

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

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GREECE - GRECE



PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA

Cultural Heritage has always been an invaluable resource for humanity, serving both as a profound spiritual asset and a driver of sustainable development. It constitutes a critical, non-renewable resource with cultural, social, environmental, and economic dimensions. Its protection requires systematic, science-based approaches that integrate documentation, risk assessment, conservation, and sustainable management.

This is particularly evident and evident in regions and countries with long cultural histories, such as Greece, but also across the world, where rich and diverse heritage continues to shape identity, memory, and resilience and where heritage assets face increasing and compound risks. Within this context, ICOMOS and its National Committees, such as e.g. Hellenic ICOMOS, play a key role in supporting the States and humanity in safeguarding this legacy

Today, despite unprecedented access to information and communication, Cultural Heritage is exposed to increasingly complex and interrelated threats. Climate change, natural hazards, urban expansion, war conflicts, and insufficient awareness are no longer isolated challenges; they interact, amplify risks, and accelerate deterioration processes. Climate-driven impacts,

such as extreme weather events, temperature variability, and environmental stress, are already affecting monuments and sites worldwide, often in ways that are gradual, cumulative, and difficult to detect without systematic observation.

Addressing these challenges requires a shift from reactive approaches to proactive, risk-informed strategies, grounded in scientific knowledge and supported by robust data. A central priority is the proactive identification, documentation, and protection of endangered heritage, whether it concerns globally recognised World Heritage Sites or locally significant monuments, because each loss represents an irreplaceable erosion of our collective memory. ICOMOS is uniquely positioned to lead this transition by strengthening its technical capacity and reinforcing its role as a global reference for evidence-based heritage protection, and it must remain at the forefront of global efforts to raise awareness and guide coordinated action.

A critical lesson from past and recent destructions is that effective protection depends on knowledge: understanding risks, vulnerabilities, and the behaviour of both natural and human-induced threats. A key component of this effort is comprehensive and systematic documentation. Despite being a fundamental principle since the 1964 Venice Charter, documentation is still not consistently implemented at the level required. Today, however, we have the tools to significantly improve this situation. Advanced technologies, such as photogrammetry, laser scanning, remote sensing, GIS, and HBIM, allow us to create accurate, scalable, and updatable records of heritage assets. Science and engineering disciplines are therefore essential to the mission of ICOMOS and should be strongly represented at the highest levels of decision-making.

Contemporary digital technologies can fundamentally transform and enhance the protection of Cultural Heritage, as they allow for precise, scalable, and cost-effective documentation and monitoring of heritage sites. More importantly, these technologies enable a transition from static documentation to dynamic information systems. Through the integration of multi-source data, we can monitor changes over time, detect early signs of deterioration, and support predictive analysis. Digital twins and simulation models allow us to assess potential impacts of hazards and test mitigation strategies before damage occurs. In high-risk environments, whether due to natural disasters or conflict, these tools are essential for rapid assessment, informed intervention, and recovery planning. However, technology alone is not sufficient. Its effective use depends on standards, coordination, and accessibility. One of the key roles ICOMOS can play is to ensure that technological advancements are translated into widely applicable methods. This includes developing guidelines, promoting interoperability of data, and supporting capacity building so that all regions, not only those with advanced resources, can benefit.

In my capacity as Executive Committee member of CIPA – Heritage Documentation, I have actively contributed to advancing this agenda through initiatives such as interdisciplinary meetings during the past ICOMOS General Assemblies and the organisation of international training schools, mainly across Europe and Asia, which have focused on disseminating knowledge, strengthening global capacity and promoting the adoption of modern

documentation techniques. These initiatives have demonstrated that when knowledge is shared and adapted to local contexts, it can significantly enhance heritage protection and human awareness. Equally important is the development of integrated management plans based on multidisciplinary collaboration, active community engagement, and implementation of contemporary technologies. Whether in dense urban environments or remote regions, sustainable heritage protection depends on informed, inclusive, and context-sensitive strategies.

If elected to the ICOMOS Board, I will continue working to strengthen the organisation's impact by focusing on these key priorities:

- Promoting the strategic integration of digital technologies in heritage protection and into ICOMOS guidance and practice
- Enhancing collaboration across disciplines and International Scientific Committees
- Expanding international collaboration and knowledge exchange in remote areas of the world
- Expanding capacity building and knowledge transfer, particularly in regions facing increased risks
- Advancing risk-based, preventive approaches to heritage protection
- Supporting the development of international standards and protocols for documentation and data management
- Contributing to the alignment of ICOMOS actions with global agendas on climate change and disaster risk reduction

ICOMOS has a unique strength: its global network of experts, combining scientific knowledge with practical experience. By reinforcing this strength and ensuring that it is effectively mobilised, we can respond more efficiently to current and emerging challenges. I am fully committed to serving ICOMOS with dedication, actively contributing to its mission, and supporting its members worldwide. I will fully engage in Board responsibilities and work collaboratively to advance the protection of our shared Cultural Heritage.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Andreas Georgopoulos is emeritus Professor of Photogrammetry and Monument Recording of the School of Rural, Surveying & Geoinformatics Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA). He holds a Diploma of Surveying (NTUA 1976), an MSc (1977) and a PhD (1981) in Photogrammetry from University College London. He has been teaching Photogrammetry and Documentation of Monuments at undergraduate and postgraduate levels since 1980 at UCL, NTUA and as a visiting professor in KULeuven (RLICC), CUT (Dept. of Civil & Geomatics Eng.) and the University of the Aegean. He has been Vice-Head (1998-2002) and Head (2002-2006) of the School

of Rural & Surveying Eng. and a member of the Research Committee of NTUA since 1999. He has been an active member of ICOMOS Hellenic since 2004. He has been an elected member of the ICOMOS Board since 2020. Since 2005 he has been an Expert member of the Executive Board of CIPA-Heritage Documentation, ISC of ICOMOS and has served as Secretary General (2010-2014), President (2014-2019) when he had the initiative to reform and update CIPA-HD Statutes in 2017-19, Vice President (2019-2023) and currently is Co-Chair of Commission III on Education. He organised and participated in 15 CIPA Schools in Italy, Spain, Cyprus, Georgia, China, Croatia, S. Korea, the Philippines, Greece, Austria and Nepal and contributed to the 3-ISC meeting in ICOMOS GA in New Delhi. As CIPA-HD President, he supported the adoption of the Seville Principles by ICOMOS and lately has worked for the update of the CIPA recording Principles, which will be presented to ICOMOS GA 2026 for adoption. Since 1985, he has participated in more than 50 research projects of the Lab of Photogrammetry concerning Digital Photogrammetry and Monument documentation. He has published approx. 320 scientific papers in international journals and conference proceedings. His research interests focus on 3D modelling of cultural heritage, photogrammetric automation, and digital contemporary techniques.