



The 2006 Hague Blue Shield Accord 28th September 2006

The representatives from ICBS and National Blue Shield committees met in The Hague on September 27th and 28th 2006 to discuss and agree on the most effective way to support the new International Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, established under the Second Protocol of the 1954 Hague Convention, and how best to respond to the generous offer of funding and facilities made by the Municipality of The Hague. They agreed upon the creation of a new body - the Association of National Committees of the Blue Shield - and the following distribution of responsibilities:

The National committees

Define their own priorities within the mission of the Blue Shield

Are action orientated with practical projects, capacity building and raising the profile of emergency management (preparedness, response, recovery and evaluation/review)

Will initiate, organize and maintain national, regional and local networks based on the networks of the 5 international NGOs including representatives of /observers from military authorities, emergency services, cultural organisations, civil emergency services, Red Cross and other relevant humanitarian organisations promote ratification and full national implementation by Government of the 1954 Hague Convention and its protocols need to be recognized by the ICBS use of the term National Committee of the Blue Shield (NCBS) is conditional on the continued recognition of the national committee by the ICBS Must be set up in such a way as to conform to national legislation

Promote the aims of Blue Shield

with national governments including identifying relevant resources

Fundraising

National awareness raising and capacity building

The Association of National Committees of the Blue Shield (ANCBS)

Serves as communication centre, archive and resource base for ICBS and National Blue Shield committees and facilitate communication between the three levels of the Blue Shield movement in a systematic way.

- Provides a permanent postal address for ICBS and the ANCBS
- Promotes awareness raising, capacity building, preparedness, response and recovery at national and international level

- Promotes awareness of issues to decision makers and potential funders at all levels
- Facilitates creation of national networks in areas where BS committees do not yet exist
- Promotes bilateral and multilateral assistance systems between committees and emerging committees
- Coordinates and disseminate information on international actions
- Sets up a website containing access points to relevant databases (training, resources, specialists, conferences) with interactive links to other databases
- Promotes Blue Shield brand by re-labelling projects wherever possible
- Undertakes fundraising to sustain the costs of the secretariat and to make funds available for agreed projects
- Supports proactively ICBS and national BS committees in their activities
- Assists ICBS in fulfilling its role under the Second Protocol
- Promotes training for peacekeeping and other forces
- Identifies 'champions' and other key supporters / influencers at international level who can be approached in a coordinated fashion by ICBS/ANCBS
- Supports together with ICBS the creation of database of specialists who could be authorized by UNESCO and combatants

Process

The ANCBS board will be comprised of representatives of the national committees and observers of the ICBS.

ANCBS is authorized to employ a secretariat.

International Committee of the Blue Shield

Agreement on Purpose and Functions

Concluded by the representatives of IFLA (Peter Lor, Sjoerd Koopman, Christiane Baryla), ICA (Joan van Albada, David Leitch), ICOMOS (Gaia Jungeblodt), ICOM (John Zvereff, Cristina Menegazzi) and CCAAA (Crispin Jewitt, Kurt Deggeller) - The Hague, 25 September 2006 and amended 28 th September 2006 (SC, JZ, KD, GJ, SK, JvA)

This statement builds on the founding objectives of the ICBS of April 1996 and its Charter concluded in Strasbourg on 14 April 2000 - <http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/admin/nc-req.htm>

Purpose

To promote the protection of cultural property (as defined in the Hague Convention) against threats of all kinds and intervene strategically with decision makers and relevant international organisations to prevent and to respond to natural and man made disasters

Functions

- To promote the ratification and implementation of the Hague Convention and its protocols, with the emphasis on advocating ICBS's philosophy and principles

- To encourage the establishment of national Blue Shield Committees
- To recognise/de-recognise national Blue Shield Committees
- To represent the Blue Shield at UNESCO, and in particular to participate in the Committee established by the 2 nd protocol of the Hague Convention and in other work associated with this Protocol, and to maintain relations other international agencies
- To liaise with ICRC (Red Cross)and ICCROM, as other bodies referred to in the 2 nd Protocol, and with other high-level bodies
- In combination with the Association of Blue Shield National Committees, to ensure the running of an information clearing house on disaster situations and threats, with a view to international alerting
- To issue statements on disaster situations and threats
- To arbitrate in disputes of national Blue Shield committees
- To provide expert advice and evidence to the International Criminal Court and other international tribunals in conjunction with national committees as required

Governance

The ICBS is constituted by the chief executive officers of the participating international organisations, CCAAA, ICA, ICOM, ICOMOS and IFLA, with a rotating Chair.

The Chair provides a secretariat for core ICBS functions only , with support from the other organisations as appropriate.

ACTION AND TIMETABLE

A working committee will be composed (the president of ICBS serving as coordinator) from among the local organizers (incl. PCF/CER), the national committees and ICBS.

The committee will report back to all by 1 December on progress.

The committee will call a meeting in March/April 2007 for final discussion on ratification of articles and agree details regarding secretariat (housing, staffing, sustainable funding)

Those signing this Accord or adhering to it later are expected to provide input and feedback at all stages.