

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2008***

### **CALL FOR INDIGENOUS CO-MANAGEMENT OF QUILMES RUINS, ARGENTINA**

The World Archaeological Congress supports the Indigenous community of Quilmes regarding the protection and management of the sacred site known as Quilmes' Ruins.

“The Indigenous people of Quilmes have a right to be involved in the management of their cultural heritage,” said Professor Claire Smith, President of the World Archaeological Congress. “The World Archaeological Congress acknowledges and recognises Indigenous methodologies for interpreting, curating, managing and protecting Indigenous cultural heritage.”

“We need to respect the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

A group of Indigenous people from around the world attended the Sixth World Archaeological Congress, held in Dublin, Ireland, over the last week.

This resolution was passed unanimously at the Plenary session of this Congress.

The World Archaeological Congress acknowledges and recognises Indigenous methodologies for interpreting, curating, managing and protecting Indigenous cultural heritage.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Professor Claire Smith  
***Mobile:*** 0872 698 353 (Ireland)  
***Email:*** [claire.smith@flinders.edu.au](mailto:claire.smith@flinders.edu.au)

Dr Dorothy Lippert  
Indigenous representative on Executive  
***Email:*** [DorothyTLippert@gmail.com](mailto:DorothyTLippert@gmail.com)

#### **SUBJECT BACKGROUND:**

The Indigenous community Quilmes gained recognition of the provincial government as an association in 1984 and for the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs as an Indigenous Community in 2001. In 2002 the Indigenous Community Quilmes started a legal case against the renewal of the concession to the private investor as well as requesting the involvement of the community in the management of the site, according to the rights acknowledged by the National Constitution (art. 74, clause 17). Despite the fact of having gained the legal case the provincial government have not yet allowed their participation.

#### **WAC BACKGROUND:**

The World Archaeological Congress (WAC) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization and is the only elected international body of practising archaeologists. WAC holds an international congress every four years to promote the exchange of the results of archaeological research; professional training and public education for disadvantaged nations, groups and communities; the empowerment and betterment of Indigenous groups and First Nations peoples; and the conservation of archaeological sites.

The World Archaeological Congress, by statute, has an Indigenous Council made up of Indigenous members. The current Indigenous Council has representatives from Australia, New Zealand, North America and South America.

The Sixth World Archaeological Congress (WAC-6) was held from 29<sup>th</sup> June—4<sup>th</sup> July at the University College Dublin. This was the first World Archaeological Congress to be held in Ireland. It was attended by over 1,800 archaeologists, native peoples and international scholars from 74 nations. Motions from the Plenary session of the Congress were considered by subsequent meetings of the World Archaeological Congress Council and Executive.

The Congress Patron for WAC-6 was President Mary McAleese. Previous Congress Patrons include Harriet Mayor Fulbright, Prince Charles and Nelson Mandela.