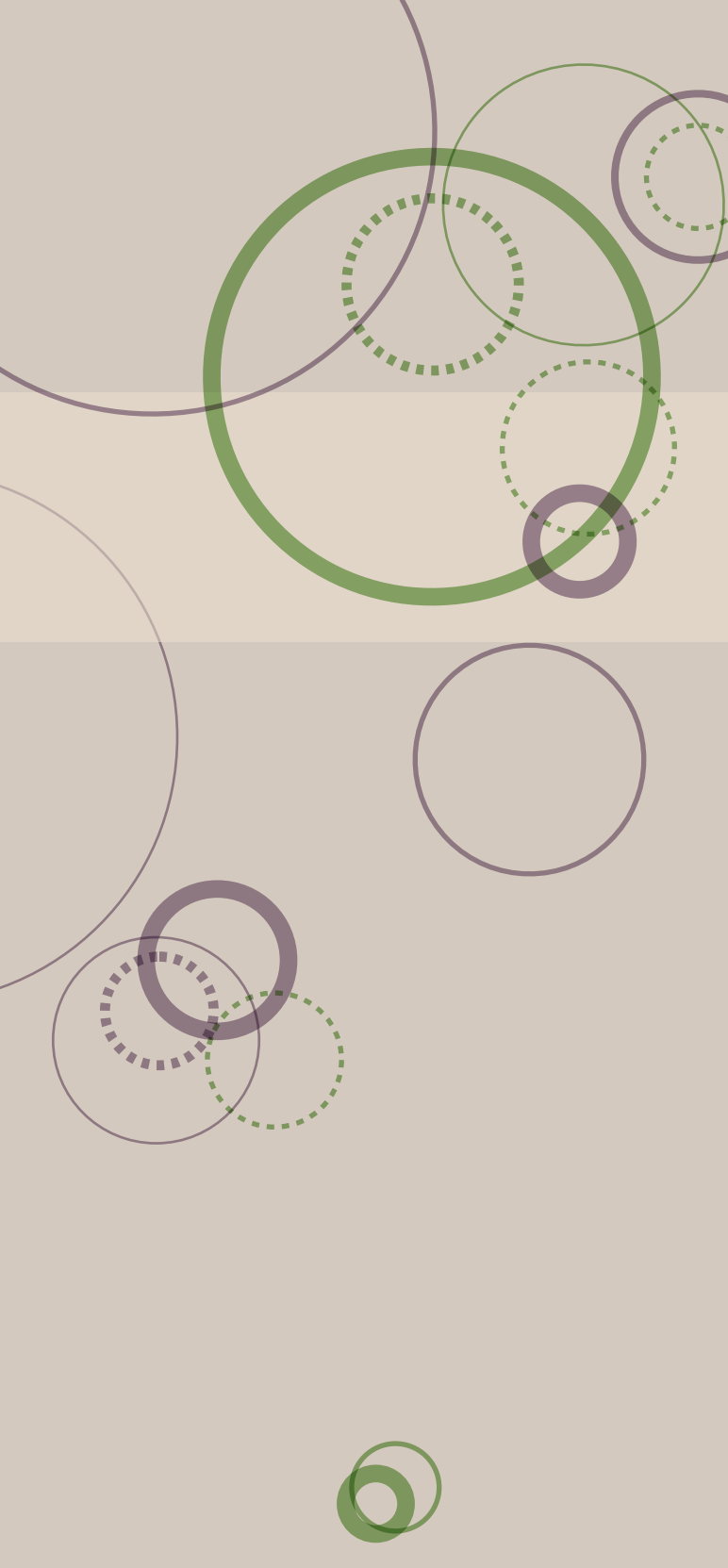




# ECHOING VOICES

CULTURAL DIVERSITY:  
A PATH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Tenth anniversary of the adoption of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity



# ECHOING VOICES

Tenth anniversary of the adoption of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity

# INTRODUCTION

## ***IRINA BOKOVA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL***

In 2001, the General Conference of UNESCO Member States unanimously adopted the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity.

