

ORGANIZATION OF WORLD HERITAGE CITIES
17TH WORLD CONGRESS



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XVII Congreso Mundial de la OCPM
World Congress of the OWHC
Congrès mondial de l'OVP.M
24-27 SEPT. 2024 | Córdoba · España



AYUNTAMIENTO
DE CÓRDOBA



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Where possible, these transcriptions have been translated to ensure wider dissemination of the debates and knowledge.

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November 2024



TABLE OF CONTENTS

8 | **CONTEXT**

10 | **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

On Monday September 23rd, the 17th World Congress began with the arrival of the first delegations. The evening was marked by a memorable nocturnal visit to Cordoba's famous Mezquita-Catedral.

12 | **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

On Tuesday September 24, delegates took part in site visits, a sightseeing tour and the 59th meeting of the Board of Directors. The day ended with an opening concert at the Mezquita-Catedral, followed by dinner at the Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos.

18 | **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

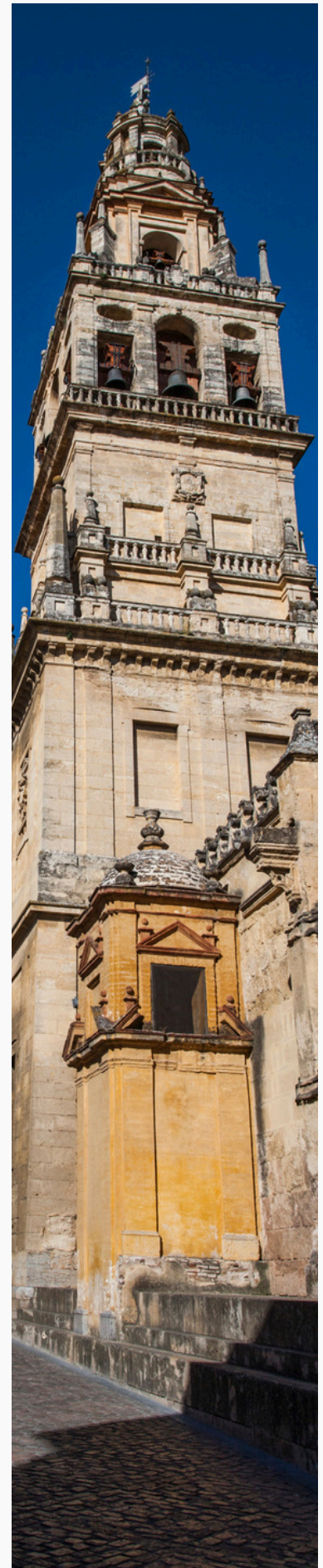
On Wednesday September 25, the General Assembly met for its first session. As well as the first session of the Symposium. The evening ended with dinner at Bodegas Campos.

26 | **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

On Thursday September 26, sessions 2 and 3 of the symposium took place, with four workshops focusing on each strategic axis. The day ended with a Spanish dance performance at the Puerta del Puente Romano, followed by dinner at the Torre de la Barca.

38 | **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

On Friday September 27, the 17th World Congress concluded with the fourth session of the Symposium and the final session of the General Assembly. The day ended with a closing ceremony and dinner at the Círculo de la Amistad, and a drone show over the Puente Romano.



Mezquita-Catedral
of Cordoba



Roman bridge of Cordoba





CONTEXT

Since 2022, in the wake of the World Congress in Quebec City, OWHC member cities have shared a lucid and implacable statement: the combination of current crises, exacerbated by climate change, is creating complex situations that call for new ways of planning and managing cities, and World Heritage cities in particular. The [Manifesto](#) that brings the cities together specifies the main [issues](#) to be addressed:

- Adapting cities to climate change and reducing its impact
- Capitalizing on the ability of historic districts to reinvent themselves
- Enhancing the features that make the habitability of the heritage city
- Promoting heritage as an essential resource for sustainable development

The Symposium on Habitability in Historic Centers, organized as part of the 17th World Congress of the OWHC (Cordoba, Spain, September 24-27, 2024) made an important contribution to the collaborative process underway by enabling in particular:

- 1** Broaden consensus among member cities on the objective of equipping the OWHC with a [New Urban Project](#)
- 2** Draw up an interim report on the [Quebec Roadmap](#)
- 3** Adopt the form and content of the work to be carried out in the perspective of the 18th OWHC World Congress in 2026

56 delegations, with 175 participants, acknowledged the progress made since Quebec and the changes in method and thinking that have left a lasting mark on the OWHC. Numerous mayors and elected officials renewed the Organization's political commitment, while specialists contributed and shared their knowledge and experience, enabling the OWHC community to take a significant step forward. The Cordoba Congress was a pivotal moment in a complex and ambitious process. Cordoba was also the site of an exceptional cultural communion and experience, from which the Organization emerged strengthened.

