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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE
Twenty-third session**

**Marrakesh, Morocco
29 November– 4 December 1999**

GENERAL INFORMATION

UNESCO



LA MANERA

Marrakesh – Atlas Marrakech Hotel

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

29 November – 4 December 1999

Information

All communications, except Form Nos. 1, 2 and 3, must be sent to the following address by 19 November 1999:

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
7 Place de Fontenoy
75007

Tel: 00331. 4568.1571
00331.4568.1876

Fax: 00331.4568.5570

The Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee will function at the place of the meeting as from 24 November 1999. From this date onwards, all correspondence should be sent to the following address:

**Secretariat du Comité du Patrimoine mondial
Hotel Atlas Marrakech
Avenue de France
Marrakech
Maroc**

The participants will be able to receive mail for the entire duration of the meeting.

List of annexed documents

- 1. General Information**
- 2. Cultural Activities (provisional programme)**
- 3. Practical Information**
- 4. Annexes:**
 - Registration form**
 - Hotel reservation form**
 - Reservation form for excursions**
 - Marrakesh - map.**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Meeting venue: Marrakesh

Dominated by the majestic peaks of the Atlas, the site of Marrakesh was once a trading centre under the protection of the Divinities who changed names during Antiquity. Therefore, in the Middle Ages it was only natural that Marrakesh was chosen by the Almoravids (1056-1147), founders of the first western Moslem Empire, to establish their capital. Although the word originated from the Berber language its meaning remains enigmatic, but it probably refers to the protection of the gods. However, whatever its origin, it was used to designate the rest of the country and gave birth to the latin Maroch, from which today's forms of the European language derive.

Historical sources date the founding of the first settlements by the Almoravides, a confederation of Beber tribes from the Sahara, in 1070. The town developed under the great ruler Youssef Ibn Tachefine and benefited from the conquest of the Maghreb and Andalousia as well as from its status as capital, thus becoming the political and cultural western Moslem centre. His son, Ali ben Youssef, built the Koubba, jewel of the Almoravid architecture in the heart of the Medina, Place Ben Youssef.

In the High Atlas which separates the town from the desert, the Almohad Movement was born, founded on the power of the Berber tribes united by a religious belief. The Almohads (1125-1230) captured Marrakesh in 1147 and went on to conquer Andalousia and the Maghreb right through to Tripolitaine. They left behind infrastructures and monuments which are still appreciated and cherished today: the Minaret of the Koutoubia, the Kasbah, the ramparts, the monumental doors, the gardens, etc. Marrakesh flourished under their reign, over a vast empire and was an important political, economic and cultural centre without equal.

In 1269, the Merinids (1269-1465), Berbers originating from the east, conquered the city and marked the end of the Almohad reign, but they preferred Fez, closer to their region of origin. Few monuments dating from that dynasty were built in Marrakesh which experienced a decline in its development.

It was not until 1551 that Marrakesh rose again to the level of a capital under the reign of the Saadians (1529-1659), who came from the south-west where they preached the holy war against the Portuguese settled in Agadir. They restored the monuments of the town and built new ones, the most remarkable among which is the Badia Palace (Le Sublime) built by Ahmed El Mansour, but also the Mouassine Complex, the Ben Youssef Moslem College, the Saadian tombs, the fountains, etc.

The Alawites, who reigned from 1668, occupied the town that same year. A. Moulay Rachid who conquered it restored the Merinide Mosque of Ibn Salih. However, his brother and successor Moulay Ismail, true founder of the dynasty, preferred Meknès, which became the capital of the Kingdom. Some of his successors restored the religious monuments of the city and spent long periods there. Under the regin of Moulay

Abdelaziz (1894-1907), his Grand Vizier Ba Hmad built the Palais de la Bahia. During the same period other important buildings were constructed such as the Dar Si Said which houses the Museum of the same name and Dar Mnebhi which houses the Marrakesh Museum.