This founding text was the first to acknowledge cultural diversity as “the common heritage of humanity”.

It is with great pride that UNESCO is commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration.

Commemorate – from the Latin *cum memorare* – means quite literally “to remember together” or “to remember with”.

We have compiled in this collection the voices of all those who have contributed to the heightening of human awareness by throwing into relief the inestimable value of cultural diversity. These excerpts from books, articles and statements by global intellectual and political leaders, artists and Nobel Prize-winners all call for the safeguarding of cultural diversity, which is inseparable from respect for human dignity. Their voices resound in bearing witness to the strength of cultural diversity and to its capacity to enlighten the minds of women and men. We are duty-bound to ensure that it is central to public policies and a resource for development and dialogue among nations.

The United Nations was born of the determination of men and women “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war...”. In accordance with that principle, UNESCO was established on a key idea, expressed at the very beginning of its Constitution: “... since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”.

In the world today, globalized, connected and interdependent as never before, this mission is more vital than ever. The rapprochement of peoples and cultures requires a commensurately global awareness. Cultural diversity has always been at the heart of international relations. It is also, increasingly, a feature of the contemporary mixed and plural societies in which we live. In view of this reality, we must formulate appropriate public policies and rethink the mechanisms of social cohesion and civic participation. How can we build common ground on the basis of such diversity? How can we construct genuine moral and intellectual solidarity of humanity?

Any new vision of humanism must be grounded itself in the dynamism and diversity of cultural heritage. It is a source of inspiration and knowledge to be shared and a means of broadening our horizons.

The goal of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity is to provide keys and benchmarks for capitalizing on this wealth. There can be no sustainable governance if cultural diversity is not acknowledged. There can be no economic and social development if specific features of every culture are belittled and ignored.

We are convinced that cultural diversity is a solid basis on which to build the common values of humanity and to devise the responses to present-day challenges. It is a source of innovation and renewal for our development approaches and models and for living together. We are far from having exhausted its potential.

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**THE GENERAL CONFERENCE,**  
Committed to the full implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments, such as the two International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political rights and to economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling that the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO affirms “that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern”,

Further recalling Article I of the Constitution, which assigns to UNESCO among other purposes that of recommending “such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image”,

Referring to the provisions relating to cultural diversity and the exercise of cultural rights in the international instruments enacted by UNESCO,

Reaffirming that culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs,

Noting that culture is at the heart of contemporary debates about identity, social cohesion, and the development of a knowledge-based economy,

Affirming that respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding are among the best guarantees of international peace and security,

Aspiring to greater solidarity on the basis of recognition of cultural diversity, of awareness of the unity of humankind, and of the development of intercultural exchanges,

Considering that the process of globalization, facilitated by the rapid development of new information and communication technologies, though representing a challenge for cultural diversity, creates the conditions for renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations,

Aware of the specific mandate which has been entrusted to UNESCO, within the United Nations system, to ensure the preservation and promotion of the fruitful diversity of cultures,

Proclaims the following principles and adopts the present Declaration:

**IDENTITY, DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM**

ARTICLE 1 – Cultural diversity: the common heritage of humanity  
Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.

ARTICLE 2 – From cultural diversity to cultural pluralism  
In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious interaction among people and groups with plural, varied and dynamic cultural identities as well as their willingness to live together. Policies for the inclusion and participation of all citizens are guarantees of social cohesion, the vitality of civil society and peace.  
Thus defined, cultural pluralism gives policy expression to the reality of cultural diversity.  
Indissociable from a democratic framework, cultural pluralism is conducive to cultural exchange and to the flourishing of creative capacities that sustain public life.

ARTICLE 3 – Cultural diversity as a factor in development  
Cultural diversity widens the range of options open to everyone; it is one of the roots of development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth, but also as a means to achieve a more satisfactory intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence.

**CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

ARTICLE 4 – Human rights as guarantees of cultural diversity  
The defence of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of indigenous peoples. No one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope.

ARTICLE 5 – Cultural rights as an enabling environment for cultural diversity  
Cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent.

The flourishing of creative diversity requires the full implementation of cultural rights as defined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Articles 13 and 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. All persons have therefore the right to express themselves and to create and disseminate their work in the language of their choice, and particularly in their mother tongue; all persons are entitled to quality education and training that fully respect their cultural identity; and all persons have the right to participate in the cultural life of their choice and conduct their own cultural practices, subject to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

ARTICLE 6 – Towards access for all to cultural diversity  
While ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image care should be exercised that all cultures can express themselves and make themselves known.  
Freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to art and to scientific and technological knowledge, including in digital form, and the possibility for all cultures to have access to the means of expression and dissemination are the guarantees of cultural diversity.

**CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY**

ARTICLE 7 – Cultural heritage as the wellspring of creativity  
Creation draws on the roots of cultural tradition, but flourishes in contact with other cultures.  
For this reason, heritage in all its forms must be preserved, enhanced and handed on to future generations as a record of human experience and aspirations, so as to foster creativity in all its diversity and to inspire genuine dialogue among cultures.

ARTICLE 8 – Cultural goods and services: commodities of a unique kind  
In the face of present-day economic and technological change, opening up vast prospects for creation and innovation, particular attention must be paid to the diversity of the supply of creative work, to due recognition of the rights of authors and artists and to the specificity of cultural goods and services which, as vectors of identity, values and meaning, must not be treated as mere commodities or consumer goods.

ARTICLE 9 – Cultural policies as catalysts of creativity  
While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of diversified cultural goods and services through cultural industries that have

the means to assert themselves at the local and global level. It is for each State, with due regard to its international obligations, to define its cultural policy and to implement it through the means it considers fit, whether by operational support or appropriate regulations.

**CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY**

ARTICLE 10 – Strengthening capacities for creation and dissemination worldwide  
In the face of current imbalances in flows and exchanges of cultural goods and services at the global level, it is necessary to reinforce international cooperation and solidarity aimed at enabling all countries, especially developing countries and countries in transition, to establish cultural industries that are viable and competitive at national and international level.

ARTICLE 11 – Building partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society  
Market forces alone cannot guarantee the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which is the key to sustainable human development. From this perspective, the pre-eminence of public policy, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, must be reaffirmed.

ARTICLE 12 – The role of UNESCO  
UNESCO, by virtue of its mandate and functions, has the responsibility to:  
a- Promote the incorporation of the principles set out in the present Declaration into the development strategies drawn up within the various intergovernmental bodies;  
b- Serve as a reference point and a forum where States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector may join together in elaborating concepts, objectives and policies in favour of cultural diversity;  
c- Pursue its activities in standard-setting, awareness-raising and capacity-building in the areas related to the present Declaration within its fields of competence;  
d- Facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan, the main lines of which are appended to the present Declaration.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE,  
Committed to the full implementation of the human rights and  
fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human  
Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments, such as the two  
International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political  
rights and to economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling that the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO affirms “that  
the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and  
liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a  
sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance  
and concern”,

Further recalling Article I of the Constitution, which assigns to UNESCO  
among other purposes that of recommending “such international  
agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word  
and image”,

Referring to the provisions relating to cultural diversity and the exercise of  
cultural rights in the international instruments enacted by UNESCO,

Reaffirming that culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive  
spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional values or ways of living together,  
ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs

Noting that culture is a space of freedom and diversity, a source of  
social cohesion, and that development of knowledge-based economy,

Affirming that respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and  
cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding, are among the  
best guarantees of international peace and security,

Aspiring to greater solidarity on the basis of recognition of cultural  
diversity, of awareness of the unity of humankind, and of the development  
of intercultural exchanges,

Considering that the process of globalization, through the rapid  
development of new information and communication technologies, though  
representing a challenge for cultural diversity, cannot be a source of  
renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations,

Aware of the specific mandate which has been entrusted to UNESCO within  
the United Nations system, to ensure the preservation and promotion of  
the fruitful diversity of cultures,

Proclaims the following principles and adopts the present Declaration:

IDENTITY, DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM

ARTICLE 1 – Cultural diversity, the common heritage of humanity  
Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied  
in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies  
making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity,  
cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for  
nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be  
recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.