This “Album” offers a summary of the political and scientific journey made during the Congress, and a way of recalling the highlights of a memorable Andalusian week.



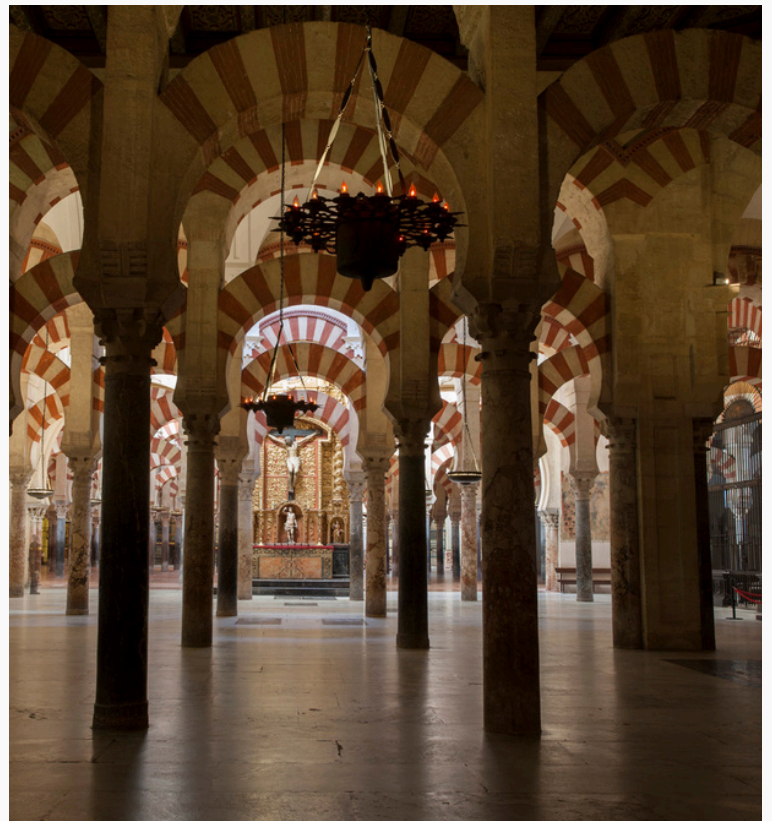
Roman bridge of Cordoba



Cordoba Patios Museum

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23

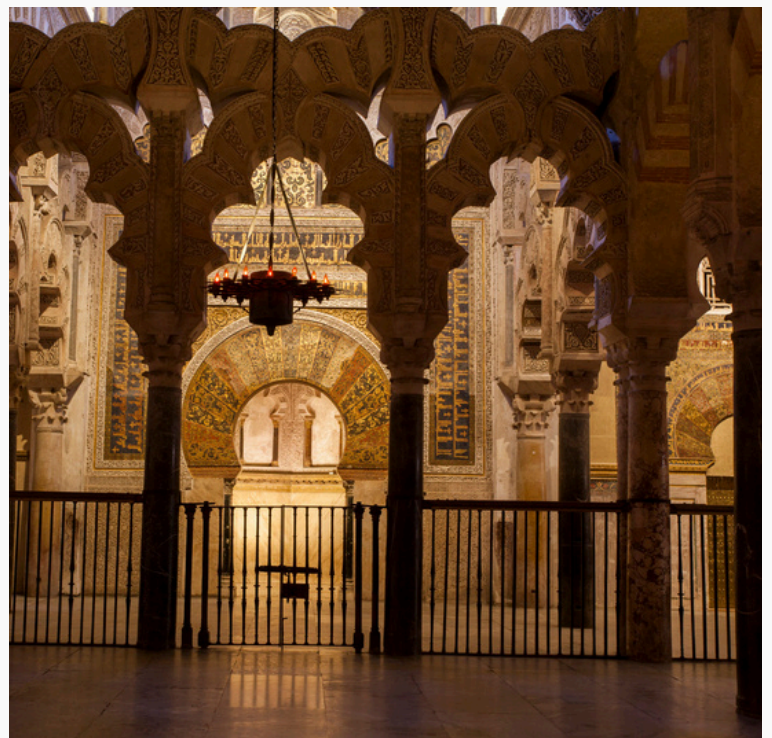
The host city organized **an evening tour of the Mezquita-Catedral** to provide a spectacular welcome for the first delegations. The tour enabled participants to see and understand the significance of this symbol of tolerance and respect. From ancient Roman times to the Umayyad dynasty, to the Catholic Monarchs, and right up to the present day, the religiosity of the place has never ceased to be celebrated and to nourish the “soul of Cordoba”.



