

DECLARATION

X International Conference of Eurasia World Heritage Cities

City of Turkistan (Republic of Kazakhstan)

April 2, 2021

1. X International Conference of Eurasia World Heritage Cities (hereafter - Conference) was held online on April 2, 2021, in the city of Turkistan (Republic of Kazakhstan).
2. The Conference has been organized by Akimat of Turkistan city and the Regional Secretariat for Euro-Asia of the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) with the support of the OWHC General Secretariat.
3. The Conference was attended by representatives of more than 30 cities from __ countries of the world.
4. The main goal of the Conference was to unite representatives of the cities of the Eurasian region to discuss issues of conservation, use and promotion of World Heritage and search for solutions.
5. At the Conference, OWHC projects and World Heritage sites were presented. Within the framework of the plenary session, the conference participants discussed the following key topics: “The Impact of COVID-19 on Cultural Tourism: implications and new opportunities. Virtual Tourism Development” and “Heritage Conservation and Urban Planning”.
6. All the participants of the Conference express sincere gratitude:
 - to the Authorities of the city of Turkistan and the Turkistan region of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the successful holding of the Conference, as well as for their endeavour to restore the priceless object - the Mausoleum of Khawaja Ahmed Yasawi and the spiritual heritage associated with this personality, which is of enormous importance both for the peoples of the East and for the entire world;
 - to the OWHC General Secretariat (Quebec), the Union of Turkish World Municipalities (Istanbul), the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (Ankara), International Council on Monuments and Sites (Paris) and the UNESCO Almaty Office for their support in organizing the Conference;

- to the Authorities of the city of Kazan for efficient support of activities of the OWHC Regional Secretariat for Euro-Asia over the past 18 years;
 - to the OWHC China Regional Secretariat and the OWHC Regional Secretariat Northwest Europe and North America for their support to the OWHC Regional Secretariat for Euro-Asia and participation in the conference.
7. The Conference participants express their gratitude and support to the OWHC Regional Secretariat for Euro-Asia, which over the past 18 years has been organizing the activities of the World Heritage cities of the entire Eurasian continent for preserving the heritage and the development of tourism in accordance with the Charter and the main goals of the OWHC, and also express their recognition of the unifying role of the city of Kazan in facilitating activities of the OWHC Regional Secretariat for Euro-Asia.
8. The Conference participants encourage:
- all the cities, inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List, to become members or candidate members of the OWHC in order to join efforts in the conservation of the World Heritage and the development of tourism;
 - all the cities, which have the World Heritage sites, to pay greater attention to the development of cultural tourism, as one of the most advantageous directions of their effective use;
 - regional secretariats of the OWHC as institutions having closest links between OWHC and its members to closely cooperate between one another, to elaborate and implement cooperation programs, to exchange their experience and knowledge for the use, promotion and preservation of the World Heritage;
 - all the cities, which have cultural heritage objects, to plan new development in the context of the historical environment, to preserve its original architectural appearance of the objects in their historical, urban planning and natural environment;
 - all the member cities of the OWHC to enhance cooperation and include into joint programs of collaboration and development such spheres as tourism (creation of joint travel tours, increase in direct flights), virtual tourism (joint virtual 3-D tours, information support), exchange related to free training for youth (exchange of students studying in the field of tourism and culture), and humanitarian aid.