

**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ÉDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE**  
**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

CONSULTATION INTERNATIONALE SUR LA PRÉSERVATION DES ESPACES CULTURELS POPULAIRES  
- DECLARATION DU PATRIMOINE ORAL DE L'HUMANITÉ  
(Marrakech, Maroc, 26-28 juin 1997)

*INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE PRESERVATION OF POPULAR CULTURAL SPACES*  
*- DECLARATION OF THE ORAL HERITAGE OF MANKIND*  
*(Marrakech, Morocco, 26-28 June 1997)*

Presentation by / *Présentation par*

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REPRESENTATIVE OF UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL,  
MR ALBERT SASSON AND MS NORIKO ARKAWA

- MOROCCAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO,
- HONORABLE MINISTERS AND COLLEAGUES
- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

MR CHAIRMAN,

VANUATU IS VERY PLEASED TO BE PART OF THIS INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION OF EXPERTS ON THE PRESERVATION OF POPULAR CULTURAL SPACES AND THE ORAL HERITAGE OF MANKIND, HELD IN MARRAKECH ON THE 26th JUNE - 28 JUNE 1997.

ON BEHALF OF THE VANUATU GOVERNMENT , I WISH TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO UNESCO'S CULTURE DIVISION AND THE MOROCCAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO FOR ORGANISING AND FUNDING THIS INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE PRESERVATION OF POPULAR CULTURAL SPACES AND DECLARATION OF THE ORAL HERITAGE OF MANKIND. VANUATU IS ALSO DELIGHTED AND PROUD FOR BEING INVITED TO THIS IMPORTANT EXPERTS GATHERING IN MARRAKESH, MOROCCO.

IT HAS BEEN ONE OF VANUATU'S NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND TO ENCOURAGE, PRESERVE AND PROMOTE OUR CULTURE AND TRADITIONAL VALUES AND THIS DETERMINATION HAS BEEN APPROPRIATE IN OUR 17 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE.

IN THE LAST 17 YEARS , VANUATU HAS CONSERVED ITS ATTENTION ON FAMILY VALUE IN CULTURE, COMMUNITY VALUE IN CULTURE, EXTENDED FAMILY VALUE IN CULTURE AND NATIONAL VALUE IN CULTURE.

VANUATU WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL HERITAGE OF MANKIND , THE LITERAL HERITAGE OF MANKIND AND THE SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE OF MANKIND AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE ORAL HERITAGE OF MANKIND BE ON THE SAME LEVEL AS THE OTHERS.

MY INTERVENTION WOULD BE SHORT BUT SOME VIDEO TAPES DISPLAY WILL, I AM SURE , HELP THE PARTICIPANTS UNDERSTAND THE REASON OF VANUATU'S PRESENCE IN THIS CONSULTATION.

LIKE EVERY COUNTRIES CONCERNED BY THE THEME OF THIS MEETING , VANUATU TRIES TO PRESERVE ORAL TRADITIONS AND CULTURE (SHORT STORIES, LEGENDS, SONGS, DANCES, TAMTAM BEATINGS, MUSIC INSTRUMENTS ETC...) AS TRANSMISSION OF KNOWLEDGE FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION HAS BEEN FOR AGES ORAL AND THROUGH PRACTICES.

LET ME, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PRESENT YOU THE NAGOL LAND DIVING , WHICH IS IN FACT AN EVENT WHERE MEN SHOW THEIR VERILITY. IT USE TO BE A WOMEN'S INITIATIVE BUT HAS TURNED TO BE MALE ACTIVITY.

IF WE HAVE DECIDED TO PRESENT IT TODAY TO THE ASSEMBLY , IT'S BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT THIS TRADITIONAL EVENT IS VERY OUTSTANDING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE PROOF IS SEEN IN BUNGEE JUMP PRACTICED IN SOME COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD NOWADAYS.

VANUATU IS WORKING TOWARDS THE SAFEGUARD OF THE VALUE OF NAGOL AND OTHER MEANS OF DEMONSTRATION OF ORAL CULTURE AND TRADITIONS. VANUATU HAS ALSO SOME ARTS FESTIVALS ORGANISED WHERE PEOPLE PRESENT THEIR ARTISTICAL PERFORMANCE. I REFER TO THE TWO FILMS.

VANUATU BELIEVES THAT, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER AND MAKE A DECLARATION ON ORAL HERITAGE OF MANKIND HERE IN MARRAKESH AND ALSO WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND TO THE UNESCO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROCLAIM :

- a) PENTECOST LAND DIVE OR "GOL"
- b) TANNA TOKA DANCING
- c) VANUATU'S ARTS FESTIVALS AS "MASTERPIECES" OF ORAL HERITAGE OF MANKIND

VANUATU WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH UNESCO AND ALL THE OTHER EXPERTS WHO HAVE BEEN HERE TOGETHER WITH US. VANUATU TENDS ITS FULL SUPPORT TO ORAL HERITAGE OF MANKIND.