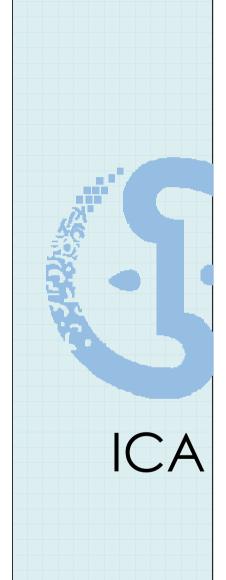


#### International Council on Archives

# ICA and its Participation In the Blue Shield network

David Leitch Secretary General, ICA



#### What is ICA?

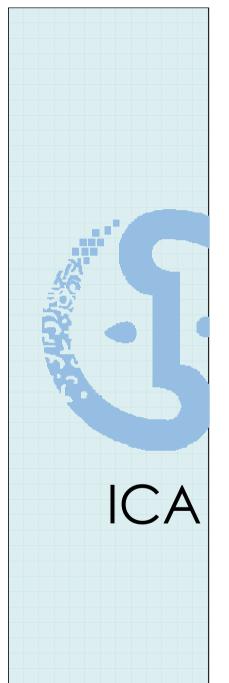
ICA is the international body that represents archives and archivists on the world stage. It is the global voice of archive institutions and professionals.



### What is ICA's Message?

Effective archives management underpins:-

- Transparency, good governance and democratic accountability
- Preservation of the memory of societies and nations
- Access to information for research and protection of rights



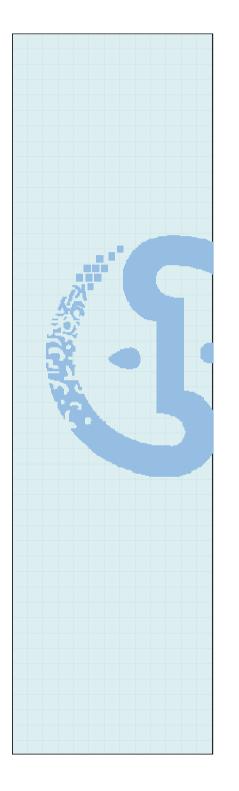
### **ICA-Key Facts**

- Founded as an international NGO at UNESCO on 9 June 1948
- Today it has over 1,400 members, institutions and individuals
- Its members are based in 195 countries and territories
- A worldwide network of volunteers
- Funded largely by membership dues
- Run from a secretariat in Paris comprising six staff



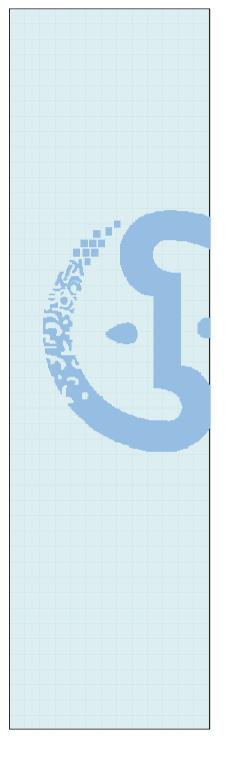
#### **ICA-Achievements**

- Provides a forum for professional discussion across political divides
- Develops standards, tools and training materials
- Runs a publications programme
- Has a powerful brand, based on its global network
- Organizes major Congresses every four years – next one is Brisbane 2012



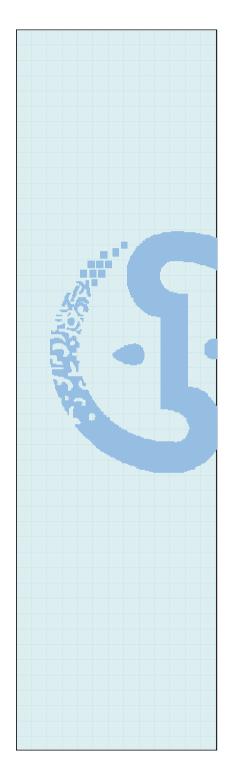
## Strategic Objectives - 1

- 1. To persuade decision-makers and the public that archives management really matters
- 2. To influence the development and use of new technologies
- 3. To increase capacity in the archives profession through training