ARTICLE 2 – From cultural diversity to cultural pluralism  
In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious  
interaction among people and groups with plural, varied and dynamic  
cultural identities as well as their willingness to live together. Policies  
for the inclusion and participation of all citizens are guarantees of social  
cohesion, the vitality of civil society and peace.  
Thus defined, cultural pluralism gives policy expression to the reality of  
cultural diversity.  
Indissociable from a democratic framework, cultural pluralism is conducive  
to cultural exchange and to the flourishing of creative capacities that  
sustain public life.

ARTICLE 3 – Cultural diversity as a factor in development  
Cultural diversity widens the range of options open to everyone; it is one  
of the roots of development, understood not simply in terms of economic  
growth but also in terms of sustainable development. It is a source of  
creativity, innovation and intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence.

RECALLING THAT THE PREAMBLE TO THE  
CONSTITUTION OF UNESCO AFFIRMS “[...] THAT THE WIDE  
DIFFUSION OF CULTURE, AND THE EDUCATION OF HUMANITY FOR  
JUSTICE AND LIBERTY AND PEACE ARE  
INDISPENSABLE TO THE DIGNITY OF MAN  
AND CONSTITUTE A SACRED DUTY WHICH  
ALL THE NATIONS MUST FULFIL IN A SPIRIT  
OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND CONCERN”

ARTICLE 4 – Human rights as guarantees of cultural diversity  
The right to the highest attainable standard of health is an ethical imperative, inseparable from  
respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and  
fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to  
minorities and those of indigenous peoples. No one may invoke cultural  
diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law,  
including the rights and interests of minorities.  
ARTICLE 5 – Enabling environment for cultural diversity  
Cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal,  
indivisible and interdependent.

The flourishing of creative activities, which is the basis of the development of  
cultural rights as defined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human  
Rights and in the Universal Declaration of Cultural Rights, requires the  
fulfilment of the rights of all persons to participate in the cultural life of the  
community, to enjoy their own and others' cultural heritage and to engage in  
Social and Cultural Rights. All persons have therefore the right to express  
themselves and to create and disseminate their work in the language  
of their choice, and particularly in their mother tongue; all persons are  
entitled to quality education and training that fully respect their cultural  
identity; and all persons have the right to participate in the cultural life of  
their choice and to enjoy their own and others' cultural heritage.  
The fulfilment of these rights is essential to the realization of the  
human rights and fundamental freedoms.

I was born in Bulgaria, where the mountains, the valleys and the peoples have shaped geographical and human  
landscapes of a deep richness and great variety. I belong to the post-war generation. It is also the generation that founded  
UNESCO. I know what it means to live in a multicultural, multi-religious and multi-ethnic community. I know what respect and  
tolerance are. In the cities of Bulgaria, such as Sofia and Plovdiv, which are among the most multicultural cities of South-East  
Europe, it is natural to see an Orthodox church, a mosque, a synagogue and a Catholic church side by side, merely a few dozens  
of metres apart. I have experienced such an open and peaceful climate, such respect among beliefs, from childhood.