Under the French Protectorate, following the policy of the Resident General Lyautey (1912-1925), a new town was created in 1920, Gueliz, north-west of the Medina. Since the sixties, other areas have been built making Marrakesh, which experienced intense development under the reigns of Mohammed V and especially of Hassan II, one of the great cities of Morocco today. Marrakesh, heir to a grandiose heritage, world tourist destination, international conference venue, possessing an important infrastructure, cultural centre beyond dispute, occupies an undeniable place in modern Morocco.

In 1985, the Medina was inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Place Jama El Fna was chosen in 1997 as a model for the concept of «Oral Heritage of Humanity».

The meetings of the Bureau and the Committee will be held in a large meeting room in the lower level of the Hotel Atlas Marrakesh.

Registration of the Participants

Each participant should send the registration form (No.2) in advance (before 10 November) indicating the duration of his/her stay, the itinerary chosen to arrive at and to leave Marrakesh, the date of arrival and departure, and the excursion reservation form (No.3). These forms should be sent to:

**Director du patrimoine culturel
Comite d'organisation de la 23eme session du
Comite du patrimoine mondial
17, rue Michlifén, Agdal
10 000 Rabat
Tel : (212.7) 67 13 81
Fax: (212.7) 67 13 97**

All participants should register at the Reception Desk at the venue of the meeting, Hotel Atlas Marrakesh, on 26 November from 08h.00 to 09h.00 for the Bureau session and on 28 November from 18h.00 to 21h.00, or on 29 November from 08h.00 to 09h.15 for the Committee session. Upon registration, participants will receive a folder containing the working documents, a badge with the participant's name and all other necessary documents. Extra copies of documents will be made available during the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to always wear their badge during the meeting so as to facilitate identification.

Working Documents

All the documents, including those concerning the meeting and the final report, will be distributed in English and French. The meeting programme will be available daily. Any changes will be announced at the end of each session. The Secretariat will be responsible for printing, translation and reproduction of all material relative to the Committee's activity.

Working Hours of the Meeting

Morning

09h.30 - 13h.00

Afternoon

15h.00 - 18h.00

Working Languages

English and French will be the working languages at the meeting. Simultaneous translation in the working languages will be available for all participants during the meeting.

During the opening ceremony, interpretation from Arabic to the working languages will be ensured.

Press and Media

The Secretariat will be responsible for distributing the official statements, communications and informative bulletins to the media.

In a press conference to be held on Thursday, 2 December 1999 at 13h.00 in the meeting room of the working groups (ground floor), the sites inscribed in the World Heritage List will be announced.

Opening sessions

Bureau : Friday, 26 November 1999, 09h.30. Hotel Atlas Marrakesh

Committee : Monday, 29 November 1999, 09h.30. Hotel Atlas Marrakesh

2. Provisional Programme of Planned Cultural Activities

Sunday, 28 November

Guided tour of the Medina of Marrakesh

Monday, 29 November

20h.30: Gala dinner

Tuesday, 30 November

19h.00: Guided tour of the Dar Si Said Museum

Wednesday, 1 December

19h.00: Guided tour of the Marrakesh Museum

Thursday, 2 December

19h.00: Exhibition «Dress and Ornamental Wear of Morocco» (Bab Doukkala Gallery)

Friday, 3 December

20h.30: Dinner offered by M. le Wali of His Majesty

Saturday, 4 December

Morning free

Sunday, 5 December

Guided tour of the town of Essaouira

NB. A photo exhibition entitled ***World Heritage sites of Morocco*** will be held during the session of the Committee in the Exhibition Hall of the Hotel Atlas Marrakesh.

3. Practical Information

Transportation

Marrakesh is accessible directly by air, or via Casablanca.

