**Declaration of Valencia**

**Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Valencia, Spain – October 1996.**

The representatives of universities participating at the 1st *Forum UNESCO-University and Heritage* Seminar, and together with ICCROM, ICOM, ICOMOS and IFLA,

*Recognizing* the responsibility and the important role by universities *to facilitate* heritage safeguarding and conservation,

*and taking into account* the immense necessity of this field,

*decide* to create an international *Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage* network, co-ordinated by UNESCO and the Polytechnic University of Valencia in order to:

- Bring awareness to young university students, as well as the general population, to participate actively in the valuation, protection, safeguarding and promotion of cultural heritage, rendering this a common act for practising citizenship.

- Install and reinforce the international/national co-operation among universities, the cooperation of which is based on mutual exchange and solidarity about heritage.

**Urge universities**

- To mobilize at the national/international level the human and technical resources of universities for the benefit of the conservation of cultural heritage.

- To raise awareness among young students of their responsibility in safeguarding and conservation of heritage

- To create a solidarity movement, by means of linking the universities on a regional and international scale.

- To reinforce inter-university co-operation through the transmission of knowledge and experience in the field of heritage.

- To develop further curricula related to cultural heritage and improve its theoretical and practical approaches.

- To promote mutual understanding among students from various cultures and a multicultural dialogue for peace building

And further *invite* universities:

- To create local/national networks.

- To develop further co-operation at the national and international level with other Universities in the field of heritage.

- To create the *Forum UNESCO* network database.

- To promote the creation of UNESCO Heritage Chairs.
◆ To identify specific operational projects.

**PRIORITY ACTIONS**

◆ To organize the co-operation, in response to the wishes of the representatives of Rwanda and Cameroon in the framework of the program "priority Africa" of UNESCO.

◆ To prepare the next Seminar, scheduled in September 1997.