Dubai
2025

ICOM international
council
of museums

ICOM Advisory Council Elections 2025-2028

In accordance with Article 12, Section 1 of the Statutes, “The Advisory Council is the advisory organ of ICOM. It consists of Chairpersons (or their appointed representatives) of National and International Committees, Regional Alliances, and Affiliated Organisations.”

In accordance with Article 13, Section 1 of the Statutes, “The National and International Committees shall meet respectively at the Separate Meetings of the National and International Committees. These meetings are prepared, convened and chaired by the Spokespersons of the National and International Committees and are intended, *inter alia*, to prepare the recommendations of the Advisory Council and to address all matters specific to each respective body”.

The elections for the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Council of ICOM and for Spokesperson for the National Committees, and Spokesperson for the International Committees for the period 2025-2028 will take place at the **27th ICOM General Conference** in Dubai in November 2025.

Results of the elections of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be announced at the 99th Session of the Advisory Council to be held on 11 November 2025 in Dubai (UAE).

Results of the elections of the Spokesperson for the National and International Committees will be announced at the Separate Meetings of the National and International Committees to be held on 11 November 2025 in Dubai (UAE).

Candidates for the elections of the Advisory Council (2025-2028):

POSITION OF CHAIRPERSON

Ophelia Leon, ICOM UK

Yvonne Ploum, ICOM Netherlands

POSITION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Linda Apiyo Mboya, ICOM Kenya

Eunice Báez, ICOM Costa Rica

POSITION OF SPOKESPERSON FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES

Nana Meparishvili, ICOM Georgia

POSITION OF SPOKESPERSON FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Sabari Christian Dao, ICOM Burkina
Faso

Emmanuel Hamatwi, ICOM Zambia



Ophelia Leon

ICOM United Kingdom

Nominated by ICOM UK
and ICMEMORHI

Our lives and museums are part of a global whole comprised of the uniqueness of our particular countries. No matter how diverse our museums and their audiences may be, we have the commonality of learning and progressing by communicating with each other.

Years of experience and collaborations in ICOM & speaking its 3 official languages strengthen my ability to communicate and bond with members worldwide.

At a time when misinformation swarms and differences are resolved by force, museums are still trusted institutions. My vision of ICOM is one of unity in diversity, facing the challenges of sustainability with creativity, helping members bridge social divides, placing culture and education at the service of peace and their communities.

My program for the AC Meetings is based on transparency & accountability, for participants to not only air their ideas, but have an avenue for putting them into practice. Rather than one-way affairs, in which the participants emit recommendations and are done with it, I intend to promote discussions and feedback, to refine, combine, and distil the recommendations into specific, actionable reforms, rather than open-ended statements of intent. Along with the Vice-Chair, we could build consensus, allowing our ideas the benefit of many champions.

POSITIONS

- ◆ Curator
- ◆ Editor from 1985 to 2025

As an art historian, curator, editor, I've lived, worked, organised exhibits and conferences, and created educational content in museums, schools and cultural centers in NYC, LA, Paris, Dublin, Berlin, Madrid and the UK for over 30 years, specialising in making history pertinent today and promoting intercultural dialogue through the arts.

FUNCTIONS WITHIN ICOM

- ◆ ICMEMO/ICMEMORHI Treasurer and Chair
- ◆ FIREC Member
- ◆ Member of the Working Group on the future of International Committees (ICWG)

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- ◆ Art historian
- ◆ Educator



Yvonne Ploum

ICOM Netherlands

Nominated by ICAMT and ICOM Netherlands

POSITIONS

- ◆ Art historian
- ◆ Dutch Trainer
- ◆ Freelance Curator
- ◆ Author
- ◆ Funeral Director on demand
- ◆ Director of the Dutch Heritage Academy, trainings institute for heritage professionals, (2018-current)
- ◆ Chair of the board of the Neighborhood Museum Soesterkwartier, (2020-current)
- ◆ Chair of the Night of Literature Foundation, (2023-current)
- ◆ Director of Museum Oud Amelisweerd, (2014-2018)
- ◆ Director of Armando Museum, (1998-2014)

It's been a pleasure to represent our ICs as their Spokesperson. It was a privilege to implement IC's insights into ICOM's strategy, and vice versa. Meanwhile, collaborating with the NCs Spokesperson also broadened my perspective on the needs and priorities of the NCs.

