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Statement of the Austrian National Committee of the International Council of Museums

The Austrian National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM Austria) on behalf of the entire community of museums and museum professionals is deeply saddened by the huge destructions caused by the fire and expresses its great solidarity with our colleagues from the National Museum of Brazil in Rio de Janeiro and with the Brazilian people.

While we are relieved that this disaster has not caused any mortalities, we mourn the loss of the museum's invaluable collection, which included important natural history, mineralogical, paleontological, archaeological, ethnographic, and documentary collections, which hold up to 20 million items.

ICOM Austria is offering to provide its utmost support for the revival of the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro.