

EGYPT DECLARATION

2008 International Round Table of the Mayors
of the ICCN (Qalyubiya, Egypt, 14 October 2008)

The International Round Table of Mayors of the ICCN (Inter-City Intangible Cultural Cooperation Network) took place in the Egyptian capital of Cairo from 12 to 14 October, 2008 and the participants shared their ideas and perspectives on the role of women and on the sustainable tourism and exchanged their accomplishments in the field of the intangible cultural heritage.

Following the Gangneung Declaration in 2004 and Charter in 2005 expressing the need of establishing and developing an inter-city cooperation network, and four consecutive meetings since 2004, the participants unanimously agree to the official founding of the ICCN in the 2008 Round Table of Mayors in Egypt.

The Round Table of Mayors of the ICCN,

Committed to the full implementation of the inter-city cultural cooperation proclaimed in the Gangneung Declaration in 2004, that “actions for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage become really imperative, necessitating the united and constructive solidarity of all possible partners” ;

Recalling that the Preamble of the Constitution of UNESCO affirms “that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitutes a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfill in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern” ;

Reaffirming that the 2003 Convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO creates the conditions for renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations;

Noting that, with the advent of our information based society, and the world' s change to industrialization and urbanization, the invaluable intangible culture of the third world is now under the brink of disappearance from our minds and traditions;

Aspiring to the Mayors and policy-makers in the world that they should pursue the cultural peace and cultural wealth of humanity through solidarity, creativity and pluralism, and adopt the present Declaration and agree;

1. to enhance the brotherly love and the role of women in the field of the intangible heritage until it realizes the cultural peace and decent life of all ordinary villagers or citizens of our communities;
2. to elaborate a long-term program, which will identify, promote and disseminate the most effective ways and means of the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in a link with sustainable tourism through application of required administrative, legislative, financial and promotional activities;
3. (a)to organize a thematic Workshop and Round Table of Mayors every two years as a concrete follow-up to the present International Round Table of Mayors in 2008;

(b)to support and participate in the organization and implementation of the joint festival by the member cities and in cooperation with COPPEM;
4. to support the roles and functions of the Secretariat as the focal point of the network.
5. to convene the thematic workshop in Kingston, Jamaica in 2009 and the 3rd International Round Table of the Mayors in Vlcnov, Czech Republic in 2010,

in accordance with the recommendation on rotation principle among ICCN' s members adopted in 2006

We solemnly declare that all those, who share the credo and principles enunciated in the present 'Egypt Declaration' , are most welcome to join our movement.

14 October 2008, Qalyubiya, Egypt