



A NEW INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT: THE PROPOSED UNESCO RECOMMENDATION ON THE HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE (HUL)

Preliminary Report

INTRODUCTION

Urban conservation is an important part of modern heritage policies. For at least half a century, historic cities have acquired an incomparable status in modern culture and in modern life; a status defined by the quality of the architectural and physical environment, by the persistence of the sense of place, and by the concentration of the historic and artistic events that form the basis for the identity of a people. Last but not least, they have become the icons of global cultural tourism and coveted places for the enjoyment of a different lifestyle and for cultural experiences for millions of people.

But can we say that conservators have the tools they need to ensure the long-term protection of the urban historic values? Unfortunately, if we consider the economic and environmental trends, we can easily see new threats emerging for urban historic conservation, with a lack of adequate tools to cope with them.

As the economic and social role of the historic city changes with time, as its own uses and functions are less and less decided by its own inhabitants, but rather by global forces such as the tourism or real estate industries, the meaning of urban conservation changes and needs to be reassessed. The first decade of the twenty-first century has already shown which are the emerging challenges for urban historic conservation: global population growth and migrations, the explosion of domestic and international tourism, the growing demand for specific historic “packages” and the increasing pressures for land conversion inside and – most of all – outside the historic precincts.

While many countries have been able in the past decades to develop adequate legislation and regulations for the protection of urban historic areas, the sustainability of public and private efforts towards conservation is far from being demonstrated, in a world where public resources available for cultural investments are scarce and dwindling. The toolkit available today to urban conservators is not small: it is formed by a good system of internationally accepted principles of conservation, reflected in important international charters and legal tools such as the 1972 World Heritage Convention. Furthermore, the toolkit is supported by a large number of good practices developed over more than a century in different contexts and on an elaborate planning and regulatory framework.

However, this apparatus is often weak and powerless in front of the forces of change that dominate the world and its urban scenes today and in the foreseeable future. Many of the most important urban historic areas existing in Europe, Asia and Latin America have lost their traditional functions and are under the pressure of tourism and other transformation agents. The planning and regulatory tools put in place are not always adequate to address the new challenges. Urban conservators are increasingly aware of the gap existing between the ideal world of the “Charters” and the practical realities, especially in emerging societies,

and are advocating that new principles, approaches and tools have to be identified to cope with the new challenges.

THE INTERNATIONAL DEBATE

The 1972 World Heritage Convention has played an important role in fostering urban historic conservation. Today, historic cities constitute the largest heritage “category” on the World Heritage List, with over 250 inscribed sites out of more than 900. The World Heritage Committee in the past few years has invested a considerable effort to identify the challenges for the conservation of urban heritage and to develop appropriate policy orientations.

In 2005 a major conference was organized in Vienna to discuss the issue and to define a new approach. The document that was issued by that conference, the “Vienna Memorandum”, constituted an initial step to support the action of the Committee and to revise the current conservation policies. Since then, an important debate has taken place in the international conservation community. With support from the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, the World Heritage Committee and the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN, the World Heritage Centre has started a process of regional consultation meetings to receive expert input on concepts, definitions and approaches to urban historic conservation.

Five regional expert meetings, in Jerusalem (June 2006), Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation (January 2007), Olinda, Brazil (November 2007), Zanzibar, Tanzania (November-December 2009) and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (December 2009), in addition to three planning meetings held at UNESCO Headquarters (in September 2006, November 2008 and February 2010), constitute the core of the debate with identification of issues, approaches and tools. In general, broad support for the ongoing review process has been expressed, by which the 2005 Vienna Memorandum was widely recognized as a useful basis. Furthermore, this debate was at the heart of the approval by the UNESCO General Conference to prepare a new Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape for adoption in 2011.

THE ISSUES

Global processes have a direct impact on the identity and visual integrity of historic cities and their broader setting, as well as on the people who live in them. While some cities are growing exponentially, others are shrinking and being radically restructured as a result of shifting economic processes and new patterns of migration. To address these issues, local urban strategies are becoming the key component of urban development planning. The increasing globalization of the economy is radically transforming many contemporary cities, benefiting some groups, while marginalizing others. In some countries, centrally controlled planning has given way to decentralization and market-oriented approaches. The result is that cities have been exposed to new pressures, among which the following:

- rapid urbanization threatening the sense of place and identity of communities;
- uncontrolled, poorly conceived and/or badly implemented urban development;
- intensity and speed of changes, including global warming;
- unsustainable consumption of resources.