ARTICLE 6 – The free flow of ideas by word and image  
While ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image care should be  
exercised that all cultures can express themselves and make themselves  
known.  
Freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to  
art and to scientific and technological knowledge, including in digital form,

For these reasons, I stand against the theory of the clash of civilizations. To my mind, the  
concept of civilization is embedded in the very principle of human community. The same sap  
flows through the trunk and the branches of the tree of humanity. Cultures, for their part,  
are the countless forms of expression that our civilization can take: all cultures flow into  
the same river, that of human civilization. In the long thread of history, cultures have always  
mingled, enriched and influenced each other. There are no fault lines between cultures, all  
ready to trigger shocks and conflicts. An affirmation, to the contrary, is tantamount to  
imputing ulterior motives to humanity.

IRINA BOKOVA  
I, in full agreement with UNESCO's position, refute that theory. My vision is quite different, because I believe that we are  
naturally bound by our status as human beings, that we all have the same dreams of happiness and prosperity and that we  
know full well that such dreams can come true only if there is peace.

ARTICLE 8 – Cultural goods and services: commodities of a unique kind  
In the face of present-day economic and technological change, opening  
up vast prospects for creation and innovation, particular attention must  
be paid to the protection of the intellectual property of authors and artists and to the specificity of cultural goods  
and services which, as vectors of identity, values and meaning, must not be  
treated as mere commodities or goods of mass consumption.  
ARTICLE 9 – Cultural policies as catalysts of creativity  
While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies  
must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of  
diversified cultural goods and services, and to the development of the  
cultural industries.  
ARTICLE 10 – Strengthening capacities for creation and dissemination  
of cultural goods and services  
While ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image, and while  
cooperation and solidarity aimed at enabling all countries, especially  
developing countries, to benefit from the advances in the cultural  
sector and civil society  
ARTICLE 11 – Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage  
In order to ensure the viability of intangible cultural heritage, States  
should take measures to ensure its recognition, respect, protection and  
transmission to future generations.  
ARTICLE 12 – The role of UNESCO  
In view of its mandate and functions, has the responsibility to:  
a- Promote the incorporation of the principles set out in the present  
Declaration into the development strategies drawn up within the various  
countries;  
b- Serve as a reference point and a forum where States, international  
governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the  
private sector may join together in elaborating concepts, objectives and  
policies in favour of cultural diversity;  
c- Pursue its activities in standard-setting, awareness-raising and capacity-  
building in order to contribute to the development of the cultural  
sector and civil society.  
The commitment to peace is built day after day in the minds of people. It is built through exchange and dialogue. I  
believe deep down that dialogue among cultures is the most appropriate response to the so-called “clash of civilizations”.

We know that such cultural diversity is what makes us rich. It is also our future.

Cultural diversity and dialogue among cultures contribute to the emergence of a new humanism in which the global  
and local are reconciled and through which we learn anew to build our world.



**THE GENERAL CONFERENCE,**  
Committed to the full implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments, such as the two International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political rights and to economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling that the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO affirms “that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern”,

Further recalling Article I of the Constitution, which assigns to UNESCO among other purposes that of recommending “such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image”,

Referring to the provisions relating to cultural diversity and the exercise of cultural rights in the international instruments enacted by UNESCO,

Reaffirming that culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs,

Noting that culture is at the heart of contemporary debates about identity, social cohesion, and the development of a knowledge-based economy,

Affirming that respect for the diversity of cultures and peoples, and the cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding, are among the best guarantees of international peace and security,

Aspiring to greater solidarity on the basis of recognition of cultural diversity, of awareness of the unity of humankind, and of the development of intercultural exchanges,

Considering that the process of globalization, facilitated by the rapid development of new information and communication technologies, though representing a challenge for cultural diversity, creates the conditions for renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations,

Aware of the specific mandate which has been entrusted to UNESCO, within the United Nations system, to ensure the preservation and promotion of the fruitful diversity of cultures,

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**IDENTITY, DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM**

ARTICLE 1 – Cultural diversity, the common heritage of humanity  
Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and aspired for the benefit of present and future generations.

