

Declaration of Valencia (1996)

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:

u 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.

u 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.