

**9th ICOMOS international
symposium Lausanne
Subtheme 2 Venice Charter
Summary**

The Charter of Venice is considered a basic and fundamental document for the preservation and restoration of Monuments and Sites, the background and European legislation as regards the defense of humanity's cultural heritage having been studied.

Reference is made to the formation of ICOMOS, its mission and the important role it has played since its formation more than twenty-five years ago.

Nevertheless, it is thought that other complementary Charters should exist beside the Charter of Venice to prevent different interpretations being made over time, especially as regards Historical Complexes and Cities.

It is recalled that the need to protect and revitalise Historical Centres is described as early as Document 8 of the Venice Congress as an urgent matter to be dealt with at an international level.

The urgent need for new international documentation to complement the Charter of Venice arose due to society's evolution from 1964 to date, the great world events and the new problems which society is currently raising.

The evolution of the American doctrine on this matter is studied together with the European problems, especially as regards historical cities and centres.

The activities that took place in the framework of the O.A.S. pilot plans were based on these doctrines, and, at the same time, the experts needed for their development were trained and workshop schools for restorers set up.

The new urban foundations created by Spain in Latin America, following the Royal Instructions of 1573, centred their defense of the Architectural Heritage on the Historical Centres and Cities and were a step ahead of the European doctrine on this matter.

The «Carta de Quito» as it is known, a little disseminated document, in whose drafting the author participated, considers this matter, a step ahead of the ICOMOS Historical Cities Charter in whose

drafting committee he also participated at the Meeting convened in Toledo. This charter, passed after small alterations in Paris, was approved by the Washington Congress and is known in America as the Toledo Charter.

Reference is made to the creation of the International Regional Committee of Historical Cities for the American and Mediterranean Areas. Its operation is detailed, a Documentation Centre having been set up, which is connected with the Computerised Archives in Spain and America, bearing in mind the proximity of the 500th Anniversary, though the Mediterranean area is not overlooked since many of these archives have abundant documentation, maps, etc. of this Zone, as many of these countries belonged to the Spanish Empire.

Once the computerisation of the Archives has been completed, some of them have already been terminated, the Toledo Centre will be able to attend researchers and scholars efficiently and rapidly, observing UNESCO regulations.

The site of the Centre in a historical city which preserves the traditions of various cultures and civilisations — Roman, visigoth, Islamic and Christian — is the most appropriate frame to house a centre of this type, which is chaired by the author of the report.