



MANDATE TO THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE OWHC: TOWARDS THE ADOPTION OF A NEW URBAN PROJECT

SYMPOSIUM – 16TH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF WORLD HERITAGE CITIES

We, members of the OWHC, participating in the 16th World Congress in Quebec, faithful to the Charter of the Organization, to its values and within the framework of recognized international agreements (1), adhere to the ambition of the OWHC which aims to bring together heritage preservation and sustainable development goals to improve the quality of life in our historic sectors.

While respecting the competences and autonomy of cities, we wish to unite our expertise in order to address the situations caused by the climatic, social and economic crises as well as the opportunities to help us develop different urban approaches, relying on the following statements:

- As the core of our cities, the historical areas have shaped the identity of the city and are the foundation for their development; we should use the strengths of the past to build the heritage of tomorrow.
- Interventions in these areas must consider all the functions that coexist within them in order to constitute attractive living environments.
- Their development in modernity must be carried out with respect for the integrity and authenticity of their heritage.
- As a local government, we must create and maintain a permanent dialogue with all the actors involved in the development of the city.

In this perspective, we are asking the General Secretariat of the OWHC to develop a detailed action plan for the implementation of the "Quebec Roadmap", in accordance with the political vision shared at the Quebec Symposium (see Annexe 2). The OWHC will then bring together our ideas and lead our cooperation to help our members to face development challenges, whether in contexts of emergence, reconstruction, or innovation.

By 2024, the Quebec Roadmap should enable the OWHC to adopt a New Urban Project designed to identify and share different solutions to reunite the human, the urban and the nature in order to meet what is at stake for improving the quality of life.

We declare our intention to participate in the implementation of the Quebec Roadmap.

Québec, 9 September 2022

(1) Notably:

- *The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*, UNESCO, 1954
- *The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, UNESCO, 1972 supplemented by the Recommendation concerning the Historic Urban Landscape, 2011
- *The Paris Agreement* (COP 21) United Nations, 2016
- *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, United Nations
- The report *The future of our pasts: involving cultural heritage in climate action*, ICOMOS, 2019
- *The Vienna Declaration for the Preservation, Development and Management of World Heritage in Dynamic Cities*, OWHC, 2019
- *The New Leipzig Charter for Urban Development*, European Union, 2020
- The update of the *Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties*, UNESCO, 2021
- *The Recommendation on the role of culture, cultural heritage and landscape in addressing global challenges*, Council of Europe, 2022.