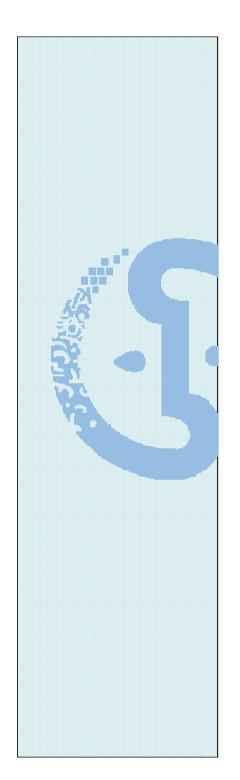
## **Strategic Objectives-2**

- 4. To strengthen the ICA network and to increase membership though improved services
- 5. To improve ICA's performance, accountability and effectiveness
- 6. To build on existing partnerships and create new ones, so that ICA has more influence and access to greater resources



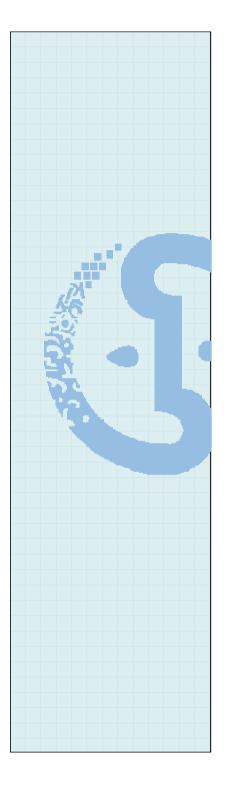
### What is the Blue Shield?

The symbol specified in 1954
Hague Convention for
marking cultural property and
to give them protection for
attack during armed conflict



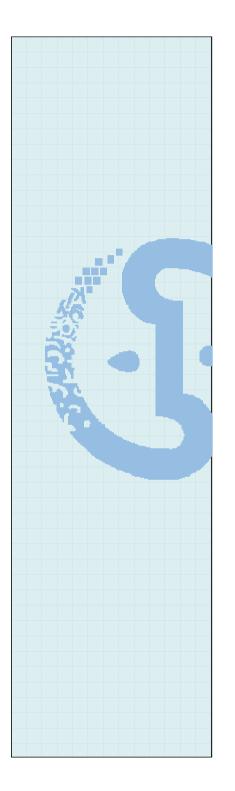
# International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS)

- International Council on Archives (ICA)
- International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)
- International Council on Museums (ICOM)
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
- Coordinating Council on Audiovisual Archive Associations (CCAAA) – 2005



### Vision for Blue Shield

- The Blue Shield symbol should become for cultural property protection what the Red Cross is for humanitarian protection
- In short, the Blue Shield should become the cultural equivalent of the Red Cross



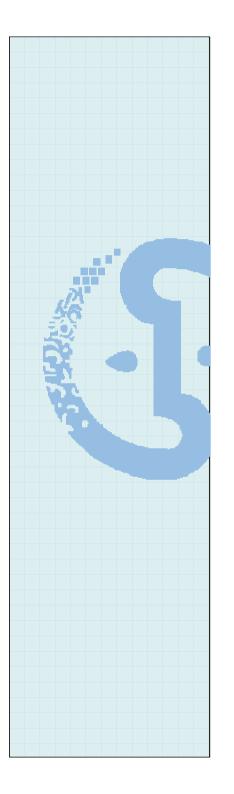
## **ICBS** Objectives

- To facilitate responses to threats or emergencies relating to cultural property
- To encourage safeguarding and respect for cultural property
- To train experts to prevent, control and recover from disasters
- To co-operate with UNESCO, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)



