culture 21
UCLG Committee
Commission de CGLU
Comisión de CGLU

UCLG
CGLU
United Cities
and Local Governments

Cities, culture, development

Union of Municipalities of Türkiye (UMT) Seminar

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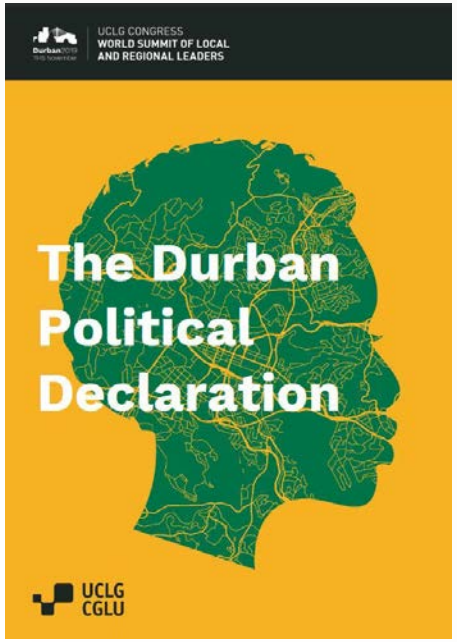
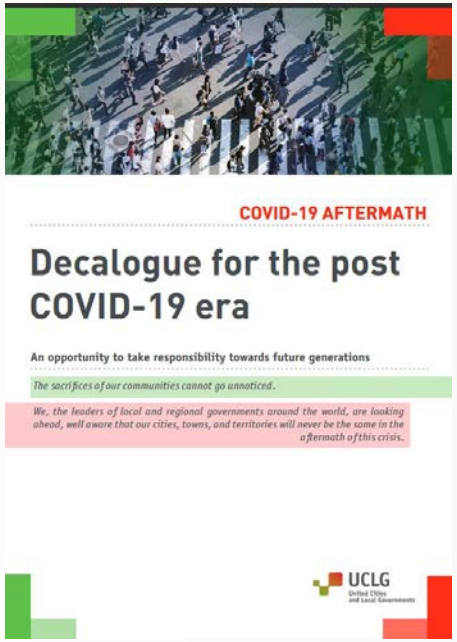
Coordinator Culture
UCLG – The Global Network of Cities, Local and Regional Governments

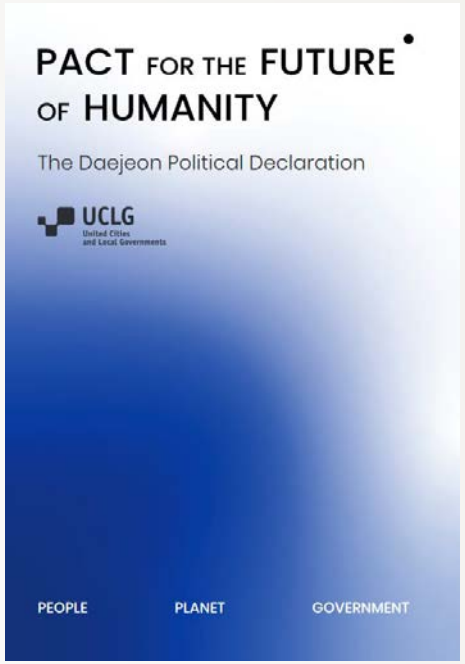
WHO WE ARE

UCLG – United Cities and Local Governments

"We stand on the shoulders of countless women and men who have worked tirelessly to empower each other for over a century, to lift up their communities and to collaborate with one another in order to achieve real change."

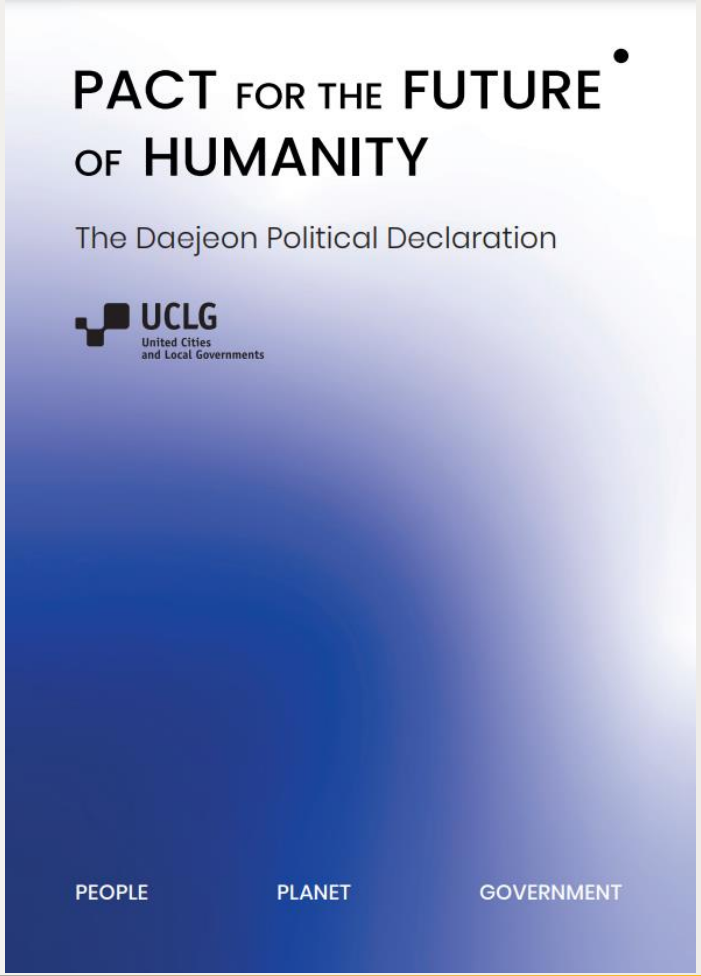






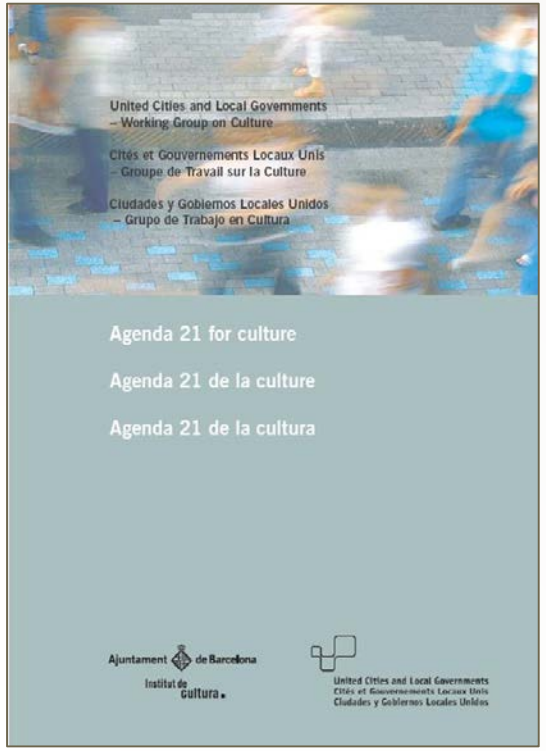
UCLG Culture Committee:
"To promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development through the international dissemination and the local implementation of Agenda 21 for Culture."

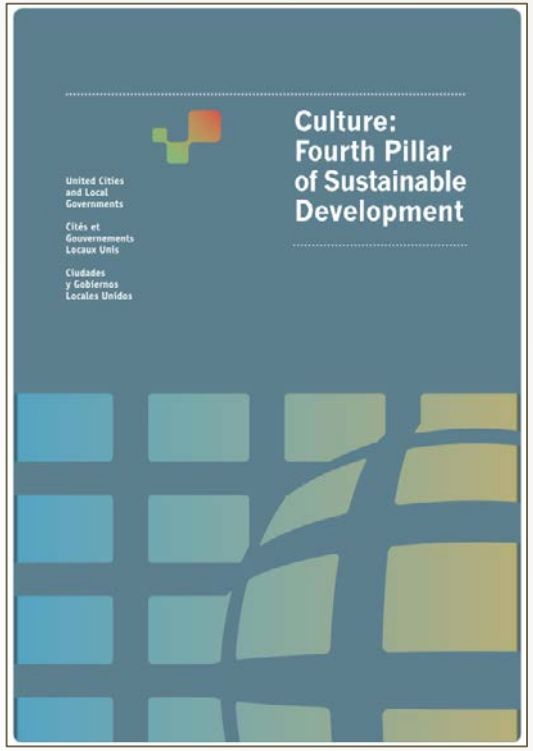
UNFOLDING THE UCLG PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

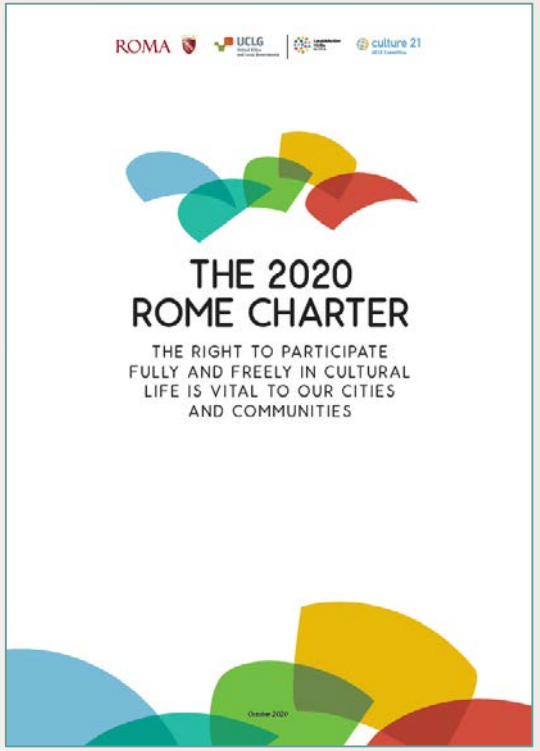


OUR FRAMES

OUR FOUNDING DOCUMENTS







CULTURE 21 ACTIONS 2015

The "Commitments" have nine sections, structured in the following way:

1. Cultural rights
2. Heritage, diversity, and creativity
3. Culture and education
4. Culture and environment
5. Culture and economy
6. Culture, equality, and social inclusion
7. Culture, urban planning, and public space
8. Culture, information, and knowledge
9. Governance of culture

Cultural Rights

Active citizenship and the full recognition of cultural rights

Human rights pertain to the freedom and dignity of every human being, and are the basis and guarantee of the coherence and legitimacy of policy-making. Cultural rights refer to the rights of all individuals to freedom of speech, access to heritage, values, and identities, and active participation in cultural life. They are the foundation and guarantee of the coherence and legitimacy of policies. Cultural rights are an integral element of human rights and guarantee access to the knowledge necessary to exercise other rights, freedoms, and responsibilities.

Cultural rights are incompatible with restrictive, one-dimensional accounts of culture or identity because such narratives may be simplifying, reductive, populist, inconsistent with historical analyses, or restrictive of freedoms. Fixed identity has ceased to be a predetermining factor in community life, but the construction of identity has become a key element of all shared projects. Identity has gone from being a starting point to a negotiable destination.

Thus, cultural rights guarantee the ability of everyone to identify with one or several cultural communities, and to adapt this choice throughout his or her life. The exercise of human rights (including, but not limited to, freedoms of speech, association, and participation in civic life) is also essential for the development of a sustainable city.

Local policies should help citizens to exercise their rights to determine freely their identity, develop and exercise their creative abilities, recognize and accept foreign cultural expressions, and to take part in collective decision-making o all facets of community life. Local policies should recognize citizens as the main actors in local cultural life.

All public policies should be constructed by balancing, in a reasonable and logical way, the recognition of citizens' rights, institutional responsibilities, and the provisions of public services in the spirit of co-responsibility. Local governments should aim to define basic cultural services as basic rights that are afforded to all citizens, especially the most vulnerable groups and individuals, with the purpose of guaranteeing the development of their cultural capacities (rights, freedoms, and responsibilities).

Actions

a. Local cultural policies are explicitly based on cultural rights.

b. The local government has adopted a guideline text on cultural rights, freedoms, and cultural responsibilities.

c. The local government adopts measures to facilitate citizen participation, either individually or as representatives of civil society groups, in setting priorities, decision-making, and in the evaluation of cultural policies.

d. There are minimum service standards to ensure basic cultural services (for example, a minimum number of libraries/ books per inhabitant).

e. Detailed analyses of existing obstacles to citizens' access and participation in cultural life are undertaken.

f. There are policies and programs aimed at citizens' broader and more active involvement in cultural practices and cultural creation.

g. Cultural policies allow people to have access to, and transmit their own, cultural expressions, paying special attention to the most vulnerable groups and individuals.

h. Increasing the opportunities for women to participate in cultural life is one of the objectives of cultural policies, and measures are taken to eliminate gender discrimination.

i. Local civil society organizations working in human rights explicitly include cultural rights among their priorities.

j. There are policies and programs to increase the number of active members of civil society organizations devoted to culture.

Culture and Environment

Cultural factors as accelerators of environmental responsibility

Recognizing the importance of culture in sustainable development means exploring the connections between culture and the environment. Culture influences our understanding of the environment and our relationship with it on a deep level. Concern for the welfare of future generations is already explicitly environmental, it should also be cultural.

People modify the ecosystems around them through cultural practices, values, and visions of the world. Human activities depend on and use "natural" spaces and biological resources that could otherwise disappear, such as agricultural heritage. Spaces and resources are bearers of culture partly as remainders of history, practical knowledge, and identity (e.g. food heritage), contribute aesthetic values (e.g. urban or rural landscapes), and condition the capacity for resilience. The knowledge people have of their surrounding ecosystems is of immense value. For centuries, their practices have shaped urban and rural landscapes. This traditional knowledge should be recognized and used to better understand how cultures and ecosystems interact, and enter into dialogue with academic knowledge, particularly in the context of regional development projects that may impact the ecosystem. These forms of knowledge must be developed and shared in order to promote ecological thinking and the values of sustainable development. Nature and culture have evolved alongside one another and form a constantly evolving balance. Cultural diversity and biological diversity are therefore closely related.

Local governments play an essential role in ensuring that due consideration is given to climate change, as well as promoting individuals' knowledge and capacities in dealing with this global challenge. Furthermore, local governments can promote access to the resources necessary to develop healthy, organic forms of food production. Another important area of concern is the environmental impact of infrastructure and cultural activities and events; responsibility for this concern must be accepted, shared and accounted for. Cultural actors also contribute to raise awareness of different environmental concerns and the promotion of more sustainable uses of natural resources.

Actions

a. Cultural factors, including the knowledge, traditions and practices of all people and communities, are integrated into local environmental sustainability strategies.

b. Local cultural policies explicitly recognize the connections between culture and environmental sustainability (e.g. concerns about climate change, resilience, risk-prevention, the sustainable use of resources, and awareness raising about the richness and fragility of ecosystems).

c. There is a working group or task force to link the work of local government departments of culture and environment.

d. History and culture are included in guidelines on the promotion of the production and consumption of local products.

e. Gastronomy, based on local produce, is recognized as a constituent element of local culture.

f. The local government takes steps to facilitate and promote citizen initiatives for the sustainable use of public spaces, especially those linked to new gardening practices, and other examples of socio-ecological innovation.

g. The local government establishes programs to preserve and spread traditional knowledge and practices that contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources.

h. The local government recognizes the cultural importance of natural spaces with specific programs.

i. Cultural organizations that receive public support evaluate their environmental impacts and carry out ecological awareness-raising activities.

j. There are platforms that link public and private civil society organizations that work in the areas of culture and the environment.

Culture and Environment

Culture, Equality and Social Inclusion

Culture contributes to new social bonds

Cultural and creative processes have a strong impact on people's welfare, health, and the well-being. They make it possible for individuals and communities to explore their histories and sense of identity, promote the development of new meaning in their lives, and grant them greater freedom. Cultural processes are essential in preventing exclusion and "leaving no one behind".

Active participation in cultural life is one of the key aspects in social inclusion. It provides the motivation and possibility of increased civic participation, lends cultural visibility to minorities, fosters mutual recognition and cooperation between different generations and cultures, boosts employment, and improves a city or region's security and image. Culture is an important means for establishing new social spaces and for developing new collective meanings. It can also contribute to conflict resolution, the strengthening of the social fabric, and greater resilience in groups and communities.

Cultural factors can promote or obstruct access to, and participation in, public services such as health, education, social inclusion, and employment. Public service policy-makers and staff must actively work to identify and tackle discrimination of all kinds in the provision of, and access to, public services, such as discrimination on the grounds of gender or ethnicity. Anti-discrimination policies and programs must seek links between cultural issues and all other areas of political action. These policies usually require long-term dedication and open, participatory methodologies.

Although the goal is to increase opportunities for everyone to participate, and to promote common spaces that are recognized by all, attention must be paid to individual freedom of choice, including the right not to participate in cultural activities. This freedom is a new and necessary right of citizens, complementary to their right to be different.

Actions

a. Local social policies in the areas of health, employment, welfare and social inclusion explicitly include culture as a dimension for combating all types of discrimination.

b. There should be a regular analysis of the factors that determine the cultural vulnerability of certain individuals or groups, within the framework of processes that directly involve those groups and individuals.

c. The relationship between personal welfare, health, and active cultural practices is analyzed regularly.

d. There is capacity-building program for social service professionals and organizations that improves their ability to identify and tackle cultural factors that prevent people from accessing public services.

e. The local government uses its cultural budget and public resources to actively promote the participation of women in cultural activities and organizations, particularly at the most high-profile and senior levels, and also to value, promote, and increase the visibility and status of cultural activities that are already carried out predominantly by women.

f. Cultural institutions receiving public support carry out programmes that include disadvantaged groups and conduct them in neighborhoods with high levels of poverty and exclusion.

g. Steps have been taken to ensure that cultural facilities and spaces are accessible to all, including people with disabilities.

h. Local conflict resolution strategies take into account, and recognize the potential of, culture.

i. There are programs to promote inter-generational cooperation.

