



# CULTURE 2030 GOAL CAMPAIGN APPLAUDS GROWING GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION OF THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN DEVELOPMENT

24 OCTOBER 2023

*Following the call for an explicit Culture Goal in future development agendas in the MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration convened by UNESCO, the Culture2030Goal campaign strongly welcomes the recognition of the essential role of culture by the members of the United Nations, G20, the European Union and BRICS in the past months.*

For ten years, the [campaign](#) has argued that culture cannot and must not be seen as separate from broader development agendas. With numerous statements, analytical reports, side events directly organized or attended as speakers in many national and international policy events, the seven international cultural organisations of the campaign have reinforced the message that cultural actors and factors need to be integrated into development processes, from the planning to the implementation and evaluation phases. In fact, the current, almost marginal status of culture in the global development agenda is one of the factors that impede ownership and achievement of the SDGs.

Stronger recognition of the role of culture is essential if we are to deliver a new, inclusive, people-centred, peaceful, and climate-resilient development paradigm, in line with the globally acknowledged core principles of sustainability. To do this, culture has to be seen as a priority policy issue, with its own Goal in the next global agenda for sustainable development.

A key breakthrough came in September 2022, when national governments meeting at the UNESCO MONDIACULT conference in Mexico City called for an explicit Culture Goal in future development agendas.

The campaign then underlined the need to take this message to governments more widely, stressing that it could not be culture ministries alone making the case. At this same event, the #Culture2030Goal campaign released a proposed draft of such a Goal, based on wide consultation across the cultural sector.



It is therefore very welcome that in the last two months, we have seen four key high-level, cross-governmental declarations recognise the need for an explicit culture goal.

- I First of all, on 23 August 2023, the leaders of the [BRICS group](#) committed to integrate culture into their national development policies as a driver and an enabler for the achievement of the SDGs.
- I Second, on 9-10 September 2023, G20 heads of state and government released their [G20 Leaders Declaration](#) including a whole heading on culture as a transformative driver of the SDGs. In particular, they called to advance the inclusion of culture as a standalone Goal in future discussions on a possible post-2030 development agenda.
- I Third, all UN Member States, meeting at the [SDG Summit](#) on 18 September 2023, reaffirmed the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development, contributing to more effective and sustainable development policies and measures at all levels.
- I Finally, the Ministers of Culture of the European Union adopted the [Caceres Declaration](#) on 26 September 2023, committing to work for culture to be recognised in and of itself as a new sustainable development goal.

Together, these declarations point to a strong and positive trend in favour of substantial efforts to integrate culture into development agendas.

The Culture2030Goal campaign will be engaging at the United Cities and Local Governments' Culture Summit in November 2023 to discuss with local government leaders and ministries of culture on how the culture goal can be further shaped. We also look forward to seeing a meaningful place for culture in the preparations for the UN Summit of the Future in 2024, and in ongoing cross-governmental work programmes around the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The Culture2030Goal campaign and its members stand ready to accelerate work in this area, working in partnership with relevant actors at all levels.



## BACKGROUND

During the process of creation and adoption of the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, several cultural global networks campaigned, under the banner '[The Future We Want Includes Culture](#)', for the inclusion of one specific Goal devoted to Culture, and the integration of cultural aspects across the SDGs. In the context of this #Culture2015goal campaign, 4 documents were produced: a [Manifesto – Proposal for a Goal](#) (September 2013), a [Declaration on the inclusion of culture in the 2030 Agenda](#) (May 2014), a [proposal of indicators for measuring the cultural aspects of the SDGs](#) (February 2015), and a [Communiqué on the final 2030 Agenda](#) (September 2015) which highlighted "progress made" but also noticed that "important steps remain ahead".

In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the #Culture2030goal campaign released on 20 April 2020 a Statement entitled "[Ensuring culture fulfils its potential in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)", which was [officially launched](#) on 21 May 2020, on the occasion of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. The Statement has been [endorsed by the President of the United Nations General Assembly](#) and signed by more than 280 individuals and organisations worldwide.

The campaign has published two analytical (and critical) reports on the cultural dimension of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: "[Culture in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda](#)", analysing the National Voluntary Reviews, in 2019, and "[Culture in the Localization of the SDGs: An Analysis of the Voluntary Local Reviews \(VLRs\)](#)", in 2021. The campaign has also promoted several discussions in the context of the [2020](#) and [2021](#) United Nations High-Level Political Fora (HLPF).

In 2021, the campaign published its [strategic vision](#). The campaign wants 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.

In 2022, in the context of the UNESCO Global Conference on Cultural Policies organised in Mexico City, Mondiacult 2022, the campaign launched a [Zero draft of a future Culture Goal](#), and welcomed the undertaking in the Final Declaration of the Conference to integrate a specific Culture Goal in the post-2030 development agenda, with the Statement "[Commitment to an explicit culture goal in MONDIACULT Declaration welcome: now is the time to deliver](#)".



- I **Arterial Network**  
Web: [www.arterialafrica.org](http://www.arterialafrica.org)



- I **Culture Action Europe**  
Web: [www.cultureactioneurope.org](http://www.cultureactioneurope.org)



- I **ICOMOS - International Council on Monuments and Sites**  
Web: [www.icomos.org](http://www.icomos.org)



- I **IFCCD - International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity**  
Web: [www.ficdc.org](http://www.ficdc.org)



- I **IFLA - International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions**  
Web: [www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)



- I **IMC - International Music Council**  
Web: [www.imc-cim.org](http://www.imc-cim.org)



- I **UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) Culture Committee - Agenda 21 for culture**  
Web: [www.agenda21culture.net](http://www.agenda21culture.net)

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**#CULTURE2030GOAL**



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