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International Council Meeting: An Agenda for Human Rights in the 21st Century

The International Council Meeting (ICM) of Amnesty International, involving 500 delegates from around the world, has ended in Dakar, Senegal with a new, groundbreaking agenda for the organization's future.

The ICM, held every two years, is the ultimate expression of the membership organization's democracy, giving decision-making power to the members over the future work and direction of the human rights organization.

The Meeting considered new directions and issues for the future work of Amnesty International and agreed upon an expansion of the organization's mandate to enable it to work on a wide range of human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"At its heart, Amnesty International is and remains a movement fighting for individuals whose rights are violated. The difference is that from now on, we will work, not only against torture or for prisoners of conscience, but against all forms of discrimination, whether they affect political and civil rights or economic, social and cultural rights," said Irene Khan, the new Secretary General of the organization.

"We will be able to act more effectively and with a broader approach to the realities of human rights in the 21st century. Promoting the right of all persons to enjoy all human rights, Amnesty International will have the potential now to engage in new areas, such as the right to education or health."

“We have turned a new page in Amnesty International’s history. As a movement we emerge from this Council Meeting united and more resolved than ever to begin the process of change, to marshal our resources and mobilize our members in to action,” concluded Irene Khan.

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