FLIGHT INFORMATION FOR MARRAKESH

Casablanca	Paris	Rome	Frankfort	Zurich	London	Madrid
d.8.20 a.9.00	d.14.50 a.16.05	d.8.00 a.9.00	d.15.00 a.18.25	d.13.55 a.16.55	d.17.15 a.22.35	d.10.10 a.12.55
d.12.15 a.12.45	d.10.20 a.12.55				d.17.40 a.22.35	d.21.10 a.22.35
d.17.45 a.18.25	d.15.00 a.18.25					

Marrakesh-Menara Airport is linked to the city by taxi (with a meter). The cost of the fare is approximately 30Dh. It is advisable to agree upon the fare before departure.

Trains

If your final destination is the Mohammed V Airport of Casablanca, take the train which is at the airport itself and descend at the Casablanca-Voyageurs station (20 minutes). There you change trains and take the train for Marrakesh which is a journey of 3h.30 from Casablanca.

Please find below the train timetable for Casablanca-Marrakesh :

Departure (Casablanca-Voyageurs)	Arrival (Marrakesh)
01h30	05h00
07h45	11h20
09h35	13h00
11h35	14h50
14h05	17h30
16h05	19h35
19h05	22h20

The Stations

There is only one railway station at Marrakesh. It is a 15-minute walk from the Hotel Atlas Marrakesh.

However, it is advisable to take a cream-coloured taxi from the station.

Currency

The Moroccan unit of currency is the Dirham (Dh)

The rates of exchange in July 1999 were approximately the following:

1 US Dollar	9.72 Dh
1 German Mark	5 Dh
1 French franc	1.62 Dh
1 British pound	15 Dh

Passports and Visas

Nationals of certain countries do not require any visa formalities to enter Morocco. However, participants are requested to consult the Moroccan Consular authorities in their country of residence for further information.

Climate

The climate of Marrakesh has certain continental aspects: winter temperatures somewhat cool, with an average of 12°C (54°F) during the month of December. However, there may be rain. An umbrella or raincoat is advisable as well as warm clothes for meeting rooms, museums and historic monuments which might not be heated.

Urban transportation

There is a bus service in Marrakesh, but the taxi is the most practical means of transport, especially since the fares are not high. At the start the meter indicates 1 Dh and the shortest distance costs 5 Dh.

The barouche (horse drawn vehicles) may also be used as a means of transport. Agreeable and comfortable, an hour tour around the town costs an average of 60 Dh.

Reception upon Arrival

It is important to inform the hotel of your choice of your travel schedule, date of arrival, time, airline company, flight number or train before 10 November, using Form No. 1, as it is the hotel which is responsible for transportation.

Registration forms Nos. 2 and 3 should be sent to :

Direction du Patrimoine culturel

Comité d'organisation de la 23ème session du Comité du Patrimoine mondial

17 rue Michlifen, Agdal

10 000 Rabat

Maroc

Tel. (212-7) 67 1381

Fax (212-7) 67 1397

Hotels

Arrangements have been made for lodging in hotels in Marrakesh not far from the seat of the meeting (Hotel Atlas Marrakesh).

Hôtel	Category	Rates (in Dh)	Address
Atlas Marrakech	4*A	Single : 879,00 Double : 1029,00	Avenue de France, Marrakesh Tél. 212-4 44 70 51 Fax 212-4 43 33 08
Mansour Eddahbi	5*A	Single: 1737,00 Double: 1937,00	Avenue de France, Marrakesh Tel: 212-4 44 82-22 Fax: 212-4 44 90 81 44 90 82
Safir	4*B	Single: 577,00 Double: 687,00	Avenue du Président Kennedy, Marrakesh Tel: 212-4 44 89 26 4 44 74 00 Fax: 212-4 44 87 30
El Andalous	4*A	Single: 659,00 Double: 818,00	Avenue du Président Kennedy, Marrakesh Tel: 212-4 44 82 26 Fax: 212-4 44 71 95
Les Idrissides	4*	Single: 759,00 Double: 909,00	Avenue de France; Marrakesh Tel: 212-4 44 87 77 Fax: 212-4 43 80 60
Impérial Borj	5*	Single: 985,00 Double: 1185,00	Avenue Echouhada, quartier Hivernage, Marrakesh Tel: 212-4 44 73 22 Fax: 212-4 44 62-06

NB. These prices can be revised (higher or lower) depending upon the establishment and the season. Reductions of up to 30% may be obtained in certain hotels. Prices include breakfast and taxes.

