

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
June 20, 2020

To: Members of the ICOM Executive Board

Subject: Resignation from my role as Ordinary Member of the ICOM Executive Board

Dear colleagues,

As the leading organization of museums and museum professionals, ICOM has gained relevance on the international stage in the confrontation of the issues faced by today's museums and museum professionals. They encounter challenges, which have become more complex now with the current pandemic crisis.

My professional life has been enriched by my membership in ICOM. It has been a reference when it comes to incorporating ethical principles and international best practices; it has helped me enrich my knowledge, share my work, and expand my network. I have served ICOM at different levels, from the ICOM Dominican Republic National Committee to the ICOM Executive Board. In the latter, I have the honor of having been elected to serve as Ordinary Member in the term 2016-2019, and once more for the term 2019-2022. Additionally, I have been appointed by the President to serve in the SAREC on those terms.

The regrettable resignations of the Chair of the MDPP2, Jette Sandhal, and various of its members, the resignation of Board Member, Leontine Meijer-van Mensch, and the resignation of ICOM President Suay Aksoy, point out to serious problems in our governance. These include matters of institutional policy: there must be a clear separation between the functions of the Executive Board and staff members, in which the latter shall not get involved in the policies of the Executive Board.

Today, the Executive Board sent out messages and communications were posted in relation to the recent resignation of ICOM President Suay Aksoy and the appointment of the new President. I did not express my comments or endorsement of any of them. Therefore, I was surprised to see my name listed at the bottom of the messages, as I did not give my approval.

I am not comfortable anymore being a Member of the ICOM Executive Board.

I am hereby presenting my resignation as Ordinary Member of the ICOM Executive Board, effective immediately. This resignation is extensive to my appointment in the SAREC.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues of the Executive Board, and former ICOM President Suay Aksoy. Very special thanks to all the members of the ICOM community, who elected me.

Sincerely,



Hilda Abreu de Utermohlen