



#CULTURE2030GOAL STATEMENT: CULTURE2030GOAL WELCOMES PROGRESS IN MOBILISING CULTURE TO ACHIEVE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN LATEST PACT FOR THE FUTURE DRAFT

JUNE 2024

The Culture 2030 Goal campaign has advocated for a stand alone culture goal for many years and in anticipation of the Summit of the Future, for the unequivocal integration of culture in the Pact for the Future. It therefore welcomes the important progress made in the [latest draft of the Pact](#), in particular the proposed Action 7.

The Culture2030Goal campaign brings together well-established global and regional networks, representing millions of people working in and around the culture sector, from artists to heritage professionals and local government leaders, with membership in over 160 countries globally.

The campaign is focused on elevating culture as both a sector and a vector of change, in order to drive progress towards a human-centric development model. It looks to correct the failure to recognise the role of culture in the 2030 Agenda, a step which has led to culture being seen as less important, as a tool for change, the culture and heritage sector itself being under-mobilised, and culture itself being underrated as a goal.

The result is slower, less inclusive development, and shortcomings in the guaranteeing of human rights for all: leaving the creative ecosystem behind, and the artists/creators it seeks to support further behind.

As already underlined in our [statement of 2 February](#), the Pact for the Future offers all those working in and around culture and heritage an important hope. By asking 'how' to enhance work towards the UN's goals, it provides an opportunity to fill in key gaps, such as the neglect for culture up until now.



We therefore strongly welcome that Germany and Namibia, as co-facilitators, have recognised – and seized – this opportunity in their proposed Action 7 (see annex). This Action recognises the campaign's efforts in making the case for the importance of culture for sustainable development, and in particular the recognition of culture as a standalone policy goal. It is also consistent with many previous international declarations¹, as well as with the [proposal of a Culture Goal](#) that the Culture 2030 Goal campaign published in 2022.

Through the inclusion of Action 7, the co-facilitators and negotiators have taken an important step towards fully mobilising the energy and insights that culture offers to build a better world.

In the coming months, we stand ready to work with Member States and UN Agencies throughout the ongoing negotiations, including by exploring how to ensure that the positive role of culture in delivering peace, the importance of cultural rights as a key pillar of the human rights agenda, and the interests of young artists and creators are fully recognised. We believe that these concerns must also be reflected in the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations to be annexed to the Pact for the Future, just as they have been in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS.

Subsequently, as a multistakeholder, global campaign, we commit to supporting the United Nations and its Member States in delivering on this commitment, through our energy, mobilising power and expertise.

¹ To give a non-comprehensive list, UN General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/78/161](#) of 19 December 2023 and previous GA resolutions on culture and sustainable development, the [SDG Summit Declaration](#) (September 2023) the Ministers' Declaration of UNESCO's [MONDIACULT 2022](#) conference, the [Cadre stratégique de la Francophonie 2023 | 2030](#), adopted at the XVIIIe Sommet de la Francophonie, Djerba (Tunisia) on 20 November 2022, the commitment of the [BRICS group Johannesburg II Declaration](#) (August 2023), the [G20 Leaders Declaration](#) (September 2023), and , the most recent reports of the Human Rights Council Special Procedures' [Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights](#).



ANNEX 1 UN PACT FOR THE FUTURE

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.



ANNEX 2 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 [Zerodraft 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.

- | 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.
- | 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.
- | 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.
- | 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.
- | 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.



I Arterial Network
Web: www.arterialafrica.org



I Culture Action Europe
Web: www.cultureactioneurope.org



I ICOMOS - International Council on Monuments and Sites
Web: www.icomos.org



I IFCCD - International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity
Web: www.ficdc.org



I IFLA - International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
Web: www.ifla.org



I IMC - International Music Council
Web: www.imc-cim.org



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



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