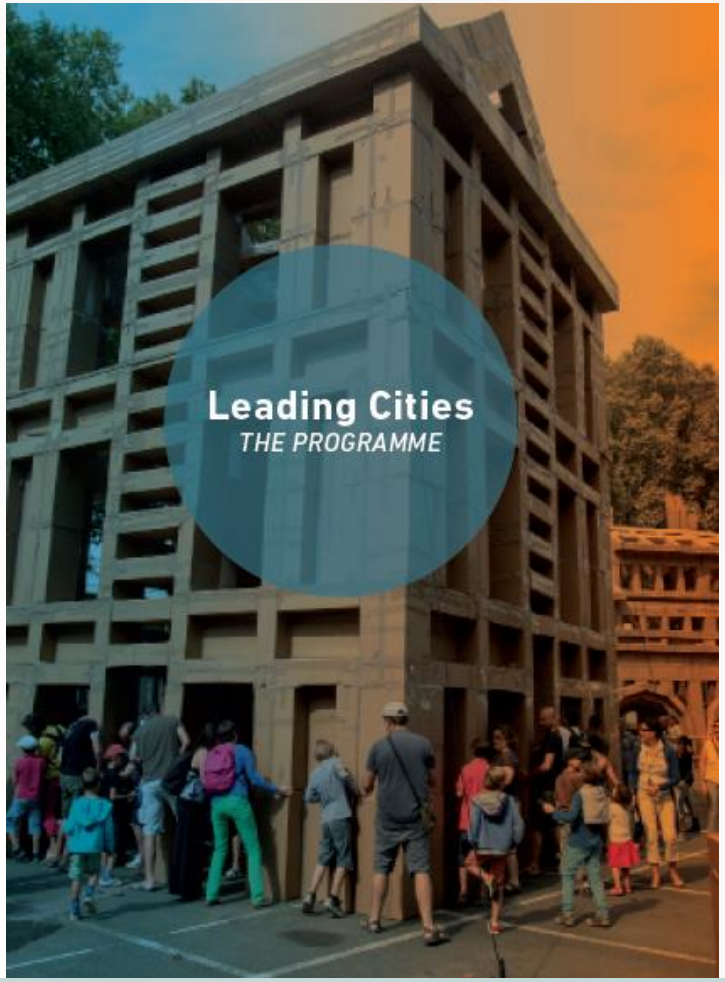
j. There are cultural innovation programs for young people that promote social inclusion and knowledge of cultural codes, digital environments, and gender equality.

k. There is a local platform or network of associations, cooperatives, and third sector organizations that carry out activities on the relationship between culture, equality, and social inclusion.

l. Local civil society organisations carry out awareness-raising campaigns, such as the promotion of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, and anti-racism, with the support of public institutions and cultural organizations.

Culture, Equality and Social Inclusion

OUR LEADING CITIES



BARCELONA
LEADING CITY · CULTURE 21

In the period 2017-2018, a specific project on the relationship between culture and tourism in the city of Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain), was initiated by the Institute of Culture of the City of Barcelona (ICUB) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Committee on Culture of UCLG. In this context, a primary report was prepared, with the aim of studying the impact of tourism on the cultural system of the city and its different agents, and the purpose of identifying the components of the current debate in this field, analysing the challenges to be faced and determining the lines of action and proposals to be followed. This report is available online in English, Catalan and in Spanish.

The structure of the report is based on the commitments and actions of 'Culture 21: Actions' which have a clear relationship between culture and tourism (section 1), the presentation of data and an institutional context on the role of culture in the city's tourism policies (section 2), the analysis of the key challenges identified (section 3) and the formulation of possible lines of work and proposals for policy action in this area (section 4). The contents are based on the analysis of 'Culture 21: Actions' and other bibliographical sources related to the cultural dimension of tourism, mainly in the context of Barcelona

BELO HORIZONTE
LEADING CITY · CULTURE 21

The City of Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais, Brazil) has been very active in the Committee on Culture of UCLG. As a pioneer Pilot City in 2014, Belo Horizonte contributed to inform the elaboration of the Culture 21 Actions practical document, as well as the design of what was going to become the current Pilot City programme, 'Culture in Sustainable Cities. Learning with Culture 21 Actions'.

Belo Horizonte was also the first city to ever win the International Award 'UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21' in 2014, which gave the city even more momentum for further collaboration with the Committee on Culture of UCLG. Following this, the City of Belo Horizonte organized an International Conference on 'Education and Culture' in April 2016

BILBAO
LEADING CITY · CULTURE 21

In the framework of its participation to the Leading City programme of the Agenda 21 for Culture, the City of Bilbao (Basque Country, Spain) elaborated a good practice called 'The Performing city – Performing arts policies in Bilbao', which describes and summarizes thirty years of building a strategy for the city and performing arts.

Prior to this activity, and as a Leading City, Bilbao had also hosted the first UCLG Culture Summit in March 2015, which gathered during 2 days more than 200 participants from all continent, cities and local or regional governments, experts in the field of culture and cultural rights, civil society, academics and other interested key actors to discuss the place of culture and local cultural policies in sustainable development, at the local level, but also in the global agendas, being also the occasion for the network to adopt the essential and practical toolkit Culture 21 Actions.

BOGOTA
LEADING CITY · CULTURE 21

In the course of 2017, the city of Bogotá (Colombia) shared with the Committee on Culture of UCLG the materials, knowledge and contents which permitted to elaborate a new good practice entitled 'Inhabiting community culture'. The good practice, which complete three other good practice documents in the case of Bogotá, describes the city strategy to design and implement a management model for mobile structures able to guarantee a permanent schedule for cultural events that are connected to the community actions of each specific territory.

Prior to this activity, the City of Bogotá had hosted in November 2016 the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, and 6th World Congress of UCLG, entitled 'Local voices for a better World'. In this context, the Committee on Culture had organized sessions addressing cultural aspects and dimensions of development, among which, one counted with the participation of the Secretary for Culture of the City, Ms. Maria Claudia Lápes.

BUENOS AIRES
LEADING CITY · CULTURE 21

The City of Buenos Aires (Argentina) has always been very actively commitment to the Agenda 21 for Culture, being one of its main authors, and assuming from 2008 to 2016 the role of vice-president.

Since 2016, the city is the co-president of UCLG Committee on Culture. During the years 2016 and 2017, it was very actively involved in the activities of the Committee, as well as in the design of the work plans for the same period, co-chairing annual meetings of the Committee and representing its interests in various international events, conferences and seminars. It was for example the case for the Informal Hearings of Habitat III in New York in 2016, where Luciana Blasco, then subsecretary for culture of Buenos Aires, gave a speech both in the name of her City and of the Committee.

Proving the high commitment, interest and leadership of the City of Buenos in the global reflexion on the place of culture in sustainable development, the Organization of three International conferences on 'Cities, Culture and Future', respectively in 2012, 2014 and 2016, which provided time and space to discuss the development of the Toolkit Culture 21 Actions' before its official adoption in Bilbao (March 2015). Moreover, Buenos Aires was chosen as the host city of the 3rd UCLG Culture Summit, to take place in 2019.

JEJU
LEADING CITY · CULTURE 21

Because of its strong commitment to UCLG activities, being the president of UCLG section for Asia-Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC), and given its demonstrated solid background in cultural policies for people-centred sustainable development, the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (Republic of Korea) became a Leading City of the Agenda 21 for Culture in 2016. Before, Jeju had been committed in the development of the Culture 21 Actions guides as one of the 8 pioneer cities and local governments which helped the making of the fundamental document.

As a Leading Province, Jeju carried out in 2016 a self-assessment on local cultural policies within its territory, and elaborated, together with the expert Catherine Cullen a report which included the results of the evaluation based on the 7 commitments and 100 actions of Culture 21 Actions, which they had helped framing a few years before. The full report, as well as the 'Reder' of Jeju are available online.

As a Leading Province of the Agenda 21 for Culture, Jeju also hosted and coorganized the 2nd UCLG Culture Summit in May 2017 together with UCLG, UCLG Committee on Culture and UCLG-ASPAC, which gathered almost 980 people and became the most relevant international event on culture, cultural policies and sustainable development for cities and local governments. The event was recognized by the World Urban Campaign as an Urban Thinker Campus.

MALMÖ
LEADING CITY · CULTURE 21

The extensive background of the City of Malmö (Sweden) regarding matters related to cultural policy development, people-centered policies and sustainable local development made it Leading City of the Agenda 21 for Culture. In 2014, Malmö released an Action Plan associated with the Cultural Strategy of the City for 2014-2020 it had been promoting a few years before, and organized the same year in November a European 'peer-learning' Seminar on culture in sustainable cities, as well as a Seminar on 'Local implementation of the UN's Sustainable Goals'.

The City took part in several events organised or co-organised by the Committee on Culture of UCLG, such as the 2nd UCLG Culture Summit, and the annual Meeting of Pilot Cities in the framework of the annual conference of Culture Action Europe, Beyond the Obvious, thus contributing to the global discussion on the integration of cultural aspects into sustainable development perspectives.

MEXICO CITY
LEADING CITY · CULTURE 21

For the past five years, Mexico City (Mexico) has been relentlessly demonstrating its leadership on culture in sustainable cities. The city has been part of the Presidency of the Committee on Culture of UCLG since 2013: it was part of the vice-presidency from 2013 to 2016, and it became one of the two co-presidents in January 2016.

Since the launch of the first edition in 2013-2014, Mexico City has been coorganising together with UCLG and its Committee on Culture the International Award – UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21' (2nd edition launched in 2017), which is a unique Award that recognises leading cities and individuals that have distinguished themselves through their contribution to culture as a key dimension in sustainable cities.

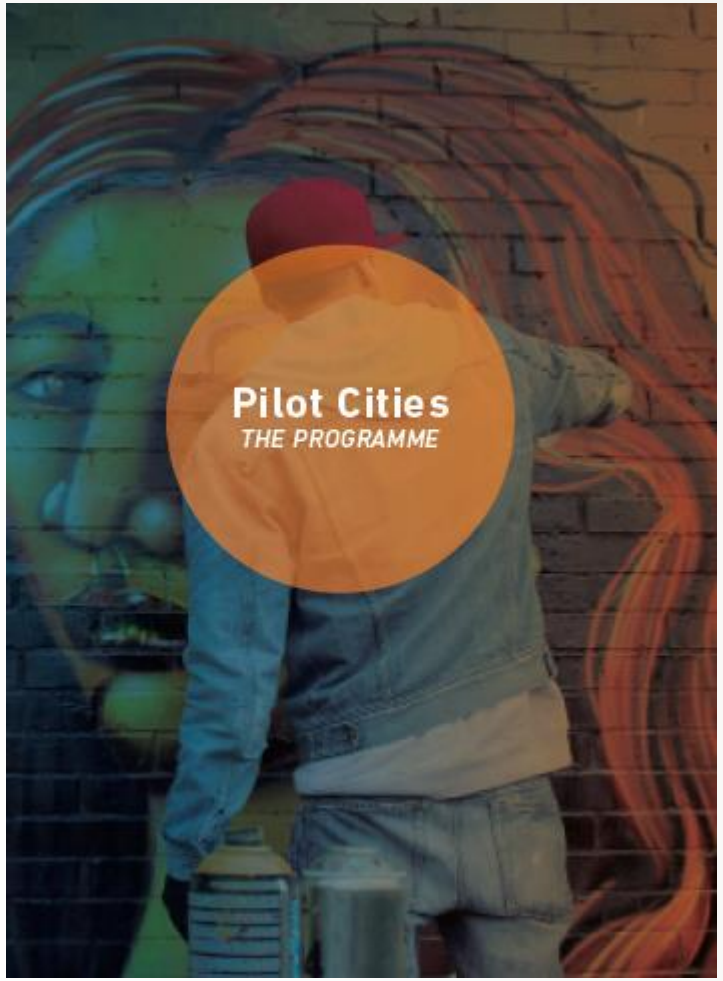
In late-2016, Ms Lucina Jiménez, expert of Agenda 21 for Culture, elaborated a report entitled 'Governance of Culture and Sustainable Development' for Mexico City not only in the framework of its status of Leading City but above all in the framework of the drafting of a new Constitution for Mexico City. This report is available online.

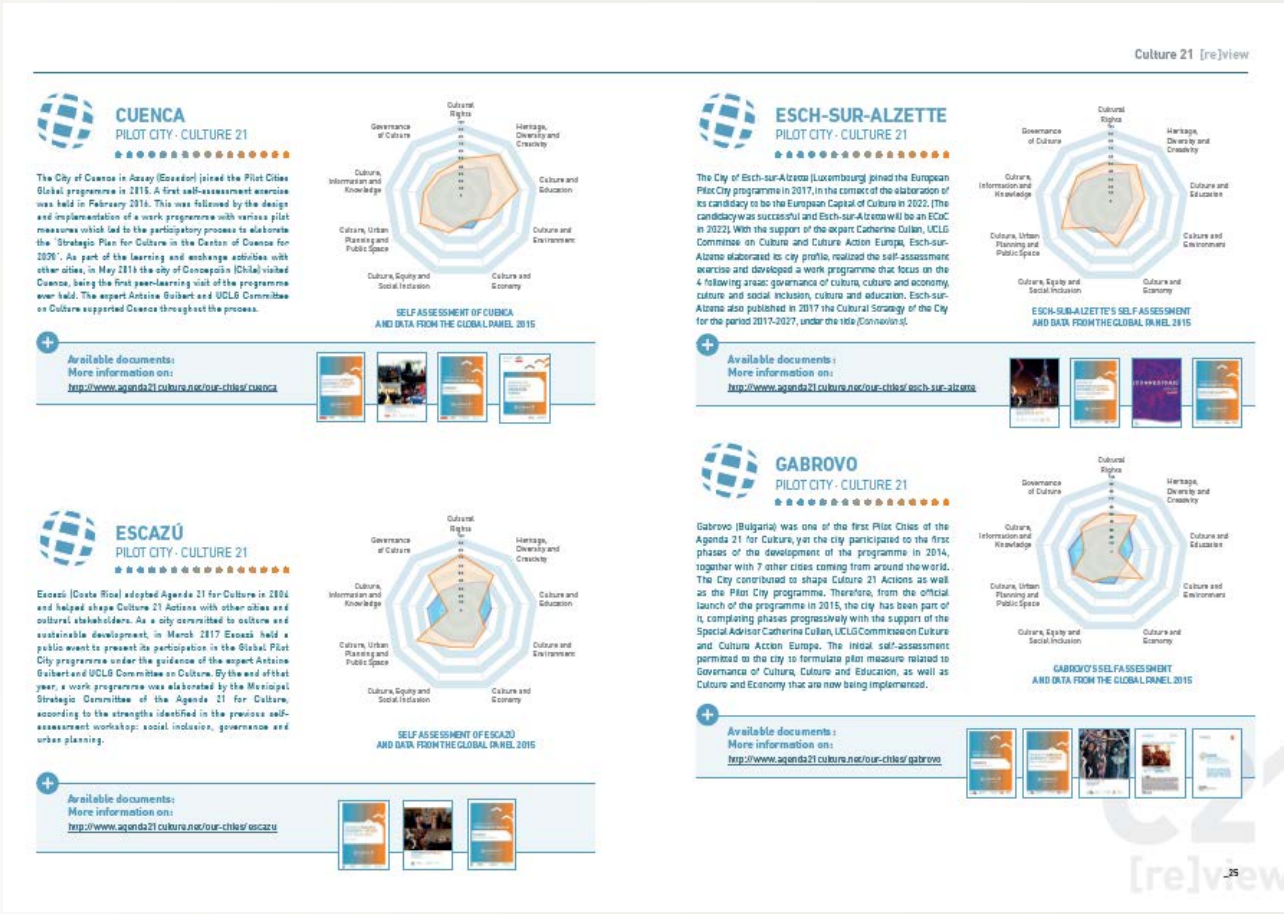
VAUDREUIL-DORION
LEADING CITY · CULTURE 21

The city of Vaudreuil-Dorion (Quebec, Canada), adopted the Pilot City programme in 2014, and since 2016 has been part of the Leading City programme for the implementation of Agenda 21 for culture. Within the framework of the programme, the city of Vaudreuil-Dorion received support from Antoine Guibert, expert on the UCLG Committee on Culture, with the aim of working on the issue of governance of culture in Culture 21: Actions. From this collaboration came out a report entitled 'Reinventing a new System for Governance of Culture', available online.

Vaudreuil-Dorion also won the 2nd edition of the International Award 'UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21' in 2015-2016, ex-aequo with Timbuktu, and enjoyed the occasion to develop even more its commitment to the Committee on Culture of UCLG. The city has been participating, and representing the voice of the Committee in some international events.

