



City Council of Tangier



3rd EDITION

**INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF MEDINAS (Historical Cities),
« Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development »**

Tangier 24, 25 and 26 April 2014

CONCEPT NOTE

The second edition of the International Forum of the Medinas (historical Cities), held in Tetouan on 14, 15 and 16 March 2013, under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohamed VI May God glorify Him, was marked by a remarkable presence, both quantitatively and qualitatively. This event allowed the Mediterranean Network of the Medinas to achieve a series of very important conclusions and recommendations, and realize the signing of several partnerships both at the national and international level. This, with the aim to confirm our commitment to the promotion of a cooperation focusing on "win - win" and "South - South" approaches that we consider essential for the development of our country.

Thus, more than 15 countries of the Mediterranean region, Africa, Europe and the United States were able to participate in this Forum and present their experiences. Prestigious institutions, such as UNDP, UNESCO, ISESCO, ICOMOS and many other Mediterranean and international institutions had responded present at our request.

The Mediterranean Network of the Medinas has taken into account the recommendations and conclusions of the last forum and thus began several projects of promotion, awareness and training for the benefit of many cities members of the network.

In this context, the Mediterranean Network of the Medinas organizes the 3rd edition of the International Forum, at Tangier - Morocco, to present the first results of its actions, and to seek for further development of cooperation with our partners, while, also, facilitating a space conducive to the sharing of experiences in the field of heritage and sustainable development.

The third edition of the International Forum of Medinas (Historical Cities) will be held on 24, 25, and 26 April 2014 in Tangier, under the theme:

“Heritage: challenges and opportunities for sustainable development”

This Forum is organized around six sub-thematic highlighting the transversality of subject domains involved in the dynamics of social utility and sustainable heritage development. Through the sharing of African, Arab and particularly Mediterranean experiences.

1st Panel: "Heritage and sustainable development", visions and global reflections

This panel will arise a general debate on the importance of heritage at several levels (society, culture, economy, identity ...). The question will be: why caring about heritage? And, what role the heritage would play for sustainable development in the medinas? While noting the following ideas:

- Heritage, a model for sustainable development.
- Heritage in the territory project as a lever for sustainable planning.
- Heritage and sustainable development: national and international experiences.
- The social role of heritage: citizen awareness.
- Heritage in the territories of crisis.

WORKSHOP 1: Public policies for the promotion of heritage as an engine for sustainable development.

Ambitious policies for the protection and valorisation of heritage can be built through a dialogue and an exchange built in common way by states, local authorities and local actors (professional and ONGs groups) in their diversity with a view the development durable. This workshop will focus on the following points:

- How to reconcile the various objectives of each of the actors?
- How to decline the heritage policies and development strategies?
- What relevant tools of heritage valorisation?
- What is the impact of public policies and actors interventions in the sustainable development of the medinas?

WORKSHOP 2: Mechanisms of cooperation, partnership and solidarity for the preservation of heritage.

The valorisation of the heritage within the framework of an integrated component requires a partnership approach in the governance of sustainable heritage, result of the process of cooperation, exchange and sharing between the different actors and specialties: urban planning, education, tourism, financing... etc. Topics covered in this workshop will be around:

- Could public policies optimize this vast area by harmonising the set of existing potentials?
- What limit of the partnership framework in the protection of the heritage in the Medina?

WORKSHOP 3: Services and development of intermediate cities: Heritage cities of the XXI century.

With the transition from a rural to an urban world and with the increase of the interrelations between the territories, and to improve the quality of life, strengthen solidarity between territories, assist the new local governance especially in matters of heritage and the promotion of diversity. Intermediate cities are positioning themselves as a friendly space to ensure consistency of sub-national governance dynamics at the national level. For the enhancement of the role of intermediate cities and to show the importance of heritage in local governance of these cities, the issues discussed in the workshop are:

- How important is the heritage in intermediate cities?
- What policies and tools for the development of heritage?
- What vision for heritage cities of XXI century?

WORKSHOP 4: What future for the heritage areas in crisis?

Due to wars and conflicts, many natural, cultural and heritage sites around the world are threatened every day. Yet the events caused by the destruction of historic monuments (Kabul, Timbuktu ...) prompted the mobilization of the international community to put an end to this process and to ensure the safeguarding of the heritage.

- Find international legal solutions.
- Raising public awareness and convince large sectors of the international community of the importance of protecting the common good.
- Strengthen the role of international institutions in the conservation and management of heritage.

2nd PANEL: "Heritage and sustainable development in Africa."

Africa is rich in ancient heritage both material and immaterial, distributed on different countries in North Africa and sub-Saharan. To illuminate the reality of African heritage and the prospects for its development. The panel will address the following elements:

- improve the representation of African heritage sites on the World Heritage List through the preparation of successful nomination files;
- Improve the state of conservation of World Heritage properties by the effective management of risk;
- Develop and implement strategies to enable States parties to deal with the challenges of the imperatives of conservation facing the needs of development.

Finally, this Forum can be considered as another opportunity for the tracing of a new dashboard based on the sharing of experiences and expertise.

The Forum is a call "Call of Tangier" to attention to heritage preservation and improvement of its economic and social importance, and the fight against the loss of heritage sites during wars and crises.