

Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage
Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane (Morocco) 5 - 10 December 1999

IFRANE DECLARATION

The presidents, rectors, deans, professors and students of the Universities, the persons in charge of Heritage from 30 countries of the five continents, the representatives of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Union of Architects (UIA), the International Association of Universities (AIU), meeting in Ifrane and Fez,

EXPRESSING THEIR GRATITUDE for the great support provided by Moroccan authorities and by the University of Al Akhawayn and ADER-Fez,

APPRECIATING the advances made in the project for the safeguard of the Medina of Fez, a relevant site for the university to acquire operational experience thanks to its multidisciplinary and multi-institutional approach for the safeguard of heritage,

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the official commitment guaranteed by the Rectors of the universities, and confirmed by the Rectors's Pact adopted at UNESCO Headquarters in July 1999,

APPRECIATING the progress made towards the final stage of the creation of UNESCO Chairs at Deakin University and Laval University,

OBSERVING the progress achieved in implementing the twenty five interdisciplinary projects adopted at Melbourne for the promotion of the tangible and intangible heritage, an illustration of the investment of human, technical and financial resources of several universities,

APPRECIATING the transfer and exchange of knowledge achieved through these projects, with a sharing and solidarity spirit, systematically practised between the universities involved,

TAKING NOTE through debates and communications of the determination of the participants to enhance and structure the mechanism for the good operation and coordination of the international network,

DECIDE ON

- The adoption and signature by the rectors of the universities of a Forum UNESCO Charter at the next international seminar in Byblos -Lebanon in September/October 2000, confirming their ethical commitment and objectives, and defining the responsibilities and complementary tasks of the different members,
- The creation of regional computer nodal points, using intelligent resources to disseminate information about the activities of the universities, and to enable specific searches according to the needs of each university
- The creation of a working group within the framework of UNESCO, responsible for granting the quality seal of Forum UNESCO-University and Heritage to those projects particularly relevant and operational,
- The development of thematic workshops on urban planning and heritage, historical sites, intangible heritage, promotion of heritage,

- The establishment of local and national networks, as they are essential points for the operation of Forum UNESCO;
- The promotion and development of students. Associations, and their activities such as national and international work camps for young people and heritage;
- Sensitisation of managers and awareness raising in civil society about the economic impact of enhancing their heritage;
- The enhancement of cooperation links among universities and the persons in charge of heritage within a framework of joint activities;
- The sensitisation of university rectors about the importance of creating a multidisciplinary programme on heritage: heritage legislation, urban planning, restoration, archaeology, history of art, museology, sociology, communication, etc;
- The stimulation of the exchange of expertise between academics and the promotion of solidarity and sharing between universities by awarding grants to students,
- The strong support to the UNESCO Chairs now under development at the University of Laval, University of Deakin, Polytechnic University of Valencia and the University of Buenos Aires;
- RECOMMEND to foster cooperation with:
 1. ICOMOS, for the creation of the Forum UNESCO- University and Heritage Charter, and the training of a working group with CIF (International Training Committee) with respect to the work performed on the Internet database,
 2. ICCROM, for the development of the Forum UNESCO Charter and the creation of the working team responsible for the projects, within the

framework of the programme of urban conservation and in the sites in different regions of the world where it has been implemented, and the identification of joint action programmes;

3. The Council of Europe with the European Universities,

- INVITE the universities concerned with tangible and intangible cultural heritage of different countries to join efforts at the next International Seminar of Forum UNESCO to be held in Byblos, Lebanon, in September-October 2000
- CALL UPON the President of the University Al Akhawayn to foster the initiatives developed during the Ifrane Seminar, by means of the creation of a UNESCO Chair which includes a programme for the sensitisation of decision-makers and research grants, and to take advantage of the great potential of the University, in relation with the rich cultural heritage of Morocco, with the international experience of the specialists in Moroccan Heritage.
- REQUEST the General Director of UNESCO to confirm the priorities of the heritage programmes of Forum UNESCO-University and Heritage, and to strengthen the action developed by UNESCO for the optimisation of the international network and its dissemination in different countries.