



11^{ème} FORUM DES MINISTRES DE LA CULTURE
ET DES HAUTS FONCTIONNAIRES
CHARGES DE POLITIQUE CULTURELLE
DE L'AMERIQUE LATINE ET DE LA CARAIBE

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Regional Commission on Preservation for the Caribbean and Latin America

1- Preamble

The vitality and cultural richness of our region generated an impressive of various documents and artifacts that, unfortunately, we cannot easily protect the harshness of the tropical climate computed with very feeble means that were implemented and above all the absence of a coherent policy as much on the national and international levels in what relates to preservation of cultural goods lead to a disquieting situation concerning endangered heritage almost everywhere in our region.

At a time of new globalization of the economy and the sending towards cultural standardization, we need more than ever to preserve the precious of our cultural identity that our archives, libraries and our museums are endeavoring themselves to collect and preserve.

The states of this policy of preservation are many fold: Touristic development and subsequent economic advantages, strengthening of cultural identity through easier access to information that these documents contain, a better understanding of the

people through intercultural exchanges, fruitful a balanced access to knowledge and to information leading to greater rehabilitation of our cultures and other advantages that can be drawn from this endeavor particularly if it is conducted in a coherent fashion at the national levels and particularly at the regional level. The international council of archives jointly with the International Federation of Library associations have just put into place an administrative framework called JICPA (Joint International Commission for Preservation in Africa), whose main objective is to preserve the documents of all kinds of products and those preserved on the continents.

At the XXXIVth roundtable International conference of the roundtable on Archives held at Budapest from October 6 to 9, 1999, it was recommended that such administrative frameworks can be put into place in other regions of the world. We propose that such an initiative be credited to the meeting of the culture ministers of the Caribbean and of Latin America for the creation of a regional commission for the preservation in the Caribbean and in Latin America (CREPCAL)

2- CREPCAL'S OBJECTIVES

To formulate a preservation policy for documents putting a high priority on collections and cultural stocks of a regional nature or are identified as belonging to the UNESCO program "Memory of the world",

Encourage the creation of a national commission for preservation in each state of the region through the adoption, among other measures, of antidisaster plans for the Archives, the libraries and the museums.

3- Measures envisaged to implement CREPCAL Constitution of an ad hoc Committee at the occasion of this meeting of culture Ministers in charge of drafting the statutes of CREPCAL, the broad outlines of its policy and the sketch of a working plan which will be discussed and adopted during the next meeting of the Ministers of Culture.

*- **CREATION OF NATIONAL** Commissions which will work jointly with the ad hoc committee.*

- Signature of a regional convention about the preservation of cultural goods described by targeted by CREPCAL*
- Election of executive officers by CREPCAL. Do not forget: Preservation, this the guaranteed access.*

4- CREPCAL'S Partner Institutions

- The International council of archives and particularly its regional branches CARBICA and ALA.*
- The International Federation of associations of libraries through its regional branch, IFLA /LAC.*
- ICCROM, International Center for Studies for the conservation and rehabilitation of cultural goods.*
- UNESCO*

5- Financing of the activities of CREPCAL

- Member States, a payment of quotas*
- grants*
- Collect of funds*

- *Campaigning for funds to finance specific projects*
- *Sale of printed matters*

6- Working Languages

Annual Meeting on the occasion of the meeting of Ministers of Culture

7- Working pattern *organized by the national Commission of the Host country.*

Reflection on the subject of preservation, invitation to experts.

- *Reports of the committees action plan for the coming years*
- *Organization of a training seminar, development of an integrated program in the curricula of the training schools of the region*
- *Offer for expert higher theoretical and practical assistance in designning an antidisaster plan, the establishment and strengthening of laboratories for the rehabilitation and restauration, of micrography and digitalization*
- *Development of research in matter of preservation of documents within the region.*