Interior of Cordoba's Mezquita-Catedral



Interior of Cordoba's Mezquita-Catedral



Interior of Cordoba's Mezquita-Catedral



Side facade of the Mezquita-Catedral,
Cordoba



Site visits on the Strategic Axis 1
“Requalify the Habitat”



Site visits on the Strategic Axis 2
“Refresh the City”



Site visits on the Strategic Axis 3
“Transform Mobility”



Site visits on the Strategic Axis 4
“Regenerate the Urban Environment”

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24

Four morning visits led by experts from Cordoba's municipal administration and the coordinators of the twelve Collaborative Networks demonstrated on the basis of concrete sites and cases, how the four “Strategic Axes” of the Quebec Roadmap, which will be discussed during the Symposium on the Habitability in Historic Centers, have been tackled. The visits were an ideal opportunity for Congress participants to get to know each other. Their introduction to the beauty and history of Cordoba continued with a **sightseeing tour**. The morning ended with an Andalusian-style lunch served in the courtyard of the Congress Centre, housed in one of the city's great humanist Gothic monuments (16th century, formerly the San Sebastián hospital).



OWHC Board of Directors
2022-2024

While participants enjoyed a free afternoon, the **OWHC Board of Directors** held its **59th meeting** in the context of the end of its 2022-2024 mandate, to ensure the smooth running of the General Assembly.



59th meeting of the Board of Directors
of the OWHC 2022-2024

At sunset, the mayor of Cordoba, Mr. José María Bellido Roche, invited mayors and heads of delegations from OWHC member cities, together with several mayors and elected officials from historic Spanish cities, gathered for the **official photo at the “Torre de la Calahorra”**, facing Cordoba's magnificent historical urban landscape.



Official photo of the 17th World Congress of the OWHC



Interior of Cordoba's Mezquita-Catedral



José María Bellido Roche, Mayor of Cordoba



Bruno Marchand, Mayor of Quebec City and President of the OWHC

After the official photo, participants crossed the Roman Bridge to the Mezquita-Catedral to attend the opening ceremony of the World Congress. His Excellency Monsignor Bernardito Cleopas Auza, Apostolic Nuncio to Spain, gave a welcome address, followed by speeches from Mr. José María Bellido Roche, Mayor of Cordoba, Mr. Bruno Marchand, Mayor of Quebec City and President of the OWHC, Mr. David Lucas Parrón, Secretary General of the Spanish Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda, and Mr. Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla, President of the Junta de Andalucía. The profound value of heritage in society and the role of the OWHC in the preservation and development of World Heritage cities were highlighted. The opening ceremony ended with a grandiose performance of Beethoven's "9th Symphony in D minor, Op. 125", by the Cordoba Orchestra, conducted by the renowned Maestro Salvador Vázquez. The concert, also open to the public, was one of the highlights of the celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of Cordoba's inclusion on UNESCO's World Heritage List. A **grand dinner served in the gardens of the Alcazar de los Reyes Cristianos** rounded off the ceremony. Andalusian gastronomy and traditional tapas were enjoyed to the accompaniment of flamenco dancing, offering participants the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich local culture.



Cordoba Orchestra



Dinner in the gardens of the Alcazar de los Reyes Cristianos



WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25

OWHC President Bruno Marchand, Mayor of Quebec City, opened the **27th General Assembly of the OWHC**. During this **first part** (the General Assembly continued on the afternoon of September 27), the President presented the 2022-2024 Activity Report, followed by a discussion of administrative matters essential to the running of the Organization. The winner of the Jean-Paul-L'Allier Heritage Award was the project to rehabilitate the fortified complex of Icherisheher (Baku) in Azerbaijan, “Increasing Livability in the Walled City of Baku (Icherisheher): The Baku Khans’ Park and the Baku Khans’ Palace Complex”, presented by Mr. Elsevar Mammadov, representative of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Icherisheher State Historical-Architectural Reserve. The General Assembly concluded with speeches by the 11 candidates for the Board of Directors: Angra do Heroísmo (Portugal), Brugge (Belgium), Cordoba (Spain), Cuenca (Ecuador), Dubrovnik (Croatia), Konya (Turkey), Krakow (Poland), Marrakech (Morocco), Quebec (Canada), San Antonio (USA), Vienna (Austria). In addition, representatives from the cities of Angra do Heroísmo (Portugal) and Marrakech (Morocco) presented their applications to host the 18th Congress in 2026.

