

**CANDIDATE FOR THE BOARD OF ICOMOS  
CANDIDAT AU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE L'ICOMOS**

**CHAIWA CHILANGWA**

**ZAMBIA – ZAMBIE**



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I am a Heritage Conservator, Registered Architect and Project Manager with a Masters degree in World Heritage and Cultural Projects for Development. Currently serving as the Vice President representing Africa, I have spearheaded various meetings and activities within the Africa Region in an aim to promote and conserve Africa's heritage. I have also served as a Commissioner on the Culture and Heritage Commission of the African Union of Architects and been serving as the Cultural Heritage Expert representing the State Party of Zambia on the World Heritage Committee from 2022.

**PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA**

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It has been a privilege to serve on the ICOMOS Board first as an Invited Expert (2020–2023) and since 2023, as Vice President for the Africa Region. These roles have given me both an insider's understanding of the governance responsibilities of the Board and a deep appreciation of the trust placed in me to steward ICOMOS' global mission. I am seeking re-election to continue strengthening our organisation with experience, continuity and strategic focus.

My service as Vice President has reinforced my conviction that ICOMOS must remain both globally coherent and regionally responsive. Africa's heritage landscape is rich, complex and rapidly evolving. At the same time, our region faces structural

challenges limited resources, capacity gaps, underrepresentation within international heritage platforms and the urgent need for systematic documentation. My candidacy is grounded in the belief that strengthening Africa strengthens ICOMOS as a whole.

I am a Registered Architect with specialized training in World Heritage systems and cultural heritage preservation. For over a decade, I have worked in heritage conservation across multiple areas: heritage impact assessments, environmental impact reviews, condition assessments, conservation planning, visual impact assessments and the preparation of valorisation proposals for heritage sites. My work has also involved documentation, interpretation and raising awareness the value of heritage structures and cultural landscapes. This technical grounding allows me to contribute substantively to Board deliberations, particularly where professional standards, evaluation and policy intersect.

Beyond technical expertise, I bring governance experience. As Vice President, I have worked to enhance coordination between the Africa Region, the International Scientific Committees (ISCs), and the ICOMOS Secretariat. I have actively promoted structured engagement platforms to ensure that African members, especially emerging professionals, are not only participants but contributors to global discourse. I have also initiated discussions around the establishment of a Working Group on Emerging Technologies in the African context, recognizing the transformative role that digital documentation, remote sensing, AI-supported inventory systems and virtual engagement can play in contexts where resources are constrained.

Increasing representation of ICOMOS members from Africa and African sites requires deliberate strategy: capacity-building for nomination processes, stronger regional peer networks, mentorship in evaluation and advisory work and sustained engagement with ISCs. During my next term, I intend to consolidate structured mentorship pathways linking experienced ICOMOS experts with emerging professionals in Africa and other underrepresented regions. This approach not only strengthens Africa but also broadens ICOMOS' global talent base.

Another priority is resource mobilization. The long-term sustainability of ICOMOS depends on diversifying funding streams beyond traditional models. Over the next three years, I will actively support Board efforts to explore new avenues of fundraising that align with our ethical framework and professional independence. This includes fostering partnerships that support research, documentation, training and digital innovation, while safeguarding ICOMOS' credibility and advisory role.

Documentation is another area where I see both urgency and opportunity in the Africa region. Across many countries, significant heritage remains undocumented or insufficiently recorded, limiting both protection and advocacy. As Vice President, I will continue promoting regional initiatives that prioritize systematic documentation and knowledge-sharing. Heritage that is not identified and recorded cannot be effectively protected. Strengthening documentation practices enhances risk preparedness, supports impact assessment and contributes to more inclusive narratives of heritage.

Within ICOMOS, I have been an active member since 2016 and a member of the International Scientific Committee on Places of Religion and Ritual (PRERICO) since 2018. Outside ICOMOS, I represent Zambia as a cultural heritage expert on the World Heritage Committee and serve on the Culture and Heritage Commission of the

African Union of Architects. These roles position me at the intersection of policy, professional practice, and international cooperation, an intersection that is directly relevant to Board-level governance.

My leadership philosophy is collaborative, transparent and results-oriented. I believe in structured consultation, clarity in communication and accountability in delivering commitments. If re-elected, I will continue to attend and actively contribute to all Bureau and Board meetings, upholding the governance responsibilities entrusted to me. Continuity at this stage is critical: initiatives underway require consolidation, institutional memory must be preserved and the Africa Region's integration into broader ICOMOS strategy must deepen rather than restart.

I respectfully seek your support to continue serving as a member of the ICOMOS Board and as Vice President for Africa. Together, we can strengthen our organisation, broaden participation, and ensure that ICOMOS remains a dynamic, responsive and authoritative voice for cultural heritage worldwide.

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

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### **Experience**

My professional heritage experience has involved formulation of proposals for the valorisation of heritage sites, condition assessments of heritage buildings, preparation of preliminary assessment requests, heritage research and visual impact assessments for heritage where new developments are proposed.

I have contributed to pivotal international platforms such as Mondiacult, the Africa Climate Summit, Africa 24 Conference and the International Conference on Cultural Heritage in Africa. During these platforms part of my contribution has been to advocate for the integration of culture as a global public good within the development agenda and to help shape the discourse for the implementation of the Priority Africa strategy.

### **Key Qualifications**

- Master in World Heritage and Cultural Projects for Development
- Bachelor of Architecture
- Certificate in the Conservation of Built Heritage