THE WAY FORWARD

While most of the issues related to the present and future challenges have been identified, the new Recommendation will have to reflect a great variety of situations and stages of evolution that historic cities face within regions, as well as in different regions of the world. A document with universal value will necessarily encompass the diversity of approaches and value systems of the different cultures, and define concepts and tools that are to be adapted to their specific contexts. The discussion will review the main components of urban conservation and in particular the following:

The system of values and meanings of urban heritage

Recognizing the transition of the values associated with urban heritage conservation will open the way to the definition of the present and future value system. The historical transition of urban heritage values from “monument” to “social complex” to “living heritage” needs to be understood to support a new approach.

The definition of historic urban landscape

The historic urban landscape is the urban settlement understood as a historic layering of cultural and natural values, extending beyond the notion of “historic centre” or “ensemble” to include the broader urban context and its geographical setting. The historic urban landscape approach suggests that intelligent planning of the larger urban area starts with understanding the evolution of the historic urban landscape at this larger scale, and then seeing the current city as a depositing of many layers over time into that setting. In every case, the history needs to be made known and multiple layers need to be revealed and celebrated.

The management of change

Current principles and practices are still inadequate to define the limits of acceptable change, and the assessments tend to be ad hoc and based on subjective perceptions. A specific approach has to be developed to define the role of contemporary architecture and contemporary creation in historic places, as the need to respect a continuum has been frequently disregarded or misunderstood.

Sustainable social and economic development

A reflection on the changing role of urban historic areas and on the way to synergize socio-economic development and conservation strategies is necessary, in order to identify the new policies and the resource stream necessary to maintain the historic urban landscape in a sustainable way.

Updated tools for urban conservation

New urban conservation tools for the management of urban values need to be defined. These may include tools to involve the participation of the communities of stakeholders in the definition of the value system of an historic place, tools to define and protect integrity of the urban fabric and the urban landscape, tools to identify the trade-offs and the limits of acceptable change in an historic context.

THE PROCESS

In accordance with the *Rules of Procedure concerning Recommendations to Member States and International Conventions* covered by UNESCO's Constitution, the Director-General presented a proposal to the 35th session of the General Conference to prepare an

international standard-setting instrument on the conservation of historic urban landscapes. This instrument should be developed to address the new challenges that have emerged in the field of urban conservation since the adoption of the last UNESCO Recommendation on heritage, i.e. the 1976 *Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas*. It should be emphasized that this proposed new standard-setting instrument would not be specific to World Heritage cities, but broadened to all historic cities.

With the General Conference's approval and adoption of 35 C/Resolution 42 on 16 October 2009 work on the issues and ways of addressing the new challenges of urban heritage conservation and management has commenced, which has resulted in the Draft Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape accompanying this background paper. This text is the result of the accumulated wisdom of urban conservation professionals, and urban and national-level administrators and managers, brought together by the World Heritage Centre in regional expert meetings and planning sessions (eight in total over the period June 2006 to February 2010) since the World Heritage Committee's recommendation "that the General Conference of UNESCO adopt a new Recommendation to complement and update the existing ones on the subject of conservation of historic urban landscapes, with special reference to the need to link contemporary architecture to the urban historic context" (**Decision 29 COM 5D**). In addition to the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, various professional organizations have provided input into the debate and this draft text, including UN-HABITAT, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Union of Architects (UIA), the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP), the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISoCaRP), the Getty Conservation Institute (CGI), the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) and the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA).

According to the *Rules of Procedure concerning Recommendations to Member States and International Conventions*, Member States will need to submit their comments on this Draft text to UNESCO by **25 December 2010 at the latest**. A final draft text shall be presented and discussed at a category II intergovernmental meeting in spring 2011 (exact dates to be determined), as put forward in 35 C/Resolution 42 of 16 October 2009, with representatives of Member States of UNESCO for finalization and eventual adoption by UNESCO's General Conference at its 36th session in October-November 2011.

