



المنظمة العالمية للتربية والعلم والثقافة  
ISLAMIC WORLD EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (ICESCO)  
المنظمة العالمية للتربية والعلم والثقافة



**With the Support & in Partnership with:**



**CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MONUMENTS AND SITES OF WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES (18 APRIL) & ACTIVITIES CELEBRATING RABAT CAPITAL OF AFRICAN CULTURE**

**UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICA (UCLG AFRICA), ISLAMIC WORLD EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (ICESCO), THE COMMUNAL COUNCIL OF RABAT & THEIR PARTNERS ORGANIZE:**

**THE 3<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON:**

**“Cultural Heritage and Urban Sustainability: Challenges and Innovations of Intermediary Cities”**

**From Monday 13 to Saturday 18 April 2020  
Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco**

*“Together for an Effective Local Africa”*

## AIDE-MEMOIRE

### Paragraph 38 of the Quito Declaration (2016)

#### New Urban Agenda

*«We commit ourselves to the sustainable leveraging of natural and cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, in cities and human settlements, as appropriate, through integrated urban and territorial policies and adequate investments at the national, subnational and local levels, to safeguard and promote cultural infrastructures and sites, museums, indigenous cultures and languages, as well as traditional knowledge and the arts, highlighting the role that these play in rehabilitating and revitalizing urban areas and in strengthening social participation and the exercise of citizenship”.*

### I. CONTEXT

Participants to the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) in the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi, from 8 to 13 February 2020, representing all Actors and Stakeholders concerned by the Forum theme "Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation" recognize that: "an increasingly urbanized world constitutes a transformative force which can be harnessed and steered for more sustainable development. Cities have the opportunity to take the lead to plan and design as well as manage transitions towards inclusion, resilience, sustainability, economic growth and shared prosperity. At the same time, cities are addressing many global challenges including poverty, gender inequalities, human rights violations, unemployment, health emergencies, loss of social cohesion, threat to cultural heritage and cultural diversity, environmental degradation, migration, disaster risk and climate change".

They also expressed their conviction that Culture is an integral part of the solution to the challenges of urbanization and the realization of the New Urban Agenda<sup>1</sup>.

Culture is, indeed, a central element of local identity, including heritage, creativity and diversity, and urbanization must be planned, designed and managed to enhance this. Culture is considered by some constituencies as the fourth pillar of sustainable development and must be a stronger component of global solidarity. Culture and heritage are essential in the context of the emancipation of peoples and their universal access to services and control over strategies for regeneration and social cohesion.

The participants in WUF10 also highlighted the central role of cities in this dynamic, namely:

- They are centers of creativity and innovation as well as places with a valuable cultural heritage and identity;
- Culture and creative industries are sources of employment and rapidly growing economic development in cities and urban areas around the world;
- Innovation and cultural heritage must be the basis for the functioning of urban centers, with strong support from national governments, a strengthened role for sub-national and local governments and systematic collaboration with civil society;
- Well-planned and well-managed cities, rooted in cultural heritage, have greater potential for sustainable urban development;
- Supported by people-centered technology, smart city initiatives and appropriate land governance, culture and innovation become creative engines for sustainable growth, shared prosperity and inclusive development;
- Cities are incubators for social, economic, environmental, political and cultural progress;
- They are also guardians of cultural heritage and identity that must be safeguarded to be passed on to future generations;
- Sub-national and local governments play a key role in improving the diversity of urban life through the adoption of rights-based approaches in cities and, in particular, through the promotion of gender equality and equal access to opportunities for all;

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<sup>1</sup> [https://wuf.unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/WUF10\\_final\\_declared\\_actions.pdf](https://wuf.unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/WUF10_final_declared_actions.pdf)

- They provide solutions for decent work, housing and transport, the provision of basic cultural services, such as libraries, cultural centers, tangible and living heritage and community centers;
- Cities are increasingly adopting inclusive, accessible and transparent participatory processes in their organization, governance, operations, services and service delivery.

Among Territorial Collectivities, Intermediary Cities occupy an equally central place as a vital Nexus between local and global dynamics.

Intermediary Cities, which are cities with a population between 50.000 and one (1) million inhabitants, represent today<sup>2</sup> :

<b>8,923 Intermediary city in the World</b>	<b>20% of the World's population</b>	<b>36% of the World's urban population</b>
<b>1.423 Million inhabitants</b>	<b>656,8 M growing (1995-2015), including cities with less than 300,000 inhabitants</b>	<b>434,5 M growth projection (2015-2030), including cities with less than 300,000 inhabitants</b>

<sup>2</sup> Portal of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG): <https://www.uclg.org/fr/agenda/villes-intermediaires>

Because of their size, intermediary cities can provide housing and basic needs for citizenship efficiently and at lower cost than metropolitan areas. In view of their essential role in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG11) calling for " Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable ", and in order to build more balanced urban systems, it becomes imperative to give a greater place to intermediary cities in the implementation of the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, the Climate Agenda, the Migration Agenda, the Sendai Framework, and the African Vision 2063.

For United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Agenda for Intermediary Cities is based on the following main messages:

- Recognizing the role of intermediary cities in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda;
- Supporting intermediary cities and promoting a more balanced and inclusive territorial and urban development;
- Unlocking the potential of intermediary cities so that they can fully assume their responsibilities in terms of urban development;
- Taking advantage of proximity and human scale as essential assets of intermediary cities that must be promoted and preserved;
- Intermediary cities should improve their visibility;
- Encouraging regional development, fostering closer co-operation between urban and rural areas;
- Developing ambitious local economic policies in order to create new opportunities and adapt to national and global economic changes;
- Including the fight against growing inequalities in the development of social policies to ensure affordable access to basic services, health and education;
- Improving the urban environmental footprint;
- **Ensuring access and participation in culture and a cultural life open to all;**
- Promoting the "right to the city" approach<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Idem.

