

Dear Rector, Prof dr. Hasan Ali Karasar,

Dear Mayor Ali Ertugrul Bul,

Dear CIVVIH colleagues, distinguished guests,

With great pleasure and honour I welcome you today to Sinasos as President of CIVVIH for our annual meeting and scientific symposium devoted to a crucial issue of our time: climate change and its impact on our precious historic towns and villages of the Mediterranean.

And it's a pleasure to be back in Cappadocia almost 30 years after my 1<sup>st</sup> visit in 1995.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the organisation of this event, in particularly Yuksel Dinçar, the reason why we are here today, he wanted us to discover this magnificent region but also its challenges. A warm thank you to Eti Akyüz Levi and to the Cappadocia university for welcoming us to this event.

The historic towns and villages are not only witnesses of our past; they are also a living, vibrant heritage that tells the story of our societies, our exchanges and our resilience in the face of challenges.

On this occasion, we must ask ourselves: how can we protect our towns and villages, while respecting their history and integrating the new climatic realities? How can we develop strategies that not only preserve our heritage, but also promote sustainable adaptation?

This symposium represents also an opportunity to reflect about the role to be played by institutions, communities, and civil society in adapting historic towns and villages to climate change and to the ecological transition and its effects.

We are fortunate to have among us experts from a wide range of backgrounds: town planners, architects, historians, ... your presence here underlines the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and open exchange. Together, we can develop innovative and pragmatic solutions that ensure the long-term survival of our historic cities and villages while meeting today's challenges.

Over these two days, we will have the opportunity to listen to enlightening presentations and take part in the enriching round table discussions.

Three topics will be developed:

### **1. NATURE/CULTURE AND TOWN/COUNTRYSIDE**

Cities are suffering from climate change faster than the rest of the territory. This fight requires a reassessment of urban planning policies and strategies in the short, medium, and long term.

## 2. THREATS AND RISKS

This topic brings up **all the threats and risks that affect our historic Mediterranean towns and villages**, whether natural or industrial, contextual such as the risk of fire, or economic and tourism-related, addressing the issue of prevention and the technical and human resources needed to deal with them.

3. Will be devoted to **60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARTER OF VENICE** following the three-year scientific plan 2024-2027 defined by ICOMOS.

The questioning of the Venice Charter will arise throughout the symposium and the round table, incorporating new topics of shared and intangible heritage.

5 moderators will lead us through this day and a half: Faika Bejaoui, Siame Hanna Ishac, Teresa Colletta, Sofia Avgerinou-Kolonias and Antoine Bruguerolle.

Exchange on the best practices and innovations that are developing across our regions; it is a valuable opportunity to share our experiences, learn from each other and create partnerships to build a resilient future.

I encourage you to ask questions, share your ideas and together build a collective vision for preserving our historic towns and villages in the face of climate change.

Thank you to all the speakers for your participation. I hope that this symposium will be a source of inspiration and motivation for our future actions.

Teşekkür ederim ve herkese hoş geldiniz!

Thank you and welcome everyone!

Paula Cordeiro  
CIVVIH president