**Recommendations Working Group 2**

**Preserving the Environment and Local Traditions in Emergency Preparedness and Response**

**Definition**

Considering that cultural heritage is a product of the environment and local traditions, it is necessary to consider the importance and potential of these when preparing practical and acceptable plans in response to emergency situations.

**Statement**

Recognising the importance of cultural heritage, local, regional, national, and international institutions, organisations, international charters and conventions should play an active role in preparing and implementing the necessary framework/guidelines required for effective implementation, with preventive measures to mitigate the risk from man-made and natural disasters and a swift and adequate response to potential disasters.

**Improvement of Risk Preparedness**

a) Strengthening institutional frameworks; 
b) funding; 
c) emergency management  
  - preventive  
  - response  
  - long-term: to ensure long-term sustainability, it is necessary to incorporate diverse traditional beliefs, practices and knowledge; 
d) research and documentation on tangible and intangible heritage, to record existing and recover lost traditions and practices that may have potential for improving policies and practices on risk preparedness; 
e) to prepare and implement an effective emergency plan, it is important to seek community participation at all levels.

Using instruments and tools to enhance the effectiveness of emergency management plans through: 
- training museum staff and local volunteers in the community; 
- mass education awareness-raising programmes using appropriate communication methods; 
- building sustainable networks and partnerships at various levels;
- using local and appropriate knowledge and technology;
- inventory and documentation of the physical conditions of the museum buildings and their environment;
- the development of international partnerships of museums and local institutional networks, as needed for the preservation of cultural heritage and exchange of experience;
- cooperation with ICOM, ICOMOS and international institutions such as ICCROM, IFLA and ICA, this being necessary to create a synergy of efforts; access to these institutions and their databases via electronic medium is also essential;
- cooperation of ICOM, ICOMOS and ICCROM with relevant external partners, such as the Getty Conservation Institute, offering possibilities for training key people and large-scale implementation of successful emergency management programmes;
- trained museum personnel and emergency services which must be available when cultural heritage is threatened in a community;
- cooperation with institutions, where conservators and conservation architects are trained, so as to broaden the scope of museum personnel in dealing with emergency situations;
- a clear demarcation of different responsibilities and activities allocated to different stakeholders in emergency management plans;
- ICOM National Committees in each country leading and coordinating the efforts and advocating emergency planning. ICOM should take the leading role in coordinating the participation of each country on a global scale in order to pursue effective emergency planning.