Now that my two terms as Spokesperson have come to an end, I would be honoured to continue serving ICOM and the members — both within the ICs and NCs — as Chair of the AC. As ICOM's primary decision-making body, the AC brings together more than 200 dedicated museum professionals representing our global membership of 60,000. I believe this is the most impactful place to shape ICOM's mission, values, priorities, and future. If entrusted with this role, I will do my utmost to further cultivate the potential within the Council and enhance its advisory function — solicited and unsolicited (even better) — in close collaboration with both Spokespersons, the Vice Chair, and ICOM's management.

I regard the ex officio membership of the EB as a special responsibility — one that bridges the interests of ICOM's management and its members. With this alignment, we can truly fulfill the ambitions of ICOM's Strategic Plan and fully harness the organisation's unique value and global relevance for the benefit of society.

FUNCTIONS WITHIN ICOM

- ◆ Spokesperson of the International Committees, (2022-current)
- ◆ Board Member of DEMHIST, (2022-current)
- ◆ Chair IC DEMHIST, (2020-2022)
- ◆ Vice Chair IC DEMHIST, (2017-2020)

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- ◆ InHolland University of Applied Sciences, Bachelor Applied History of Art
- ◆ HAN University of Applied Sciences, 2nd degree Dutch Teaching



Linda Apiyo Mboya

ICOM Kenya

As an advisory council member, my primary objectives are to provide expert advice, insights, and perspectives to the ICOM Leadership. I aim to contribute to the organisation’s success by offering specialised knowledge and helping ICOM make informed decisions.

I pledge to provide expertise and advice by sharing my knowledge and experience in specific areas to help ICOM solve problems or explore opportunities.

I pledge to offer constructive feedback and recommendations on strategic initiatives and decisions. I will provide insights on regulatory, legal, or technological matters as required.

I pledge to promote ICOM’s mission and vision to a broader audience and contribute to ICOM’s overall reputation and image.

I pledge to help ICOM build stronger relationships with key stakeholders mainly NC’s and IC’s.

Through this position I pledge to enhance my own skills and knowledge through participation in advisory council activities, expand my network within the organisation and gain valuable insights and experiences that can benefit me and all ICOM members.

POSITIONS

- ◆ National Museums of Kenya:
- ◆ Public Relations and Marketing Officer, 1999-2007
- ◆ Personal Advisor & Chief Curator to the CEO, 2007-2014
- ◆ Focal Point for Periodic Reporting of World Heritage in Kenya 2010
- ◆ Director of Communication 2014-2017, Lamu County Government
- ◆ Grants Coordinator 2018- present, Directorate of National Repository & Research at the National Museums of Kenya

FUNCTIONS WITHIN ICOM

- ◆ Chairperson of ICOM Kenya 2020-2025
- ◆ Secretary of ICOM Kenya 2014-2019
- ◆ Member of ICOM Since 2000
- ◆ Member of ICR and COMCOL

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- ◆ Post Graduate Studies in Museum & Heritage Studies at University of Cape Town & University of the Western Cape, South Africa 2005,
- ◆ Bachelor of Commerce 1997 Dr. Ambedkar University in Aurangabad India



Eunice Báez

ICOM Costa Rica

Two years' experience as Vice-Chair has enabled me to appreciate that the Advisory Council is the beating heart of ICOM's global voices. In complex times, we must transform concerns into actions and create safe spaces in which it is possible to question, innovate, and grow as a group.

My objectives:

- *Strengthening our global leadership: ensuring that our diversity becomes a strength that consolidates ICOM's position as the global benchmark in our sector.*
- *Transformative collaboration: strengthening networks of safe spaces for analysis and awareness-raising on current challenges.*
- *Agile governance: continue to work in transparency and communication amongst the Advisory Council, the Board of Directors, the Secretariat and the membership.*
- *Active representation: amplify diverse voices together with the Chair of the Council.*
- *Urgent action: work on sustainability, peace, the climate crisis, digitalisation and decolonisation, giving priority to voices that have been silenced in the past*

I will work tirelessly to ensure that ICOM sets high ethical standards and acts both as an agent of social change and an essential partner for navigating complex transformations. As catalysts for positive change and the pursuit of peace through culture, we will consolidate safe spaces for co-creation and lead the conversation about our future.