OUR **PILOT** CITIES

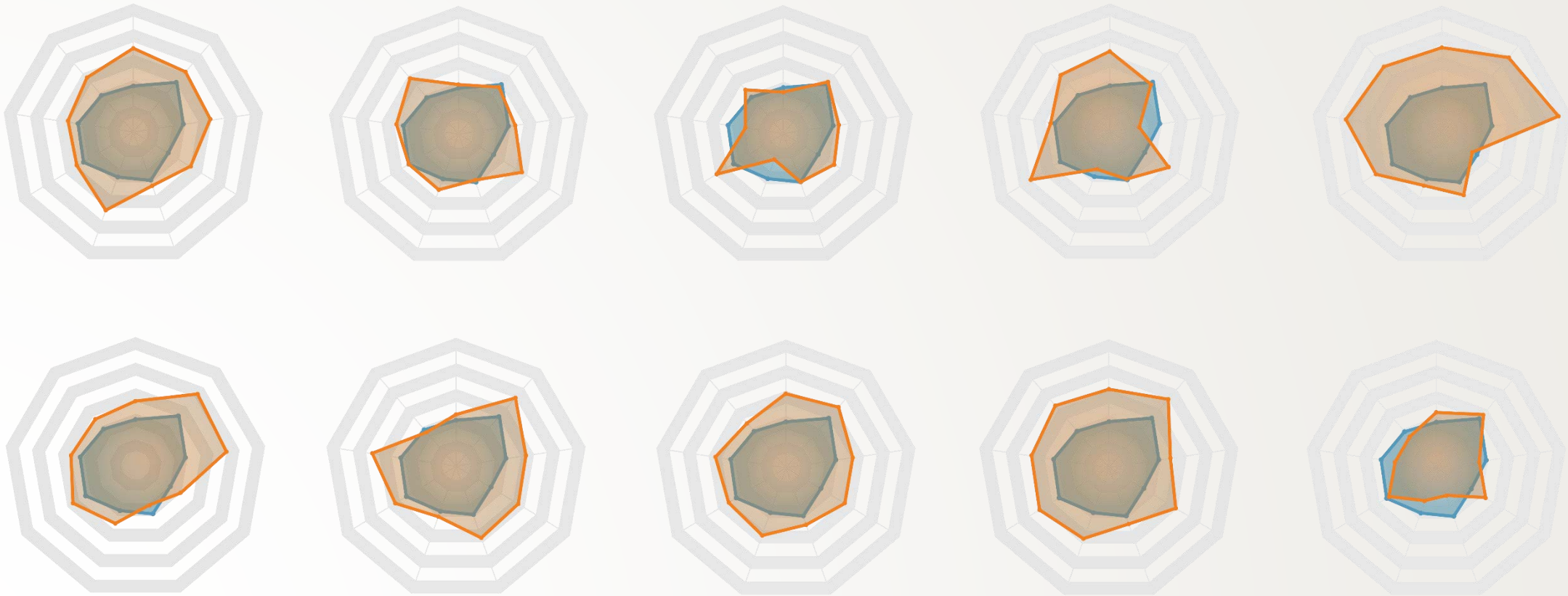




OUR **PILOT** CITIES

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
a) Local cultural policies are explicitly based on cultural rights.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
b) The local government has adopted a guideline text on cultural rights, freedoms, and cultural responsibilities.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
c) The local government adopts measures to facilitate citizen participation, either individually or as representatives of civil society groups, in setting priorities, decision-making, and in the evaluation of cultural policies.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
d) There are minimum									

d) The local government promotes the celebration of cultural events with the aim of encouraging artistic creation and supporting contact between different social groups.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
e) There are policies and programs that build excellence through close contact and interaction with citizens and their initiatives.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
f) There are policies and programs that explicitly encourage the mutual recognition of the diversity of cultural expressions and intercultural projects.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
g) There are policies and programs for the protection and promotion of linguistic diversity, specifically	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○



Culture 21 PLUS (2025)

THE 30 AREAS AND THE UCLG PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

people / government

RIGHTS

1. Cultural rights
2. Cultural and creative ecosystems
3. Cultural expressions of citizens, culture of proximity and the commons
4. Cultural public services, infrastructures and spaces
5. Knowledge and information

COMMUNITIES

6. Culture, inclusion and social cohesion, poverty and inequalities
7. Culture, health and well-being
8. Culture and education
9. Culture, gender equality and sexual diversity
10. Culture, peace, security and coexistence

people / planet

PROSPERITY

11. Cultural economy and local development strategies
12. Cultural and creative industries, employment and livelihoods
13. Decent work and socio-economic conditions for artists and cultural workers
14. Culture and sustainable tourism
15. Culture, digitisation and technology

TERRITORIES

16. Cultural territorial planning
17. Culture and public spaces
18. Cultural heritage
19. Public art and urban cultural expressions
20. Culture, architecture and urban design

planet / government

NATURE

21. Culture, landscapes and natural heritage and spaces
22. Culture, agriculture, food and gastronomy
23. Culture and ecological and social transition
24. Culture and climate change

GOVERNANCE

25. Cultural strategies and policies
26. System of cultural public management
27. Culture and citizen participation
28. Mechanisms for governance and cooperation
29. International cooperation
30. Communication

- 3 AXES
- 6 BLOCKS
- 30 AREAS
- 200 ACTIONS

RIGHTS

AREA 1: CULTURAL RIGHTS

Placing cultural rights at the centre of local cultural policies and promote access and active participation and contribution to culture for all.

HOW?

1.1. Adoption of a Reference text on cultural rights in local policies

1.2. Explicit inclusion of cultural rights among the priorities of local public organisations and civil society organisations of all sectors

1.3. Identification of vulnerable individuals or groups and of those at risk of exclusion

1.4. Development of programmes and mechanisms that effectively ensure access and active participation in culture for all

1.5. Analysis of existing obstacles to access and participate in cultural life

1.6. Development of programmes and actions for the protection and vitality of cultural expressions, languages, and heritage of indigenous peoples and minority groups

1.7. Capacity building of professionals and organisations in the public, private and civil society spheres

DRAFT

COMMUNITIES

AREA 9: CULTURE, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Implementing cultural programmes and actions to enhance people's physical and mental health and wellbeing.

HOW?

9.1. Development of partnerships between cultural actors and health services and professionals

9.2. Implementation of cultural programmes or actions aimed at improving people's physical and mental health, e.g. to prevent or treat a disease, or to encourage healthier behaviours and lifestyles

9.3. Development of cultural programmes and actions focused on people's well-being, e.g. in relation to personal development, emotional management, personal skills or quality of life

9.4. Integration of culture into health and well-being strategies, and embed health and well-being objectives within cultural strategies

9.5. Recognition and promotion of traditional and ancestral practices and knowledge related to people's well-being and health, specifically the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, as well as those elements associated with these practices

9.6. Regular analysis of the current situation, problems and difficulties related to human well-being and health

9.7. Periodic analysis of the impacts and success factors of actions that combine personal well-being, health and cultural practices, and of the savings in public budgets resulting from the incorporation of the cultural component in health policies

DRAFT

NATURE

AREA 23: CULTURE AND ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL TRANSITION

Mobilising the arts, the cultural and creative industries, and the tangible and intangible heritage as drivers of the ecological and social transition of the territory and of environmental protection.

HOW?

23.1. Implementation of cultural programmes and actions aimed at raising public awareness on environmental protection and ecological awareness

23.2. Integration of environmental objectives into cultural policies, strategies and projects to make culture a driver of ecological and social transition, and to integrate culture into environmental policies, strategies and projects

23.3. Creation of a working and coordination group between the departments of culture and the environment within the local government

23.4. Analysis and minimisation of the environmental and social impacts of cultural activities and cultural and creative industries in order to promote their ecological and social transition, e.g. through waste reduction, recycling and reduction of CO2 emissions

23.5. Recognition and promotion of the vitality of traditional knowledge, practices and cultural and traditional systems that contribute to the sustainable use of the environment, and to ecological and social transition, such as traditional agricultural and environmental management systems, and traditional and local wisdom and knowledge systems

23.6. Consideration and integration of local communities and their cultural value systems, particularly of indigenous peoples, in environmental management and in ecological and social transition projects

23.7. Support to the transformation and ecological and social transition of cultural practices and systems that are in conflict with environmental protection towards greater sustainability, managing them to find a better balance with nature

23.8. Incorporation of arts, local culture and heritage into environmental projects and their mobilisation to increase local community participation and ownership

23.9. Promotion of partnerships and synergies between cultural actors, local communities and other actors working on environmental protection and ecological and social transition

DRAFT

Culture 21 PLUS (2025)

THE 30 AREAS AND THE UCLG PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

government / people

RIGHTS

1. Cultural rights
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COMMUNITIES

6. Culture, inclusion and social cohesion, poverty and inequalities
7. Culture, health and well-being
8. Culture and education
9. Culture, gender equality and sexual diversity
10. Culture, peace, security and coexistence

people / planet

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18. Cultural heritage
19. Public art and urban cultural expressions
20. Culture, architecture and urban design

planet / government

NATURE

21. Culture, landscapes and natural heritage and spaces
22. Culture, agriculture, food and gastronomy
23. Culture and ecological and social transition
24. Culture and climate change

GOVERNANCE

25. Cultural strategies and policies
26. System of cultural public management
27. Culture and citizen participation
28. Mechanisms for governance and cooperation
29. International cooperation
30. Communication

- **Cultural Rights & Transitions: Interdependence of HHRR**
- **Useful to all cities & Aware of local contexts**
- **Self-evaluation & Policy Action**
- **Local gvts & national frames**

Culture 21 PLUS (2025)

1. RIGHTS
2. COMMUNITIES
3. PROSPERITY
4. TERRITORIES
5. NATURE
6. GOVERNANCE

Culture 21 PLUS (2025)

Methodology

A tool for the design of cultural policies and programmes:

- Local territorial challenges
- Current situation: What programmes and gaps already exist in each area? Design of policies/programmes to implement the areas

A tool for self-assessment:

- Evaluate the level of implementation of each area. Think of further actions

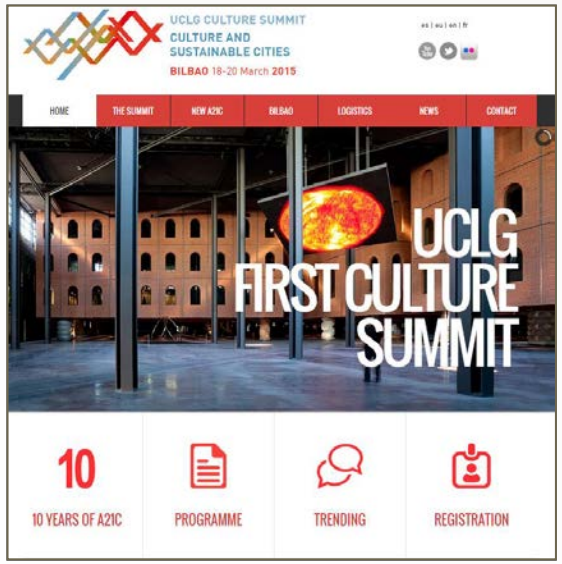
CULTURE 21 PLUS: TESTS

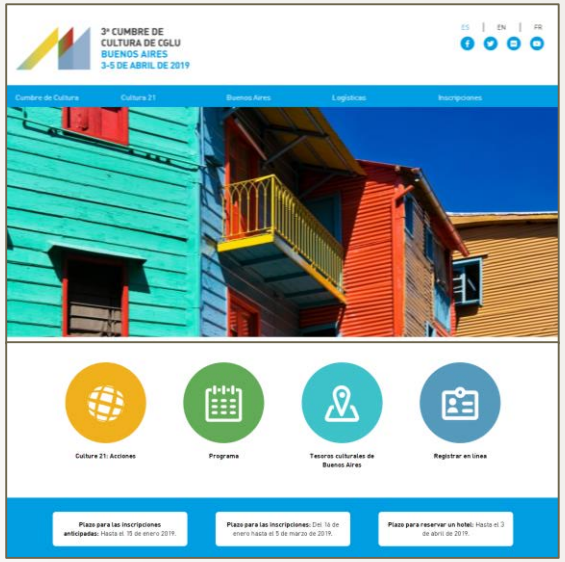
- ✓ Jinju
- ✓ Mexico City
- ✓ Lisbon
- ✓ Elefsina
- ✓ Esch
- ✓ Segou
- ✓ Bogota

- YOUR CITY HERE?

THE UCLG
CULTURE SUMMITS

THE UCLG CULTURE SUMMITS





THE UCLG CULTURE SUMMIT 2023: DUBLIN

THE UCLG CULTURE **SUMMIT 2025:**
JEONJU !!

6TH UCLG CULTURE SUMMIT 2025

UCLG CULTURE SUMMIT
2025 - 6TH EDITION

CALL FOR HOST CITY
TERMS OF REFERENCE

UCLG CGLU

culture 21
UCLG Committee
Commission de CGLU
Comisión de CGLU

The Culture Summit has become a Major event for UCLG. After the success of the Summits previously held (Bilbao in 2015; Jeju in 2017; Buenos Aires in 2019; Izmir in 2021; and Dublin in 2023), and considering the growing importance of culture in the framework of sustainable cities, **UCLG has decided to convene a 6th Culture Summit in 2025**.

The **UCLG Culture Summit** is a unique global event. It responds to the growing importance of culture in local

SUMMIT

- Bilbao 2015
- Jeju 2017
- Buenos Aires 2019
- Izmir 2021
- Dublin 2023
- 6th UCLG Culture Summit 2025

SHARE

THE UCLG – MEXICO CITY - CULTURE 21 INTERNATIONAL AWARD

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD
1st EDITION

Ing. Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas Solorzano
General Coordinator for International Affairs of Mexico City, and President of the Jury

Gonzalo Carámbula
Professor and researcher in cultural policies and management, and expert in Agenda 21 for culture

Dr. Danielle Cliche
Secretary of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Catherine Cullen
President of the Committee on Culture of UCLG

Dr. Alicia Ziccardi
Director of the Programme on Urban Studies at the National Autonomous University of Mexico – UNAM

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD 2nd EDITION

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD 3rd EDITION

Farida Shaheed
Farida Shaheed is a Pakistani sociologist and former and first-ever UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights.

Catherine Cullen
Catherine Cullen is Special Advisor on Culture and Sustainable Cities and former president of UCLG Committee on Culture.

Lucina Jiménez
Lucina Jiménez is an expert of UCLG Committee on Culture and the current director of Conarte.

Eduardo Nivón Bolán
Eduardo Nivón Bolán is a lecturer at the Department of Anthropology of the Metropolitan Autonomous University of Mexico City

Eduardo Vázquez Martín
Eduardo Vázquez Martín is a poet, a cultural promoter, a publisher and a journalist, and the current Secretary for Culture of Mexico City

3rd edition of the International Award UCLG - Mexico - City

3rd edition of the International Award UCLG - Mexico - City

3rd edition of the International Award UCLG - Mexico - City

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD
4th EDITION

José Alfonso Suárez del Real

José Alfonso Suárez del Real y Aguilera is the current Secretary for Culture of Mexico City, and he has a recognized career as a journalist and cultural promoter, as well as a vast experience in cultural public policies and Human Rights.

Lourdes Arizpe

Dr. Lourdes Arizpe was appointed Secretary General and member of the United Nations Commission on Culture and Development at the same time that she was managing cultural projects in many countries of the world as UNESCO's Deputy Director of Culture.

Catherine Cullen

Catherine Cullen was Deputy Mayor for Culture for the City of Lille, France. She is the former Chair of the Culture Committee of UCLG and is presently its Special Advisor on Culture in Sustainable Cities.

Lupwishi Mbuyamba

Ethnomusicologist, educated in philology and philosophy, researcher and scholar, Lupwishi Mbuyamba, he is currently the Executive Director of the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa and President of the African Music Council.

Ayşegül Sabuktay

Ayşegül Sabuktay is the director of the Izmir Mediterranean Academy, which is a unique organization founded by Izmir Metropolitan Municipality in 2011 as a think tank and a democratic cultural platform.

4th edition of the International Award UCLG - Mexico - City

4th edition of the International Award UCLG - Mexico - City

4th edition of the International Award UCLG - Mexico - City

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

INTERNATIONAL AWARD
5th EDITION

CATEGORY
CITY / LOCAL OR REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

WINNER
BUENOS AIRES
ARGENTINA

ABASTO CULTURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

CATEGORY
CITY / LOCAL OR REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

WINNER
DUBLIN, IRELAND

'AWE': CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ACCESSIBILITY, WELLBEING AND EVIDENCE

Catherine Cullen
Catherine Cullen was Deputy Mayor for Culture for the City of Lille, France. She is the former Chair of the Culture Committee of UCLG and is presently its Special Advisor on Culture in Sustainable Cities.

Serhan Ada
Serhan Ada is a Professor at the faculty of Arts and Cultural Management Department, Director of Cultural Policy and Management Research Center, and the Head of UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy and Cultural Diplomacy at Istanbul Bilgi University.

Diana Alarcón González
Dr. Diana Alarcón González is the Chief Advisor and International Affairs Coordinator of the Government of Mexico City.

Claudia Curiel de Icaza
Claudia Curiel de Icaza is the Secretary of Culture of the Government of Mexico City. She is a programmer, producer and cultural manager with 15 years of experience in the public, private and independent sectors.

Francisco d'Almeida
J. Francisco Ayi d'Almeida is the co-director of "Culture and Development", an international non-governmental organisation for studies and action in cultural cooperation for the development of the cultural sector at the local level in the Global South.