RECOMMENDATION ON THE HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE

First Draft

PREAMBLE

Considering that historic urban areas are among the most abundant and diverse manifestations of our common cultural heritage, constituting a key testimony to humankind's endeavours and aspirations through the centuries and in all parts of the world,

Further considering that urban heritage is a human and social element, defined by an historic layering of cultural and natural values that have been produced by passing cultures and an accumulation of traditions, recognized as such in their diversity,

Also considering that urbanization is proceeding at an unprecedented scale in the history of humankind and that throughout the world this is driving socio-economic change and growth, which should be harnessed at the local, regional, national and international levels,

Noting, however, that rapid and uncontrolled development is transforming urban areas and their settings, with a fragmentation and deterioration of urban heritage and a deep impact on community values, all over the world,

Considering therefore that, in order to support the protection of natural and cultural heritage, emphasis needs to be put on the integration of urban conservation strategies into local development processes, including contemporary architecture, for which the application of a landscape approach is considered key to urban heritage management and maintaining urban identity,

Recalling that a corpus of standard-setting documents, including conventions, recommendations and charters, exists on the subject of the conservation of historic areas,¹ all of which remain valid,

Noting, however, that under processes of global market liberalization and decentralization, as well as mass tourism, market exploitation of heritage, and climate change, conditions have changed and cities are now subject to new development pressures and challenges not present at the time of adoption of the last UNESCO recommendation on historic areas in 1976 (i.e. the Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas),

¹ In particular the 1972 UNESCO *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, the 2003 UNESCO *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, the 2005 UNESCO *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*, the 1962 UNESCO *Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding of the Beauty and Character of Landscapes and Sites*, the 1968 UNESCO *Recommendation concerning the Preservation of Cultural Property Endangered by Public or Private Works*, the 1972 UNESCO *Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage*, the 1976 UNESCO *Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas*; the 1964 ICOMOS *International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites* (Venice Charter), the 1982 ICOMOS *International Charter for Historic Gardens* (Florence Charter), and the 1987 ICOMOS *Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas* (Washington Charter).

Further noting the evolution of the concepts of culture and heritage, and approaches to their management, through key international meetings,² which have been useful in guiding policies and practices worldwide,

Desiring to supplement and extend the application of the standards and principles laid down in these international instruments,

Having before it proposals concerning the historic urban landscape as an approach to urban heritage conservation, which question appears on the session's agenda as item [...],

Having decided at its 35th session that this question should take the form of a Recommendation to Member States,

Adopts, [this ... day of ... 2011], the present Recommendation.

The General Conference recommends that Member States apply the above provisions by adopting, as a national law or in some other form, measures with a view to giving effect to the principles and norms set out in this Recommendation in the territories under their jurisdiction.

The General Conference recommends that Member States bring this Recommendation to the attention of the national, regional and local authorities and of institutions, services or bodies and associations concerned with the safeguarding of urban historic settlements and their wider geographical settings.

The General Conference recommends that Member States report to it, at the dates and in the form determined by it, on action taken by them on this Recommendation.

INTRODUCTION

1. Our time is witness to the biggest human migration in history: urban areas now shelter more than half of humanity. Urban areas are increasingly important as engines of growth and as centres of innovation and creativity; they provide opportunities for employment and education and respond to people's evolving needs and aspirations.
2. Rapid and uncontrolled urbanization, however, can result in a drastic deterioration of urban environmental quality. This may be due to excessive building density, standardized and monotonous buildings, loss of public space and amenities, inadequate infrastructure, debilitating poverty, social isolation, and an increasing risk of climate-related disasters.
3. Urban heritage, including its tangible and intangible components, constitutes a key resource in enhancing the liveability of urban areas and sustaining productivity, in a changing global environment. As the future of humanity hinges on an effective management of resources, conservation becomes a strategy to achieve balanced urban growth and quality of life.
4. In the course of the past half-century, urban heritage conservation has emerged as an important sector of public policy worldwide. It is a response to the need to preserve

² In particular the 1982 *World Conference on Cultural Policies* in Mexico City, the 1994 *Nara Meeting on Authenticity*, the 1995 summit of the *World Commission on Culture and Development*, the 1996 *HABITAT II Conference* in Istanbul with ratification of Agenda 21, the 1998 *UNESCO Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development* in Stockholm, the 1998 joint World Bank-UNESCO *Conference on Culture in Sustainable Development – Investing in Cultural and Natural Endowments*, the 2005 *International Conference on World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture* in Vienna, the 2005 *ICOMOS General Assembly on the Setting of Monuments and Sites* in Xi'an, and the 2008 *ICOMOS General Assembly on the Spirit of Place* in Quebec.

shared values and to benefit from the legacy of history. However, the shift from an emphasis on architectural monuments primarily towards a broader recognition of the importance of social, economic and cultural processes in the conservation of urban values, matched by a drive to adapt the existing policies and to create new tools to address this vision, has not yet reached its full potential.