POSITIONS

- ◆ Advisor on strategic cultural communication, museums, and heritage
- ◆ Advisor on public communication, UNESCO Regional Office San José
- ◆ Co-Chair Museum of Identity and Pride (MIO)
- ◆ Advisor, ICCROM
- ◆ Communications officer at the University for Peace
- ◆ Member of the Executive Board of the Costa Rican Art Museum
- ◆ Advisor, Inter-American Institute of Human Rights
- ◆ Head of communications at the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design and producer of audiovisual content at the Costa Rican Congress

FUNCTIONS WITHIN ICOM

- ◆ Member of ICOM since 2015
- ◆ Member of the board of directors of ICOM Costa Rica since 2017: Vice-President (2018-2019) and President (2019-present)
- ◆ In 2021, joined the External Review Steering Committee for the ICOM governance.
- ◆ Elected Vice-President of the ICOM Advisory Council in 2023
- ◆ Participated in ICOM COMMS and COMCOL conferences

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- ◆ Master's degree in World Heritage and Development Projects (University of Turin)
- ◆ University Education in audiovisual production, journalism and media management



Nana Meparishvili

ICOM Georgia

Having served two terms as Chair of an International Committee, I understand the challenges, needs, and aspirations that IC Chairs face. As Spokesperson, I will use this experience to represent our collective voice with empathy, clarity, and purpose. My key objective is to foster stronger communication between the International Committees, the ICOM Executive Board, and leadership, ensuring ICs are not only heard but also help implement ICOM's Strategic Plan and shape the future of our organization. I will serve as the main point of contact between the Advisory Council and the IC Chairs, clarifying ICOM's policies, supporting joint initiatives, encouraging collaboration across committees, and advocating for better access to resources and decision-making.

I also look forward to working closely with the Spokesperson for the National Committees on shared priorities, fostering dialogue and joint projects.

I see this role as a platform to strengthen solidarity among ICs, promote transparency, and celebrate the diverse expertise within our network. Together, we can amplify our collective impact and position the International Committees at the heart of ICOM's mission in a rapidly changing world.

POSITIONS

- ◆ EMA (European Museum Academy)
- Representative in Georgia, since 2019
- ◆ A fellow of AEOM (Association of European Open-Air Museums) since 2015
- ◆ Invited lecturer in 2 universities of Georgia (Ilia State University and Caucasus University), since 2012
- ◆ Consultant of the Director General, Open Air Museum of Tbilisi, Georgian National Museum (2010-2016)

FUNCTIONS WITHIN ICOM

- ◆ Current position: Chair of ICAMT (since 2019)
- ◆ Current position: *Museum International* Editorial Board Member
- ◆ Current position: member of ICOM-ICWG (Working Group on the future of International Committees)
- ◆ Former Secretary of ICAMT (2016-2019),
- ◆ Former board member of ICAMT (2013-2016)
- ◆ Former board member of ICOM Georgia (2019-2022)

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- ◆ PhD candidate in Arts. I. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Faculty of Humanities, Research dissertation Title: "Cultural Heritage Management in Open-Air Museums"
- ◆ Master of Architecture, Georgian Technical University



Sabari Christian Dao

ICOM Burkina Faso

If I am elected Spokesperson for the National Committees, my mandate will be focused on amplifying the voice of ICOM members and strengthening our global network. My main objectives are :

1. Representation and advocacy: Effectively conveying the concerns, achievements and proposals of the National Committees to the Advisory Council and ICOM's governing bodies. My experience in communications and marketing will be an asset in articulating clear and impactful messages.

2. Coordination and Synergy: To facilitate exchanges and collaboration between the National Committees, drawing on my leadership experience within ICOM Burkina Faso and my active participation in ICOM Music. The aim will be to share best practices and strengthen the coherence of actions.

3. Capacity Building and Relevance: Promoting Committees' access to training and assistance programmes, particularly on heritage security and the integration of museums into sustainable development policies, along the lines of my contribution to the Tiébélé Scientific Council.

My commitment and my ability to bring together a wide range of stakeholders will serve to make ICOM 'more e transparent, agile, collaborative and democratic', (ICOM Strategic Plan 2022-2028).

POSITIONS

- ◆ Since February 2024: Director General of the National Museum of Burkina Faso (MNBF)
- ◆ 2020-2024: Director of Communication and Marketing at the MNBF
- ◆ Since 2023: Member of the Scientific Council of the Royal Court of Tiébélé
- ◆ Since 2020: Member of the Scientific, Cultural and Technical Council of the MNBF
- ◆ 2018-2020: Member of the Environmental Unit of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism (MCAT)
- ◆ 2017-2020: Head of Department for the Coordination of National Reference Frameworks at the MCAT
- ◆ 2010-2015: Senior Museum Technician and Graphic Designer at the MCAT

FUNCTIONS WITHIN ICOM

- ◆ Since 2022: Member of the Board of Directors of ICOM Music
- ◆ January 2021: Member of the ICOM Resolutions Committee
- ◆ Since 2021: Chair of ICOM Burkina Faso

