

ICOM RUSSIA **РОССИЙСКИЙ КОМИТЕТ МЕЖДУНАРОДНОГО СОВЕТА МУЗЕЕВ**

Ref. N. 56

To: Dr. Hans-Martin Hinz,
President of ICOM
All ICOM members and museum workers
from all over the world
05. 03. 2014

Subject: ICOM Russia Statement

Dear Dr. Hans-Martin Hinz,

Dear colleagues,

Thank you very much for your concerned letter.

Russian Committee of the International Council of Museums is a non-governmental organization that works according to the National and International law, ICOM Statutes and ICOM code of ethics for museums.

As well as our colleagues from ICOM Ukraine, ICOM and ICBS we would like to express our concern regarding protection of the cultural and natural heritage in Ukraine. We would also like to point out that cultural heritage should not be used to escalate tension. We would like to underline that in our point of view all controversies should be resolved only by negotiations and according to International law. Both ICOM Russia and ICOM Ukraine should make all possible efforts to prevent development of the conflict, because one of our main aims is to preserve the heritage, institutions that keep it and the people who care for it. We would like to thank all countries and organizations that are alarmed with this situation and we hope that all these circumstances will not influence our professional relationships and connections with colleagues from Ukraine and other countries.

ICOM Russia is ready to be a part of the international work group that could monitor the situation in the sphere of cultural heritage preservation, if there is a need for this. However, we hope that this difficult situation will be resolved soon and we will be able to continue working with our colleagues and friends from Ukraine.

ICOM Russia would like to confirm that all international meetings, conferences and workshops that have been planned for this year in different parts of Russia will be

held exactly on time and in accordance with the previous agreements and plans. The situation we have just faced has shown us how fragile peace is, and this, I believe, could be an issue to discuss during our meetings.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Blumenthal', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Vladimir Tolstoy,

ICOM Russia President,

Adviser to the President of the Russian Federation on culture and arts