CATEGORY
INDIVIDUAL

WINNER
LOURDES ARIZPE

CATEGORY
INDIVIDUAL

WINNER
DAISY FANCOURT

5th edition of the International Award UCLG - Mexico - City

5th edition of the International Award UCLG - Mexico - City

5th edition of the International Award UCLG - Mexico - City

UCLG – MEXICO CITY – CULTURE 21

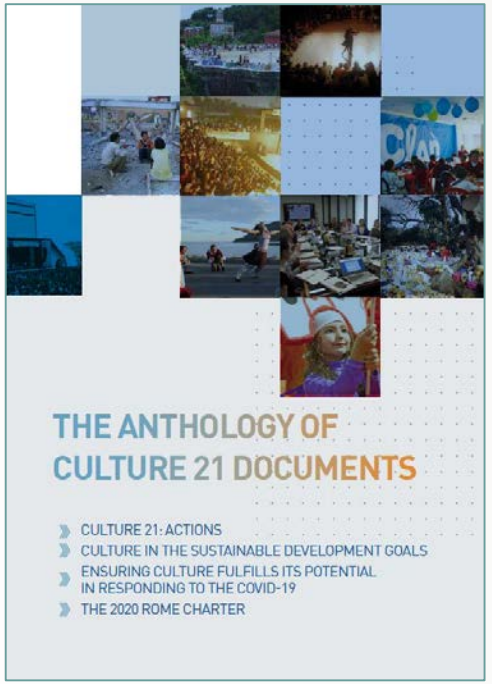
INTERNATIONAL AWARD 6th EDITION

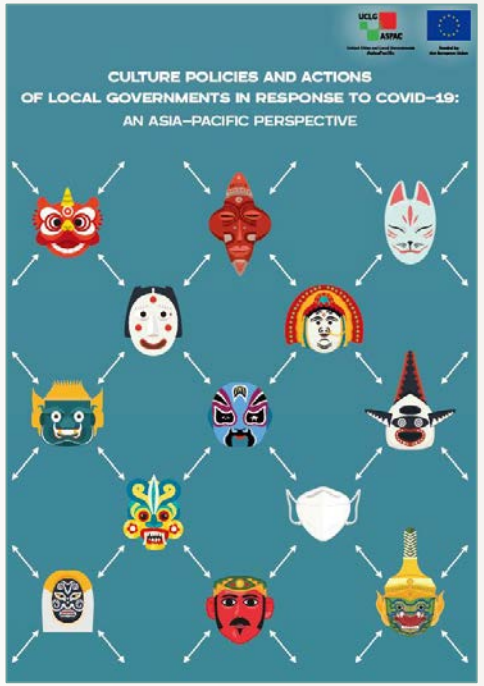
COOPERATION
WITH UCLG SECTIONS

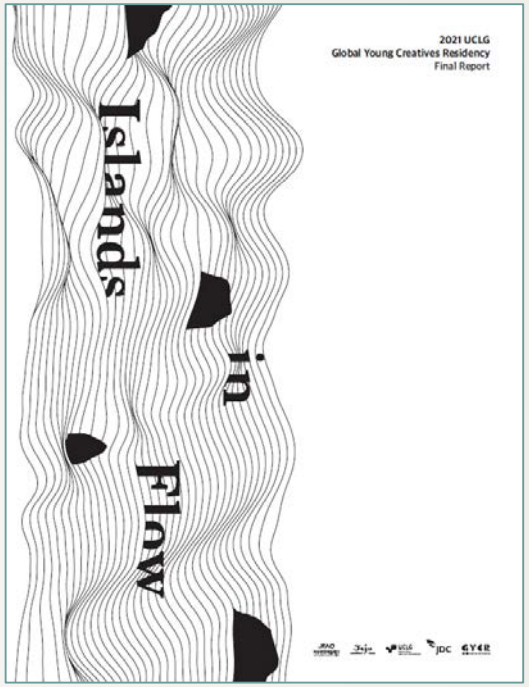
metropolis
Members
Our work
Representatives from Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas, from different political, territorial and cultural backgrounds, put their heads together to reflect on "Novel solutions that can transform metropolitan spaces in the long term" during the congress. This year, the event was held in a hybrid format and was organised in collaboration with the city of Guangzhou, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

UCLG AFRICA
CGLU AFRIQUE
Home
Who We Are
Our Pillars
The Knowledge Hub
Our Members
CAPITALES AFRICAINES DE LA CULTURE

Policy Committee Meeting
18 June 2021
T2
COVID-19 impact on cultural activities at local level
DATE & TIME: 18 June 2021, 10:30-12:00
BACKGROUND
The COVID-19 crisis has strongly affected the cultural life and the social fabric of our municipalities and regions. All our territories have been affected, whether by the closure of places of artistic


THE ANTHOLOGY OF CULTURE 21 DOCUMENTS
CULTURE 21: ACTIONS
CULTURE IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
ENSURING CULTURE FULFILLS ITS POTENTIAL IN RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19
THE 2020 ROME CHARTER


CULTURE POLICIES AND ACTIONS
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19:
AN ASIA-PACIFIC PERSPECTIVE


2021 UCLG
Global Young Creatives Residency
Final Report
Islands in Flow

VENICE CALL TO ACTION AND COP29

Global Call to Put Cultural Heritage, Arts and Creative Sectors at the Heart of Climate Action

The process to organise this Call to Action campaign was launched on 28 September 2023 during the European Cultural Heritage Summit held in Venice, Italy at the European Heritage Hub Forum "Reimagining the Anthropocene: Putting Culture and Heritage at the Heart of Climate

A bold but necessary path towards mobilising creative solutions for tackling the climate crisis.

We, the undersigned, ask the national governments who are parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement to adopt a 'Joint Work on Culture and Climate Action' decision (JWD) at the COP.

This decision would reflect a commitment from the UNFCCC to begin a consultative process to understand the full contribution of culture - including cultural heritage, arts and the creative sectors - to climate action. The process would examine what culture-led climate responses are already happening, where and by whom; share recommendations for scaling out culture-based solutions; and help ensure that culture is fully integrated into the future work of the Convention.

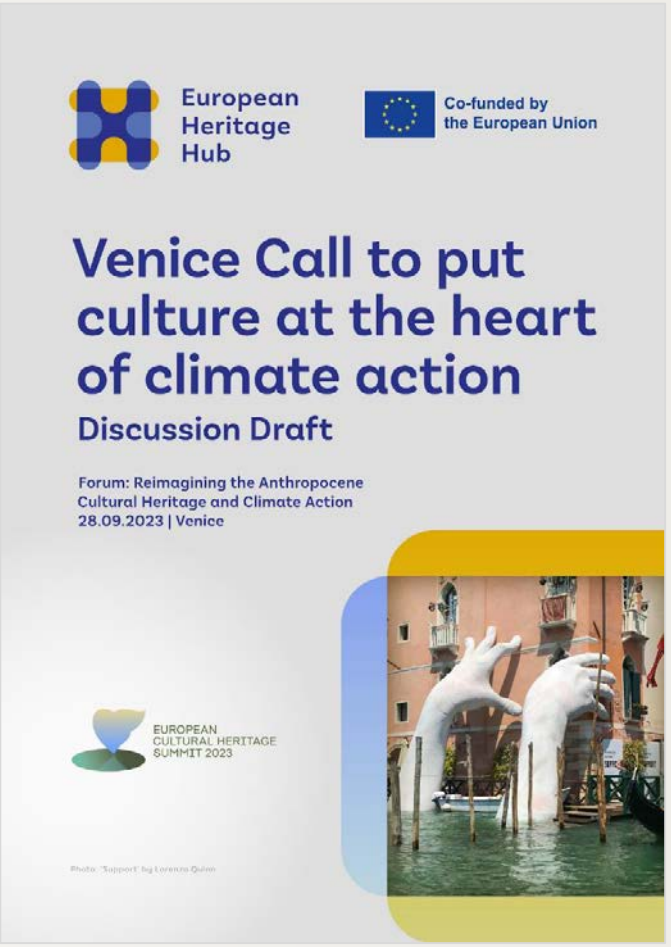
Culture has unparalleled capacity to enable change.

The world's diverse cultures touch everyone, everywhere; encompassing the full range of voices, perspectives and tools to communicate urgency, mobilise action, and champion sustainable and justice-led ways of living. Through cultural participation, safeguarding, dialogue, experiences, narratives, and stories; and through creative images, events and offerings, culture inspires action, especially when fortified by respect for cultural rights.

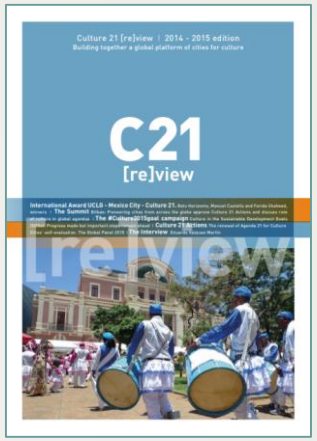
Harnessing the power of diverse cultural values and ways of knowing, education and storytelling, art and craft, tangible and intangible heritage, and design and creativity can in turn guide and scale that action to create the systems change needed to tackle the twin climate and biodiversity crises.

Tangible and intangible heritage as well as traditional knowledge enhance resilience and offer time-tested, low-carbon, circular and regenerative technologies and solutions across sectors including the built and natural environment, agriculture, energy, and care for habitats and communities.

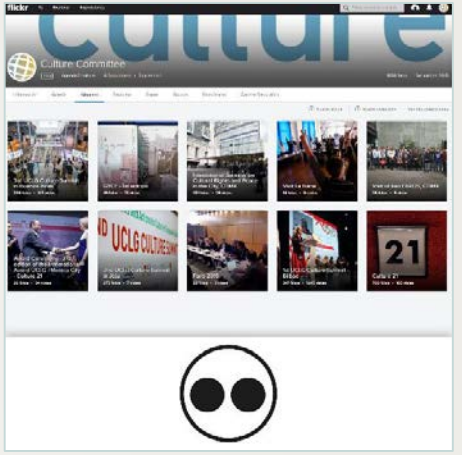
Anchored in shared human values of solidarity, care and respect, the collective effort of artists, creative activists, designers, culture and heritage institutions and civil society bringing together both professionals and volunteers, as well as scholars and holders of ancestral wisdom, enlightened policy makers, and communities and audiences,



WEBSITE AND NEWS

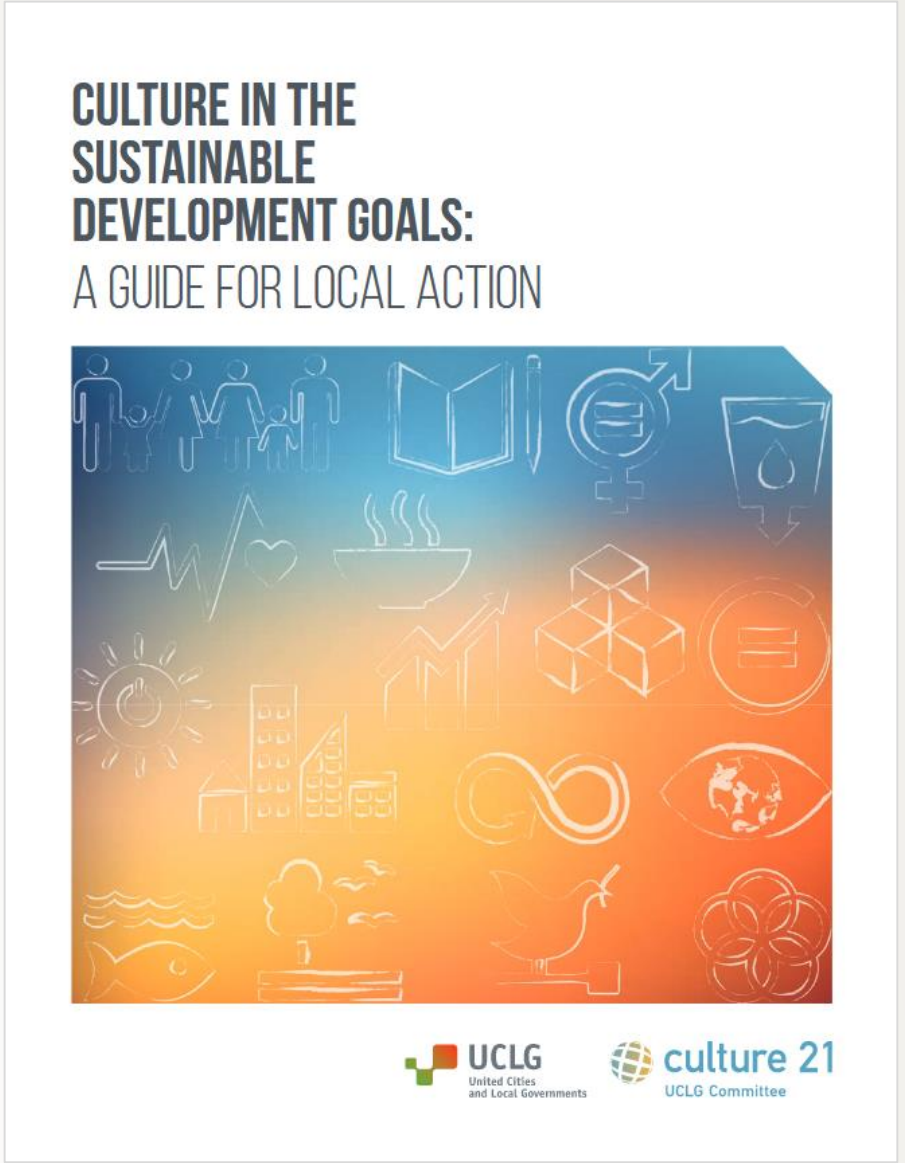


SOCIAL MEDIA



CULTURE IN THE SDGs

THE GUIDE ‘CULTURE IN THE SDGs’



GOAL 01

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

This goal calls for an end to poverty in all its manifestations by 2030. It also aims to ensure social protection for the poor and vulnerable, increase access to basic services and support people harmed by climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

How is culture relevant?

Cultural services are basic services and equal access to them should be guaranteed for all men and women, including the poor and the vulnerable.

Cultural expressions, services, goods and heritage sites can contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic development.

What can cities do?

Ensure that minimum service standards for basic cultural services exist (for example, a minimum number of libraries or books per inhabitant, and the adoption of programmes fostering decentralisation of cultural services), so that everyone has access to culture.

Integrate cultural aspects, and the preservation of cultural resources and capacities, in local economic and resilience strategies, which should also engage local communities.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Pekalongan, which recognizes itself as the 'City of Batik', local strategies giving priority to this traditional textile sector have contributed to generating employment. Batik is the main economic sector in the city and 60% of the employees in the sector are women.

In Porto Alegre, the local government has adopted policies and programmes to decentralise opportunities to access culture, making citizens' cultural rights effective and strengthening collaboration with NGOs and community groups.

In Ouagadougou, the Reemdoogo Music Garden, a cultural infrastructure that provides training, performance and recording facilities, has broadened opportunities for young people and contributed to the emergence of several small businesses.

The cultural policies of Lille-Métropole have contributed to increasing access to culture for everyone, through the enhancement of cultural infrastructure at neighbourhood level, the development of cultural education opportunities and the promotion of specific programmes for disadvantaged groups.

GOAL 02

END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

This goal aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. It also commits to universal access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food at all times of the year. This will require sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices, equal access to land, technology and markets, and international cooperation on investments in infrastructure and technology to boost agricultural productivity.

Target 2.5 refers to the need to maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

How is culture relevant?

Traditional knowledge related to the preservation of existing genetic resources, including the genetic diversity of seeds, should be recognized and maintained, and the fair sharing of the relevant benefits should be promoted.

What can cities do?

Integrate cultural factors, including the knowledge, traditions and practices of all people and communities, into local strategies on environmental sustainability.

Establish programmes to preserve and spread traditional knowledge and practices that contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Seferihisar, the Seed Swap Festival has enabled local producers to maintain traditional, low-cost agricultural practices and raised awareness of the need to preserve sustainable food production and consumption.

GOAL 04

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

This Goal aims to ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development and can complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education. It also aims to ensure that equal access for all women and men is available to tertiary education, and that the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills for employment increases. Other aspects addressed include the elimination of gender disparities in education and an increase in the achievement of literacy and numeracy among all youth and a substantial proportion of adults.

Target 4.7 aims to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

How is culture relevant?

Educational programmes at all levels need to integrate contents related to cultural diversity, arts education, languages, and the role of cultural aspects in sustainable development.

A cultural approach, including recognition of local languages and locally-relevant abilities, and the involvement of cultural stakeholders, needs to prevail in the design of curricula at all levels – this is in line with human rights, and can contribute to educational objectives, including students' motivation and community connections.

What can cities do?

Adopt a local strategy linking educational policy and cultural policy.

Work to ensure that the curricula in primary and secondary education include the acquisition of cultural skills and knowledge, intercultural dialogue, diversity, tangible and intangible heritage, and cultural rights.

Provide educational activities for formal and informal environments within cultural facilities (e.g. cultural centres, museums, libraries, theatres, etc.), sites (heritage buildings, archaeological sites, etc.) and programmes (festivals, cultural initiatives, etc.).

Foster the involvement of artists and cultural professionals in education, training and other learning contexts, in order to foster access to and participation in cultural life for citizens of all ages.

Recognise the important role of libraries in fostering inclusive and equitable education and lifelong learning, through their support of literacy programmes, provision of safe spaces for learning, etc.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Barcelona, the "Creators in Residence" project has enabled secondary schools to develop partnerships with artists and creative groups in a range of art disciplines, involving students in creative processes and fostering access to culture for all.

The Arena da Cultura – Open School for the Arts in Belo Horizonte, has provided access to quality arts education in a wide range of disciplines for thousands of citizens and has paved the way for new professional careers in the cultural field.

In Bogotá, a range of initiatives have contributed to enabling access to culture for tens of thousands of children and young people through school and out-of-school activities, with positive social and educational results.

Under the banner *L'Art pour grandir* ('Arts to grow up'), the City of Paris provides a wide range of opportunities to access arts opportunities in schools, libraries, cinemas, conservatories, museums and other cultural venues, aimed at children and young people.

In the context of its Traditional Culture City project, Jeonju has integrated an appreciation of traditional culture in education and lifelong learning programmes, helping children and adults to understand the importance of traditional buildings, intangible heritage and other cultural assets.

Experiences of several cities that have integrated an intercultural approach in their educational policies and programmes, including **Cascais, Getxo, Haifa, Limassol, Neuchâtel, Patras, Portimão, Reykjavik** and **Donostia/San Sebastian**, have been promoted in the context of the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities programme.

GOAL 08

PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

This Goal involves the achievement of sustained per capita economic growth, with higher levels of economic productivity and development-oriented policies that support decent job creation and entrepreneurship. Other issues addressed include the achievement of full and productive employment and decent job for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, equal pay for work of equal value, the reduction of the proportion of youth who are not in employment, education or training, the eradication of forced labour and the protection of labour rights.

Target 8.3 refers to the promotion of development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

Meanwhile, **Target 8.9** addresses the need to devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

How is culture relevant?

The cultural and creative sectors have the potential to be areas for inclusive, sustainable and fair employment, insofar as the appropriate labour conditions, in accordance with international human rights, are guaranteed.

Cultural aspects can be integrated in tourism strategies, while ensuring that this does not imply decontextualisation of cultural identities, activities and assets and that relevant benefits are reinvested in cultural activities.

What can cities do?

Explore the potential of the cultural and creative sectors to contribute to inclusive, sustainable and fair employment.

Ensure that the local tourism model is sustainable, balanced across the city or region, connected to the local communities and interactive with the cultural ecosystems.

Include cultural knowledge, skills and jobs in employability programmes.

Support the international mobility of artists and culture professionals, thus enhancing employment opportunities for them.

Regularly analyse the contributions made by the public, civil and private cultural sectors to the local economy, including their direct and indirect impact on the creation of employment, as well as how young people, men and women, and disadvantaged sectors are represented therein.

Take measures to ensure adequate working and remuneration conditions for cultural professionals.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Cēsis, the "Culture for a Sustainable Growth" strategy aimed to improve the quality of life of local citizens via culture, capitalising on local cultural heritage, including the links between community-building, sustainable cultural tourism, and social and economic innovation.

In the region of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, the CULTURAT project is a participative process, involving local governments and civil society, including Indigenous communities, which involves citizens in the definition of priorities and has contributed to enhance quality of life through the promotion of sustainable cultural tourism.

