

**ELEVENTH FORUM OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE AND OFFICIALS  
RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURAL POLICIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARIBBEAN.**

**Port au Prince, HAITI  
3-5 December 1999**

**Report of the Meeting of the Pro Tempore Secretary and Experts**

The Meeting of the Pro Tempore Secretary and of Experts was held on December 3 and was headed by representatives from Haiti, Dominican Republic, Barbados and Colombia.

Work was centered in the agenda and the conclusions were the following:

1. **SICLAC.** The delegation from Venezuela renewed its commitment to advance in the fulfillment of the agreements stipulated in the Action Plan of Barbados:
  - SICLAC Register (January, 2000)
  - Development of SICLAC's Website ( March, 2000)
  - Training course for 12 experts (March, 2000)

Cuba proposed the establishment of a provisional Secretariat, which was adopted under the term of Coordination Project and includes the Pro Tempore Secretary, ORCALC and the Coordinators from Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia and St. Kitts. This Coordination will organize the Meeting of Coordinators, on May, 2000, in Havana, within the framework of the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress on Informatics.

Colombia presented a document on the development of its national system (SINIC) and offered advisory in this field.

2. **Salvador de Bahia Meeting, Brazil.** The importance and usefulness of regional meetings that are taking place on a yearly basis was recognized, however, it was reminded that the Forum of Ministers of Culture of Latin America and the Caribbean is unique and that other regional or sub-regional meetings should not use that denomination. This concern will be forwarded to Brazil and its support will be requested for the strengthening of this Forum.
3. **Evaluation of the Barbados Action Plan.** Jamaica submitted a report on the Project of Linguistic Integration and the courses and support offered by Venezuela and Mexico, among others, were mentioned.

Mexico will continue to support the work on the inventory of Cultural Heritage with the publishing of the Memoirs of the First Meeting and the holding of a second seminar, during the spring of the year 2000.

Colombia will hold the Seminar-Workshop on Education for the Protection of Heritage during the first semester of the year 2000.

The Group of Heritage and Cultural Tourism did not register advances, and thus, Belize was proposed to take up its coordination.

The Dominican Republic submitted a wide report on the advance of the Project of the Underwater Heritage. The establishment of a Coordination Unit will be submitted for consideration by the Ministers which will be formed by the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Colombia, Panama, Barbados and Mexico, and whose task will be to develop projects of formation and professional and technical training, as well as of finding financial means.

Cuba submitted the project for the design of the collection " Great Persons and Thinkers of Our America of our America" requesting other countries to present proposals on other Great Persons to be included in the collection.

The Technical Secretary of the Forum was established in September. It should up-date the directory of the participating institutions and establish a complete archive with the documentation of each Forum.

Regarding the Project on Culture and Commerce, the Forum will support the research that Colombia is already jointly doing with the Convenio Andres Bello on the impact of cultural industries on the economy.

4. **Report of UNESCO's General Conference.** ORCALC informed the results of the 30<sup>th</sup> General Conference. The election of a new Director General was underlined and the importance of the discussions on the issue of enhancing the concept of Cultural Heritage. It also informed on the results of the Round Table of Ministers of Culture, underlining the importance of cultural diversity. And placing emphasis on some projects implemented by UNESCO, as the "Congress of Gastronomic Heritage and Cultural Tourism", held in Puebla, Mexico in October of 1999.
5. **CARIMOS.** Will present a Project "Website Inventory of Monuments and sites in the Caribbean region".
6. **Action Plan.** Agreement was made to submit the Action Plan 2000 to the Ministers for its adoption.