

Forum UNESCO "University and Heritage"  
Biblos (Lebanon) 11 - 15 December 2000

### **DECLARATION OF BIBLOS**

The Rectors, Deans, professors, university teachers and students, the persons in charge of heritage from 39 countries of the five continents, the General Secretary of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the Director of the Agency of Francophonie Universities in the Middle East,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the support offered to the International Seminar by the authorities of Lebanon, the Lebanon American University (LAU) and the University of Lebanon (UL),

**APPRECIATING** the co-operation with the Agency of Francophonie Universities (450 universities from 45 countries) for the joint organisation of training workshops with African universities,

**CONGRATULATING** for the creation of UNESCO Chairs at Deakin University (Melbourne, Australia) and Laval University (Quebec, Canada), as well as for the specific actions and projects of great interest for Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage, that such UNESCO Chairs are developing,

**WELCOMING** the implementation of the joint project with ICOM, based on the creation of a Board of the University Museums Network,

**EMPHASISING** the enlargement of Forum UNESCO University and Heritage, as a

consequence of the increasing participation of other universities and of its deep reflection and action, for the arising of new important and present concerns about tangible heritage (national legislations, archaeological excavations, archives), about intangible heritage (dynamisation of the traditional arts and crafts), about sensitisation (communication means, local communities) and about local tourism,

**NOTING WITH SATISFACTION** the strong commitment of the communication means of Lebanon, in particular of the women (newspapers, radios, and televisions) in favour of the protection of national heritage, tangible and intangible, and their promotion as common heritage, pride for the local and national communities,

**NOTING** the progress illustrated by the implementation of the interdisciplinary projects agreed upon at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Seminar of Forum UNESCO held in Al Akhawayn (Morocco), in relation with heritage preservation, a clear example of the operational commitment and investment of technical and financial resources of different universities,

**APPRECIATING** with satisfaction the transfer and exchange of knowledge achieved through these projects in a spirit of sharing and solidarity that will be systematically practised between universities from now on,

**BEING AWARE** through the debates and communications of the determination of the participants to strengthen and approach the mechanisms of operation and co-ordination of the international network,

**INTENSIFYING** efforts for the organisation of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention for Worldwide Heritage to be held in 2002,

**DECIDE ON:**

- The design of teaching modules on Heritage legislation that cover issues such as national legislations and international UNESCO conventions.
- The intensification of sensitisation actions on the importance of respect and the efficient application of:
  - The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954), to use heritage as a reconciliation tool among communities, mobilising them to save heritage.
  - The Convention of 1970 against illegal traffic of cultural properties.

- The Convention of 1972 for cultural and natural worldwide heritage, specifically as preparation for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2002, on the importance of its respect and efficient application.
- The adoption of the activities presented by the universities participating in 2001.
- The dynamisation of exchange of expertise and sharing of technical and economic resources between universities.
- Fostering a closer co-operation between the universities and the persons in charge of Heritage, within the framework of joint projects.
- The sensitisation of the rectors of the universities towards the economic impact of heritage improvement.
- The elaboration of a pact between universities, in close co-operation with ICOMOS, ICOM, ICCROM, IFLA (International Federation of Landscape Architects, the International Association of Universities, the European Council, the Agency of Francophonie Universities, Mercosur, for its approval by the Rectors of the Forum UNESCO Universities.
- The establishment of local, national and regional networks, through the organisation of workshops among universities, for the distribution of responsibilities within a spirit of co-operation.
- The development of the five thematic workshops:
  - Urban planning and Heritage.
  - Archaeological outcrops and sites.
  - Heritage: a space for reconciliation.
  - Intangible Heritage.
  - Dissemination of natural and cultural heritage.
- Implementation of an international network of journalists who defend heritage and their systematic co-operation with the Universities of Forum UNESCO.

**RECOMMEND** to establish closer co-operation with:

**ICOMOS**, in particular within the framework of their next General Meeting in Harare (Zimbabwe) in 2002.

**ICCROM**, within the framework of an integrated training programme for national managers on sensitisation and communication of heritage,

**ICOM**, in particular with respect to the creation of a museum at the Lebanon American University (LAU) in collaboration with the International Board of University Museums.

**THE DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY OF FRANCOPHONIE UNIVERSITIES**, in particular within the framework of the Summit of Francophonie that will be held in October 2001 in Beirut.

**INVITE** the universities of the different countries involved in heritage to implement their competences for the next 4<sup>th</sup> International Forum UNESCO Seminar, Plenary Meeting, organised by the Polytechnic University of Valencia, from 10 to 15 September 2001.

**REQUEST** the national commissions and permanent delegations of their respective countries to include Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage as priorities in their programmes of Heritage and present a resolution in this respect at the next General Conference of UNESCO, in November 2001.

**REQUEST** the rectors and presidents of the universities a substantial support for the activities of Forum UNESCO in their respective institutions, and that help particularly those universities with less technical and economic resources, offering them the necessary support to develop their projects, grants, etc.

**REQUEST** the rector of the LAU to strengthen his role as co-ordinator, accepted successfully during this seminar, with other universities in Lebanon, and to implement joint projects on the protection of heritage in Lebanon.

**REQUEST** the president of the Worldwide Heritage Committee to give a tangible and substantial aid to Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage, in order to dynamise its activities on occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Worldwide Heritage Convention in 2002.