ARTICLE 2 – From cultural diversity to cultural pluralism  
In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious interaction among people and groups with plural, varied and dynamic cultural identities as well as their willingness to live together. Policies for the inclusion and participation of all citizens are essential to social cohesion, the vitality of civil society and peace.  
Thus defined, cultural pluralism gives policy expression to the reality of cultural diversity.  
Indissociable from a democratic framework, cultural pluralism is conducive to cultural exchange and to the flourishing of creative capacities that sustain public life.

ARTICLE 3 – Cultural diversity as a factor in development  
Cultural diversity widens the range of options open to everyone; it is one of the roots of development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth, but also as a means to achieve a more satisfactory intellectual, creative, moral and spiritual existence.

**ARTICLE 4 – CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

ARTICLE 4 – Cultural rights as an enabling environment for cultural diversity  
The defence of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of indigenous peoples. No one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope.

ARTICLE 5 – Cultural rights as an enabling environment for cultural diversity  
Cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent.

The flourishing of creative diversity requires the full implementation of cultural rights as defined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Articles 13 and 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. All persons have therefore the right to express themselves and to create and disseminate their work in the language of their choice, and particularly in their mother tongue. All persons are entitled to quality education and training that fully reflect their cultural identity; and all persons have the right to participate in the life of their community and to conduct their own cultural practices, subject to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

ARTICLE 6 – Towards access for all to cultural diversity  
While ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image care should be exercised that all cultures can express themselves and make themselves known.  
Freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to art and to scientific and technological knowledge, including in digital form, and the possibility for all cultures to have access to the means of expression and dissemination are the guarantees of cultural diversity.

**CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY**

ARTICLE 7 – Cultural heritage as the wellspring of creativity  
Creation draws on the roots of cultural traditions and on creative dialogue with other cultures.  
For this reason, heritage in all its forms must be preserved, enhanced and handed on to future generations as a record of human experience and aspirations, so as to foster creativity in all its forms and to initiate a genuine dialogue among cultures.

ARTICLE 8 – Cultural goods and services: commodities of a unique kind  
In the face of present-day economic and technological change opening up vast prospects for creation and innovation, it is essential that adequate be paid to the diversity of the supply of cultural goods and services, of the rights of authors and artists and to the specificity of cultural goods and services which, as vectors of identity, values and meaning, must not be treated as mere commodities or consumer goods.

ARTICLE 9 – Cultural policies as catalysts of creativity  
While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of diversified cultural goods and services through cultural industries that have

the means to assert themselves at the local and global level. It is for each State, with due regard to its international obligations, to define its cultural policy and to implement it through the means it considers fit, whether by operational support or appropriate regulations.

Aspiring to greater solidarity on the basis of recognition of cultural diversity, of awareness of the unity of humankind, and of the development of intercultural exchanges,

ARTICLE 10 – Strengthening capacities for creation and dissemination worldwide  
In the face of current imbalances in flows and exchanges of cultural goods and services at the global level, it is necessary to reinforce international cooperation and solidarity aimed at enabling all countries, especially developing countries and countries in transition, to establish cultural industries that are viable and competitive at national and international level.

ARTICLE 11 – Building partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society  
Market forces alone cannot guarantee the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which is the key to sustainable human development. From this perspective, the pre-eminence of public policy, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, must be reaffirmed.

ARTICLE 12 – The role of UNESCO  
UNESCO, by virtue of its mandate and functions, has the responsibility to:  
a- Promote the incorporation of the principles set out in the present Declaration to the development strategies drawn up within the various inter-governmental bodies;  
b- Serve as a reference point and a forum where States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector may join together in elaborating concepts, objectives and policies in favour of cultural diversity;  
c- Support and assist States in their efforts to raise awareness-raising and capacity-building in the areas related to the present Declaration within its fields of competence;  
d- Facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan, the main lines of which are set out in the present Declaration.

