

Report for the 2023 financial year by the Treasurer General of ICOMOS by Cyrill von Planta

The financial year of 2023 had no particular events that significantly altered the financial situation. Changes could be absorbed by shifting and adapting within the approved budget.

Supplementary to the additional comments provided on the financial statements it is important to highlight the developments around projects run through the secretariat. In 2023 the steep raises in utility, maintenance and salary costs have shown that such (unexpected) increases can only be absorbed by retrenchments up to a certain extent. Potential to save is limited and the contract with UNESCO concerning World Heritage activities remains a zero-sum situation. In order not to touch the membership fees (the raise adopted at the AGA in Bangkok in 2022 will only come into effect in 2024) the secretariat has focused on the development of new projects with partners all around the world. The overhead of such projects will help fund the activities of ICOMOS. That entails that additional staff will have to be hired to manage these projects and that the balance sheet will grow considerably as these funds flow through ICOMOS accounts. Signs of this are visible in the budgets for 2024 and 2025 as well as the news of these projects through our communication channels. Many of these projects offer valuable opportunities for members to get engaged in a wide array of activities and for ICOMOS to get exposure to a wider audience.

On the issue of membership fees, a resolution has been adopted at the 2023 GA in Sydney “to examine the structure, levels and distribution of membership fees and make recommendations for the improvement of a fairer membership fee structure” (resolution 21GA 2023/19). A working group has been established representing the global diversity of the ICOMOS membership and it is working to provide a first report to the AGA 2024 for further discussion.

Henri Verrier, who is the accountant of ICOMOS, will step back from his office at the end of February 2025 after 39 years of service to our organisation. This is the opportunity to express my great gratitude and respect for his loyalty and hard work for the members of our organisation. I also personally owe him a lot for his enthusiasm and dedication helping me to understand ICOMOS and its financial workings. I wish him all the best for his retirement.