If museum colleagues or general inquirers need any special assistance concerning collection items or have particular questions that have arisen on which help could be beneficial (e.g. practical examples of diverse claims and the variety of possible outcomes concerning the restitution of looted art – including mediation options), the following agencies may be of assistance:

- ICOM Ethics Committee, Chairperson, c/o ICOM (International Council of Museums), 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France, e-mail: ethics@icom.museum

- ICOM (International Council of Museums), 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France; http://icom.museum, Tel: +33 (01) 47 34 05 00, Fax: +33 (01) 43 06 78 62, e-mail: secretariat@icom.museum

- Your local ICOM representatives (see list of ICOM’s National Committees at http://icom.museum/nationals.html)

- For many translations of the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums, see http://icom.museum/ethics.html

This Checklist has been compiled jointly by ICOM, the ICOM Ethics Committee, and the former Koordinierungsstelle Magdeburg, which on 1.1.2015 has merged into the Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste (German Lost Art Foundation, www.kulturgutverluste.de).

1. **Museums preserve, interpret and promote the natural and cultural inheritance of humanity**
   Museums are responsible for the tangible and intangible natural and cultural heritage. Governing bodies and those concerned with the strategic direction and oversight of museums have a primary responsibility to protect and promote this heritage as well as the human, physical and financial resources made available for that purpose.

2. **Museums that maintain collections hold them in trust for the benefit of society and its development**
   Museums have the duty to acquire, preserve and promote their collections as a contribution to safeguarding the natural, cultural and scientific heritage. Their collections are a significant public inheritance, have a special position in law and are protected by international legislation. Inherent in this public trust is the notion of stewardship that includes rightful ownership, provenance, permanence, documentation, accessibility and responsible disposal.

3. **Museums hold primary evidence for establishing and furthering knowledge**
   Museums have particular responsibilities to all for the care, accessibility and interpretation of primary evidence collected and held in their collections.

4. **Museums provide opportunities for the appreciation, understanding and promotion of the natural and cultural heritage**
   Museums have an important duty to develop their educational role and attract wider audiences from the community, locality, or group they serve. Interaction with the constituent community and promotion of their heritage is an integral part of the educational role of the museum.

5. **Museums hold resources that provide opportunities for other public services and benefits**
   Museums utilise a wide variety of specialisms, skills and physical resources that have a far broader application than in the museum. This may lead to shared resources or the provision of services as an extension of the museum’s activities. These should be organized in such a way that they do not compromise the museum’s stated mission.

6. **Museums work in close collaboration with the communities from which their collections originate as well as those they serve**
   Museum collections reflect the cultural and natural heritage of the communities from which they have been derived. As such they have a character beyond that of ordinary property which may include strong affinities with national, regional, local, ethnic, religious or political identity. It is important therefore that museum policy is responsive to this possibility.

7. **Museums operate in a legal manner**
   Museums must conform fully to international, regional, national, or local legislation and treaty obligations. In addition, the governing body should comply with any legally binding trusts or conditions relating to any aspect of the museum, its collections and operations.

8. **Museums operate in a professional manner**
   Members of the museum profession should observe accepted standards and laws and uphold the dignity and honour of their profession. They should safeguard the public against illegal or unethical professional conduct. Every opportunity should be used to inform and educate the public about the aims, purposes, and aspirations of the profession to develop a better public understanding of the contributions of museums to society.