

Meeting of the rectors of the universities of Forum UNESCO "University and Heritage"
5 - 6 July 1999,
UNESCO, Paris (France)

PACT OF RECTORS

The 95 Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Chancellors, Rectors, Deans and Representatives of universities from 32 countries in the five regions of the world, the Representatives of the International Council of Museums and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), the Council of Europe and the World Monuments Fund (WMF), the International Association of Universities (AIU), meeting at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris:

- **THANKING** the Director-General of UNESCO for his official commitment at the inaugural session of the meeting to strengthen the international Forum UNESCO-University and Heritage network in the next Draft UNESCO Programme and Budget (2000-2001) and the next UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy (2001-2006),

- **NOTING** with satisfaction the active participation of the major regional and international organizations in charge of the heritage at the meeting of the rectors of Forum UNESCO-University and Heritage,

- **ACKNOWLEDGING** the progress achieved in implementation of the 25 interdisciplinary projects adopted in Melbourne for the conservation of the heritage, as a practical illustration of the operational commitment and allocation of technical and financial means of several universities,

- **APPRECIATING** the transfers and exchanges of knowledge and expertise achieved through these projects, in a spirit of joint endeavour and solidarity, henceforth systematically practised between the various universities concerned,

- **TAKING NOTE** through the numerous discussions and communications of the determination and desire of the participants to strengthen the operating machinery of the network and to achieve closer coordination of their efforts on an international scale,

- **HAVE DECIDED** to give further impetus to the international Forum UNESCO-University and Heritage Network and to strive for nurturing greater awareness among national decision-makers, university rectors, young academics and the public at large in order to achieve active mobilization in favour of the protection and promotion of the tangible and intangible heritage, a privileged field for the practice of citizenship and the culture of peace:

- By ensuring the ethical and voluntary commitment of their universities on behalf of the national heritage as well as the heritage of humanity;

- By activating the role of the university in the protection and enhancement of the heritage in complementarity with and in support of initiatives taken by ICOMOS, ICOM, ICCROM, the Council of Europe, IFLA, the World Monuments Fund and the International Association of Universities (AIU);

- By programming teaching courses in heritage law which would deal with national legislation as well as with international conventions and charters;

- By guaranteeing the efficiency of the teams in charge of Forum UNESCO in their own universities and their respect for rigour and the historic, scientific and technical requirements of the heritage;

- By developing through close cooperation with national heritage officials and municipal councils, by involving them in the various activities of their universities and by establishing links through joint projects with other national universities;

- By giving support through human, technical and financial resources to the teachers and students who are in charge within the universities of the operating procedures and activities of Forum UNESCO;

- By developing international cooperation by supporting and allocating the necessary means for the formation of international working groups on specific themes and actions (town-planning and

the heritage, the movable heritage, etc.), the implementation of regional and international training workshops, the organization of international youth work camps and the holding of cultural events for promoting the heritage;

- By allocating grants to students, particularly from the least privileged universities;
- By encouraging the involvement of academics during their sabbatical year and young graduates in the programme jointly conducted by UNESCO and the United Nations Volunteers, the aim of which is to mobilize United Nations Volunteers in the heritage field;
- By encouraging the creation of UNESCO/Heritage Chairs;
- By scheduling regular regional meetings of rectors, as well as meetings of Forum UNESCO officials;
- By optimizing the machinery for the exchange of information between universities by contributing regularly to the existing database at the Polytechnic University of Valencia (Spain), teaching courses, research, student exchanges and ongoing activities and projects for their simultaneous dissemination in all the universities;

- **RECOMMEND** that cooperation be strengthened with:

- **ICOMOS**: At the next General Assembly in Mexico in October 1999;
 - fostering awareness among ICOMOS members in order to establish machinery, in their respective countries, for ICOMOS/Forum UNESCO cooperation,
 - mobilizing university teachers who are members of ICOMOS in order to stimulate, guide and improve the activities of Forum UNESCO-University and Heritage;
- **ICCROM**: Participation of the universities in their training programmes, development of the joint organization of ICCROM/Forum UNESCO training workshops;
- **ICOM**: Implementation of a university museums network project;
- **COUNCIL OF EUROPE**: Close cooperation with the European university networks, participation in meetings of the rectors of the longer-established universities;
- **IFLA**: Cooperation with the universities of Forum UNESCO in the field of town-planning and the management of cultural landscapes;
- **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES (AIU)**: Availability for and consultation by Forum UNESCO of the data bank bringing together all the universities in all regions;

- **INVITE** the universities interested in the heritage of various countries to mobilize their skills and to combine them at the next international seminar organized by Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane (Morocco) from 5 to 10 December 1999;

- **CALL UPON** the National Commissions and Permanent Delegations of their countries to list Forum UNESCO-University and Heritage among the priorities in the cultural heritage programmes and to submit a resolution along those lines at the next General Conference;

- **INVITE** the rectors or presidents of the universities to lend substantial support to the activities of Forum UNESCO-University and Heritage in their universities and to give assistance to those universities in particular which are less well equipped in technical and financial terms;

- **INVITE** the Rector of the Polytechnic University of Valencia (Spain), President of Forum UNESCO-University and Heritage, to continue his remarkable endeavours within Forum UNESCO-University and Heritage and to maintain the mobilization of the academic community on behalf of the heritage;

- **CALL UPON** the Director-General to give priority in the next Programme and Budget of the Organization to this project which brings together academics on behalf of the heritage and peace and to provide adequate means for strengthening and developing it.

