



# #CULTURE2030GOAL STATEMENT: NO FUTURE WITHOUT CULTURE

2 FEBRUARY 2024

*No future without culture – Culture2030Goal campaign calls out neglect of culture in the Pact for the Future zero draft and invites UN member states to add specific wording.*

The Summit of the Future, the milestone UN event of 2024, is intended as an opportunity to make key improvements to the global governance system's ability to deliver on the goals of peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights.

The [Culture2030Goal campaign](#) has given evidence that a critical determinant of success in these efforts is how well, at all levels, cultural factors and actors are integrated into policy making and delivery. This evidence is extensive and science-based. It is the result of specific reports and consultations with UN member states, Major Groups and key stakeholders of sustainable development at a local, national and international level.

It is for this reason that it is deeply disappointing that the [zero draft of the Pact for the Future](#) – the planned key output document from the Summit – makes only cursory reference to culture. The Pact promises to be “a force for change”, but its current formulation risks confirming a business-as-usual approach. This is no longer viable. At this stage, in 2024, it has become obvious that there is No Future Without Culture. The efforts of humanity towards peace and security, sustainable development and human rights will never be achieved unless Culture is at the centre of action.

The zero draft fails to consider the clear emphasis on the importance of culture, not only as a goal in itself, but as an essential driver of success across the board, in a wide range of consensus documents agreed by governments in regional and international fora over the past year and a half. These include, among others, the most recent reports of the OHCHR Special Procedures' [Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights](#), the Ministers' Declaration of UNESCO's [MONDIACULT 2022](#) conference, the commitment of the [BRICS group](#) Johannesburg II Declaration (August 2023), the [G20 Leaders Declaration](#) (September 2023), and the [SDG Summit](#) Declaration (also in September 2023). Across the sum of these, all **UN Member States have reaffirmed the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development.**



Culture needs to have a clear place in the Pact for the Future, but currently all we see is a glaring neglect of the cultural aspects of socio-economic life, the impact of culture on accelerating the achievement of the SDGs and other agendas, and the central role of a strong and dynamic cultural sector and coherent policy approach.

**The absence of culture represents a source of insecurity, a narrowing of our understanding of society and what makes it work, a break on the imagination needed to envisage the future for coming generations, and an impoverishment of the toolkit available to the global governance system to achieve its objectives.**

There is nonetheless time to correct this mistake. We remain confident that the final version of the Pact can and will give positive and substantive recognition of the role of culture. Just as the Declaration of the SDG Summit only incorporated text on culture after the actions of Member States, intergovernmental organisations and civil society (that is, between June and September 2023), we believe that the same can be achieved here.

We stand ready to propose text that would remedy this situation, working with the co-facilitators, the Member States and all stakeholders, and urge that the voices and experience of cultural actors be heard throughout the negotiation process.



## 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](#)”.



In 2023, we have seen five key high-level, cross-governmental declarations that 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 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.
- I The UCLG Culture Summit, on 30 November 2023, in the [Dublin Statement](#) reaffirmed the commitment of cities and local and regional governments in favour of a Culture 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 and its members stand ready to accelerate work in this area, working in partnership with relevant actors at all levels. The campaign also looks 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.



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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