This Agenda is reinforced by the International Community's call for stronger commitments to safeguard cultural heritage and related innovative solutions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs, the Addis Ababa Program of Action(AAAA), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Climate Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, and other global frameworks.

It is also supported by the Objectives of the Agenda 21 for Culture which aims to:

1. Highlight the interdependent relationship between citizenship, culture and sustainable development;
2. Provide an international framework supported by achievable and measurable commitments and actions;
3. Updating the Agenda 21 for Culture adopted in 2004, making it more effective;
4. Taking advantage of the role of Local and Regional Authorities, especially at the level of cities, as competent authorities for the elaboration and implementation of policies with and for citizens;
5. Contributing to the definition and importance of the essential role of culture in the sustainable development agenda of the United Nations<sup>4</sup>.

Within the framework of the existing Strategic Partnership between ICESCO and UCLG-Africa, the place of UCLG-Africa in the ecosystem of UCLG, and building on the success of the first two editions of the International Conference for the celebration of the International Day of Monuments and Sites of World Cultural Heritage Sites (18 April) which focused, respectively, on "**Protecting Cultural Heritage through Participatory and Inclusive Governance for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals**" (18 April 2018) and "**Role and Responsibility of Local Governments in the preservation and enhancement of Cultural Heritage**" (18-19 April 2019), UCLG-Africa, ICESCO, Rabat City Council and their Partners are organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of this International Conference around the following general theme:

**“Cultural Heritage and Urban Sustainability: Challenges and Innovations of Intermediary Cities”**  
around four key moments:

1. **The organization of a Seminar for Peer Learning and ownership of the "7 Keys" Concept and Methodology (develop this part by Antoine around 2 or 3 paragraphs) ;**

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<sup>4</sup> UCLG, Agenda 21 for Culture, [www.uclg.org](http://www.uclg.org)

2. Visit of the City Hall of Rabat for the presentation of the Vision and Strategy of the City of Rabat as Capital of African Culture;
3. Celebration of the International Day of Monuments and Sites which will be marked by the participation of KeyNote Speakers and best practices;
4. Visit and discovery of the Monuments and Sites of the City of Rabat.

## **II. MAIN OBJECTIVE**

The main objective of this activity is, on one hand, to celebrate the International Day of Monuments and Sites and Rabat Capital of African Culture, and on the other hand, to raise awareness and strengthen the capacities of Mayors and Managers responsible for the protection and enhancement of Cultural Heritage at the level of intermediary Cities.

## **III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- Presenting to the participants the main messages from the 10th World Urban Forum held in Abu Dhabi on culture and innovation;
- Setting the place of Intermediary Cities as a link between local and global dynamics and as a level of decentralization where culture and heritage must play a central role as vectors of stability, peace, tolerance, citizenship and progress;
- Highlighting the main challenges facing intermediary cities when it comes to protecting, promoting and enhancing their cultural heritage;
- Training and building capacities on the 7 keys of UCLG's Agenda 21 for Culture;
- Sharing good and best practices in the field of protection, promotion and enhancement of Cultural Heritage;
- Celebrating together the International Day of Monuments, Sites, and Rabat Capital of African Culture.

#### **IV. PROCEEDING OF THE ACTIVITY**

The International Conference will be organized around the following main moments:

- 1)** A 4-day Seminar of peer learning and training on the 7 keys of Agenda 21 for Culture;
- 2)** An International Conference at ISESCO Headquarters, marked by an official opening, the intervention of a distinguished guests, 2 Plenary Sessions and an official closing;
- 3)** A visit to the Headquarters of the City Council of Rabat;
- 4)** An excursion.

#### **V. PARTICIPANTS**

The Conference is organized for the following target Representatives:

- 1)** The Governments;
- 2)** The National Associations of Local Governments.
- 3)** Mayors of Intermediary Cities and Local Elected Officials.
- 4)** The Mediterranean Network of Medinas and Heritage Promotion(RMM&HD).
- 5)** Managers responsible for the protection, promotion and enhancement of cultural heritage.
- 6)** The different components of the Civil Society engaged and/or involved in Culture protection and promotion.
- 7)** International Organizations.
- 8)** Development Partners.
- 9)** Academia....

## VI. PARTNERS

- ICESCO
- UCLG-AFRICA
- UCLG
- UNESCO (TBC).
- ICOMOS.
- UNPD (TBC).
- Ministry of the Interior (TBC).
- Ministry of Culture of Morocco (TBC).
- Ministry of Tourism of Morocco (TBC).
- The Association of Moroccan Regions (ARM) (TBC).
- The Moroccan Association of Presidents of Prefectural and Provincial Councils (AMPPPC) (TBC).
- The Moroccan Association of Presidents of Communal Councils (AMPCC).
- The Moroccan Foundation of Museums of the Kingdom of Morocco (TBC).
- The Mediterranean Network of Medinas and Heritage Development (RMM&HD).
- Other Partners.

## VII. CONTACTS

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## **DRAFT OF THE AGENDA**

**(As of 05/3/2020)**

- **April 12, 2020**  
Arrival of participants
- **From 13 to 16 April 2020**  
Peer learning and Training Seminar on Agenda 21 for Culture and the 7 Keys.
- **17 April 2020**  
Visit to the Rabat City Council Headquarters
- **April 18, 2020**  
International Conference at ICESCO Headquarters on "Cultural Heritage and Urban Sustainability: Challenges and Innovations of Intermediary Cities".
- Excursion
- **19 April 2020**  
Departure of participants