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**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON**  
**"CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN HISTORIC CITIES -**  
**KEY TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE"**

**KAZAN, RUSSIA**

**20-24 June 2002**

**FINAL DECLARATION**

1. As part of the programme for the preparation for the celebration of the 1000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the city of Kazan and in accordance with the decisions of the Bureau of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, the International Symposium « **Cultural Diversity in Historic Cities - Key to a Sustainable Future** » was held in Kazan, Russian Federation, on 20-24 June, 2002.
2. The Conference was organised by Kazan Council of Peoples Deputies, the City of Kazan and the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, in cooperation with the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions.
3. Participating in the Conference were more than 150 persons from 26 countries, made up of representatives of associations of historic cities, agencies and Foundations for the preservation of the cultural, historic and the architectural heritage, regional Governors, Mayors and Deputy-Mayors, academics, scientists, directors of museums, representatives of professions concerned by culture, architecture, education.
4. In addition, representatives of the following organisations took part:
  - UNESCO
  - European Association of Historic Towns and Regions
  - Organisation of World Heritage Cities
  - Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Regions
  - League of Historic Cities
  - United Towns Organisation
  - Europa Nostra/ICOMOS
  - Union of Historic Cities and Regions of Russia
  - Congress of Municipalities of the Russian Federation
  - Association of Historic Cities of the Mediterranean
5. Participants were informed about the positive experience of peaceful co-existence of cultures and peoples on the territory of Tatarstan; the challenges of preservation and development of the historic, cultural and archaeological heritage.
6. The participants wish to thank Kazan and the host authorities for having organised the Conference and for their generous hospitality; and draw the following conclusions:
7. Historic cities can and must respond to the challenges and the pace of change of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Cultural diversity has a crucial part to play in securing a sustainable future for historic cities.

8. The conservation of the historic heritage, for a considerable time now, has been understood as far more than the need to retain monuments of recognised architectural quality. Most communities have a web of physical, social and cultural structures built up over decades, if not over centuries, which constitute the collective achievement of generations and act as the inspiration for the future.
9. The quality of life in historic communities is undeniable. Citizens are attached to their roots. Furthermore, it has been shown repeatedly that successful preservation of the heritage has inherent beneficial economic, cultural and social value, far beyond the simple fact of restoration and often far beyond what was originally expected.
10. The destruction of old and familiar buildings and their replacement by buildings of little social and architectural merit, with a consequent destruction of the evidence of mankind's continuity, should be avoided.
11. The protection of historic buildings must be a key part of other policies for the urban environment: - open spaces, parks and more vegetation, better lighting and street furniture, pedestrian zones, matching old and new architecture, the value of tourism as a catalyst in urban improvement, the re-use of the industrial heritage.
12. It is important to recognise the value of dialogue, sharing experience and working together to promote cultural diversity and sustainability in historic cities.
13. Concerning Kazan, the participants consider that it is an invaluable example of a territory of international dialogue where the development of any culture always respects other cultures; their corresponding social and political rights; and traditional ways of life within the different communities; where, in a context of globalisation, not only have individual cultural identities been preserved, but also the conditions for cultural pluralism have been established.
14. The city authorities of Kazan consider the diversity of cultures to be an integral element of the national heritage, a source of wealth and a vehicle for the preservation of the historic heritage.
15. The policy of the Republic of Tatarstan is based on involving all citizens in this process and is, as a consequence, the guarantee of social unity, security and social harmony.
16. Kazan can be considered as a valid example of a historic city which can be used as a model for mutual understanding and development of cultural diversity in historic cities.

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17. The participants ask: -

18. NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO:
19. Strengthen policies for a sustainable present and future, based on:
  - educational and social policies which reflect the diversity;
  - awareness of the need for present generations to respect and future generations to inherit the historic heritage;
  - the strengthening of international and national institutes for culture protection;
  - more extensive use of advances in information technology for cultural policy and management;
  - ensuring an appropriate legal framework is in place to protect and enhance cultural diversity and heritage
20. Support and provide for the interests and demands of all cultural, linguistic and religious groups, their civil integration and participation in society: the respect of their collective historic heritage.
21. Establish conditions for the equitable practice of different cultures and faiths.
22. Promote a better understanding and respect between Western and Eastern cultures.
23. Encourage and respect the free expression of cultural identities in all aspects of public life.
24. Recognise and strengthen the participation of women in developing and respecting cultural diversity and conservation of the historic heritage.
25. Adopt and carry out comprehensive cultural strategies in historic cities and use this experience in the planning of new communities, particularly those with a high level of industry, in order to give them a stronger human dimension and cultural identity.
26. Educational authorities are asked to reinforce awareness of the cultural heritage in university and schools curricula.
27. Promote programmes for cooperation and exchange of experience and information between historic cities on economic, commercial and cultural matters.
28. Encourage the establishment in countries where they do not yet exist, of national associations of historic towns, in the belief that such associations act as a lobby for the interests of such communities in securing greater recognition; in stimulating legislative reform; in harnessing tourist potential in a balanced manner, and raising public awareness; and, once established; to encourage such national associations, historic cities and universities to become members of or create formal links with the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions.
29. Work with and encourage the involvement of NGO's in promoting the interests of Historic Towns and Regions.

30 THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES TO:

31 Include the experience of Kazan as an example of peaceable coexistence of different ethnic and cultural groups, in the forthcoming CLRAE conference on "Tackling terrorism – the role and responsibilities of Local Authorities " Luxembourg 21-22.9 and its follow up.

32 Consider the results of the Kazan Conference at the next meetings of the CLRAE Committees on Sustainable Development and Culture and Education.

33 Encourage the European Centre for Cultural Routes to promote the development of a Volga cultural route, in close consultation with relevant authorities along the river.

34 Continue to support the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions.

35 Promote a wider distribution of CLRAE Resolution 98 (2000) which constitutes a valuable series of policy proposals for the sustainable conservation of the heritage.

36. Continue the series of symposia for historic towns, in close cooperation with the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions.

37 UNESCO TO:

Establish a network of "Towns for Peace" made up of the UNESCO prize winning towns, with a focus on examples of good practice for cultural diversity and peaceful coexistence and invite the City of Kazan to play a leading role in the first year in the building of this network

38 THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF HISTORIC TOWNS AND REGIONS TO:

To take into account the results and conclusions of the current Conference in its future work and, particularly, to consider the most suitable form of membership/co-operation agreement for those associations and historic cities outside Europe which may wish to join.

39. THE ORGANISATION OF WORLD HERITAGE CITIES, THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC CAPITALS AND REGIONS, THE LEAGUE OF HISTORIC CITIES, THE UNITED TOWNS ORGANISATION EUROPA NOSTRA/ICOMOS, UNION OF HISTORIC CITIES AND REGIONS OF RUSSIA, CONGRESS OF MUNICIPALITIES OF THE RUSSION FEDERATION,

ASSOCIATION OF HISTORIC CITIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (represented at the Conference) TO:

Distribute information amongst their members about the results and conclusions of the current Conference.

40 FURTHERMORE, MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION OF WORLD HERITAGE CITIES (OWHC) TO:

Support the initiative of Kazan to establish the Regional Secretariat of OWHC for Asia and CIS countries in Kazan.