Bruno Marchand, Mayor of Quebec City and President of the OWHC



Session 1 of the 27th General Assembly of the OWHC



Exterior view of the Jean-Paul L'Allier Award for Heritage winning project



Elsevar Mammadov, representative of Icherisheher



Mikhaël de Thyse,
Secretary General of the OWHC

The **Symposium on Habitability of Historic Centers** was opened by OWHC Secretary General Mikhaël de Thyse in the early afternoon. After summarizing the progress made over the past two years under the Quebec Roadmap, the Symposium's expected results were presented as a crucial step towards the design of the New Urban Project. The “Vive la Ville” video, unveiled on this occasion, showed in images the dynamism of OWHC cities and the energy already deployed to implement the four Strategic Axes, thus setting the tone for the Symposium.

Symposium associate partner En Modes Solutions (<https://enmodesolutions.com/>) created a virtual application for the occasion, referred to in this document as “the application”. The main aim was to make it easier for participants to follow the various stages of the event (sessions), express their views on the topics covered, and contribute to the discussions. All contributions have been processed by artificial intelligence (AI) for live feedback purposes, or to be used later on for further processing.



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[click to watch](#)

Video "Vive la ville"

The **first session of the Symposium** gave the floor to mayors who presented the political results of the collective work underway since 2022. Mr. Bruno Marchand, Mayor of Quebec City, Mr. Pierre Hurmic, Mayor of Bordeaux, Mr. Cristian Zamora, Mayor of Cuenca (Ecuador) and Mr. Mato Frankovic, Mayor of Dubrovnik, gave numerous examples of the extent to which OWHC cities are already in line with the objectives of the Manifesto, by giving pre-eminence in their heritage actions to the inhabitant, to the original social role of public spaces, and to the inclusion of urban evolution in historical continuity. The mayors stressed the importance of the concept of Habitability, adopted during the implementation of the Quebec Roadmap, which firmly places human beings at the heart of urban development. The impact of the results of the work carried out since 2022 has led to a collective commitment to a historic city that is first and foremost designed for habitability, i.e. for living, working, socializing, cultivating, building community and opening up to others. The initiatives already taken by member cities to strike a balance between mass tourism and the residential function, to invent climate resilience and organize community-focused development processes are all moving in the same direction, and anticipate future solutions for achieving the four Strategic Axes. The momentum generated by the Quebec Roadmap is clear enough to confirm the relevance of the objectives set by the OWHC in terms of participative thinking, bringing cities and their specialists closer together, and concrete cooperation. The Organization has already been transformed; the process underway must continue; there can be no turning back.

Building on the already considerable political achievements, [Mr. Prosper Wanner](#), sociologist and community activist in Venice and Marseille, added elements to enrich the concept of Habitability, linking the advances of the work in progress with certain principles of the Faro Convention, notably by mentioning the role of identity and communities in urban dynamics, the value of the diversity of viewpoints and interpretations of the city by its different users for collective innovation, etc.



Bruno Marchand,
Mayor of Quebec City and President of the OWHC



Pierre Hurmic,
Mayor of Bordeaux



Cristian Zamora,
Mayor of Cuenca (Ecuador)



Prosper Wanner, sociologist and community activist
in Venice and Marseilles



Mato Frankovic,
Mayor of Dubrovnik



Central patio of the Bodegas Campos restaurant

Dinner at the Bodegas Campos restaurant, where guests enjoyed local dishes in tapas format and were entertained by traditional music and song. Mr. Carlos Pinto de Sá, mayor of Évora and president of the election, announced that Marrakech would host the 18th World Congress in 2026, following the afternoon's vote.





From left to right: Mohamed Benchakroun, Marrakech City Councillor, Bruno Marchand, Mayor of Quebec City and President of the OWHC, and José María Bellido Roche, Mayor of Cordoba

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26

The **second session of the Symposium**, devoted to the technical assessment of the Quebec Roadmap, began with an introduction to the four Strategic Axes. Mr. Nelson Vaz Moreira, mayor of Cidade Velha, presented the strategic axis “Requalify the Habitat” (the critical role of residents, revitalization beyond façade restoration, fostering inclusive spaces where historical identity enriches community life); Mr. Alexander Miszalski, mayor of Krakow, presented the strategic axis “Refresh the City” (greening urban spaces, putting in place appropriate legal frameworks, involving residents); Mr. Ivica Puljak, mayor of Split, presented the strategic axis “Transform Mobility” (reducing congestion, alternative modes of transport, reclaiming spaces dedicated to the car for social and cultural purposes); Mr. Carlos Pinto de Sá, Mayor of Évora, presented the strategic axis “Regenerate the Urban Environment” (prioritizing residents over tourism-driven development, inspiring policies that guarantee affordable housing, community-centered planning).