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- ◆ 2019: Master's in Project Management, Senghor University of Alexandria
- ◆ 2017: Degree in Museology, Ecole Nationale d'Administration et de Magistrature (ENAM)



Emmanuel Hamatwi

ICOM Zambia

POSITIONS

- ◆ Education Officer, Choma Museum

It is my hope and ambition to achieve the following objectives for ICOM:

- 1. Represent ICOM's National Committees effectively with credibility to promote its global interests and values.*
- 2. Foster international collaboration among the National Committees and stakeholders building bridges across regions and cultures.*
- 3. Provide ethical leadership and strategic communication to advance ICOM's mission, goals, and initiatives.*

FUNCTIONS WITHIN ICOM	ACADEMIC BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ ICOM Zambia Chair (Current)◆ Member of Strategic Plan Committee (SPC) (Current)◆ Former Member of the External Review Committee◆ Board Member of ICOM Africa Regional Alliance◆ Active member of CECA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Degree in Education◆ Certificate in Museum and Community Development.◆ Certificate in Tourism Marketing Promotion◆ Museum and Curatorship Certificate



ICOM Statutes

ICOM Statutes, Article 12. Advisory Council

Section 1 – Composition

The Advisory Council is the advisory organ of ICOM. It consists of Chairpersons (or their appointed representatives) of National and International Committees, Regional Alliances, and Affiliated Organisations.

Section 2 – Functions of the Advisory Council

The Advisory Council advises the Executive Board and the General Assembly, in the form of recommendations on matters concerning the policies, programmes, procedures and finances of ICOM, and may propose amendments to the Statutes. In addition, it advises on matters and activities in the general interest of ICOM, at the request of the Executive Board.

Recommendations are prepared by the Separate Meetings of the National and International Committees. The scope of the recommendations covers, but is not limited to, the internal functioning of the Organisation, the implementation of the Strategic Plan or the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. They are presented by the Spokespersons of the National and International Committees and discussed at the Advisory Council meetings. They are non-binding and are sent to the Executive Board for its consideration. The Executive Board shall provide in a timely manner

feedback on the feasibility of the recommendations and their possible follow-up and implementation at the next Advisory Council meeting.

Section 3 – The Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, the spokesperson for National Committees, and the spokesperson for the International Committees

The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Council shall be elected by the members of the Advisory Council for a three (3) year term of office. The Advisory Council Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson in accordance with the Statutes and Internal Rules may exercise up to two (2) consecutive mandates.

The Chairperson of the Advisory Council shall prepare, convene and chair the meetings of the Advisory Council, and shall serve as an ex officio Ordinary Member of the Executive Board.

The Vice-Chairperson carries out the functions and tasks assigned to him/her by the Chairperson; he/she provides for the proper organisation and functioning of the Advisory Council; he/she shall provide any assistance required by the latter and, in his/her absence, shall convene and chair meetings.

Section 4 – Meeting

The Advisory Council meets at least once (1) a year in an ordinary session.

The Chairperson of the Advisory Council shall set the agenda in consultation with the Spokespersons of the National and International Committees and the Director General.

An official invitation to a meeting of the Advisory Council shall be sent at least thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting by the Director General to the members composing the Advisory Council.

The official invitation shall include the date, time and place of the meeting, as well as the meeting's agenda. Documents shall be made available in sufficient time for reflection and debate among ICOM's members, preferably at the time of the official invitation.

The meetings of the Advisory Council shall be held under the conditions laid down in the official convocation, in accordance with Article 25 of the Statutes.

Section 5 – Advisory capacity

Each National and International Committee, Regional Alliance and Affiliated Organisation shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

A member of the Advisory Council (other than the Chairperson) may be represented by another member of ICOM at a meeting of the Council, but no person may hold more than one (1) proxy.

Section 6 – Quorum and Decisions

The quorum of participation for a meeting of the Advisory Council shall be constituted when fifty per cent (50%) of the voting Members are present or represented. Only those representatives of Affiliated Organisations who have registered to attend the meeting of the Advisory Council shall be counted for the purposes of the quorum.

If this quorum is not obtained, the Advisory Council shall, by decision of the Chair of the meeting, convene again at the same place within a period of twenty-four (24) hours at the latest. Irrespective of the number of voting Members present and being represented at that time, the Advisory Council shall have the power to deliberate.

The Advisory Council decisions shall be subject to a simple majority between the Voting Members present and being represented.

