



FEASIBLE, DESIRABLE, NECESSARY: CULTURE2030GOAL STATEMENT FOR MONDIACULT 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025

On the occasion of Mondiacult, the Culture2030Goal Campaign wishes to underscore the conviction that the adoption of a dedicated culture goal within the international development agenda is feasible, desirable and necessary.

Culture constitutes a vital enabler of human dignity, resilience, social cohesion, peace-building, and sustainable development. A dedicated goal would provide the needed framework to recognise and harness these contributions in a coherent and systematic manner.

In this respect, the Culture2030Goal Campaign honours its commitment made during Mondiacult 2022 to deliver a revised version of the [2022 Zero Draft](#), with updated targets and suggested indicators, with these three documents:

- I The proposal, entitled "[The Culture Goal: from Necessity to Reality](#)".
- I An exhaustive document with the title "[The Analytical Report on the Culture Goal, its Targets and Indicators](#)", with details of the stakeholder consultation, the survey, and the indicator mapping.
- I An "[Easy Guide on the Culture Goal](#)" with infographics.

These documents will be officially launched on 27 September during a [High-level event in the framework of the UCLG Culture Summit](#) in Barcelona. It will also be presented and discussed with representatives of UNESCO National Commissions during a [Mondiacult official side event](#) on 29 September.

It is important to stress that a solid place for culture in development can be realised through voluntary integration into existing strategies, policies, and monitoring frameworks. Good practices already exist across diverse regions, as highlighted in the Campaign's [analysis of 2025 Voluntary National Reports](#). The challenges we face now are to generalise these good practices, and make the Culture Goal a reality.



We therefore encourage governments and institutions to act without delay in adopting such approaches, thereby realising fully the power of culture to advance sustainable development.

Looking beyond Mondiacult, it is essential to strengthen efforts to engage and convince policymakers across all policy domains of the importance of culture. This task is particularly urgent in the lead-up to the World Social Summit in Doha, Qatar, in November. The Declaration from this summit offers a crucial opportunity to ensure that culture is firmly embedded as a cornerstone of the global social agenda.

The Culture2030Goal Campaign remains committed to working constructively with Member States, international organisations, and civil society to secure culture's rightful place at the heart of future development frameworks.



ANNEX 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.

In September 2024, the Ministers for Culture of the G7 released [the Ministerial Declaration "Culture, common good of humanity, common responsibility"](#), in which they commit to "promote the inclusion of culture as a standalone goal in future discussions on how to advance sustainable development beyond 2030".

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 looks forward to leading cross-governmental work programmes around the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the Pact for the Future. This includes the publication of the in-depth proposal of a Culture Goal (September 2025) and the exploration of the feasibility of a Major Group within the UN system.



- I **Arterial Network**
Web: www.arterialafrica.org



- I **Culture Action Europe**
Web: www.cultureactioneurope.org



- I **ICOM - International Council of Museums**
Web: www.icom.museum



- 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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