



International Committee of the Blue Shield

The 2006 Hague Blue Shield Accord

The representatives from ICBS and National Blue Shield committees met in The Hague on September 27th and 28th 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 agree 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 oriented with practical projects, capacity-building and raising the profile of emergency management (preparedness, response, recovery and evaluation/review),
- Will initiate, organise and maintain national, regional and local networks based on the networks of the five 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) 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 the 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 facilitates 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 disseminates 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 authorised by UNESCO and combatants.

Process:

- The ANCBS board will be comprised of representatives of the national committees and observers of the ICBS.
- ANCBS is authorised to employ a secretariat.

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[Agreement on purpose and functions](#)

Concluded by the representatives of IFLA (Peter Lo, 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, 25th September 2006 and amended 28th September 2006 (SC, JZ, KD, GJ, SK, JvA). This statement builds on the founding objectives of ICBS of April 1996 and its Charter concluded in Strasbourg on 14 April 2000.

[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' 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 Second Protocol of The Hague Convention and in other work associated with this Protocol, and to maintain relations with other international agencies,
- To liaise ICRC (Red Cross) and ICCROM, as other bodies referred to in the Second Protocol, and with other high-level bodies,
- In combination with the Association of National Committees of the Blue Shield, to ensure the running of an information clearing house on disaster situation and threats, with a view to international alerting,
- To issue statements on disaster situations and threats,
- To arbitrate in disputes of National Committees of the Blue Shield,
- 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 offices of the participating 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.