Nelson Vaz Moreira,
Mayor of Cidade Velha



Alexander Miszalski,
Mayor of Krakow



Ivica Puljak,
Mayor of Split



Jean-Sébastien Bouchard,
associate of En Modes Solutions



Carlos Pinto de Sá,
Mayor of Évora

The participants were then divided into four different rooms for the **Workshops**, each with its own strategic axis. The Statements collectively validated by the 12 Collaborative Networks, from which the Courses of action were derived, were detailed by the Coordinators.



Working tables

The “Requalify the Habitat” workshop began with presentations by Ms. Paula Cordeiro (Managing Architect, Brussels), Coordinator of the network on “Protecting and strengthening the residential function of the city’s historic centers”, Mr. Ivan Abril (City Councillor, Cuenca), Coordinator of the network on “Irregular architectural interventions that diminish the heritage values”, and Mr. Gaspar Hernández Razo (Coordinator of the historic center, Morelia), Coordinator of the network on “Protected buildings in a state of abandonment”.



Working tables



Working tables

The “Refresh the City” workshop began with presentations by Ms. Anne-Laure Moniot (Head of Architecture and Urban Heritage, Bordeaux), Coordinator of the network on “Greening and space planning for urban refreshment”, and Ms. Agata Mierzynska, (Senior International Relations Officer, Krakow), Coordinator of the network on “Greening public spaces”.



Working tables



Working tables

The “Transform Mobility” workshop

began with presentations by Ms. Mihaela Skuric (Director of the Institute for Restoration, Dubrovnik) Coordinator of the network on “Regulation of traffic within the buffer zone of the World Heritage Site”, Ms. Berenice Vidal (Head of the Historic Centre and Cultural Heritage Management Office, Puebla) Coordinator of the network on “Rejuvenating the historic center through an active mobility model”, and Ms. Chantale Émond (Director of the Culture and Heritage Division, Quebec) Coordinator of the network on “Pacified mobility: arrangement and sharing of streets between different users and mobility modes”.