Considering that **THE PROCESS OF GLOBALIZATION, facilitated by the rapid development of new information and communication technologies, though representing a challenge for cultural diversity, CREATES THE CONDITIONS FOR RENEWED DIALOGUE AMONG CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS, Aware of the specific mandate which has been entrusted to UNESCO, within the United Nations system, to ensure the preservation and promotion of the fruitful diversity of cultures, Proclaims the following principles and adopts the present Declaration:**

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE,

Committed to the full implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments, such as the two International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political rights and to economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling that the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO affirms “that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern”,

Further recalling Article I of the Constitution, which assigns to UNESCO among other purposes that of recommending “such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image”,

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Noting that culture is at the heart of contemporary debates about identity, social cohesion, and the development of a knowledge-based economy,

Affirming that respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding are among the best guarantees of international peace and security,

Aspiring to greater solidarity and to the full realization of the diversity, of awareness of the unity of humankind, and of the development of intercultural exchanges,

Considering that the process of globalization, facilitated by the rapid development of new information and communication technologies, though representing a challenge for cultural diversity, creates the conditions for renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations,

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Proclaims the following principles and adopts the present Declaration:

IDENTITY, DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM

ARTICLE 1 – Cultural diversity; the common heritage of humanity  
Cultural diversity exists across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.

ARTICLE 2 – From cultural diversity to cultural pluralism  
In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious interaction among people and groups with plural, varied and dynamic cultural identities as well as their willingness to live together. Policies for the inclusion and participation of all citizens are guarantees of social cohesion, the vitality of civil society and peace.

Thus defined, cultural pluralism gives policy expression to the reality of cultural diversity. In the modern democratic framework, cultural pluralism is conducive to cultural diversity and to the flourishing of creative capacities that sustain life.

ARTICLE 3 – Cultural diversity as a factor in development  
Cultural diversity widens the range of options open to everyone; it is one of the roots of development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth, but also as a means to achieve a more satisfactory intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence.

CREATING A CULTURE OF PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ARTICLE 4 – Cultural diversity and human rights  
The defence of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of indigenous peoples. No one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope.

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The defence of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of indigenous peoples. No one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope.

ARTICLE 5 – Cultural rights as an enabling environment for cultural diversity  
Cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent.

The flourishing of creative diversity requires the full implementation of cultural rights as defined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Articles 13 and 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. All persons have therefore the right to express themselves and to freely decide to create their work in the language of their choice, and particularly in their mother tongue; all persons are entitled to quality education and training that fully respect their cultural identity; and all persons have the right to participate in the cultural life of their choice and conduct their own cultural practices, subject to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

ARTICLE 6 – Towards access for all to cultural diversity  
While ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image care should be exercised that all cultures can express themselves and make themselves known.

Freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to art and to scientific and technological knowledge, including in digital form, and dissemination are the guarantees of cultural diversity.

ARTICLE 7 – Cultural diversity and creativity  
We have yet to meet the challenge posed by the Charter of the United Nations: to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. In considering how to achieve this supreme goal, we have come to realize that sending peacekeeping forces to separate warring parties is not enough. Nor is it even enough to conduct preventive diplomacy. We need to act at a deeper level for the prevention of conflicts before they arise. We need a culture of peace.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY

ARTICLE 8 – Cultural diversity and the creative economy  
The first and fundamental principle of such a culture must be tolerance. This means welcoming and celebrating the differences that make our planet such a varied and richly textured place.

For this reason, heritage in all its forms must be preserved, enhanced and handed on to future generations as a record of human experience and aspiration. We must also broaden our view of what is meant by peace and security. Peace means much more than the absence of war. Human security can no longer be understood in purely military terms. Rather, it must encompass economic development, social justice, environmental protection, democratization, disarmament, and respect for human rights and the rule of law. Many of these pillars of peace can be identified through the process of dialogue across cultures that is the essential component of a culture of peace.

ARTICLE 9 – Cultural policies as catalysts of creativity  
In the face of present-day economic and technological change, opening up vast prospects for creation and innovation, particular attention must be paid to the protection of the rights of authors and artists and to the specificity of cultural goods and services which, as vectors of identity, values and meaning, must not be assimilated to consumer goods.

