

**XXXVIIIth International Conference of the Round Table on Archives (CITRA)
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 27 November – 1st December 2005**

Resolutions

The national archivists and presidents of national professional associations, members of the International Council on Archives (ICA), meeting in Abu Dhabi on the occasion of the XXXVIIIth International Conference of the Round Table on Archives (CITRA),

1. General Resolutions

1.1 Acknowledging that without well processed and accessible records and archives, the memory essential to the Information Society is at risk,

Urge the bodies responsible for the follow up to the World Summit on the Information Society held in Tunis, to ensure that they also take into account the need to preserve and make accessible permanently all types of records, both traditional and digital;

Support the *Alexandria Manifesto on Libraries, The Information Society in Action*¹, adopted by IFLA, 11 November 2005 and approve its final recommendations.

1.2 Considering the adoption by the UNESCO General Conference in October 2005 of a proposal for the creation of an International Day on Audiovisual Archives October 27, and the necessity of having a global approach on the subject of archives, whatever their medium or nature,

Ask UNESCO not to limit the scope of this Day only to audiovisual archives, but to widen it to all archives as a basis for the memory of mankind.

2. Resolutions on Good Governance and Development

2.1 Considering the UN Declaration on the Objectives of the Millennium that links the development and the eradication of poverty to good governance and transparency, the efforts of the World Bank and of the other sponsors to fight corruption, and the social, political and economic cost of neglect and disorder of records in organizations and the benefits to be derived from good records management in respect of efficiency, productivity and accountability,

Request that the bodies responsible for assisting developing countries

- seek the support of archival institutions to fight corruption and to promote good governance and, towards that goal, to encourage and help governments to put in place national archival policies,

¹ www.ifla.org/III/wsis/AlexandriaManifesto.htm

- include in their assistance programmes a mandatory article on adequate records management and the need to be accountable, in order to ensure the efficiency of these programmes,
- consider the International Council on Archives as a privileged partner in the conception and implementation of these programmes,

Invite all governments, particularly those of developing countries, to implement a genuine archival policy conforming to international conventions by adopting laws and by putting in place national archival systems that allow the control of records at all phases of their lifespan and by giving institutions responsible for archives the means to do so.

Invite governments and international bodies to include records management in their control and evaluation process for their activities and programmes.

2.2 Considering the rapid development of e-government and e-commerce globally in an environment of constant technological change, particularly in public administration, et the real danger of amnesia caused by failure to capture, manage and preserve digital records,

Call on all governments to recognize the leadership of archival institutions and organizations and to adopt legislative and regulatory measures, giving them the necessary authority in these matters,

Call on all archival institutions to be active advocates for embedding best practice electronic record-keeping for the management and governance of organisations which are implementing e-government and e-business in their countries.

2.3 Considering the uncontrolled development of electronic systems for the management of personal data, and the risks that unauthorised communication poses to privacy,

Request the governments that have not already done so to adopt legislative provisions to ensure the protection of individual privacy,

3. Resolution on the Social Responsibility of Corporations

Considering the potential impact of mergers, acquisitions and other consequences of business globalization on the individual and collective memory, as well as their cultural heritage, the efforts of the United Nations, through their Global Pact initiative, to encourage businesses to meet their social responsibilities, and the benefits that businesses may get from the appropriate records management of their records with regard to efficiency, legal security, productivity and quality of services,

Invite businesses, more particularly the multinationals,

- to acquire a good information and records management system, that reinforce the trust that society places in them.

- to meet their responsibilities towards the countries and societies in which they operate, by including articles in the merger/purchase contracts, guaranteeing the protection of and access to archives and records.

Request the International Organization of Employers and economic leaders of the world to take into account, the issue of the keeping of archives in the implementation of *ISO 9000* standards on quality management in organizations and preparation of the *ISO 26000* standard that pertains to the societal responsibilities of businesses.

Agree to share their experience and their expertise with them.

4. Resolution on Disaster Prevention and Recovery

Having learnt from the experience of recent disasters and noting that the prevention of disasters is less costly than reconstruction,

Ask relevant organizations of the UN system, notably ICCROM, and other international organizations, such as the International Committees of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, to help the International Committee of the Blue Shield to pursue and intensify its efforts in the prevention of disasters and the recovery from damages.

Recommend national members of ICA to create a national committee of the Blue Shield in their country, in order to protect the cultural heritage in the case of conflicts and national disasters.

Invite the European Union to give the necessary means for the implementation of the Commission's Recommendation annexed to the Report on archives in the European Union adopted on November 14, 2005.

5. Resolutions on Archives in Africa

5.1 **Reaffirm** the Africa Archives Agenda, as outlined in Declarations made in Cape Town CITRA 2003 and in Vienna International Congress on Archives 2004

5.2 **urge** the authorities of NEPAD and the African Union to give urgent attention to the implementation of that agenda.

Resolutions addressed to ICA

1. **Ask** the Presidential Committee of ICA in charge of the follow up of the World Summit on the Information Society to keep reminding the bodies in charge of the implementation of the commitments made at the Summit in Tunis, that there is a vital necessity in the preservation of information for the long term.

2. **Ask** the Programme Commission to launch a pilot project with the aim of establishing on the ICA Web site a clearing house providing advice, guidelines and examples of good practices for the prevention of disasters and reconstruction.

Ask the Executive Committee to assign the necessary means to this priority project.

3. Considering the reflections of the National Archivists of French-speaking Africa and the Indian Ocean concerning the opportunity to create a professional forum for those countries working in French, and, in particular, in West- and Central Africa, the difficulties currently facing the branches in this part of the continent regarding meaningful professional collaboration on the one hand, and effective participation in ICA's governance and professional structures on the other,

Request the Executive Board to take up this matter, and to come forward with a solution at the AGM 2006 that will guarantee sufficient opportunity for professional cooperation between all of the countries concerned, as well as providing meaningful geographical representation in the governance and professional structures of ICA.

Votes of Thanks

4. Thank the speakers, especially those outside the profession, and participants whose contribution enabled stimulating professional discussions.
5. Thank the Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie for financing the participation in the conference of several French-speaking directors of African national archives and supporting the development of archives in French-speaking Africa.
6. Express their gratitude to the Government of the United Arab Emirates, to the Center of Documentation and Research, its Director and his team, for their generosity and their hospitality, and their organization of the meeting.