In Bilbao, local development strategies have recognised the importance of cultural activities, infrastructures and stakeholders in order to contribute to better quality of life and to social and economic transformation, with clear impacts in terms of employment and tourism attractiveness.

A long-term vision of culture and local sustainable development has enabled Yarra Ranges to foster economic opportunities for local artists and creative businesses and to strengthen the area as a tourism destination, while taking into account the preservation of cultural and natural heritage and involving local communities.

In the 'Sensitive Urban Zone' of Hautepierre, Strasbourg, a venue specialised in digital technology provides young people with expression and digital creation skills and contributes to broadening their employment opportunities.

The promotion of tourism around cultural heritage in Nevşehir relies on the active involvement of the local community, including volunteer cultural and history researchers, teachers and elderly citizens who share their own experiences and knowledge.

Ségou has developed a range of initiatives under the banner of 'creative city', which have contributed to strengthening the local economy through decent jobs in the cultural and creative sectors, as well as increasing local self-esteem and identity.

In Kanazawa, policies have fostered synergies between local artisans and other creative areas, thus combining tradition, innovation and the new technologies and strengthening economic development around traditional culture.

Several local and regional governments, including **Marseilles**, **Île-de-France**, **Puglia and Valletta**, have contributed to schemes facilitating the international mobility of artists, in partnership with the Roberto Cimetta Fund.

International platform Sound Diplomacy provides research and advice to cities in order to explore the potential of local music ecosystems for economic and cultural development.

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network promotes cooperation among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development and which can exchange expertise around 7 creative fields (crafts and folk art; design; film; gastronomy; literature; music; and media arts).

GOAL 11

MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

This is the main Goal dedicated to sustainable development in cities. The Goal aims to ensure access to adequate, safe and affordable housing, basic services and transport systems for all. It also addresses the need to enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization, improve urban resilience in the context of disasters and reduce the environmental impact of cities.

Target 11.4 states the aim to strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Target 11.7 refers to the provision of universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

How is culture relevant?

Many relevant sites and elements of tangible and intangible cultural heritage are found in cities and play a role in sustainable local development – indeed, cultural aspects are fundamental to foster local sustainable development.

Green and public spaces can allow for the development of cultural activities and need to be accessible to everyone.

Traditional construction techniques and related knowledge and materials can inform approaches to the renovation of existing buildings and the design of new ones.

Cultural factors inform behaviour in cities, in areas including transport and mobility, uses of the environment, etc.

What can cities do?

Adopt policies regarding the protection of cultural heritage in all its dimensions, both tangible and intangible.

Promote an understanding that culture plays a role in sustainable local development, through appropriate capacity-building, policy design, implementation and evaluation, etc.

Allocate appropriate human, technical and financial resources to local cultural policies, in line with the understanding that culture is fundamental to achieve local sustainable development.

Keep an updated inventory of local natural and cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, and establish mechanisms for its preservation and conservation according to international standards.

Foster the use of a reference guide on 'cultural impact assessment' within urban planning policies.

Adopt measures to promote the role of culture in the renovation of historic centres and in neighbourhood, district and regional development plans.

Recognise public spaces, including streets, squares and other places, as key resources for cultural interaction and participation.

Ensure that capacity-building programmes addressing sustainable urban planning, transport and mobility, and other related areas integrate a cultural dimension, e.g. training activities devised by local government associations and development agencies.

Be aware of the risk that cultural facilities and actors reinforce gentrification process, and take measures to control this.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Beit Sahour, the revitalisation of the historic Old City and its related heritage have been the basis of policies contributing to local identity, sustainable tourism, the promotion of the cultural industries, and community participation in cultural life.

The City of Cuenca has adopted very effective policies for the protection and promotion of all dimensions of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, and integrated this in other approaches to local sustainable development, including urban planning policies.

In Buenos Aires, local cultural policies have explored in depth the implications of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, with measures adopted to protect it, innovate in management models, identify new forms of heritage, and link this with other areas of sustainable urban development.

In Lisbon, a range of measures including the 'Urban Art Gallery' have contributed to the improvement of public space, its acknowledgement as an environment for cultural expression and participation, and the transversal recognition of cultural expressions emerging from cities, including urban art.

In Regensburg, the World Heritage City's management plan matches the inherited urban landscape with contemporary demands, actively involves citizens and has contributed to integrating cultural heritage in urban planning, economic development, tourism and other areas.

The Makati Poblacion Heritage Conservation Project builds upon the local area's historical and cultural heritage assets to heighten the sense of pride and to address the social and economic challenges and opportunities of urban development.

The 2030 Master Plan of the Seoul Metropolitan Government and its related Urban Planning Charter embrace history, culture and landscape, including the preservation of heritage, the promotion of creative uses of the city's tangible and intangible heritage and the enhancement of cultural facilities.

The Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy of Cape Town provides a framework that connects cultural aspects with a wide range of areas of policy, including economic development, harmonious coexistence between communities and urban planning.

In Hoi An, local cultural policy has sought to integrate heritage preservation in broader local aims, including those that seek to protect the natural environment, foster integrated urban planning and ensure that tourism is inclusive and sustainable.

For over a decade, cultural policies in Surakarna (Solo) have sought to integrate culture in all aspects of public life and this has led to an increasing recognition and preservation of cultural expressions, performers and craftspeople.

The cultural policy of Tunis has placed emphasis, among others, on the preservation of tangible and intangible heritage, incorporating a cultural dimension in all urban regeneration processes and revitalising the image of the old city as Tunis' urban centre.

In **England and Wales**, Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act provides for establishing agreements among local governments and private developers, for the provision of contributions to offset impacts caused by construction and other urban developments. These contributions can be used, among others, to establish or improve cultural facilities.

The international forum Creative Mobilities contributes to fostering an understanding of how cultural factors shape and can transform mobility patterns in cities, including uses of public transport and usage of public spaces.

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) has developed a range of tools and recommendations to contribute to the implementation of **Target 11.4** on strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

GOAL 16

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

This Goal focuses on the reduction of all forms of violence and related death rates, the ending of abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children, the promotion of the rule of law of access to justice for all, and the reduction of illicit financial and arms flows. It also aims to substantially reduce corruption, to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions, and strengthen the participation of developing countries in global governance.

Target 16.4 calls for the return of stolen assets.

Target 16.7 promotes responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

Target 16.10 demands the enhancement of public access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms. All of these targets have specific implications in the field of culture, as explained below.

How is culture relevant?

Stolen cultural assets should be returned to the relevant communities.

Citizens should be able to participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of cultural policies and programmes.

Cultural facilities, including libraries and knowledge centres, foster access to information.

Strategies aimed at the alleviation of violence and the promotion of peace should integrate a cultural component.

What can cities do?

Place cultural rights at the centre of local policies, informing the design, implementation and evaluation of policies, programmes, facilities, etc.

Take into account and recognise the potential of culture in local conflict prevention and resolution strategies.

Ensure access to free and plural information, including through plural local media.

Commit to protecting and promoting freedom of artistic expression, both at local and at international level, e.g. by providing shelter to artists and culture professionals under threat.

Establish public cultural policy forums (e.g. local councils on culture), involving public, private, civil society bodies and citizens, with the aim of discussing, setting-priorities for and monitoring local cultural policy.

Guarantee that cultural institutions that receive public support are transparent, accountable and evaluate the public services that they provide.

Recognise the important role of civil society organisations and networks as part of a plural governance of culture, and guarantee the existence of an enabling environment for its development.

National associations of municipalities and individual cities should also ask their respective national governments to create a "cultural policy" chapter, and include a "cultural impact assessment" process, in national programmes to implement the SDGs.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Concepción, an extensive consultation process including debates and individual interviews, involving over 3000 people, led to the adoption of the city's Cultural Strategic Plan, in the context of the city's aim of establishing a new, joint vision for long-term sustainable development. Participatory spaces have remained thereafter, so as to oversee and contribute to the implementation of activities.

A major railway disaster in 2013 led to the need to 'rebuild' and 'reinvent' Lake Mégantic. Citizens and local institutions took this as an opportunity to establish a new, horizontal and participatory model of governance, with a strong engagement of citizens and associations, and which has recognised culture as a fundamental aspect of quality of life.

In Busan, the TOTATOGA Creative Village Project is a community initiative which aims to make the city a place where culture is part of daily life and contributes to prosperity, with a strong component of citizen engagement and public-private collaboration. It has transformed traditional models of policymaking and has been seen as a model to follow by other cities.

In Timbuktu, a range of measures aimed at reinvigorating the socio-economic and urban fabric of the city following the occupation of 2012-13 involved the strengthening of cultural heritage, the defence of citizens' freedom to maintain their cultural practices, and the promotion of culture as a strategy for resilience and sustainable cohabitation.

Facing an increase in violence, Tamaulipas promoted a network of community culture groups involving in particular young people, training them to work as volunteers and contribute to the coexistence of their communities.

Involving a strong participatory component, the Cultural Sustainability Framework of Galway, strongly inspired by Culture 21 Actions, has enabled local stakeholders to map cultural resources and explore how they relate to other areas of local governance.

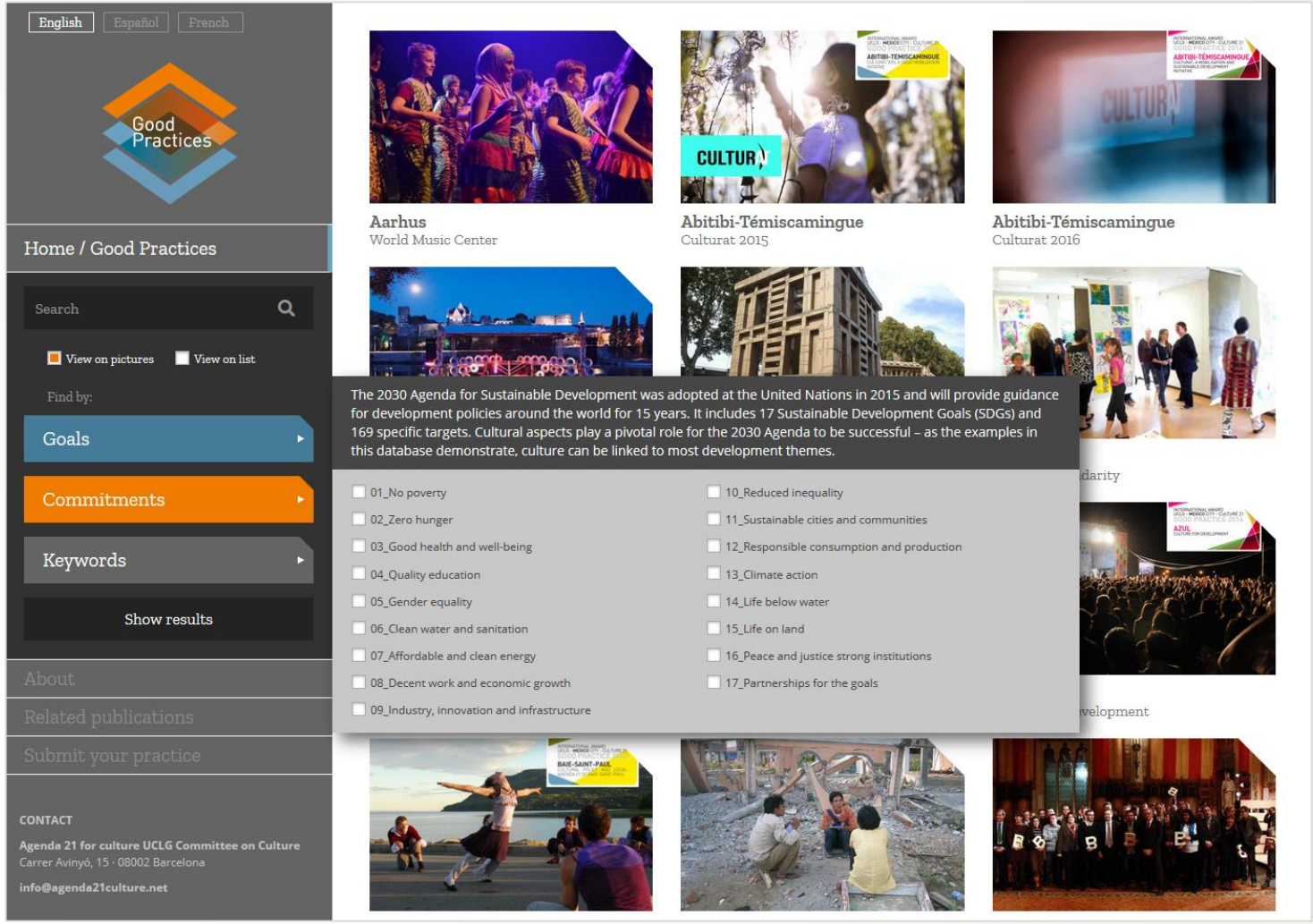
The first Cultural Plan of Washington DC has been developed through a strong consultation process, is inspired by Culture 21 Actions and places emphasis on all residents' ability to take active part in cultural life.

Cultural policies in Izmir have a strong component of collaboration and plural governance of culture, notably through the work of the Izmir Mediterranean Academy and the Izmir Culture Platform Initiative, which brings together cultural actors.

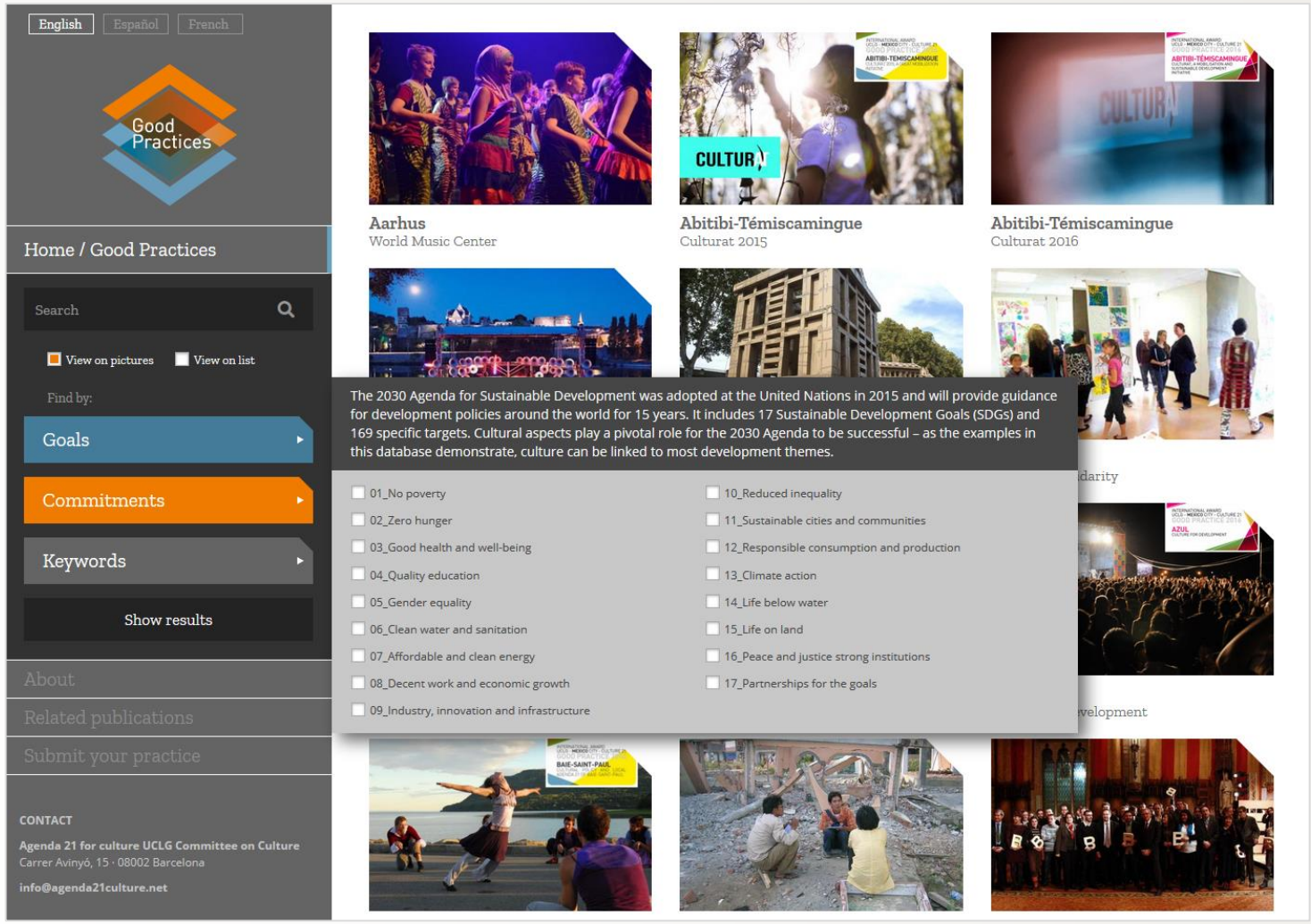
The International Federation of Libraries Associations and Institutions (IFLA) has developed a range of tools and recommendations to help libraries and library authorities implement the 2030 Agenda, with particular emphasis on Target 16.10 (public access to information) but also addressing other Goals and Targets.

The International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN) gathers cities and regions offering shelter to writers and artists at risks, advancing freedom of expression, defending democratic values and promoting international solidarity.

