

HERITAGE, SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR SOCIETIES AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Paris Declaration, 15 February 2019:

In the context of the global meeting on “Heritage, Sciences and Technologies” organized by the French Academy of Sciences and IPANEMA under the aegis of the Inter-Academic Group for Development (GID) from the 13th to 16th February in Paris, participants endeavor through this declaration to initiate a call for action through the mobilization of knowledge to improve the understanding, preservation and enhancement of cultural and natural heritage aiming at sustainable development.

Recognizing:

- the scientific, intercultural, educational, economic and social values of cultural and natural heritage;
- the growing collective interest in the preservation of such heritage passed on through History;
- the emergence of new research fields and methodological revolutions which contribute to cutting edge scientific discoveries and to innovative technologies in the study of ancient materials and environments;
- the magnitude of damage, often irreversible, to the world’s heritage due to natural disasters and climate-related phenomena, negligence, targeted destruction in times of conflict, as well as looting that generates a long-term negative impact on the countries of origin of these goods;
- the impact of tourism on the global economy, but also the negative aspects of mass tourism on preservation as well as the risk of heritage commodification and alteration;

Considering that:

- the world's cultural heritage, tangible, intangible and natural, is still largely unevenly recognized, inventoried and protected: discoveries are consistently being made that illustrate the need to pursue and intensify research and documentation of heritage assets;
- the study of heritage requires an increase in collaboration between experimental sciences, the humanities, environmental and information sciences;
- the study and dating of ancient materials using available technologies contribute to the advancement of knowledge;
- heritage is paramount to ensure that societies take ownership of their history;
- heritage constitutes a unique channel for sharing culture and science across all stakeholders;
- heritage contributes to strengthening social cohesion, to development, as well as to peace and to stability;
- the enhancement of knowledge and of understanding of heritage assets is a source of job creation in numerous sectors: economics, tourism, education, cultural industries...;
- the role of national and international institutions, such as UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOM, and the network of academies that GID federates, is important in this realm;

Participants to the global meeting on “Heritage, Sciences and Technologies” urge countries to commit themselves to:

- include heritage studies in the mission statements of research organizations, cultural institutions and funding agencies, combining experimental sciences, humanities, environmental and information sciences;
- simplify interdisciplinary recruitment;

- intervene with relevant authorities so as to inform and to encourage them to:
 - invest in laboratories carrying out research to improve knowledge and to safeguard heritage;
 - use all research instruments (large-scale facilities, mobile laboratories, databases, the field) as a melting pot for interdisciplinary heritage studies;
 - facilitate access to these infrastructures for researchers from countries that do not have such facilities;
 - put in place an effective policy for defining standards in the heritage sector;
 - support interdisciplinary training activities for jobs in the heritage sector, notably those related to recent developments in the methods of studying and managing the diversity of heritage assets;
- To take action in the public arena to:
 - implement an economic development policy based on studies applied to heritage;
 - disseminate the knowledge they bring about, while combating the use of heritage as an instrument of political and social division;
 - raise public awareness of the importance of the diversity of heritage and include it in societal development programs;
 - encourage a significant effort towards knowledge, inventory, restoration and enhancement of heritage, while respecting the balance between sustainable conservation and the development of economic and social potential.