FORMULAIRE/FORM No. 1

Comité du Patrimoine mondial/World Heritage Committee
XXIII session
Hotel Atlas-Marrakech, Marrakech

Hotel reservation form: to be sent to your hotel.

Formulaire de réservation d'hôtel : à renvoyer à l'hôtel de votre choix.

Given name Prénom					
Surname Nom					
Nationality / passport number Nationalité/Numéro du passeport					
Address Adresse					
City Ville				Country Pays	
Telephone		Fax		Telex	
Date and time of arrival Date et heure d'arrivée		Airline / flight number to : Compagnie aérienne/No. de vol pour :			
Date and time of departure Date et heure de départ		Airline / flight number from : Compagnie aérienne/No. de vol en provenance de :			
Method of payment Mode de paiement					
Single room /chambre pour une personne Double room/chambre double					
Number of nights/Nombre de nuits					
Accompanying persons (number of people) Nombre de personnes accompagnant					

Signature

Date

FORMULAIRE/FORM No. 2

Comité du Patrimoine mondial/World Heritage Committee

XXIII session

Hôtel Atlas- Marrakech, Marrakech

Registration form to be sent to/Formulaire d'inscription à renvoyer à:

Direction du Patrimoine culturel

Comité d'organisation de la XXIIIème session du Comité du Patrimoine mondial

17 rue Michlifen, Agdal

10 000 Rabat, Maroc

Tel. (212-7) 67 1381

Fax : (212-7) 67 1397

Given name Prénom			
Surname Nom			
Nationality / passport number Nationalité/Numéro du passport			
Address Adresse			
City Ville		Country Pays	
Telephone	Fax		Telex
Date and time of arrival Date et heure d'arrivée	Airline / flight number to : Compagnie aérienne/No. de vol pour :		
Date and time of departure Date et heure de départ	Airline / flight number from : Compagnie aérienne/No. de vol en provenance de :		
Hôtel/Hotel			
Single room / chambre pour une personne Double room/chambre double			
Number of days/ Nombre de jours			
Accompanying persons (number of people) Nombre de personne personne accompagnant			

Signature

Date

**Comité du Patrimoine mondial/World Heritage Committee
XXIII session
Hôtel Atlas-Marrakech, Marrakech**

Reservation Form/Formulaire de réservation

Complete the form only if you wish to participate in the excursions.

Prière de ne remplir le formulaire que si vous souhaitez participer aux excursions ci-après:

1. Visit of the Medina of Marrakesh/Visite de la médina de Marrakech :

Sunday, 28 November, at 08h30

Dimanche, 28 Novembre, à 08h30

One participant/Un seul participant

☐

Accompanying persons/Personnes accompagnant le participant
(please indicate the number)/(indiquer le nombre)