Working tables



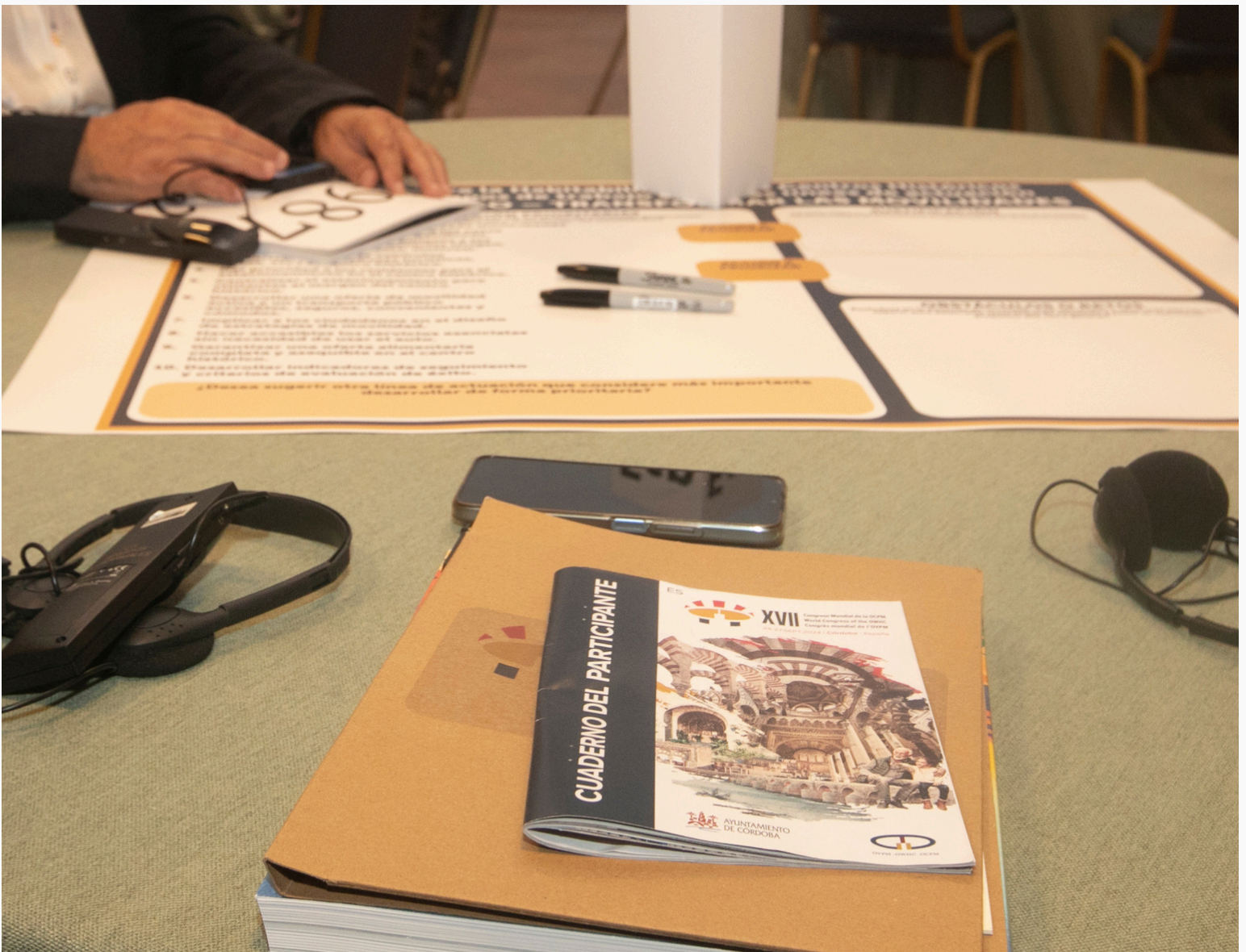
Working tables

The “Regenerate the Urban Environment” workshop began with presentations by Ms. Leentje Gunst (Director of Building Projects and Heritage Management, Brugge) Coordinator of the network on “Intangible heritage as a resource for urban regeneration”, Mr. Walter Debenedetti (Heritage Director, Colonia del Sacramento) Coordinator of the network on “Raising awareness and disseminating heritage information to the local community”, Mr. Mohamed Benchakroun (City Councillor, Marrakech) Coordinator of the network on “Regeneration of the historic core through preservation, valorization and awareness of heritage”, and Mr. Miguel Pedro (Head of the Culture and Heritage Division, Évora) Coordinator of the network on “Crafts and traditional know-how for the preservation of heritage”.



Working tables

These presentations gave rise to discussions at **19 working tables** to prioritize the **38 courses of action** proposed. **18 of these were specifically selected.** They will be detailed in the Symposium's Technical Report and will be the subject of further work. The workshops ended with contributions from Ms. Phyllis Viagran, elected official of San Antonio City Council, Ms. Ivana Brnin, elected official of Dubrovnik City Council, and Mr. Wolfgang Dersch, City Councillor of Regensburg, as well as Mr. Muhammad Muhammad Juma, Head of Africa Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Mr. Antoine Bruguerolle, Vice-President of ICOMOS-CIWIH and Mr. Gary Hattem, Director General of CHiFA. They gave their views on the difficulties and issues raised by the selected courses of action and the implementation of urban projects in member cities (limited financial and human resources, the need for public-private partnerships and sustainable governance frameworks, the need for strong political commitment and the vital importance of involving citizens from the outset, a multidisciplinary and participatory approach, focusing on transparency and continuous evaluation).



Working tools



Josep Bohigas, architect and former director of the Barcelona Region Strategic Planning Agency



First panel

The third session of the Symposium, devoted to the New Urban Project, was moderated by Mr. Yves Gendron (Deputy Director General - Strasbourg Urban Planning Agency Upper Rhine, Strasbourg) and Mr. Luc Gagnon (Urban Planning and Mobility Consultant, Montreal), experts from the OWHC Advisory Board. A **first panel**, comprising Ms. Ivana Brnin, Dubrovnik city councillor, Mr. Wolfgang Dersch, Regensburg city councillor, Ms. Phyllis Viagran, San Antonio city councillor, and Ms. Anne Mistler, deputy mayor of Strasbourg, first discussed the concept of Habitability. This concept is central to the design of the New Urban Project. The elements of definition that it was possible to list at this stage confirmed that a consensus had developed considerably since the start of the Symposium.

Mr. Josep Bohigas, architect and former director of the Barcelona Region Strategic Planning Agency, insisted that Habitability's rethinking of space is part of a broader vision that places human needs, such as health, housing and neighborhood cohesion, at the center of urban planning. The overall strategy to be implemented emphasizes the preservation of historic areas, not as static relics, but as dynamic spaces where heritage and modern life coexist, creating a dynamic and inclusive city that maintains its cultural identity while responding to contemporary needs.

A **second panel**, comprising Mr. Didier Jeanjean, Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux, Ms. Mélissa Coulombe-Leduc, City Councillor of Quebec and Ms. Maria Fernanda Huerta López, City Councillor of Puebla, invited the participants to take part in a **flash-discussions workshop**. They asked them three questions designed to formulate the working proposal for the following day's conclusion:

- What are the challenges involved in developing an operational approach based on priority courses of action?
- What conditions need to be created to enable the New Urban Project to take root in cities?
- What are the conditions required to ensure the long-term viability of the participatory engineering approach implemented with the Quebec Roadmap?



