



REPORT FROM THE INTERIM BOARD FOR THE PERIOD 2014 – 2017

1.0 THE INTERIM BOARD 2014-2017

1.1 Membership

Interim President

Karl von Habsburg-Lothringen

Institutional representatives

ICA David Leitch (replaced in August 2017 by Emilie Gagnet Leumas)

ICOM France Desmarais

ICOMOS Bijan Rouhani

IFLA Julia Brungs (replaced in June 2017 by Gerald Leitner)

Individual members

Christophe Jacobs (France)

Lidia Klupsz (Poland)

Axel Mykleby (Norway) Interim Treasurer

Robyn Riddett (Australia)

Peter Stone (UK) Interim Secretary

Nancy Wilkie (USA)

- 1.2 The Interim Board has met mainly via Skype and, since September 2016, has developed a series of (almost) monthly Skype meetings. We have not been able to instigate the planned monthly up-date for national committees and the founding organisations following these meetings but we hope this can be put into place by the new Board. The following have been the main topics of discussion and activity. Some members of the Interim Board were able to meet in Newcastle in November 2014.

2.0 STATUTES

- 2.1 Following the agreement in January 2014 that the ICBS and ANCBS would merge it was acknowledged that a new set of Statutes would be needed for the amalgamated organisation – The Blue Shield. As the ICBS had never been created as a legal entity, legal advice suggested that the new Statutes should be a revision of the existing Statutes of the ANCBS.
- 2.2 At the 2014 General Assembly held in Rome a set of draft Statutes were agreed by those national committees and founding organisations present. At the end of the General Assembly it was noted that these would have to be checked with Dutch lawyers. The President offered the services of his own Dutch lawyers.
- 2.3 After detailed discussion with the lawyers, representatives of the founding four organisations, and the Board elected at the Rome General Assembly, various drafts of the revised Statutes were circulated to national committees and the founding organisations for comment. Following this process the revised Statutes were finally signed by the President in The Hague on 6 April 2016.
- 2.4 While there were a number of changes made for legal reasons and for clarification, the main difference between the version agreed in Rome and the new Statutes is the reduction of individual members on the Board from 6 to 4. This was at the request of the four founding organisations and, additionally, makes that practical arrangement of the Board easier. On legal

advice those elected in Rome have been regarded as an Interim Board until the next General Assembly where elections should be held for a new Board and President.

3.0 THE BLUE SHIELD APPROACH

- 3.1 Over the last three years a number of comments have been made by external colleagues and organisations along the lines of *“But what is the Blue Shield? What does it do?”* It was also very clear that a number of national committees were interpreting their role in very different ways. The latter is not a problem, nor unexpected given the particular circumstances facing different countries. However, it did make it difficult for external colleagues to get a full and clear picture of our activities and aspirations.
- 3.2 The need for some form of doctrine/policy was discussed by the Interim Board and at the Milan meeting of national committees in 2016. This doctrine/policy was renamed ‘The Blue Shield Approach’ and a sub-committee of the Interim Board worked on numerous drafts with advice and comment from external colleagues and organisations. As stressed in the document, the Approach is intended to provide an overall framework for the activities of the Blue Shield Board, any Blue Shield staff, and all national committees. It clarifies where the Blue Shield touches on, complements, and extends, rather than replicates, the activities of other international organisations such as UNESCO and ICCROM as well as those of the founding four organisations. It is not intended to be restrictive, telling the international Board or national committees what they should, and should not, do. Rather it is intended to provide a context for the Board and national committees and provides a common, shared agenda.
- 3.3 A draft was circulated for consultation/comment to all national committees in July 2017 and a revised version based on these comments will be circulated before the General Assembly. Most of a day has been set-aside for discussion of the Approach and its implications at the General Assembly. The Interim Board hopes the Approach will be agreed by the General Assembly and that the newly elected Board will be able to use it as the basis for a Blue Shield strategic plan, for the new website (although using significantly shorter, more user-friendly language), and for the production of other publicity materials.
- 3.4 It is also hoped that with this, and a strategic plan, in place we will be more attractive to potential funders.

4.0 NEW WEBSITE

- 4.1 With the amalgamation of the ICBS and ANCBS it is clear the new organisation needs a new website. Colleagues in Lebanon offered to develop a new site and the Interim Board developed a basic design brief for them. There will be a short presentation of the proposed site at the General Assembly. It will have the facility for national committees to develop national committee websites that reflect the design of the main proposed site and that will have the facility of being remotely up-dated with general information.
- 4.2 The Interim Board would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to the Dutch national committee, and in particular to Angela Dellebeke, for maintaining the ANCBS website over the years and in particular for keeping it going until the new website comes on-line – we hope by the end of 2017 at the latest.

5.0 THE 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 5.1 A lot of time has been spent on planning for the 2017 General Assembly. Initially this related to the competition for hosting the General Assembly; more recently this has focussed on the

programme. Please see for details of the General Assembly <http://www.ancbs.org/cms/en/home2/87-ga-blue-shield-vienna>

6.0 DEVELOPMENT OF NEW NATIONAL COMMITTEES

- 6.1 A number of countries are in the process of establishing new national committees. We are very aware that this has sometimes taken too long and that feedback has been less than anyone would have liked. We are very grateful to ICOM, and in particular France Desmarais, for trying to support this work. We are making particular efforts to ensure that as many of the current 'committees under development' will be processed before the 2017 General Assembly to ensure they can play a full part in the proceedings – including voting for the new Board.
- 6.2 The Interim Board will be making recommendations to the new Board as to how this process may be streamlined and made more efficient and a report will be made to the General Assembly.

7.0 ACCREDITATION AND OTHER COMMITTEES

- 7.1 We are receiving a number of requests to accredit university and other training programmes relating to CPP. The President has taken an *ad hoc* view on these requests but is keen for a committee to be created to standardise our reaction and develop a clear decision-making process. It might also be sensible to create some other sub-committees – for example relating to emergency missions.

8.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL OFFICE FOR THE BLUE SHIELD

- 8.1 It has been a long-held aspiration to be in a position to establish a central office with a paid staff for The Blue Shield. Without such a facility we will never be in a position to support national committees as we would all wish or to have an effective impact on the internal CPP agenda.
- 8.2 Members of the Interim Board met with a potential independent foundation in November 2014 that had expressed some interest in possibly funding such a centre or other work of the Blue Shield. After prolonged discussion during 2015 the funder decided to allocate resources elsewhere.
- 8.3 An application was encouraged by the British Council (the managers of the UK's Cultural Protection Fund [CPF]) and submitted to the CPF but the application was deemed not to be compliant with Overseas Development Assistance rules.
- 8.4 The Interim Secretary was appointed in 2016 as a UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection & Peace at Newcastle University, UK. One of the objectives of the Chair is the: "establishment of an effective international Blue Shield". Newcastle University has just provided (June 2017) funding for 1.5 staff, until 31 December 2019 (when the first four year term of the Chair finishes), to support the work of the UNESCO Chair. Both of these posts will be able to work on behalf of The Blue Shield. This is by no means a long-term solution, but provides a basis from which to build.
- 8.5 The Interim Secretary is also in discussion with the UK Government over the possibility of funding for a Blue Shield central office.

Peter Stone
Interim Secretary
17/8/17