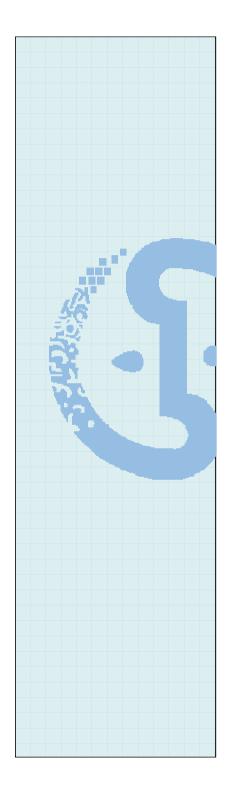
### What ICBS Does

- Collects and shares information about threats to cultural property worldwide
- Raises the awareness of decisionmakers about these threats
- Promotes the development of measures for disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery
- Encourages and approves the creation of Blue Shield national committees
- Lobbies at UNESCO so that the Hague Convention is effectively implemented



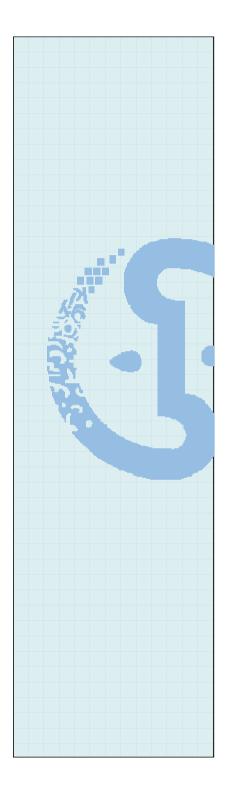
### The Hague Convention (1954)

- Major post-war international treaty protecting cultural property
- 'Cultural property' covers both movable and immovable items
- Also includes premises for the housing of movable cultural property, such as museums, libraries and archives
- Centres containing monuments, historic sites or archaeological zones are covered too



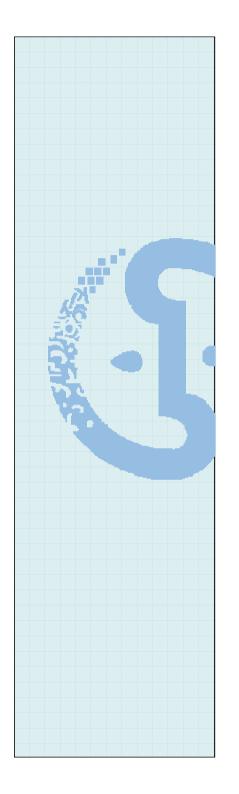
## Hague Convention – 2<sup>nd</sup> Protocol (1999)

- 'Enhanced Protection' for cultural property of especially great importance
- Clearer restrictions on when 'imperative military necessity' can justify attacks on cultural property
- Extension of ability to prosecute those who breach the Convention
- Inter-governmental Committees of States set up to monitor implementation of the Convention
- ICBS, together with ICRC and ICCROM, has been given a specific advisory role to the Committee



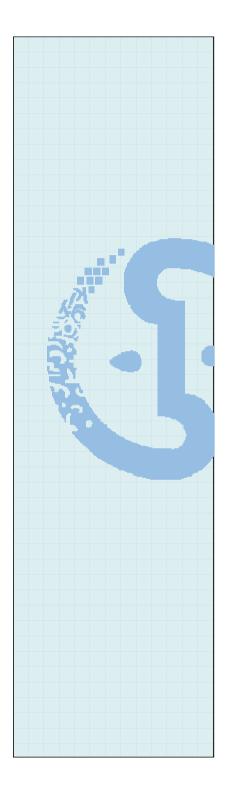
# Creation of National Blue Shield Committees - 1

- National representatives of all the partner organisations agree to respect the following principles:-
- Should carry out joint actions to increase effectiveness and to avoid duplication of effort
- Should respect independence of other members



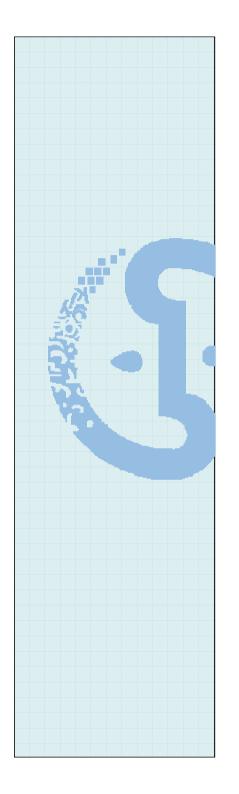
# Creation of National Blue Shield Committees – 2

