

At a meeting of the Permanent Council of the UNESCO-affiliated International Association for the Study of Human Paleontology on the occasion of the Association's fourth congress in Sun City, South Africa (3 July 1998) concern was expressed about the transport of original hominid fossils beyond the country of origin. The matter was discussed and the following resolution was unanimously approved by the members of the Permanent Council, representing 20 different countries, and also adopted by the Assembly of the Association during the closing ceremony of the congress on 4 July 1998.

Resolution

- (1) Recognizing that hominid fossils are an irreplaceable component of the world heritage, we, the members of the Permanent Council of the International Association for the Study of Human Paleontology, strongly support the use of replicas of hominid fossils, rather than the original hominid fossils, for public display to promote public awareness and understanding of human evolution.
- (2) We strongly recommend that original hominid fossils should not be transported beyond the country of origin unless there are compelling scientific reasons which must include the dem-

onstratation that the proposed investigations cannot proceed in the foreseeable future in the country of origin.

Members of the Permanent Council present

L. Aiello (United Kingdom)
 J.-L. Arsuaga (Spain)
 B. Asfaw (Ethiopia)
 M. Beltrao (Brazil)
 A. Bilsborough (United Kingdom)
 G. Bräuer (Germany)
 B. Chiarelli (Italy)
 M. Day (United Kingdom)
 M. Dokladal (Czech Republic)
 R. Foley (United Kingdom)
 G. Giacobini, Secretary General (Italy)
 D. Grimaud-Herve (France)
 C. Groves (Australia)
 Y. Haile-Selassie (Ethiopia)
 J. Jelinek (Czech Republic)
 H. de Lumley, President (France)
 M.-A. de Lumley (France)
 C. C. Magori (Tanzania)
 G. Manzi (Italy)
 G. C. Mohapatra (India)
 R. Orban (Belgium)
 C. Peretto (Italy)
 S. Pfeiffer (Canada)
 J. Piontek (Poland)
 C. Saanane (Tanzania)
 G. Shen (China)
 R. P. Soejono (Indonesia)
 F. Thackeray (South Africa)
 J. Thompson (for B. Sigmon; Canada)
 P. Tobias (South Africa)
 M. Toussaint (Belgium)
 D. Turbon (Spain)
 H. Ullrich (Germany)
 V. Vancata (Czech Republic)
 J. de Vos (The Netherlands)
 B. Wood (United States of America)
 J. Zilhao (Portugal)

Correspondence to: Giacomo Giacobini (Secretary General), Laboratory of Human Paleontology, Dept. of Anatomy, Pharmacology and Legal Medicine, University of Turin, 52 Corso M. d'Azeglio, 10126 Turin, Italy. E-mail: giacomo.giacobini@unito.it