THE ‘OBS’ OF
GOOD PRACTICES

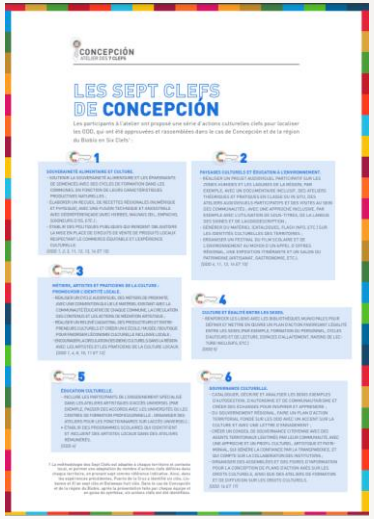


ALL CASES INDEXED

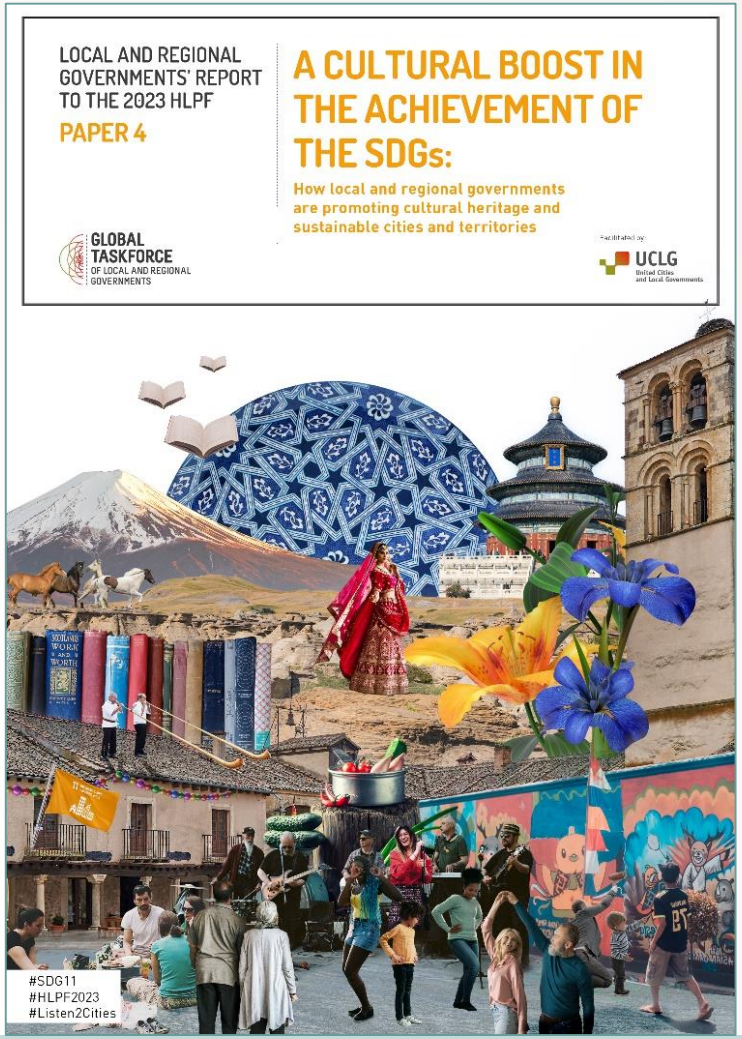


THE ‘SEVEN KEYS’ WORKSHOP

SUMMARY of the ten initial workshops



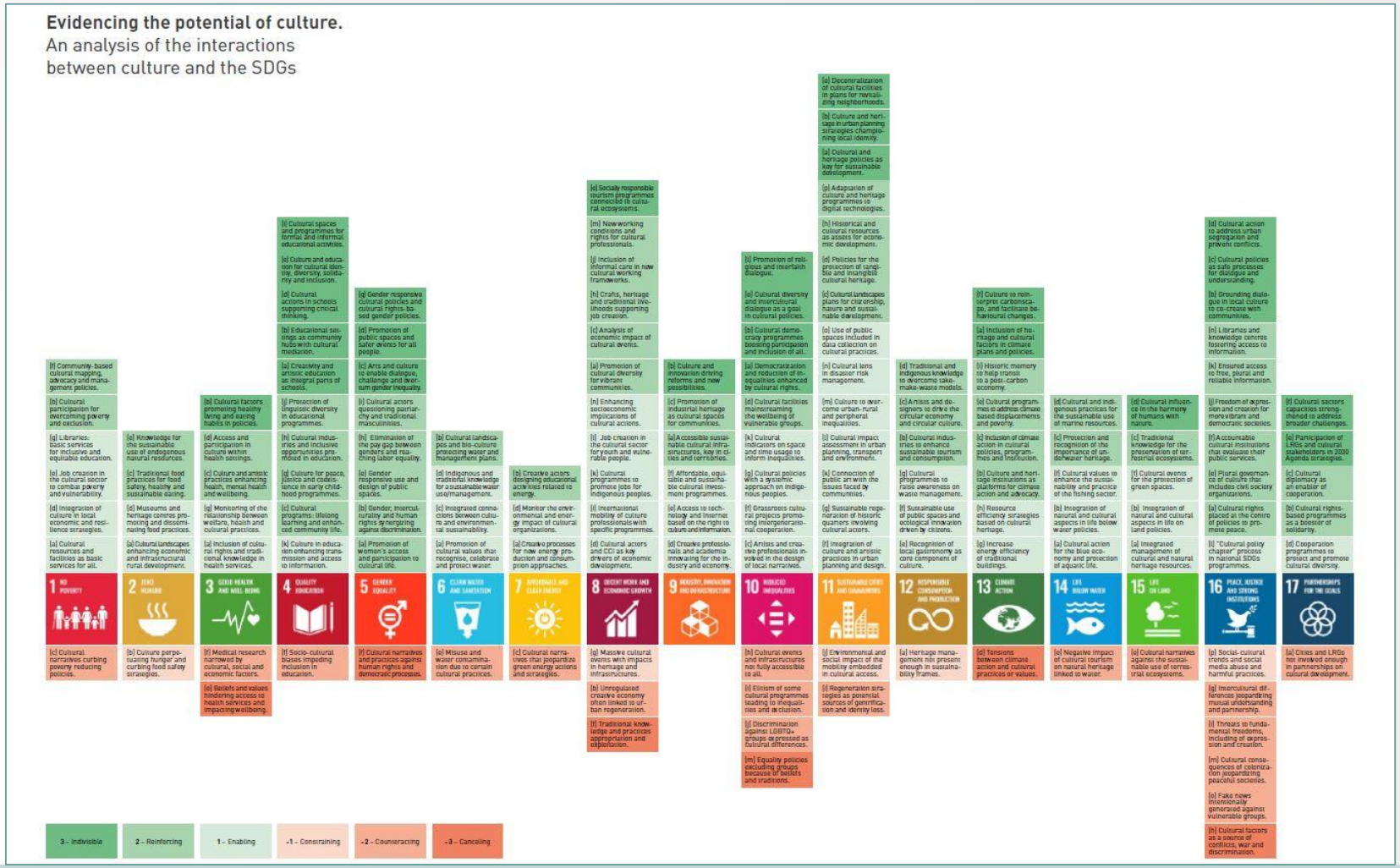
THE GTF AT THE HLPF 2023



A cultural boost in the achievement of SDGs -specifically SDG 11-

Published in July 2023

The graphic of the analysis

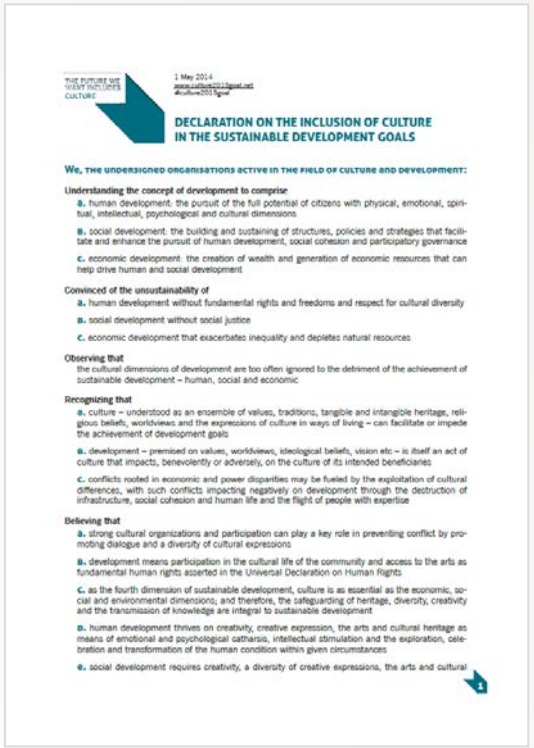


ADVOCATING FOR A CULTURE GOAL

CULTURE 2015 GOAL

CULTURE AS A GOAL
IN THE POST-2015
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

IFACCA · culture 21 · IFCCD · culture ACTION europe



1 May 2014
www.culture2015goal.net
#culture2015goal

THE FUTURE WE WANT INCLUDES CULTURE

DECLARATION ON THE INCLUSION OF CULTURE IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

We, the undersigned organisations active in the field of culture and development:

Understanding the concept of development to comprise

a. human development: the pursuit of the full potential of citizens with physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, psychological and cultural dimensions

b. social development: the building and sustaining of structures, policies and strategies that facilitate and enhance the pursuit of human development, social cohesion and participatory governance

c. economic development: the creation of wealth and generation of economic resources that can help drive human and social development

Convinced of the unsustainability of

a. human development without fundamental rights and freedoms and respect for cultural diversity

b. social development without social justice

c. economic development that exacerbates inequality and depletes natural resources

Observing that

the cultural dimensions of development are too often ignored to the detriment of the achievement of sustainable development – human, social and economic

Recognizing that

a. culture – understood as an ensemble of values, traditions, tangible and intangible heritage, religious beliefs, worldviews and the expressions of culture in ways of living – can facilitate or impede the achievement of development goals

b. development – premised on values, worldviews, ideological beliefs, vision etc – is itself an act of culture that impacts, benevolently or adversely, on the culture of its intended beneficiaries

c. conflicts rooted in economic and power disparities may be fueled by the exploitation of cultural differences, with such conflicts impacting negatively on development through the destruction of infrastructure, social cohesion and human life and the flight of people with expertise

Believing that

a. strong cultural organizations and participation can play a key role in preventing conflict by promoting dialogue and a diversity of cultural expressions

b. development means participation in the cultural life of the community and access to the arts as fundamental human rights asserted in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights

c. as the fourth dimension of sustainable development, culture is as essential as the economic, social and environmental dimensions; and therefore, the safeguarding of heritage, diversity, creativity and the transmission of knowledge are integral to sustainable development

d. human development thrives on creativity, creative expression, the arts and cultural heritage as means of emotional and psychological catharsis, intellectual stimulation and the exploration, celebration and transformation of the human condition within given circumstances

e. social development requires creativity, a diversity of creative expressions, the arts and cultural

12 February 2015
www.culture2015goal.net
#culture2015goal

THE FUTURE WE WANT INCLUDES CULTURE

RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF CULTURE TO STRENGTHEN THE UN POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

We represent the global constituency on culture that is actively engaged in the pursuit of sustainable development at local, national, regional and global levels. We represent governmental and non-governmental organizations. We are fully committed to a successful elaboration and implementation of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda.

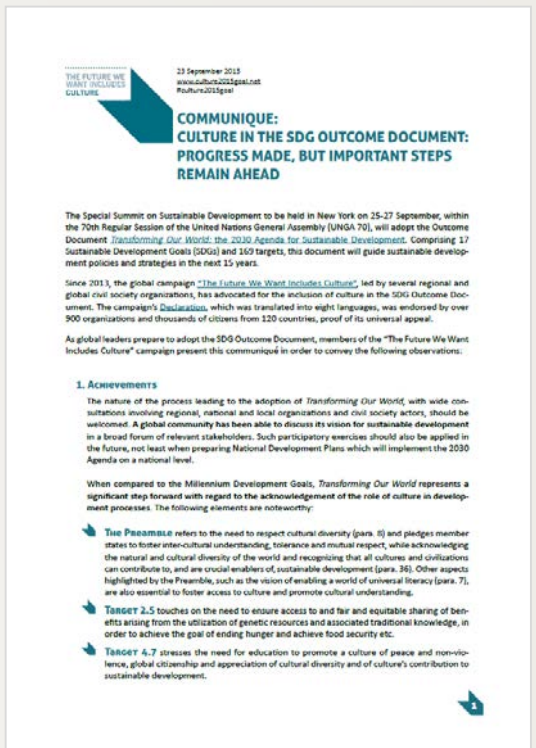
During the last decade the international community has collected substantial evidence on the role of culture in development. The conclusion is that, most often, development policies and projects which do not take into account the cultural dimension have failed. Culture effectively contributes to policies, strategies and programs targeting inclusive social and economic development, environmental sustainability, harmony, peace and security. Culture is both a driver and an enabler of sustainable development.

Committed to an effective Post-2015 Development Agenda, we have made regular inputs to the goal development processes.[1] We have followed closely the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including in particular its Outcome Document, published on 19 July 2014,[2] and the Synthesis Report of the UN Secretary-General released on 4 December 2014.[3]

- We are pleased to see that some references to culture are included in the Outcome Document. However, as these references are scarce and fragmented, we remain concerned. The Outcome Document fails to embrace the full potential of culture, despite the many UN debates and resolutions, the evidence collected by universities and experts and the existence of a global constituency representing millions that strives to fulfil culture's role as driver and enabler of development.

- We are pleased to see that the Synthesis Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda fully acknowledges *our deepest convictions* ": we must mobilize the power of culture in the transformative change we seek. Our world is a remarkable mosaic of diverse cultures, informing our evolving understanding of sustainable development. We still have much to learn from cultures as we build the world we want. If we are to succeed, the new agenda cannot remain the exclusive domain of institutions and governments. It must be embraced by people. **Culture, in different aspects, will thus be an important force in supporting the new agenda** "[4]

1 See e.g. Culture as a Goal in the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2013) and other documents available at www.culture2015goal.net
2 Open Working Group of the UN General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (2014), Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals, A/68/970, available at http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1579owg70proposal.pdf
3 UN Secretary-General (2014), The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet. Synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, A/69/700, available at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/700&Lang=E
4 Ibidem, para 162. Our emphasis



23 September 2015
www.culture2015goal.net
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THE FUTURE WE WANT INCLUDES CULTURE

COMMUNIQUE: CULTURE IN THE SDG OUTCOME DOCUMENT: PROGRESS MADE, BUT IMPORTANT STEPS REMAIN AHEAD

The Special Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in New York on 25-27 September, within the 70th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 70), will adopt the Outcome Document *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Comprising 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, this document will guide sustainable development policies and strategies in the next 15 years.

Since 2013, the global campaign "The Future We Want Includes Culture", led by several regional and global civil society organizations, has advocated for the inclusion of culture in the SDG Outcome Document. The campaign's Declaration, which was translated into eight languages, was endorsed by over 900 organizations and thousands of citizens from 120 countries, proof of its universal appeal.

As global leaders prepare to adopt the SDG Outcome Document, members of the "The Future We Want Includes Culture" campaign present this communiqué in order to convey the following observations.

1. Achievements

The nature of the process leading to the adoption of *Transforming Our World*, with wide consultations involving regional, national and local organizations and civil society actors, should be welcomed. **A global community has been able to discuss its vision for sustainable development** in a broad forum of relevant stakeholders. Such participatory exercises should also be applied in the future, not least when preparing National Development Plans which will implement the 2030 Agenda on a national level.

When compared to the Millennium Development Goals, *Transforming Our World* represents a significant step forward with regard to the acknowledgement of the role of culture in development processes. The following elements are noteworthy:

- **The Preamble** refers to the need to respect cultural diversity (para. 8) and pledges member states to foster inter-cultural understanding, tolerance and mutual respect, while acknowledging the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognizing that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development (para. 36). Other aspects highlighted by the Preamble, such as the vision of enabling a world of universal literacy (para. 7), are also essential to foster access to culture and promote cultural understanding.
- **Target 2.5** touches on the need to ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, in order to achieve the goal of ending hunger and achieve food security etc.
- **Target 4.7** stresses the need for education to promote a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

CULTURE2030GOAL - **OUR STRATEGY**

#CULTURE2030GOAL CAMPAIGN
OUR STRATEGY FOR 2020-30
PUBLISHED ON 25 MARCH 2021

1. WHO WE ARE

The Culture 2030 Goal (#culture2030goal) Campaign is formed by several global cultural networks* united to advocate for the role of culture in sustainable development. It is the continuation of the #culture2015goal Campaign, created in 2013 to call for culture to be included in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (and the SDGs) that was adopted in September 2015.

The Campaign is focused on the UN System. This includes central organs like the UN General Assembly and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as well as agencies with relevant thematic mandates, i.e. UNESCO, UNDP or UN-Habitat.

2. CULTURE IN THE UN DECADE OF ACTION, COVID19 AND THE NEW STRATEGY

Over the past 18 months, the Campaign has gained important momentum. A study on the place of culture in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, published in September 2019, highlighted good practices around the world. However, it also underlined that much needs to be done to realise the potential of culture as a pillar of sustainable development. In the context of the UN's Decade of Action, the study proved that culture represents a crucial development accelerator.

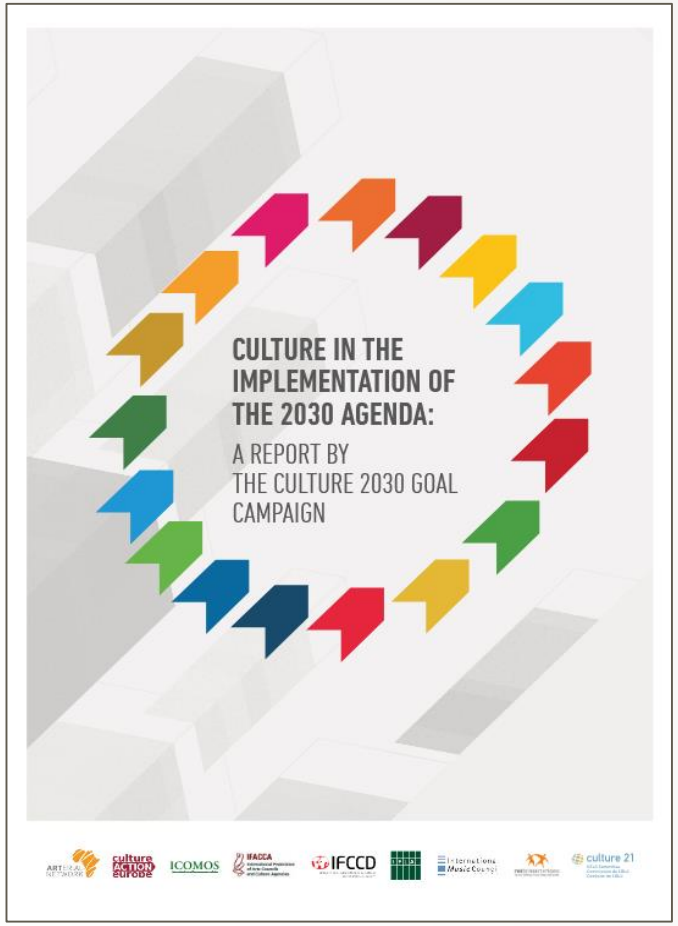
In April 2020, the members of the #culture2030goal Campaign released the #CultureCOVID19 Statement, entitled 'Ensuring culture fulfills its potential in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic'. This not only highlighted the need to support culture during the pandemic, but also on how culture could both promote wellbeing in the immediate term, and a stronger, fairer recovery in the longer term. This received noteworthy attention from various organisations, including UNESCO and the WHO, culminating in the excellent result of an endorsement by the President of the UN General Assembly.