☐

2. Visit of the Medina of Essaouira/Visite de la médina d'Essaouira (Mogador)

Sunday, 5 December, at 07h30

Dimanche, 5 Decembre à 07h30

One participant/Un seul participant

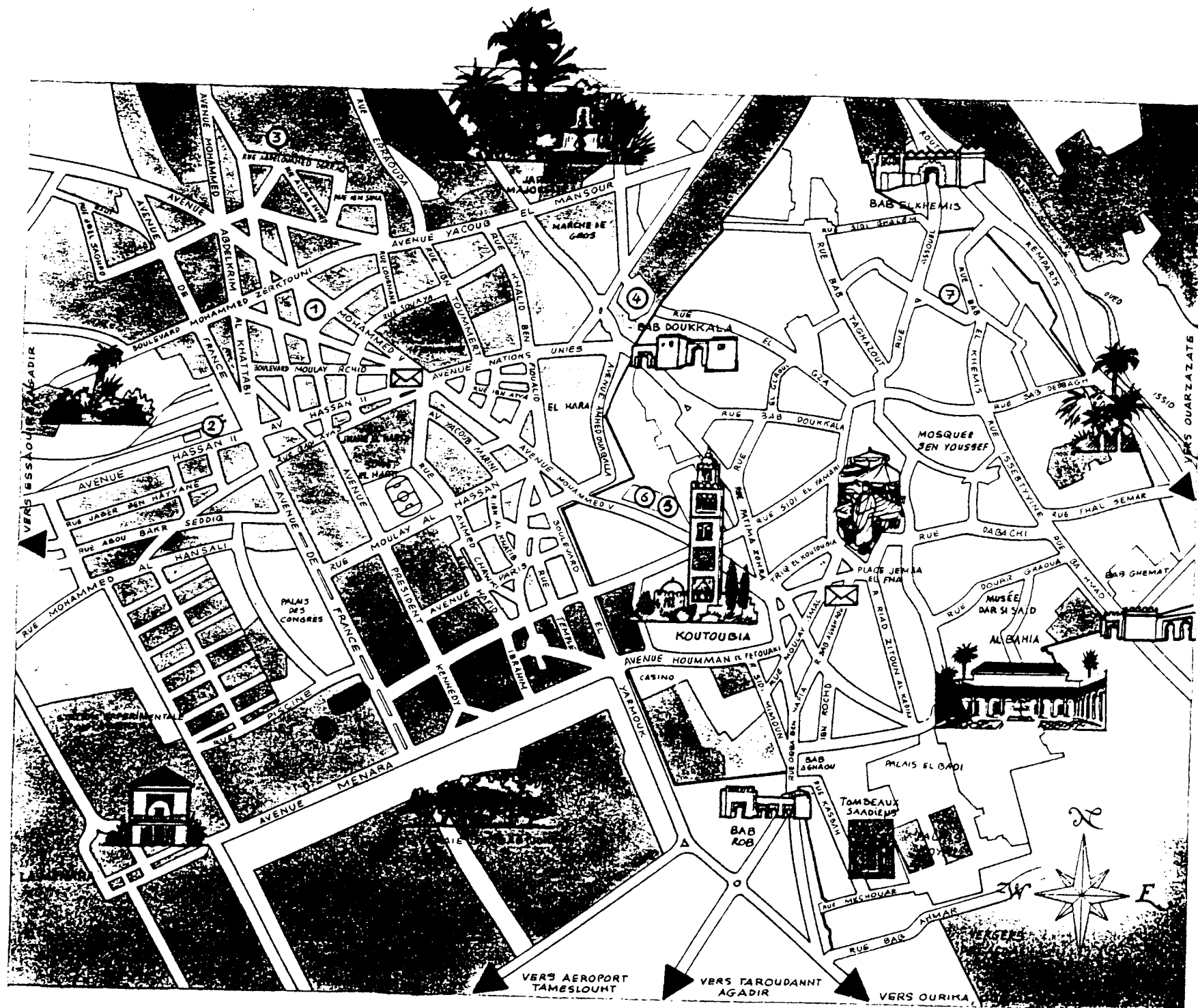
☐

Accompanying persons/Personnes accompagnant le participant
(please indicate the number)/(indiquer le nombre)

☐

N.B. The form should be sent to the Organizing Committee of the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee/Le formulaire est à renvoyer au Comité d'organisation de la vingt-troisième session du Comité du patrimoine mondial

**Direction du Patrimoine
17 rue Michlifén, Agdal
10 000 Rabat, Maroc
Fax : (212-7) 67 13 97**



1. Office de tourisme
2. Gare ferroviaire
3. Hôpital Ibn Tofail
4. Gare routière
5. Ensemble artisanal
6. Hôtel de ville
7. Hôpital El Antaki
8. Hôtel Atlas Marrakech