The minutes of the Advisory Council shall be drawn up by the Secretariat, approved by the Chairperson of the Advisory Council and made available to the Members of the Advisory Council.

ICOM Statutes, Article 13.

Separate Meetings and Spokespersons of the National and International Committees

Section 1 – Functions of the Separate Meetings

The National and International Committees shall meet respectively at the Separate Meetings of the National and International Committees. These meetings are prepared, convened and chaired by the Spokespersons of the National and International Committees and are intended, inter alia, to prepare the recommendations of the Advisory Council and to address all matters specific to each respective body.

Section 2 – Organisation of the Separate Meetings

The Spokespersons shall set the agenda in consultation with the Chairperson of the Advisory Council and the Director General. An official invitation to a Separate Meeting shall be sent at least thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting by the Director General to the relevant Chairpersons of the National and/or International Committees composing the Separate Meeting.

The official invitation shall include the date, time and place of the Separate Meeting, as well as the meeting's agenda. Documents shall be made available in sufficient time for reflection and debate among ICOM's members, preferably at the time of the official invitation.

The Separate Meetings shall be held under the conditions laid down in the official convocation, in accordance

with Article 25 of the Statutes.

The quorum of participation for a Separate Meeting shall be constituted when fifty per cent (50%) of the Members are present or represented. If this quorum is not obtained, the Separate Meeting

shall, by decision of the Chair of the Meeting, convene again at the same place within a period of

twenty-four (24) hours at the latest. Irrespective of the number of members present and being represented at that time, the Separate Meeting shall have the power to deliberate.

The quorum for decisions of the Separate Meeting shall be a simple majority between the members present and being represented.

Minutes of the discussions shall be prepared by the Secretariat and approved by each respective Spokesperson, and distributed accordingly to each Chairperson of the National and International Committee.

Section 3 – Election and role of the Spokespersons

One (1) Spokesperson of the National Committees shall be elected by the Chairpersons (or appointed representatives) of the National Committees and one (1) Spokesperson of the International Committees shall be elected by the Chairpersons (or appointed representatives) of the International Committees respectively

for a three (3) year term of office.

The elections shall take place at the General Conference during each Separate Meeting and shall be effective at the end of the General Conference. Each Spokesperson may serve a second mandate in the same position. No person shall be permitted to serve more than four (4) mandates.

In the event of a vacancy in the position of Spokesperson of the National or

International Committee, at its next meeting, which shall be convened by decision of the Chairperson of the Advisory Council, the Chairpersons (or appointed representatives) of the National or International Committees respectively shall elect one (1) of their Members as Spokesperson of the National or International Committee and shall replace the former Spokesperson for the remainder of the term of office.

ICOM Internal Rules, Article 4.2.

Election of the Advisory Council Chair, Vice-Chair and Spokespersons for the National Committees and the International Committees

4.2.1 Election of the Chair

The Advisory Council shall be held in conjunction with the ICOM General Conference and elect its Chair for a term of three (3) years.

A person nominated by a National and/or International Committee and/or a Regional Alliance to this position must be an Individual Member of ICOM who should be or should have been already a member of the Advisory Council.

At least five (5) months prior to the date of commencement of a General Conference, the Director General shall send a call for candidacies to the ICOM Members.

The Director General must receive candidacy nominations no later than three (3) months prior to the commencement of a General Conference.

The Director General shall communicate the names of the

candidates and the biographical data, which are at their option to provide, no later than three (3) months prior to the date of opening of the General Conference.

The candidate for the Chair office having received the largest number of votes shall be declared the winning candidate, provided that he/she obtains more than fifty per cent (50%) of the votes in the first voting round.

In the event that no candidate receives more than fifty per cent (50%) of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated and a further vote taken for the remaining candidates, and so on until one candidate receives more than fifty per cent (50%) of the votes cast, who shall then be declared elected.

4.2.2 Election of the Vice-Chair

The Advisory Council shall elect a Vice-Chair from among its members.

The candidate for the Vice-Chair who receives the largest number of votes shall be declared the winning candidate.

4.2.3 Election of the Spokespersons for the National and the International Committees

Both the separate meeting of the National Committees and the meeting of the International Committees shall elect a spokesperson at the first meeting after the General Conference. Each spokesperson will serve until the first meeting after the next General Conference. A spokesperson can be re-elected once.

Only individual members who are current or former chair of a National Committee or an International Committee respectively are eligible. Candidacies may be announced in advance or be presented at the separate meeting. At each meeting the candidate who receives the largest number of votes shall be declared the winner.