Second panel



Participants at Puerta del Puente Romano



Performance "Cordoba and Spanish dance as heritage"



Dinner at the Torre de la Barca

The evening began with a show entitled "Cordovan and Spanish dance as heritage", directed by Ms. Carmen del Río, former director of the Conservatorio Profesional de Danza, and performed by several local professional groups, as well as students from the conservatory, also offered to the citizens of Cordoba to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the city's inclusion on UNESCO's World Heritage List, and continued with dinner at the Torre de la Barca. The cities elected official to the Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 term were announced: Angra do Heroísmo (Portugal), Brugge (Belgium), Cordoba (Spain), Krakow (Poland), Cuenca (Ecuador), Dubrovnik (Croatia), Quebec City (Canada), and San Antonio (USA). Representatives of the outgoing cities on the Board of Directors (Luxembourg, Colonia del Sacramento, Évora and Vienna) were thanked for their contribution to the OWHC over the past two years. At the stroke of midnight, there being no other candidates for the presidency, Mr. Bruno Marchand, Mayor of Quebec City, was re-elected by acclamation as President of the OWHC for a second term.



Representatives of cities elected to the Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 term

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27

The **fourth session** was the moment to conclude the Symposium's intellectual journey and make decisions for the future. Mr. Didier Jeanjean, Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux, Ms. Mélissa Coulombe-Leduc, City Councillor of Quebec, and Ms. Maria Fernanda Huerta López, City Councillor of Puebla, presented a summary of the previous day's contributions, recalling the consensus that had emerged from the discussions:

- The conviction that the whole approach is legitimate and important. It is the urgency of the changes underway, but also the desire to act quickly and effectively, that is fuelling the current momentum and encouraging members to broaden their perspectives and invest more time and resources in the search for solutions.
- The approach challenges conventional ways of working; it calls on member cities; it multiplies points of view; it encourages learning from and with each other. It challenges the Organization itself, which mobilizes and transforms itself as the collective process unfolds.
- The political brief is precise and demanding; the vision is ambitious, but the directions provided by the strategic axes to be developed are clear.
- Habitability has become an aspiration to be realized insofar as it synthesizes a modern conception of the historic city, i.e. one that is in direct touch with the times. It brings with it the conviction that today's challenges can be overcome within the framework of urban planning that makes the most of heritage resources, capable of inventing optimal living conditions for residents and an ideal quality of life for all users.



Didier Jeanjean,
Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux



Mélissa Coulombe-Leduc,
Québec City Councillor



Maria Fernanda Huerta López,
Puebla City Councillor

The panel, supported by other elected officials (Ms. Rita Našeniece, Head of Riga's Urban Heritage Commission, Mr. Gábor Kerpel-Fronius, Deputy Mayor of Budapest, Mr. Andreas Unger, Vice-President of Gotland Region and President of Visby World Heritage Council) proposed that the New Urban Project should keep citizens at the center of all efforts and build on the participatory engineering model in place since 2022. The solutions focused on resilience, inclusion and forward-thinking collaboration between World Heritage cities that will be identified will help member cities to meet the basic needs of residents, but also to correct complicated situations by applying some key Habitability principles:

- Sharing awareness of a common heritage, essential to the affirmation of a community capable of choosing the path of its own development and making it a reality
- Build community trust with public authorities and provide practical support to heritage property owners
- Take into account the evolving nature of the concept of heritage in order to always consider it as a precious and irreplaceable resource to serve bold political visions, and
- Design interconnected projects, anchored in flexible urban strategies adapted to each city
- Promote interdisciplinary governance including citizens and “permanent democracy”
- Organize the dynamics of urban regeneration based on political leadership and a long-term vision
- Encourage public-private financing models offering new perspectives for new-generation projects.

Interest in and motivation for the New Urban Project took on a singular resonance with the intervention of Ms. Hanna Starostenko, Deputy Mayor of Kiev. She spoke of the importance of cultural heritage as a fundamental resource for rebuilding war-torn cities, and as a symbol of peace and resilience that must be protected at all costs.



Rita Našeniece,
Head of the Riga Urban
Heritage Commission



Gábor Kerpel-Fronius,
Deputy Mayor of Budapest



Hanna Starostenko,
Deputy Mayor of Kiev

Juana Delgado Chávez, Mayor of Xochimilco, Alexander Basile Coliadis, Mayor of Rhodes, Moonhun Chung, Mayor of Jongno and José María Bellido Roche, Mayor of Cordoba, on behalf of the Mayors' Panel, endorsed the proposal in the conviction that the significant progress expected from the New Urban Project will require a strategic approach that is shared, but applicable in each city according to its particularities, that integrates modern infrastructures, respects local traditions and encourages the affirmation of community identities.



