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WHERE IS CULTURE IN THE 2030 AGENDA?

Through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the international community has recognized, for the first time, the essential role of culture as an enabler of development. Culture is featured most prominently in Sustainable Development Goal 11, which aims to “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. Target 11.4 in particular calls on the international community to “Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage”. Other SDGs clearly refer to the role of culture for quality education (SDG 4), economic growth and sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDGs 8 and 12), environmental sustainability (SDGs 14 and 15), inclusive and peaceful societies (SDG 16), gender equality (SDG 5), food security (SDG 2) and health (SDG 3).

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WHY CULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

Culture is an enabler of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The cultural and creative industries are among the fastest growing in the world, representing 30 million jobs worldwide. Intercultural dialogue and respect for cultural diversity are powerful tools for reconciliation and the creation of peaceful societies. Intangible culture heritage represents a source of resilience and knowledge for addressing key challenges, including poverty, providing quality education and climate change. Culture is who we are, where we have been, and where we are going. Development cannot be sustainable without it.

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HOW DOES THE CULTURE SECTOR WORK TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS?

- i. **Advocacy.** Through global advocacy and country-level flagship projects, UNESCO and its Member States supported the integration of culture into the 2030 Agenda. Through the Culture for Sustainable Urban Development Initiative, UNESCO also successfully advocated for a prominent place for culture in the New Urban Agenda, adopted at Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016,
- ii. **Policy frameworks and monitoring.** Culture: Urban Future, the UNESCO Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development, aims to promote a culture-based approach to urban planning, regeneration and development, while Re/Shaping Cultural Policies, the Global Monitoring Report for the 2005 Convention, assesses the contribution of cultural policies to the promotion of cultural diversity and development. World Heritage for Sustainable Development in Africa highlights opportunities for integrating the 2030 Agenda into regional and national heritage policies in Africa. Culture for the 2030 Agenda highlights the diverse ways in which UNESCO Member States are advancing the role of culture for sustainable development through a series of case studies.
- iii. **Network mobilization.** Through the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), UNESCO is mobilizing cities around a culture-centred model of sustainable development. At its 2018 Annual Meeting in Krakow and Katowice, the UCCN launched the LAB.2030 initiative, a collection of case studies that spotlight how Creative Cities are integrating culture into their local policies for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
- iv. **International cooperation.** UNESCO highlighted the role of culture for resilience, recovery and sustainable development in cities at the 9th World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2018. In December 2015, UNESCO organized an international conference with decision makers and policymakers on “Culture for Sustainable Cities” in Hangzhou, China. UNESCO is also collaborating with a wide network of international organizations (UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNFPA, etc.), the World Bank, NGOs, international experts and academia to integrate culture into sustainable development efforts.
- v. **Measurement tools.** UNESCO is working with the UNESCO Institute of Statistics to enhance its measurement tools on the impact of culture for sustainable development.

CULTURE AND THE 2030 AGENDA

KEY MESSAGES

-  **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, recognizes, for the first time, the essential role of culture as a driver of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
-  **With more than 50% of the world's population now living in urban areas** – a figure that is expected to climb to two-thirds by 2050 – cities are increasingly the arenas where our development efforts must be focused.
-  **Inspired by SDG 11 on sustainable cities**, UNESCO launched the groundbreaking report *Culture: Urban Future*, which presents a global survey of urban heritage safeguarding and the promotion of the cultural and creative industries, highlighting their role as resources for sustainable urban development.
-  **The cultural and creative industries are among the fastest growing in the world**, representing 30 million jobs worldwide. Global trade in creative goods more than doubled between 2004 and 2013, and today the creative economy contributes to 6.1% of the global economy, representing 4.3 trillion USD per year. The creative economy also employs more people ages 15 to 29 than any other sector. These industries can contribute not only to economic growth, but also to the empowerment of women, youth and other marginalized groups.
-  **Intercultural dialogue and respect for cultural diversity are powerful tools for reconciliation** and the creation of peaceful societies.
-  **Intangible culture heritage represents a source of resilience** and a deep well of knowledge for addressing the challenge of climate change.
-  **In short, culture is who we are**, where we have been, and where we are going. Development cannot be sustainable without it.

For more information, visit: <http://en.unesco.org/themes/culture-sustainable-development>