5. This Recommendation addresses the need to better frame urban heritage conservation strategies within the larger goals of overall sustainable development, in order to support public and private actions aimed at preserving and enhancing the quality of the human environment. It suggests a landscape approach for identifying, conserving and managing historic areas within their broader urban contexts, by considering the inter-relationships of their physical forms, their spatial organization and connection, their natural features and settings, and their social and cultural values.
6. This approach addresses the policy and management concerns of a variety of stakeholders, including local, national, international, public and private actors in the urban development process.
7. This Recommendation builds upon the four previous UNESCO Recommendations related to heritage preservation, recognizing the importance and the validity of their concepts and principles in the history and practice of conservation. In addition, modern conservation conventions and charters address the many dimensions of cultural and natural heritage and constitute the foundations for this Recommendation.
8. To assist Member States in its implementation, this Recommendation is supported by an action plan.

I. DEFINITION

9. The historic urban landscape is the urban area understood as a historic layering of cultural and natural values, extending beyond the notion of “historic centre” or “ensemble” to include the broader urban context and its geographical setting.
10. This wider context includes the site’s topography, geomorphology and natural features; its built environment, both historic and contemporary; its infrastructures above and below ground; its open spaces and gardens; its land use patterns and spatial organization; its visual relationships; and all other elements of the urban structure. It also includes social and cultural practices and values, economic processes, and the intangible dimensions of heritage as related to diversity and identity.
11. This definition provides the basis for a comprehensive approach for the identification, conservation and management of historic urban landscapes within an overall sustainability framework.
12. The historic urban landscape approach aims at preserving the quality of the human environment and enhancing the productivity of urban spaces. It integrates the goals of urban heritage conservation with the goals of social and economic development. It is rooted in a balanced and sustainable relationship between the built and natural environment.
13. The historic urban landscape approach considers cultural creativity as a key asset for human, social and economic development and provides tools to manage physical and social transformations and to promote harmonious integration of contemporary interventions.
14. The historic urban landscape approach learns from the traditions of local communities and promotes respect for their values, while recognizing the legitimate concerns of the national and international communities.

II. OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF URBAN CONSERVATION IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

15. The existing UNESCO Recommendations recognize the importance of historic areas in modern societies. They identify a number of specific threats to the conservation of historic areas, and provide general principles, policies and guidelines to meet such challenges.
16. In the past decades, due to the sharp increase in the world's urban population, the scale and speed of development and the changing economy, urban settlements and their historic areas have become drivers of economic growth in many regions of the world and taken on a new role in cultural and social life. They have also been exposed to new pressures. Among these pressures are the following:

Urbanization

17. Rapid urban growth is transforming the face of urban historic areas. Global processes have a deep impact on the integrity and community values of urban areas and their settings, and on the perceptions and realities of inhabitants and users. On the one hand, urbanization provides economic, social and cultural opportunities that can enhance the quality of urban areas; on the other hand, it carries a threat to the sense of place, the identity of communities, and the integrity of the urban fabric.

Development

18. Global economic processes offer ways and means to alleviate urban poverty and to promote social and human development. The greater availability of innovations, such as information technology and sustainable planning, design and building practices, can improve urban areas and their quality of life. New functions in urban historic settlements, such as services and tourism, are important economic initiatives that can contribute to the well-being of the communities and to the conservation of cultural heritage. However, failing to capture these opportunities leads to unsustainable and unviable cities, while implementing them badly with poorly conceived development results in the destruction of heritage assets.