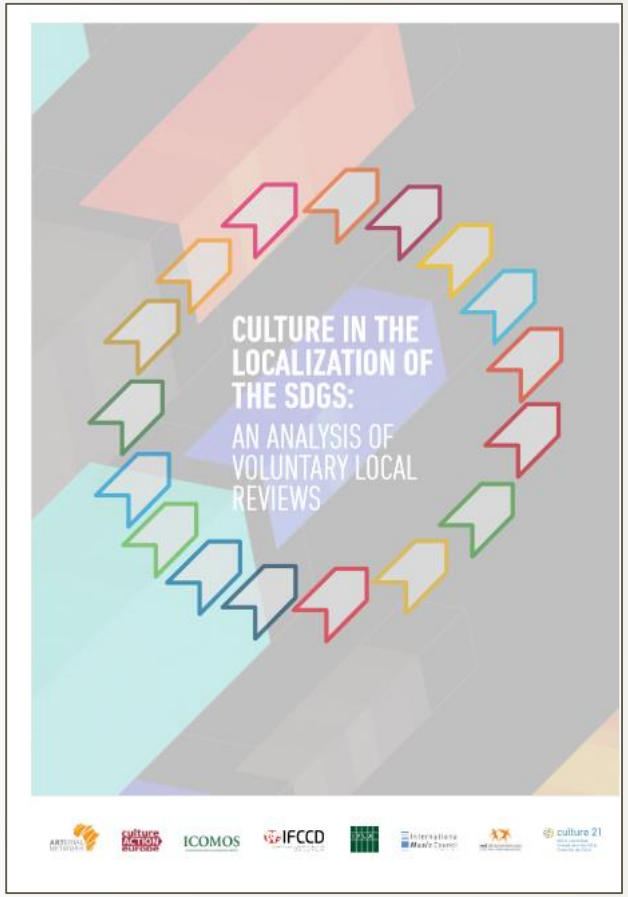
Building on these successes, we have initiated the development of a strategic framework for the culture2030goal Campaign, within the context of the UN Decade of Action. In keeping with strategic planning methodology, we define below:

- **Our Vision:** The recognition of culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development;
- **Our Mission:** To mainstream culture across the global development agenda;
- **Our Values/Beliefs:** are rooted in the #culture2015goal Manifesto of 2014 and the #CultureCOVID19 Statement of 2020;

- **Our Goals include:**
  - A stronger place for culture throughout the implementation of the current global development agenda (the UN 2030 Agenda);
  - The adoption of culture as a distinct goal in the post-2030 development agenda;
  - The adoption of a global agenda for culture.
- **Our Activities are foreseen to include;**
  - Engaging at UN High-Level Political Fora and other relevant global intergovernmental events, notably through organising high-level panels;
  - Supporting advocacy at the national and regional levels in favour of incorporating culture into development planning, through the sharing of tools and information;
  - Developing and implementing methodologies for monitoring and engaging Voluntary National and Local Reviews, including through shadow reporting, in order to maximise recognition of culture;
  - Influencing and shaping the discourse through the issuing of statements and other reports, including formulating what a culture goal could look like (with mention of cultural rights, tangible and intangible heritage, access, diversity, creativity, etc.);
  - Building connections with diverse other stakeholders and bringing campaigns together.

CULTURE2030GOAL - **Analysing VNRs** (2016-2019, 2022, 2023 and 2024) and **VLRs** (2021)





CULTURE IN THE 2024 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS:

A CULTURE2030GOAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Culture2030Goal Campaign's report on culture in the 2024 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) provides an overview of how far – and how – culture is being integrated into national efforts to deliver on the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

Steps to integrate culture in this way come despite the lack of a dedicated culture goal in the Agenda when it was agreed in 2015, a move which the Campaign has argued has led to the under-mobilisation of culture as a driver of development. The hypothesis of the campaign is that any government looking to take a truly comprehensive approach to achieving the Agenda – and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals – will need to address culture. Analysing VNRs offers a good way of testing this hypothesis, given that these offer a snapshot of how governments are approaching sustainable development.

Based on an exploration of references to culture in the 33 published reviews (including that of South Africa, which subsequently chose not to present, but not including Mexico, Samoa, South Sudan and Vanuatu, who had not yet published at time of writing), it looks at how VNRs address culture in three ways:

- According to the different dimensions of culture addressed
- According to the clusters of different SDGs linked to culture in reviews
- According to the targets set out in the Culture2030Goal Campaign's zero draft of a Culture Goal

The report finds that looking across the VNRs as a whole, the full range of dimensions of culture, clusters of SDGs, and targets in the Culture Goal zero draft are reflected.

There is nonetheless strong variation in the degree of attention paid to culture, with Austria, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Oman and Palau standing out for the depth and breadth of their exploration of the role of culture in sustainable development. Already from this range, it is possible to see that countries at quite different levels of GDP and from very different parts of the world are seeing culture as a key topic.

In line with the Campaign's own work to call for a dedicated Culture Goal in any future development agendas – and for it to be treated as a goal already today – the analysis does seem to indicate that there is need for an extra impulsion to ensure that the good practice that already exists is spread more universally. It also offers helpful evidence for a future revision of the Culture Goal, both in terms of setting out the potential relevance of the targets in place, but also useful nuances to be taken into account in future.

Annex 1 – References to Targets of the Culture2030Goal Campaign Culture Goal zero draft.
X = some reference, XX = strong reference

Country		1. Cultural Rights	2. Culture of Peace	3. Protect Heritage	4. Cultural Diversity	5. Artists' Rights	6. Cultural Mobility	7. Indigenous Peoples	8. Cities and Environment	a. Cultural Institutions	b. Integrating Culture
Armenia	Link						X				
Austria	Link	XX		XX		XX				X	XX
Azerbaijan	Link	X		X			X				
Belize	Link										X
Brazil	Link	XX	X	XX	XX	XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX
Chad	Link			X		X					X
Colombia	Link	XX	XX	X	XX			XX	XX		XX
Congo (Republic)	Link			X							
Costa Rica	Link			X		X		X	X		X
Ecuador	Link	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Equatorial Guinea	Link		X								
Eritrea	Link	X		X				X			
Georgia	Link					X					
Guinea	Link	X	X		X						
Honduras	Link	X	X	X	X						X
Kenya	Link								X	X	
Lao PDR	Link	X		X	X	X		X			
Libya	Link	X	X								
Mauritania	Link	X							X		
Mauritius	Link		X	X	X	X	X				X
Nepal	Link		X	X					X		
Oman	Link		X	X		X	X		X	X	X
Palau	Link	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
Peru	Link		X	X				X	X		X
Solomon Islands	Link		X	X	X	X		X	X		X
South Africa	Link			X							
Syria	Link	X		X			X				
Uganda	Link			X		X			X	X	
Yemen	Link								X		
Zimbabwe	Link			X							X

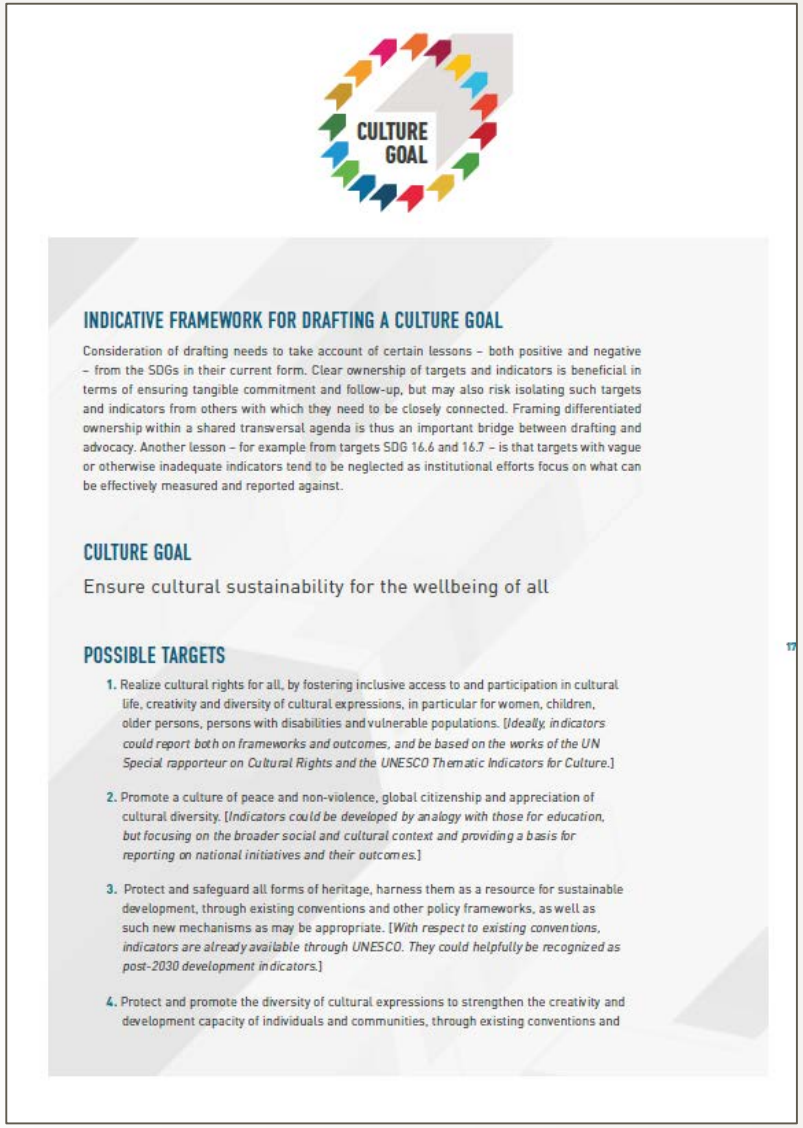
THE **CULTURE GOAL** PROPOSAL (2022)

CULTURE GOAL

5 REASONS WHY WE NEED A DEDICATED CULTURE GOAL

1. TO ENSURE ADEQUATE FOCUS ON CULTURE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT.
2. TO ENSURE THAT THE RANGE OF CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CULTURE AND OTHER POLICY AREAS ARE FULLY ACCOUNTED FOR.
3. TO ENSURE THAT THE CULTURE SECTOR ITSELF FEELS A SENSE OF ENGAGEMENT IN AND OWNERSHIP OF THE GOALS.
4. TO ENSURE THAT ALL OTHER GOALS ARE ACTIVATED, AND THAT THEIR ACHIEVEMENT IS STRENGTHENED, THROUGH THE MOBILIZING POWER OF CULTURE.
5. TO ENSURE THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ALL GOALS CAN BE PROTECTED FROM SYSTEMIC AND BEHAVIOURAL BARRIERS THAT CAN BE ADDRESSED THROUGH A CULTURAL LENS.

THE PROPOSAL



INDICATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR DRAFTING A CULTURE GOAL

Consideration of drafting needs to take account of certain lessons – both positive and negative – from the SDGs in their current form. Clear ownership of targets and indicators is beneficial in terms of ensuring tangible commitment and follow-up, but may also risk isolating such targets and indicators from others with which they need to be closely connected. Framing differentiated ownership within a shared transversal agenda is thus an important bridge between drafting and advocacy. Another lesson – for example from targets SDG 16.6 and 16.7 – is that targets with vague or otherwise inadequate indicators tend to be neglected as institutional efforts focus on what can be effectively measured and reported against.

CULTURE GOAL

Ensure cultural sustainability for the wellbeing of all

POSSIBLE TARGETS

1. Realize cultural rights for all, by fostering inclusive access to and participation in cultural life, creativity and diversity of cultural expressions, in particular for women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and vulnerable populations. [*Ideally, indicators could report both on frameworks and outcomes, and be based on the works of the UN Special rapporteur on Cultural Rights and the UNESCO Thematic Indicators for Culture.*]

2. Promote a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity. [*Indicators could be developed by analogy with those for education, but focusing on the broader social and cultural context and providing a basis for reporting on national initiatives and their outcomes.*]

3. Protect and safeguard all forms of heritage, harness them as a resource for sustainable development, through existing conventions and other policy frameworks, as well as such new mechanisms as may be appropriate. [*With respect to existing conventions, indicators are already available through UNESCO. They could helpfully be recognized as post-2030 development indicators.*]

4. Protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions to strengthen the creativity and development capacity of individuals and communities, through existing conventions and

such new mechanisms as may be appropriate. [*Indicators using the UNESCO Thematic Indicators for Culture 2019 and the relevant conventions' own monitoring tools.*]

5. In devising and implementing policies on cultural and creative industries, sustainable tourism and digital technologies, promote local culture and products, the economic and social rights of artists and cultural professionals and artistic freedom, and develop and implement appropriate monitoring tools. [*Important here that indicators should not merely register initiatives – which may have little effect on the ground – but also assess outcomes, ideally framed in the terms already internationally recognized under the Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.*]

6. Enhance legal conditions and practical opportunities for mobility of cultural professionals and cross-border creativity in the creation of cultural goods, services and practices through international multi-stakeholder collaboration. [*Indicators should ideally report both on frameworks – including such issues as visa requirements etc. – and outcomes.*]

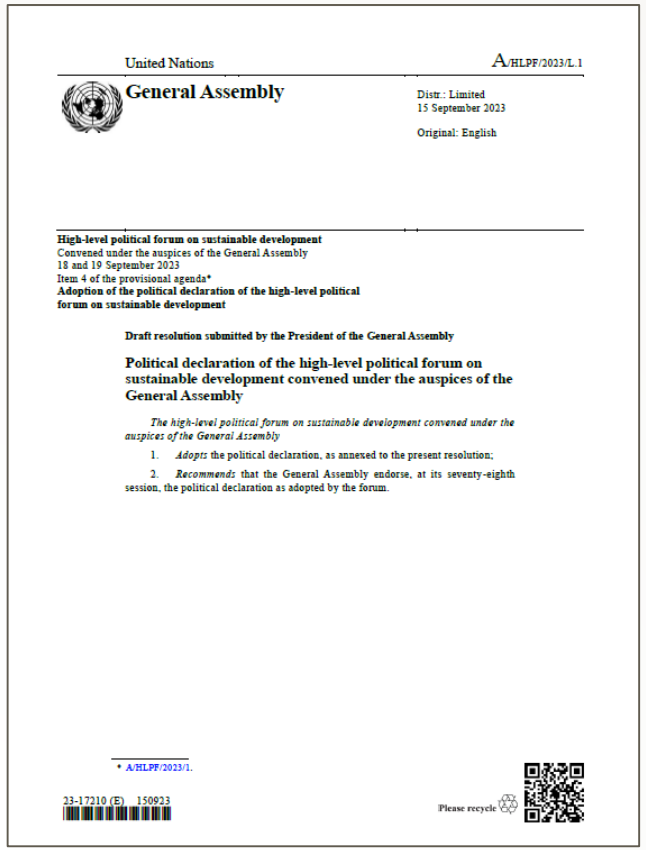
7. Empower indigenous peoples to strengthen their own institutions, cultures and languages, and to pursue their development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations [*Ideally, indicators could report both on frameworks and outcomes.*]

8. Develop a cultural approach in environmental protection and sustainable urbanization, including land planning, landscape management, protection of biodiversity, agriculture and natural areas management, through heritage, local cultures and knowledge, creativity and arts. [*Ideally, indicators could report both on frameworks and outcomes, and be based on the frames provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – IPCC and the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services – IPBES.*]

a. Strengthen cultural institutions, including through international cooperation, to build capacity at all levels to realize cultural rights and sustain cultural pluralism. [*Indicators should include reference to specific institutions/mechanisms as well as to funding and employment issues and to issues around freedom of expression as anchored in existing human rights instruments.*]

b. Ensure, through transversal, multi-stakeholder collaboration, that cultural considerations are taken into account in all international development goals, at the outset of and throughout all policy-making processes, through engaging cultural sector actors, whether or not associated with pre-existing cultural targets. [*An important and challenging area, which requires creative and dynamic international leadership – perhaps under the aegis of UNESCO – and well-defined indicators that connect clearly with those already defined under targets relating e.g. to poverty eradication, elimination of hunger, gender equality, climate action, and peace, justice and inclusion.*]

The UN SDG Summit (2023)



United Nations A/HLPF/2023/L.1

General Assembly

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15 September 2023

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High-level political forum on sustainable development
Convened under the auspices of the General Assembly
18 and 19 September 2023
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly

The high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly

1. *Adopts* the political declaration, as annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Recommends* that the General Assembly endorse, at its seventy-eighth session, the political declaration as adopted by the forum.

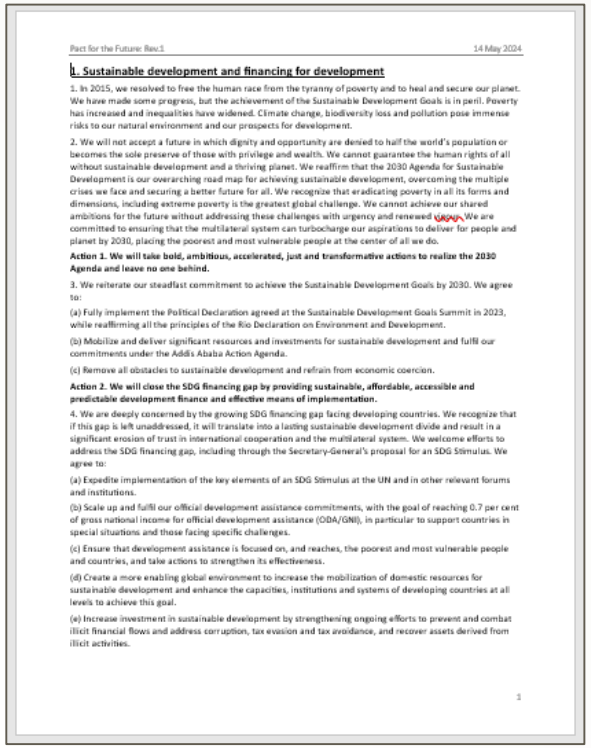
* A/HLPF/2023/1.

