

## ICOMOS GA2023 Cultural Safety Policy

### ***Purpose***

The ICOMOS General Assembly 2023 (GA2023) is committed to ensuring the cultural safety of all participants, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other First Peoples. This commitment is underpinned by the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP).

This policy sets out GA2023's commitment to cultural safety and requirements of participants, as well as protocols relating to the acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other First Peoples.

### ***GA2023 Indigenous Advisory Panel***

The organisation of GA2023 and the preparation of this document has been guided by the GA2023 Indigenous Advisory Panel.

### ***Application***

The Cultural Safety policy applies to conduct both at GA2023 and during communications and events in connection with GA2023, whether online or in person. This includes but is not limited to meetings, social events, and pre-and post GA2023 tours hosted or sponsored in whole or part by GA2023, wherever they take place (together referred to as Related Events).

The Cultural Safety policy applies to all participants attending or involved in any capacity in GA2023 and Related Events, including but not limited to delegates, speakers, volunteers and contractors, the International Convention Centre and their associates (together referred to as GA2023 Participants).

This policy should be read in conjunction with the ICOMOS GA2023 Code of Conduct.

### ***Cultural Safety Protocol***

GA2023 recognises and respects the diversity of cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs of all individuals in our community. We acknowledge the historical and ongoing impact of colonialism and racism on First Peoples and other marginalised groups.

GA2023 commits to ensuring a culturally safe environment that is safe for all, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other First Peoples. This means there is no assault, challenge or denial of their identity and experience.

Cultural safety is about:

- Creating an environment of mutual respect, understanding, and inclusivity.
- The experience of learning together with dignity and truly listening.
- Individuals and organisations ensuring their cultural values do not negatively impact on others, including addressing the potential for unconscious bias, racism and discrimination.
- Actively supporting self-determination for First Peoples.

### ***Why is cultural safety important?***

Cultural safety is a fundamental human right. For a fair and equitable society free from racism and discrimination, we must address the underlying causes of culturally unsafe practice.

### ***Everyone's responsibility***

Everyone has a responsibility for the cultural safety of participants in GA2023. By taking part in GA2023 or related events, you agree to act in a way that upholds our commitment to cultural safety.

### ***Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property***

Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) refers to the rights of Indigenous peoples to their cultural heritage contained in Article 31 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Ownership of any ICIP remains with the Traditional Owners or custodians of the ICIP.

### **GA2023 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols:**

GA2023 acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Owners of the place we now call Sydney.

GA2023 also acknowledges that other First Peoples may speak for Country and that sometimes the question of who speaks for Country is contested.

There are hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language groups (nations) across Australia. Aboriginal people have lived in Sydney for tens of thousands of years.

In 1788, the British established a convict outpost on the shores of Sydney Harbour. This had far-reaching and devastating impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including the occupation and appropriation of their traditional lands. Despite the destructive impact of invasion, Aboriginal culture endured and is globally recognised as one of the world's oldest living cultures.

## ***Welcome to Country***

A Welcome to Country is not the same as an Acknowledgement of Country. It provides an opportunity for the local Aboriginal people to welcome you to their Country. A Welcome to Country can only be performed by an Elder or respected person who a Traditional Owner of the land on which the Welcome takes place, and been given permission to do so.

All GA2023 major events will include a Welcome to Country.

## ***Acknowledgment of Country and Elders***

An Acknowledgement of Country, also known as Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, can be done by anyone and is a way of showing awareness of, and respect for, the Aboriginal Traditional Owners of the land on which a meeting or event is being held. For a non-Aboriginal person, or an Aboriginal person who is not a descendant of that Country, acknowledging the local Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners is a mark of respect. It is also respectful to acknowledge Elders past and present.

## ***Example of an Acknowledgement of Country:***

“I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Land we are meeting on today. I pay my respects to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all First Peoples here today.”

During GA2023, the Chair of meetings and Scientific Symposium sessions will make an Acknowledgement of Country. It will not be expected that other speakers and presenters will also acknowledge Country, but they make elect to do so. Some appropriate words will be available in every meeting room and session, but GA2023 Participants are encouraged to use the form of words that they consider appropriate.

## ***Culturally Appropriate Language***

There are many different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who speak different languages and have unique cultural practices, so we use plurals i.e. ‘peoples’ and ‘communities’.

Preferred language:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples or communities
- First Peoples of Australia
- Indigenous peoples
- Indigenous Australians
- First Nations People



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Where you feel comfortable, it is appropriate to specify the community you are referring to (eg: Gadigal people of the Eora Nation).

GA2023 acknowledges that First Peoples from other communities may have specific cultural protocols. We encourage delegates to respectfully ask people how they wish to be addressed and acknowledged.

The GA2023 Code of Conduct commits to compliance with this Cultural Safety Policy. The Code of Conduct provides information on how to make a report if this policy is seriously breached.