- Should remain *neutral*, avoiding political controversy
- Should uphold the highest professional standards
- Must respect the diversity of cultural identity
- Must always work on a not-forprofit basis



## The Blue Shield Network Today

- About 40 national committees either in operation or under construction
- Recent creations in Israel, Senegal United States, Indonesia and Australia
- Now under umbrella of the new Association of National Blue Shield Committees (ANCBS) – The Hague (December 2008)
- ANCBS has an office in The Hague, which co-ordinates missions and gives practical advice to national committees



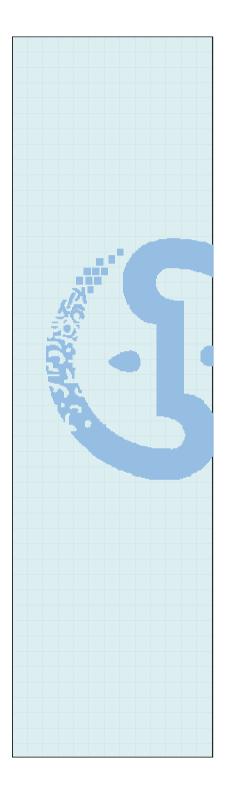
# Advantages of National Blue Shield Committees

- Organise co-operation when there are threats to cultural property in general
- Pool resources and share expertise
- Develop communications with civilian administrators and military officers
- Lobby national governments to adopt The Hague Convention
- Part of a growing international network based on solidarity which can provide support across national boundaries



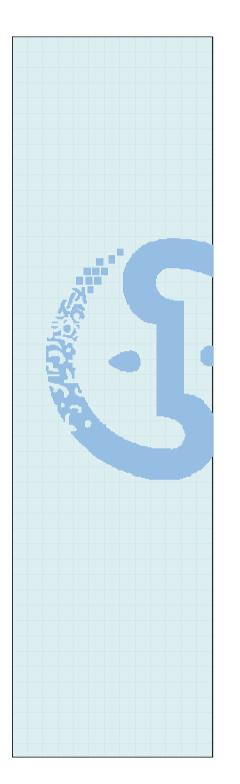
### ICA's commitment

- Will continue to collaborate with partners in ICBS
- Has funded ANCBS to train archivists in how to handle paper materials in emergencies
- Will develop a comprehensive Emergency Response Management Programme, covering prevention, preparedness and recovery
- Will promote the storage of copies of vital records in other secure locations



#### Threats of Globalisation

- Increase in population 9.5 billion on the planet by 2050, an increase of 3 billion
- Global warming and climate change the planet's average temperature will increase by two degrees by 2050
- Shortage of natural resources it will be necessary to double agricultural production by 2050 to feed the increased population; every year the African desert increases by an area the size of Belgium



# Results of Globalisation and Climate Change

- Increasing fluctuations of temperature and more natural disasters
- Widespread conflicts over food, water and resources

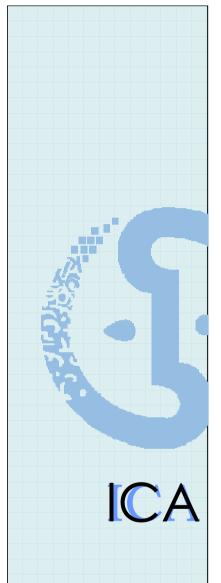
#### **Conclusion**

There is a greater need than ever before for a Blue Shield network, based on professional solidarity, because the threats to cultural property may well increase in the first half of the 21st century.



### ICA's Position

ICA strongly advocates the establishment of Blue Shield national committees as the most effective way of increasing protection for archives and other cultural property threatened by natural catastrophes, man-made disasters and armed conflicts. Flourishing national committees are the foundation of the Blue Shield network.



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