

## COMOS POLICY FOR SUBMISSIONS ON HERITAGE ISSUES

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**Proposed by:**

**Approved by:**

### **1. INTRODUCTION:**

COMOS in India is recognized as a platform comprising of experts and committed members of civil society related to the disciplines, professions and emerging focus on areas concerning to cultural and natural heritage sites of India. The goal of COMOS is to enable dialogue among this fraternity so as to contribute to the development of policies, frameworks and mechanism for conservation and management of India's diverse heritage for its people and towards raising awareness among decision makers, various interest groups from public and private organizations as well as civil society. COMOS is intrinsically linked to the mandate of ICOMOS International and hence brings to these platforms paradigms arising from the Indian context, both in theory and practice from the Indian cultural heritage fraternity.

### **2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

COMOS make formal submissions regarding government policies and other relevant issues pertaining to heritage. Through these submissions COMOS is able to express its powerful opinion and obtains an opportunity to make a formal statement on the flaws and strengths of such legislation and policies. Also, these submissions serve in lobbying for better heritage protection and management.

COMOS will only make submissions on issues where a matter of conservation, protection, restoration, rehabilitation and enhancement of historical monuments.

### **3. REQUISITION FOR COMOS SUBMISSIONS:**

#### **3.1. Single Place Issues:**

- Where the conservation of a significant place is jeopardized because the proper processes established by the relevant government or appropriate heritage agency are being superseded or not allowed to operate. In arguing for an alternative answer COMOS will emphasize issues of policy and principle.
- Where a place included on or nominated for the World Heritage List is threatened by action or inaction. Where a place of national significance is threatened by the action or inaction of the managing authority.
- Where requested, to comment on the process adopted for the assessment and conservation of a place.

- Where requested, to provide comparative international material and comment on the conservation of a place, drawing upon the knowledge and experience of other national committees.
- Where requested to advise and assist in world heritage matters, advice on new nominations, stakeholder consultations and process to operationalize the guidelines of World heritage Convention in the process of preparing nomination dossiers and management practices of sites.
- Where requested to undertake training and capacity building matters related to improved heritage management practices

### **3.2. Legislative Issues:**

Submissions on the content of heritage conservation legislation or the processes adopted to develop such legislation.

### **3.3. Administrative Issues:**

Submissions and representations on the appropriateness of administrative arrangements made to provide for the conservation of places of significance. Where requested, submissions on the operating guidelines and policies of a heritage organization.