

## International Committee on the Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH)

### RESOLUTION

The International Committee on Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICUCH) of ICOMOS, at its 16th meeting held at Itaparica, Bahia, Brazil, the 27th to 28th October 2007,

**Recognizing** the importance of the first International Symposium of *Maritime Archaeology in the Americas: littoral occupations, ships and boats, harbors and anchorages*, held during the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of October, who connected participants from several continents and countries, and other stakeholders, namely from the community of Itaparica,

**Underlying** the high quality presentations witnessed at this Symposium covering a large variety and richness of the international themes of tangible and non-tangible Maritime Heritage presented in a successful interdisciplinary approach which demonstrated the enormous potential of the underwater cultural heritage of Brazil,

**Stressing** the excellence of its organization, provided by the Brazilian Federal, State, Municipal and Academic authorities including the Navy the Army and the Federal University of Bahia,

**Impressed** by the mature management vision developed by Brazilian archaeologists concerning the nautical and underwater cultural heritage of their country in accordance with the principles of the ICOMOS Charter on the Protection and Management of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (Sofia 1996) and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage (Paris 2001),

**Aware** of the huge potential of the nautical and underwater cultural heritage of the state of Bahia, particularly of Baía de Todos os Santos region, and therefore of the project that is rising from all those synergies,

**Supporting** the aims of new perspectives for nautical and UCH protection, research and valorization in Brazil by strengthening the cooperation between countries, and the creation of the ARCHEMAR Itaparica Project in the frame of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at the Federal University of Bahia, dedicated to the archaeology and ethnography of the sea, and within the same kind of spirit proposed in the 1980's by the ARCHENAVE project in Bahia

**Congratulates** the signature for that purpose of a formal agreement between the *Prefeitura* of Itaparica and these two cultural and academic entities, celebrated at the closing of the Symposium,

**Notes** the increasing number of countries recognizing the long term social, economic and cultural benefits to be gained through ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, recommends its ratification by the Federal Republic of Brazil.

**Encourages** all those entities, personalities and the people of the state of Bahia, but also all Brazilians, to support the ratification of the UNESCO Convention, aware of the fact that this paradigmatic non-renewable resource must be managed for the benefit of their country, of their people and of Humanity, as any other testimony of the human past, independently of its physical environment.

**Recommends** that, during that process of decision making regarding the Convention, Brazil takes all efforts to implement the Annex of this Convention to the benefit of Brazilian underwater cultural heritage and its sustainable management for future generations.

**Stresses** that ICUCH/ICOMOS is always available to the Brazilian authorities to provide advice in matters of policy or practice related to the underwater cultural heritage.

Itaparica, Bahia, Brazil, Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 2007