

BRASIL - BRÉSIL

Recommendations to the 9th general Assembly of ICOMOS about the Charter of Venice

In São Paulo, on the occasion of the Commemorative Workshops of the 25th Anniversary of the Charter of Venice, members of the ICOMOS Brazilian Committee analysed the normative text and the following considerations were put to discussion and debate in preparation for the 9th General Assembly of ICOMOS in Lausanne.

- I The Charter's text, although concise and clear, is insufficient due to scientific progress having broadened the field of work in preservation and restoration, making it, thereby, necessary to revise concepts and demand effective and not just formal participation of specialists in areas of modern development;
- II As a result of technological progress, using remote control, photogrammetry, laser reproduction, electronic microscopes and other methods, surveys can be made of large and small critical natural areas, the defence of which is indispensable, inseparable from the conservation of urban and rural historical sites, and fundamental in the territorial and land studies of urban areas;
- III The conservation of the natural heritage must be incorporated as a cultural understanding of an indispensable harmony between the protection of urban and rural sites, and the conservation of the biodiversity in all «Design With Nature» Projects.
- IV High technology systems give to the restoration works at all levels and in all materials a degree of precision essential in maintaining the original substance of the artistic and documentary collections, monuments and built urban heritage;
- V The analysis made using the critical methodology of the social and exact sciences will permit traditional concepts, whose professional and ideological limitation is of some concern, to be revised and updated;
- VI Developing mass media have attracted to the conservation field an ever increasing number of people interested, outside the academic and professional areas, thus demonstrating that this

organised portion of civil society wishes to participate, and only by acquiring their effective support will the preservationist policy be successful;

- VII Marginal populations occupying urban historical centres in all countries, must be able to improve their daily living conditions, through restoration and recycling projects that also consider housing schemes of a suitable standard to comply with human dignity and civil rights;
- VIII It is necessary to establish equality between nations, abolishing outdated hierarchical concepts of civilizing values, responsible for the lack of prestige given to regional cultures whose inheritance deserves recognition and attention for its wealth and variety;
- IX The national committees should give fullest advice to non-governmental organisations of defence of the national heritage, using, for this purpose, their members and informative resources, and encourage specialised courses for preservationists among the various associations;
- X The Charter of Venice must remain as a model and reference, as the most relevant documentary evidence of its kind at this time in history.

The Brazilian National Committee of ICOMOS