23-17210 (E) 150923

Please recycle

16. We reaffirm the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development that provides people and communities with a strong sense of identity and social cohesion and contributes to more effective and sustainable development policies and measures at all levels.

VERSION 1.
The UN Pact for the Future (2024)



Pact for the Future: Rev.1 14 May 2024

I. Sustainable development and financing for development

1. In 2015, we resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and to heal and secure our planet. We have made some progress, but the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is in peril. Poverty has increased and inequalities have widened. Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution pose immense risks to our natural environment and our prospects for development.

2. We will not accept a future in which dignity and opportunity are denied to half the world's population or becomes the sole preserve of those with privilege and wealth. We cannot guarantee the human rights of all without sustainable development and a thriving planet. We reaffirm that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is our overarching road map for achieving sustainable development, overcoming the multiple crises we face and securing a better future for all. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty is the greatest global challenge. We cannot achieve our shared ambitions for the future without addressing these challenges with urgency and renewed unity. We are committed to ensuring that the multilateral system can turbocharge our aspirations to deliver for people and planet by 2030, placing the poorest and most vulnerable people at the center of all we do.

Action 1. We will take bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative actions to realize the 2030 Agenda and leave no one behind.

3. We reiterate our steadfast commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. We agree to:

(a) Fully implement the Political Declaration agreed at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in 2023, while reaffirming all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

(b) Mobilize and deliver significant resources and investments for sustainable development and fulfil our commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

(c) Remove all obstacles to sustainable development and refrain from economic coercion.

Action 2. We will close the SDG financing gap by providing sustainable, affordable, accessible and predictable development finance and effective means of implementation.

4. We are deeply concerned by the growing SDG financing gap facing developing countries. We recognize that if this gap is left unaddressed, it will translate into a lasting sustainable development divide and result in a significant erosion of trust in international cooperation and the multilateral system. We welcome efforts to address the SDG financing gap, including through the Secretary-General's proposal for an SDG Stimulus. We agree to:

(a) Expedite implementation of the key elements of an SDG Stimulus at the UN and in other relevant forums and institutions.

(b) Scale up and fulfil our official development assistance commitments, with the goal of reaching 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI), in particular to support countries in special situations and those facing specific challenges.

(c) Ensure that development assistance is focused on, and reaches, the poorest and most vulnerable people and countries, and take actions to strengthen its effectiveness.

(d) Create a more enabling global environment to increase the mobilization of domestic resources for sustainable development and enhance the capacities, institutions and systems of developing countries at all levels to achieve this goal.

(e) Increase investment in sustainable development by strengthening ongoing efforts to prevent and combat illicit financial flows and address corruption, tax evasion and tax avoidance, and recover assets derived from illicit activities.

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Action 7. We will protect and promote culture as an integral component of sustainable development.

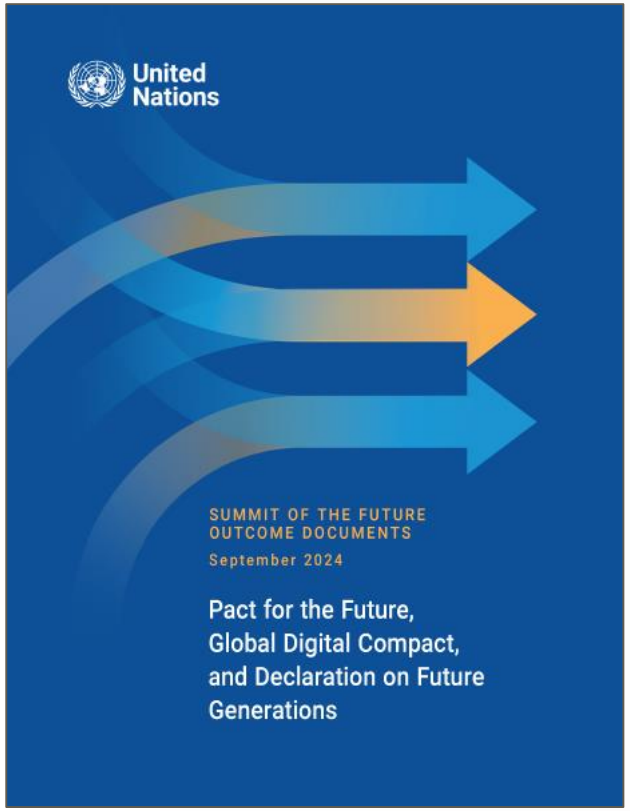
9. We recognize that culture offers people and communities a strong sense of identity and fosters social cohesion. We reaffirm the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development and in enhancing efforts to accelerate the 2030 Agenda by providing people and communities with a strong sense of identity and social cohesion, and by contributing to more effective, inclusive, equitable and sustainable development policies and measures. We agree to:

(a) Integrate culture into economic, social and environmental development policies and strategies as a standalone goal, and as a central consideration to enhance implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

(b) Ensure adequate investment in the protection and promotion of culture.

(c) Engage constructively in bilateral negotiations on the return or restitution to countries of their cultural property of spiritual, historical and cultural value, and strengthen international cooperation on this issue.

FINAL VERSION.
The UN Pact for the Future (2024)



Action 11. We will protect and promote culture and sport as integral components of sustainable development.

30. We recognize that culture as well as sport offer individuals and communities a strong sense of identity and foster social cohesion. We also recognize that sport can contribute to individuals' and communities' health and well-being. Culture as well as sport therefore are important enablers of sustainable development. We decide to:

(a) Ensure that culture as well as sport can contribute to more effective, inclusive, equitable and sustainable development, and integrate culture into economic, social and environmental development policies and strategies and ensure adequate public investment in the protection and promotion of culture;

(b) Encourage strengthened international cooperation on the return or restitution of cultural properties of spiritual, ancestral, historical and cultural value to countries of origin, including but not limited to objets d'art, monuments, museum pieces, manuscripts and documents, and strongly encourage relevant private entities to similarly engage, including through bilateral dialogue and with the assistance of multilateral mechanisms, as appropriate;

(c) Promote and support intercultural and interreligious dialogue to strengthen social cohesion and contribute to sustainable development.

CULTURE2030GOAL - **From Summit to Substance (2024 to 2025)**

#CULTURE2030GOAL STATEMENT
CULTURE IN THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE

ICOMOS

FROM SUMMIT TO SUBSTANCE:
AN ACTION PLAN FOR CULTURE TO DELIVER ON THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE

SEPTEMBER 2024

The recently adopted Pact for the Future gives the United Nations, and everyone who works alongside them, a new reference point. A little over half-way through the period of operation of the 2030 Agenda – and with progress significantly off-track – the Pact aims to accelerate the ability of the international system to realise its potential and achieve its goals for ensuring a sustainable and resilient future for the global community.

This objective is shared by the Culture2030Goal campaign. Our focus on ensuring the integration of the arts, culture and heritage into policy-making is motivated by a conviction that this is essential to building a better world and better lives.

The Pact for the Future does mark a valuable step forwards, although still falls a little shorter than it could have done in raising culture to the same level as other policy areas.

Calling for culture to be treated as a standalone development goal – as done in an earlier draft – would have been an important signal. It would have underlined to governments and arts, culture and heritage actors alike that culture should not be seen as a second-order policy area or dealt with in a silo.

Nonetheless, what is in the final text – as well as in the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations – is a step forwards. See the annex for more detail on references to culture in these documents.

What matters now is implementation. We need an implementation plan, both in order to achieve the PAct's goal of the integration of culture into wider development policies, and in order to ensure that culture affirms its place as a lever of change.

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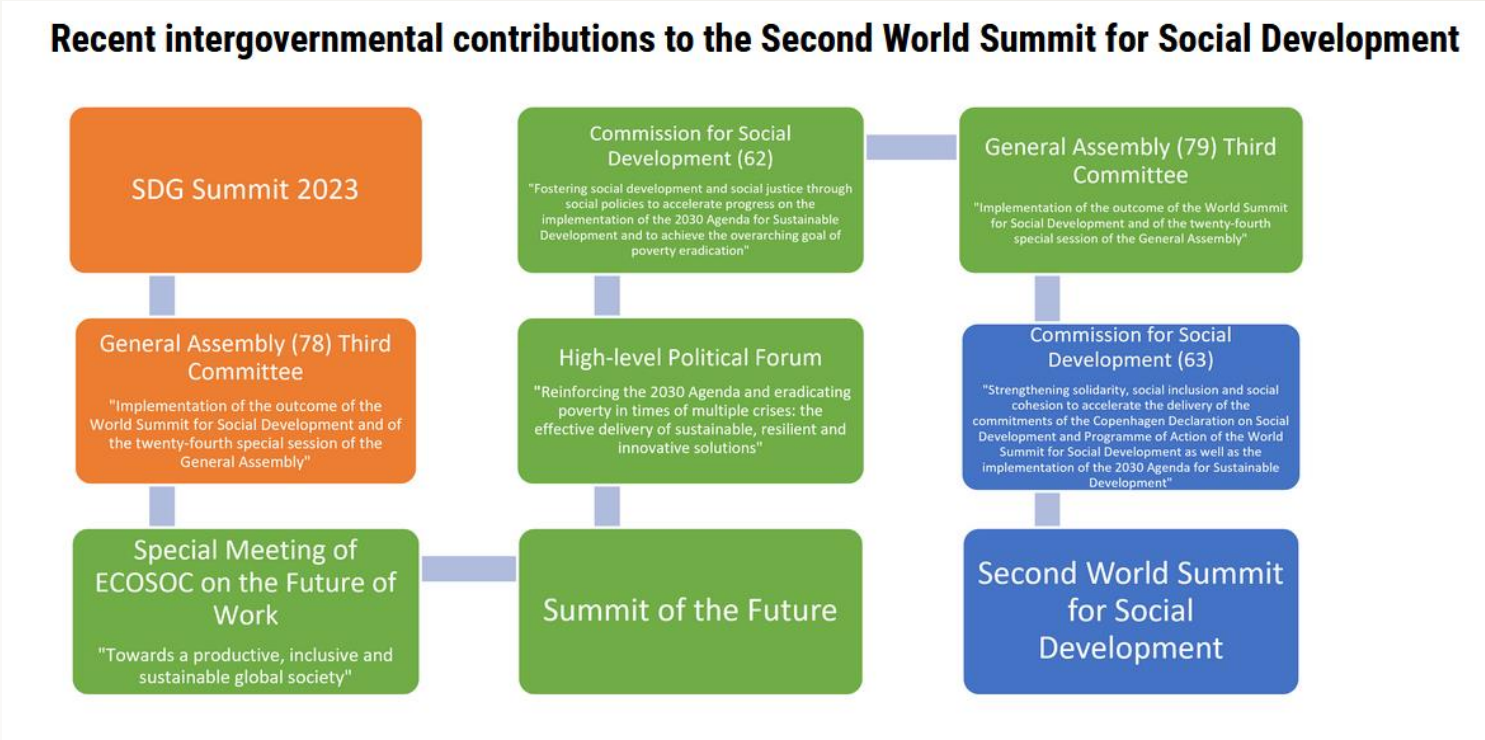
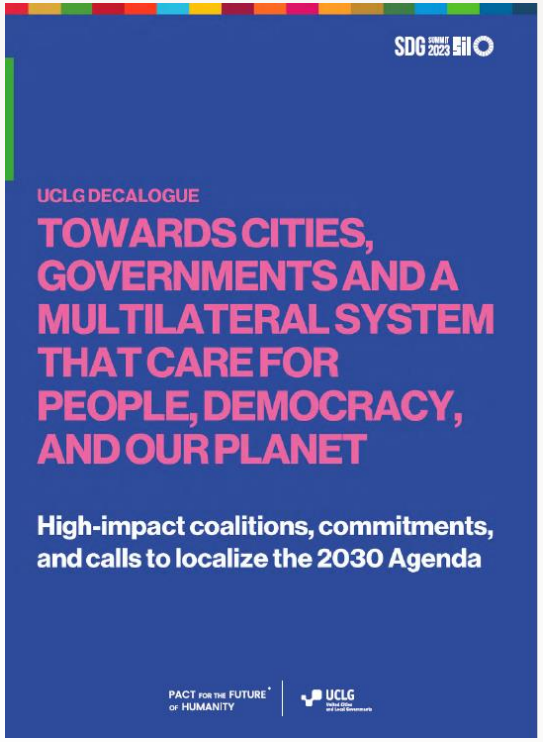
This proposal is based on the side-event "No future without culture: Reflecting and Imagining on the Place of Culture in Delivering the Pact for the Future", organised by the Culture2030Goal campaign on 20 September 2024 (see agenda and recording, here). The proposal is also coherent with our Zero draft of a future Culture Goal, released on 26 September 2022 on the eve of Mondiacult in Mexico City (see here).

The Culture2030Goal campaign undertakes to publish an in-depth proposal of a Culture Goal (in July 2025, to present it at Mondiacult 2025); it is also committed to the exploration of the feasibility of a Major Group within the UN system.

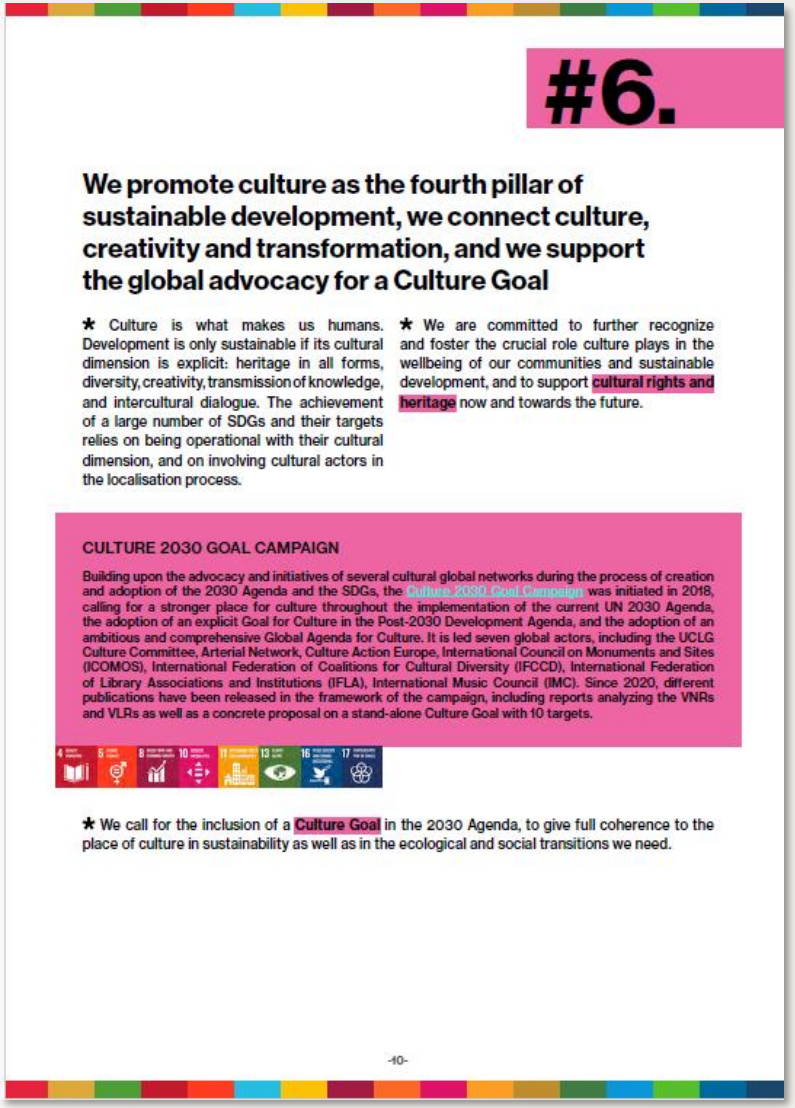
World Social Summit (2025)





CITIES PEOPLE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM PEACE GOVERNMENTS 2030 AGENDA CARE PLANET SOLIDARITY RIGHTS SOCIAL EQUALITY NEW TERRITORIES SUSTAINABILITY MUNICIPAL MOVEMENT

milestones +



#6.

We promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development, we connect culture, creativity and transformation, and we support the global advocacy for a Culture Goal

★ Culture is what makes us humans. Development is only sustainable if its cultural dimension is explicit: heritage in all forms, diversity, creativity, transmission of knowledge, and intercultural dialogue. The achievement of a large number of SDGs and their targets relies on being operational with their cultural dimension, and on involving cultural actors in the localisation process.

★ We are committed to further recognize and foster the crucial role culture plays in the wellbeing of our communities and sustainable development, and to support cultural rights and heritage now and towards the future.

CULTURE 2030 GOAL CAMPAIGN

Building upon the advocacy and initiatives of several cultural global networks during the process of creation and adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the Culture 2030 Goal Campaign was initiated in 2018, calling for a stronger place for culture throughout the implementation of the current UN 2030 Agenda, the adoption of an explicit Goal for Culture in the Post-2030 Development Agenda, and the adoption of an ambitious and comprehensive Global Agenda for Culture. It is led seven global actors, including the UCLG Culture Committee, Arterial Network, Culture Action Europe, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD), International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), International Music Council (IMC). Since 2020, different publications have been released in the framework of the campaign, including reports analyzing the VNRs and VLRs as well as a concrete proposal on a stand-alone Culture Goal with 10 targets.

★ We call for the inclusion of a Culture Goal in the 2030 Agenda, to give full coherence to the place of culture in sustainability as well as in the ecological and social transitions we need.

THANK YOU and SEE YOU SOON!!

http://www.uclg.org
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