

Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage
Common heritage promotion workshop. Tlemcen (Algeria) 6 - 7 May 2002

RECOMENDATIONS

Honorable Rector, Director of Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage, dear colleagues, distinguished audience, let me express my gratitude for your participation in the events of this workshop, which as you can see, is open to everybody involved in the preservation of Heritage; to everybody interested in its promotion and preservation for generations to come. This event has allowed us to show that our strength lies in what joins us together and gathers us.

The recommendations for today can be classified into the following four points:

1.- During the last decades, Tlemcen has experienced more irreparable damages than throughout its whole history. It is essential to establish an archaeological map to clearly specify the areas that must be protected and concretely define the archaeological perimeter of Tlemcen and its region.

This map shall be carried out, first and foremost, before adopting the new urban planning guidelines to avoid the overt development of lands with archaeological remains. Likewise, it shall allow to confirm the importance of the old quarters of the city, establish proposals for its preservation and finally, propose the works to be carried out.

The urban planning guidelines for the city currently in force shall be updated taking into consideration the recent archaeological findings and the new constructions. This work shall establish a model whose objective is the integration of sites and monuments

within the framework of contemporary development. In addition, it shall define a preservation plan that does not immobilize the city but, on the contrary, allows for a development integrated with its cultural characteristics, keeping in mind the daily conservation by citizens and city administration services.

This plan shall be based on turning this heritage site into a center for cultural dissemination and foster the hope and the necessary motivation for its renovation by reorganizing the human activity at professional and social level.

2.- All cultural references in their most different expressions, whether tangible or intangible, allow the improvement of the moral well-being.

The reactivation of traditional craftsmanship within activities such as woodwork, glassworks, ceramics, leather goods, basketwork, and dyes, are further encouraged by the association of artists and traders of Tlemcen.

The establishment of new workshops shall be planned so that craftsmen and craftworks are promoted and continue after the difficulties they have experienced. These artisans are inspired by the works of the past and find the ancestral expressions that gave Tlemcen its reputation and dignity. They will revive this art that perpetuates and renews traditions.

3.- The idea of the creation of the National Center for Craftwork in Tlemcen finds its essence in its own cultural dimension. Endowed with modern means, this state-of-the-art institution will be aimed at training technicians in Heritage. The development of this center will favor the socio-economic development of the region due to the creation of jobs.

4.-The university - thanks to the various areas related to Heritage (history, archaeology, architecture, civil engineering, hydraulics,...)- is open to all researchers. The different archaeological sites in the region of Tlemcen provide the best outdoor laboratory that will undoubtedly allow to train a large number of young researchers in close collaboration with Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage.

The regional office of Forum UNESCO in Tlemcen shall be aimed at helping to design specialized programs of studies, work together with the Forum UNESCO office in Valencia to obtain documentation on Heritage and study the possibility of offering grants abroad.