

# The Fez Charter

**Adopted on September 8, 1993, by the Founding General Assembly  
of the Organization of World Heritage Cities**

Assembled in the imperial city of Fez, Kingdom of Morocco, in this twelve hundredth anniversary year of the city's foundation, the distinguished political representatives of the cities registered on the World Heritage List, on behalf of their fellow citizens and with reference to the UNESCO Constitution, the Convention concerning the Protection of the Cultural and Natural World Heritage, the Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas and the Québec City Declaration,

**WHEREAS**, in order to obtain unanimous, sustained, sincere support for peace in the world, it is essential to strive for the mutual understanding of civilizations and respect for cultural differences by fostering cooperation and solidarity between nations in all spheres of human endeavour;

**BEARING IN MIND THAT**, to a large extent, it is in the cities, where human populations are concentrated, that the cultural traits of peoples are expressed and that it is cities registered on the World Heritage List that, insofar as they exemplify human achievement, have a demanding, valuable role to play;

**BEARING IN MIND THAT** these cities, which must be preserved and protected, are subject every day to considerable pressure from changing societies, that because of their age and fragility, they are in some respects the privileged victims of the forces of change and that the deterioration or complete or partial disappearance of any of the cities would impoverish the heritage of humankind as a whole;

**CONSIDERING THAT** attempts to preserve and develop these cities demand, first and foremost, the cooperation of their residents and access to modern, reliable, efficient management techniques and financial resources that, all too often, fall short of needs;

**RECOGNIZING THAT**, to meet the challenges inherent in their preservation, these cities must end their isolation, foster cooperation and establish unfailing solidarity among themselves;

**SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT THEY ARE UNITING AND ADHERING TO THE VALUES  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF WORLD HERITAGE CITIES AND HEREBY PROMISE TO**

**WORK** for the welfare of the citizens of World Heritage Cities ;

**ADOPT** all necessary measures to ensure that cooperation between cities is effective and exemplary, in witness of their membership in the Organization of World Heritage Cities;

**UNDERTAKE** initiatives aimed at achieving international solidarity with a view to promoting and sharing the Organization's objectives with respect to research, training and the exchange of knowledge in the field of conservation in World Heritage Cities and to assisting these cities to carry out such initiatives;

**COMMIT** their respective municipal services to cooperating in the realization of these objectives;

**MAKE KNOWN** the charter in their respective countries so that each one's citizens espouse its values and assume with pride and dignity the obligations contained therein.

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