



ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MONUMENTS AND WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICA (UCLG AFRICA), ISLAMIC EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (ISESCO) & THEIR PARTNERS ORGANIZE:

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON:

«ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE »

IN RABAT, KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019, FROM 8.30AM TO 5.30PM
AT ISESCO HEADQUARTERS, AVENUE DES F.A.R., HAY RYAD**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2019, FROM 9:30
AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CITY HALL OF RABAT,
AVENUE MOHAMED BELHASSAN EL OUAZZANI, TAKKADOU**

Together for an Effective Local Africa

CONCEPTUAL NOTE



CONTEXT

On April 18 of each year, the International Community celebrates the International Day of Monuments and Sites, established by International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 1982 and approved by the 22nd General Conference of UNESCO in 1983. This celebration is an opportunity for the various actors and stakeholders involved in the protection and promotion of cultural heritage to raise awareness of the importance of monuments and sites and cultural heritage in general, whether material or immaterial.

As part of their Strategic Partnership, capitalizing on the success of the Conference held on April 18, 2018 at ISESCO Headquarters, and with the support, participation and mobilization of their respective Partners, ISESCO and UCLG Africa have decided to celebrate again the Day of April 18, by organizing an International Conference on April 18 and 19, 2019 in Rabat.

The organization of this conference is strengthened and reinforced by the proclamation of the year 2019, "**Year of Cultural Heritage in the Islamic World**" by ISESCO. This proclamation reflects the growing interest in the protection, preservation, enhancement and promotion of cultural heritage at the present time. Indeed, a general awareness seems to be building around the important role played by Cultural Heritage as an inheritance and social construct in the lives of individuals and communities. As defined by UNESCO, "**Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations**". It is all material goods (monuments, sites, architectural works, engravings, various instruments ...) and immaterial (songs, dances, music, proverbs, different forms of oral and written expressions, or cultural practices ...) which have a historical, artistic or scientific character.

Cultural Heritage is also a fundamental lever of human life that not only contributes to the promotion of peace, stability, continuity and harmony in human societies, but it is above all a strategic opportunity for promoting a shared and sustainable economic growth, within the meaning of **Sustainable Development Goal 8, Target 8.9. which states: « by 2030 devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism which creates jobs, promotes local culture and products ».**

It is therefore right that UNESCO sees Culture as a cross-cutting dimension in the 2030 Global Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In addition, culture and cultural heritage are the subject of an important global commitment through the various Global Agendas (the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, the Climate Agenda, the Sendai Framework) and the Agenda 21 on Culture of UCLG, as well as on the continental level (the African Union's Vision 2063, with a strong identity, a common heritage and shared values and ethics, the African Charter for Cultural Renaissance adopted at Khartoum, January 24, 2006).

Africa and the Arab-Muslim world also have an important cultural heritage as unique and rich as diverse. The fact remains that this cultural heritage continues to face significant challenges, weaknesses that are at the extreme structural and represent serious threats.

This is the case for the implementation and transposition of global instruments and commitments at the level of public policies and national legislation (harmonization), the situation of underdevelopment, lack of vision, strategies, policies, plans and resources, lack of infrastructure and equipment, insecurity, hygienic and health conditions, the low level of education, lack of knowledge and communication on Heritage Sites. As for the threats, we can mention crises, wars, conflicts, terrorism, political instability, the difficulty of anchoring democracy, good governance and respect for human rights, the vulnerability of cultures infrastructure and equipment, illicit trafficking in cultural property, uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources, vandalism and the destruction of heritage sites, crime rates, the effects of rampant urbanization, migration, rural exodus and brain drain, climate change (floods, drought ...), new forms of neo-colonialism, lack of skills in culture, heritage and tourism sectors.

At the local level, we are witnessing everywhere in Africa and in the Arab world that the process of decentralization translates into the transfer of important roles and heavy responsibilities, without an adequate transfer of resources and means. Similarly, the Local Governments and Authorities are not always aware of their roles and responsibilities in the protection, promotion and enhancement of the cultural heritage existing in their territories. There is also a lack of integration, coordination and coherence between national public policies and strategies /central governments and local public policies and strategies, in addition to the weaknesses at the level of the staff responsible for the protection, promotion and enhancement of cultural heritage.

Therefore, several questions still need answers:

- Who are the main actors and stakeholders concerned by the protection, preservation, enhancement and promotion of cultural heritage?
- What is the role and what are the responsibilities of the Local Governments and Authorities?
- How does integration, coordination and coherence between the different levels of governance take place?
- How does the allocation of resources (financial, human, technical, and technological) take place?
- Are there good practices likely to inspire the Local Governments and Authorities in Africa and in the Arab-Muslim World?
- How to create an "**Enabler Environment**" for cultural heritage at the local level?

