



**PANEL ON PROTECTING CULTURAL PROPERTY FROM LOOTING AND THEFT:
*THE ROLE OF DOCUMENTATION STANDARDS AND INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION.***

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Prevalent among the many threats to our cultural heritage are looting, theft and destruction during times of armed conflict. It is shocking that illicit trafficking in art and antiquities is a multibillion dollar industry. It is often connected to money laundering and terrorist activities! Despite international conventions, looting and theft remains a lucrative industry!

Key to the protection of our cultural property is documentation based upon internationally accepted standards and methods. International law enforcement agencies such as INTERPOL and EUROPOL have pointed out that without proper documentation it is almost impossible to recover cultural objects that have been taken illegally.

On this basis, there is an urgent need to produce inventories and documents of cultural property that meet international standards and can be openly accessed. What forms of documentation are needed and used? Since no one agency is responsible for protecting cultural property, is there sufficient collaboration across key agencies to produce documentation and report looted or stolen cultural property? Are there worldwide policies in place to support open access to documentation?

This panel will bring together leaders from the International Council of Museums; US Department of State, Division of Cultural Property; Interpol; and World Customs Organization to discuss how these agencies are working together to protect cultural property and the type of documentation needed by law enforcement and international agencies to establish ownership of cultural property.

Speakers:

- **France Desmarais**, Director of Programmes and Partnerships, International Council of Museums (ICOM)
- **Maria P. Kouroupas**, Executive Director, Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation and Director Cultural Heritage Center, US Department of State
- **Fabrizio Panone**, Art Theft Squad, Interpol
- **Laurent Pinot**, Regional Intelligence Liaison Office Western Europe (RILO WE), World Customs Organization.
- **Eleanor E. Fink**, Art and Technology Advisor, Moderator

The Panel Forum is in cooperation with the
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