Environment

19. Human settlements have constantly adapted to climatic and environmental changes. However, the intensity and speed of present changes are challenging our complex urban environments. Concern for the environment, in particular for energy consumption, is giving rise to new approaches and new models for urban living, based on innovative and more ecologically sensitive policies and practices aiming at strengthening sustainability and the quality of urban life. Many of these initiatives, however, do not yet integrate natural and cultural heritage.
20. The historic urban landscape approach reflects the fact that the discipline and practice of urban heritage conservation has evolved significantly in these same decades, enabling policy-makers and managers to deal more effectively with the new opportunities and challenges. The historic urban landscape approach supports communities in their quest for development and adaptation, while retaining qualities and values linked to their history and collective memory.

III. POLICIES

21. Modern urban conservation policies, as reflected in existing international recommendations and charters, have set the stage for the preservation of historic urban areas. However, present and future challenges require the definition and

implementation of a new generation of public policies identifying and protecting the historic layering of cultural and natural values in urban environments.

22. Policies for urban heritage conservation should be integrated within a broader urban context, and historic forms and practices should inform sustainable contemporary development. Policies should provide mechanisms for balancing long-term conservation and sustainability with short-term management objectives. An integrated approach allowing conservation practice to be part of distinctive and successful urban design and development should also explore innovative technical and planning practices applicable to historic settings. In particular, the responsibilities of the different actors are the following.
23. Member States should integrate urban heritage conservation strategies into national development policies and agendas according to the historic urban landscape approach. Within this framework, local authorities should prepare urban development plans that are informed by historic forms and practices.
24. Public service providers and the private sector should be aware of their responsibilities and cooperate through public-private partnerships to ensure the successful application of the historic urban landscape approach.
25. International organizations dealing with sustainable development processes should integrate the Historic Urban Landscape approach in their strategies, plans and operations.
26. National and international non-governmental organizations should participate in developing and disseminating tools and best practices.
27. All levels of government – local, national, regional and federal – should be aware of their responsibility and contribute to the definition, development, implementation and assessment of urban heritage conservation policies, coordinated both from an institutional and sectoral viewpoint.

IV. TOOLS

28. The successful application of the historic urban landscape approach demands a robust toolkit that includes a range of interdisciplinary and innovative tools, adapted to local contexts. Tools may be organized into the following categories.
29. **Regulatory systems** should include special ordinances, acts, or decrees to manage tangible and intangible components of the urban heritage, including their social and environmental values. Traditional and customary systems should be recognized and reinforced as necessary.
30. **Community engagement tools** should empower a diverse cross-section of stakeholders to identify key values in their urban areas, develop visions, set goals, and agree on actions to safeguard their heritage and promote sustainable development. These tools should facilitate intercultural dialogue by learning from communities about their histories, traditions, values, needs, and aspirations and by facilitating the mediation and negotiation between conflicting interests and groups.
31. **Technical tools** should help protect the integrity and authenticity of the architectural and material attributes of urban heritage. They should also allow for the recognition of cultural significance and diversity, and provide for the monitoring and management of change to improve the quality of life and of urban space. Consideration should be given to the mapping of cultural and natural features, while heritage, social and environmental impact assessments should be used to support sustainability and continuity in planning and design.

32. **Financial tools** should aim to improve urban areas while safeguarding their heritage values. They should aim to build capacities and support innovative income generating development rooted in tradition. In addition to government and global funds from international agencies, financial tools should be effectively employed to promote private investments at the local level. Micro credit and other flexible financing to support local enterprise, as well as a variety of models of public-private partnerships, are also central to making the historic urban landscape approach financially sustainable.

V. CAPACITY-BUILDING, RESEARCH, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

33. Capacity-building should involve the main stakeholders: communities, decision-makers, and professionals and managers, in order to foster understanding of the historic urban landscape approach and its implementation. Effective capacity-building hinges on an appropriate interaction of these main stakeholders, aimed at defining strategies and objectives, action frameworks and resource mobilization schemes.
34. Research should target the complex layering of urban settlements, in order to identify values and understand their meaning for the communities. It is essential to document the state of urban areas and their evolution, to facilitate the evaluation of proposals for change and to improve management.
35. State-of-the-art information and communication technology should be used to document, understand and present the complex layering of urban areas and their constituent components, in particular to reach out to women, youth and all under-represented constituencies to capture their attention and foster their support and participation.