Juana Delgado Chávez,
Mayor of Xochimilco



Moonhun Chung,
Mayor of Jongno



Alexander Basile Coliadis,
Mayor of Rhodes



José María Bellido Roche,
Mayor of Cordoba

Finally, representatives of the invited institutions presented their views on the OWHC's approach. Mr. Muhammad Muhammad Juma, Head of the Africa Unit of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, underlined the opportunity to envisage new relations between the OWHC and UNESCO. Ms. Paula Cordeiro, President of ICOMOS-CIVVIH, also highlighted the OWHC's operational capacities to implement concrete solutions. Bonnie Burnham, President of the Cultural Heritage Finance Alliance - CHiFA, emphasized the opportunity offered by the OWHC to anchor innovative financial models in urban strategies conceived within the framework of the New Urban Project.



Muhammad Muhammad Juma, Head of the Africa Unit at UNESCO's World Heritage Centre



Paula Cordeiro, President of ICOMOS-CIVVIH



Bonnie Burnham, President of the Cultural Heritage Finance Alliance - CHiFA

In conclusion, Mr. Bruno Marchand, Mayor of Quebec City and President of the OWHC, thanked the participants for the success of the Symposium and their determination to continue the collective adventure in the run-up to the 18th World Congress in 2026. The President emphasized the opportunities offered to all OWHC members to become “learning cities”, able to share their experiences and replicate successful actions, and to contribute to enriching them through the diversity of contexts offered by World Heritage cities. The OWHC is a network that makes joint, coordinated, mobilizing action possible, capable of generating large-scale dynamics around widely shared challenges, rather than continually reinventing small-scale solutions in isolation. The proposal to continue the Quebec Roadmap, strengthened by the Cordoba Path, is an opportunity for all member cities which, by participating in the activities, will contribute to strengthening the OWHC. The actions that will be implemented will have to respond adequately to the needs of members, adapting to their specificities, both in wealthy and developing countries, in war-affected regions, in areas of the world where the OWHC has not yet gained a firm foothold, such as Africa. Over the next two years, in addition to helping to design the New Urban Project, member cities must find in the OWHC the support to assert bold ambitions and the courage to multiply actions based on habitability, insofar as even those that will ultimately be “imperfect” will be better than inaction, because the quest for progress and well-being by local public authorities must be a matter of course and a certainty for inhabitants, pledges of a better future.



Bruno Marchand, Mayor of Quebec City and President of the OWHC

The **second part of the General Assembly** concluded the Congress in the afternoon. Bruno Marchand, Mayor of Quebec City and President of the OWHC, reviewed the contents of the 2025-2026 Action Plan and Budget, which was unanimously adopted by the member cities.



The 17th World Congress ended with a vibrant **closing ceremony** at the Real Círculo de la Amistad. After dinner, participants attended a ceremony presided over by Ms. Lourdes Morales Zaragoza, on behalf of the Mayor of Cordoba, who handed over the World Congress flag to Mr. Mohamed Benchakroun, representing the Mayor of Marrakech in a symbolic transmission. With a drone show over the Puente Romano and an evening of dancing at the Círculo de la Amistad, participants were able to share the final moments of a Congress rich in human, cultural and professional experience.



Handover of the Cordoba World Congress flag to Marrakech



Dinner at the Real Círculo de la Amistad



Drone show over Puente Romano





Our team

Mr. Bruno Marchand, Mayor of Quebec City and President of the OWHC

Mr. Mikhaël De Thyse, Secretary General of the OWHC

Ms. Andréanne Charest, Programs and Projects Manager - Deputy Secretary General of the OWHC

Ms. Leticia Sanches, Urban Heritage Project Officer of the OWHC

Ms. Émilie Gourbin, Urban Heritage Project Officer of the OWHC

Mr. Jules Morel, Communications and Visibility Project Officer of the OWHC

Ms Claire Lavoie, Accounting and Administrative Assistant of the OWHC

Mr. Simon Laflamme, Urban Heritage Project Officer of the OWHC

Mr. Yves Gendron, Deputy Director General, Strasbourg Urban Planning Agency, Upper Rhine, Strasbourg, member of Advisory Group

Mr. Luc Gagnon, Urban Planning and Mobility Consultant, Montreal, member of Advisory Group

Mr. Bernard Bouzou, Architect and urban planner, Bordeaux, member of Advisory Group

Ms Marie-Jules Bergeron, Associate of En Mode Solution

Mr. Jean-Sébastien Bouchard, Associate of En Mode Solution