THEME OF THE 2019 EDITION

ISESCO and UCLG-Africa have agreed that the 2019 Conference will focus on the following theme: "**Role and Responsibility of Local Governments in the Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage**", as a continuation of the 2018 Conference that focused on "Protecting Cultural Heritage through Participatory and Inclusive Governance".

The choice of this theme is based primarily on the fact that the Local Governments have become a major player in this field, because of the roles and responsibilities that are transferred to them by the State and by the Central Governments, but also in the fact that the preservation and enhancement of the Cultural Heritage is part of a context that is becoming more and more multi-actors and multi-level governance. These are issues that push us to ask ourselves the following crucial questions: who is doing what? with what means? and how do we work all together in synergy?

MAIN OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this Conference is to bring together all the actors and stakeholders concerned or involved in the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, to come out with a roadmap allowing each actor and each stakeholder to grasp the importance of its role and the extent of its responsibilities throughout the chain of preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of this Conference are:

- Recalling the context and the stakes of the protection and the valorization of the Cultural Heritage in Africa and in the Arabo-Muslim World;
- Informing and sensitizing local elected officials as well as local stakeholders on the place and importance of cultural heritage as a vector of peace and sustainable development lever in its various dimensions ;
- Identifying all the actors and stakeholders concerned by the issue of the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage from the global level to the local level of proximity;
- Making available tools and information necessary for better protection and enhancement of their cultural heritage, particularly through the Toolkit / Indicators of the Agenda 21 on Culture;
- Continuing advocacy and lobbying with States and Governments to support and assist the Local Governments in the governance and management of Cultural Heritage and the transfer of resources necessary for this purpose ;
- Reflecting on and discuss a draft roadmap for better protection, enhancement and promotion of cultural heritage in Africa and the Arab-Muslim world.

MAIN AXES OF REFLECTION

- 1)** What is the context and what are the current challenges of the preservation, protection and enhancement of the Cultural Heritage?
- 2)** What is the mapping of the main actors and stakeholders in the dynamics of preservation, protection and enhancement of the Cultural Heritage?

- 3) What are the roles and responsibilities of the Local Governments and Authorities in the management, preservation and enhancement of the Cultural Heritage?
- 4) What tools and strategies for local governments and authorities in the management, preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage?
- 5) What are the main axes of a possible roadmap targeting the local level?

DATE & VENUE

The International Conference will take place on Thursday 18 April 2019 at ISESCO Headquarters on Avenue des F.A.R., Hay Ryad, Rabat, and on Friday 19 April 2019 in the City Hall of Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

The International Conference will be organized in two days around the following main activities:

Day 1 at the Headquarters of ISESCO:

- 1) An official opening
- 2) 2 Plenary Sessions
- 3) An Exhibition
- 4) A Restitution and Closing Session.

Day 2 at the City Hall of Rabat:

- 1) Presentation of the strategy for the preservation, protection and enhancement of the Cultural Heritage of the City of Rabat.
- 2) Visit of some Monuments and Sites of the City of Rabat.

PARTICIPANTS

The Conference is organized for the following target audiences;

- 1) Representatives of the International Organizations concerned: UNESCO, ISESCO, PNUD, ICOMOS, ICCROM ;
- 2) The Ministerial Departments responsible for and/or involved in the governance and management of the Cultural Heritage (Foreign Affairs, Interior, Culture, Tourism, Crafts, Solidarity Economy ...);

- 3) Associations of Local Governments in Africa and the Arab-Islamic world;
- 4) The Cities of Africa and the Islamic World, Capitals of Culture classified by UNESCO and Capitals of Islamic Culture classified by ISESCO;
- 5) The 31 Moroccan Cities with Historic Sites;
- 6) The Mediterranean Network of Medinas and Heritage Development (RMM & DP) ;
- 7) Local elected representatives;
- 8) The Components of Civil Society engaged and/or involved in the theme;
- 9) Development Partners and Donors;
- 10) Universities, Institutes and Training Centers.
- 11) Students and Researchers

PARTNERS

- ISESCO
- UNESCO
- ICOMOS- Morocco
- UCLG-Africa
- Ministry of the Interior
- Ministry of Culture and Communication
- Ministry of National Planning, Urban Planning, Housing and Urban Policy
- Association of Regions of Morocco (ARM)
- Moroccan Association of Presidents of Communal Councils (AMPCC)
- Mediterranean Network of Medinas and Heritage Development (RMM & DP).
- Italian Foundation Romualdo Del Bianco, Florence