VI. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

36. Member States and international governmental and non-governmental organizations should facilitate public understanding and involvement in the implementation of the historic urban landscape approach, by disseminating best practices and lessons learned from different parts of the world, in order to strengthen the network of knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.
37. They should also encourage corporate social responsibility, with a view to making the private sector a full partner in the historic urban landscape approach, and to establish enabling environments for private investment in sustainable management of urban areas and their historic settings.
38. In all cases, global participation and pressure should be balanced against local identity and the desire to respect the goal of historical and cultural continuity within a framework of dynamic and creative evolution.

ACTION PLAN TO ACCOMPANY THE RECOMMENDATION ON THE HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE

Upon adoption of the new UNESCO Recommendation on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscape at the 36th session of the General Conference in autumn 2011, the Member States commit themselves to taking appropriate steps:

- to adapt this new instrument to their specific contexts;
- to disseminate it widely across their national territories;
- to facilitate implementation through formulation and adoption of supporting policies; and
- to monitor its impact on the conservation and management of historic cities and urban settlements.

While stressing the need to take account of the **singularity of the context** of each historic city and urban settlement, which will result in a different approach to its management, nevertheless six **critical steps** can be identified for Member States to consider when implementing the historic urban landscape approach. They would include the following:

1. Undertake comprehensive surveys and **mapping of the city's natural, cultural and human resources** (such as water catchment areas, green spaces, monuments and sites, view sheds, local communities with their living cultural traditions);
2. Reach consensus **using participatory planning and stakeholder consultations on what values to protect** and to transmit to future generations and to determine the attributes that carry these values;
3. **Assess vulnerability** of these attributes to socio-economic stresses, as well as impacts of climate change;
4. With these in hand, and only then, develop a city development strategy (CDS) or a city conservation strategy (CCS) **to integrate urban heritage values and their vulnerability status into a wider framework of city development**, the overlay of which will indicate (a) strictly no-go areas; (b) sensitive areas that require careful attention to planning, design and implementation; and (c) opportunities for development (among which high-rise constructions);
5. **Prioritize actions** for conservation and development;
6. Establish the appropriate **partnerships and local management frameworks** for each of the identified projects for conservation and development in the CDS/CCS, as well as to develop mechanisms for the coordination of the various activities between different actors, both public and private.

To assist the Member States in this exercise, UNESCO aims to establish a **HUL Support Programme** that will draw upon **international and intersectoral expertise** in the fostering of cooperation in the further development and implementation of the historic urban landscape approach, the exchange of ideas and practices, and communication and transmission of knowledge to all stakeholders and civil society.

In this vein, the HUL Support Programme would comprise the following **seven actions**:

1. Create a special **website** to facilitate communication and exchange on the historic urban landscape approach related to its development and implementation, in particular as a virtual platform for local governments and site managers to share views, ideas and knowledge.
2. Establish a **working group** comprised of institutional partners relevant to the development and implementation of the historic urban landscape approach, with a particular focus on those that can provide specialized skills and expertise to Member States requesting technical assistance.
3. Develop **technical assistance packages** which can be sponsored by bilateral donors and private sector parties, with an emphasis on lesser-developed regions, such as Africa, Central Asia and small island developing States, and with a selection of pilot sites that require particular attention, such as historic cities inscribed on the World Heritage List in Danger or other international watch lists.
4. Encourage **scientific research** on specific aspects of the historic urban landscape approach, including Integrated Heritage Legislation; Urban Heritage and Integrity; Compatibility of Contemporary Interventions; Limits of Acceptable Change; Strategic Assessment and Heritage Impact Assessment; Modern Planning and Design and Traditional Knowledge; Creativity and Making Heritage; Disaster Reduction and Adaptation; Private Sector Involvement; Documentation, Visualization and Presentation – to name but a few.
5. Organize **conferences and symposia** to foster international debate on the further development and implementation of the historic urban landscape approach and to disseminate the state-of-the-art in research and practice, and also to make them known through publications in the virtual and real domains.
6. Support the development of **didactic materials, curriculum design and teacher training** with regard to courses and modules on urban conservation and the historic urban landscape approach in synergy with ICCROM and the various category 2 centres established under the auspices of UNESCO around the world.
7. Organize a **review exercise**, once every six years, with regard to the implementation of the Recommendation by Member States and its impact on the conservation and management of urban settlements and historic cities, to be used to formulate best practice guidelines and specific advice to the stakeholders, and to report back to UNESCO's General Conference.