

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 co-operation 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.