ARTICLE 9 – Cultural policies as catalysts of creativity  
While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of diversified cultural goods and services through cultural industries that have

the means to assert themselves at the local and global level. It is for each State, with due regard to its international obligations, to define its cultural policy and to implement it through the means it considers fit, whether by operational support or appropriate regulations.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

ARTICLE 10 – Strengthening capacities for creation and dissemination worldwide  
In the face of current imbalances in flows and exchanges of cultural goods and services at the global level, it is necessary to reinforce international cooperation and solidarity aimed at enabling all countries, especially developing countries and countries in transition, to establish cultural industries that are viable and competitive at national and international level.

ARTICLE 11 – Building partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society  
Markets alone cannot guarantee the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which is the key to sustainable human development. From this perspective, the pre-eminence of public policy, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, must be reaffirmed.

ARTICLE 12 – The role of UNESCO  
In fulfilment of its mandate and functions, has the responsibility to:  
a- Promote the incorporation of the principles set out in the present Declaration into the development strategies drawn up within the various intergovernmental bodies;  
b- Serve as a reference point and a forum where States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the media may join together in elaborating concepts, objectives and policies in favour of cultural diversity;  
c- Pursue its activities in standard-setting, awareness-raising and capacity-building in areas related to the present Declaration within its fields of competence;  
d- Facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan, the main lines of which are set out in the present Declaration.



Aware of the specific mandate which has been entrusted to UNESCO, within the United Nations system, to ensure the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of humankind, and that the cultural heritage of humankind, in this sense, is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations;

it denotes as many specific and non-transmissible lifestyles perceptible in the form of tangible embodiments - techniques, mores, customs, institutions and beliefs - rather than virtual

if culture is reflected only in prodigiously diverse forms illustrated, each in its own manner, by the thousands of societies that exist or have existed on earth, are all these forms equivalent or are they open to value judgements, which, in the affirmative, will inevitably not affect the meaning of the notion itself?

While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of diversified cultural goods and services and foster participation by all in cultural life. For its part, UNESCO has always recognized that

overcome it in the first instance without also addressing it in the other, given that the respect we wish to obtain from individual human beings towards cultures different from theirs is but one particular case of the respect they should feel for all forms of life.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE,  
Committed to the full implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments, such as the two International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political rights and to economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling that the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO affirms “that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern”,

Further recalling Article I of the Constitution, which assigns to UNESCO among other purposes that of recommending “such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image”,

Referring to the provisions relating to cultural diversity and the exercise of cultural rights in the international instruments enacted by UNESCO,

Reaffirming that culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs,

Noting that culture is at the heart of contemporary debates about identity, social cohesion, and the development of a knowledge-based economy,

Affirming that respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding are among the best guarantees of international peace and security,

Aspiring to greater solidarity on the basis of recognition of cultural diversity, of awareness of the unity of humankind, and of the development of intercultural exchanges,

Considering that the process of globalization, facilitated by the rapid development of new information and communication technologies, though representing a challenge for cultural diversity, creates the conditions for renewed dialogue among cultures and peoples,

Aware of the specific mandate which has been entrusted to UNESCO within the United Nations system, to ensure the preservation and promotion of the fruitful diversity of cultures,

Proclaims the following principles and adopts the present Declaration:

IDENTITY, DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM

ARTICLE 1 – Cultural diversity: the common heritage of humanity  
Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.

ARTICLE 2 – From cultural diversity to cultural pluralism  
In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious interaction among people and groups with their varied and dynamic cultural identities as well as their willingness to live together. Policies for the inclusion and participation of all citizens are essential for social cohesion, the vitality of civil society and peace. Thus defined, cultural pluralism gives policy expression to the reality of cultural diversity. Indissociable from a democratic framework, cultural pluralism is conducive to cultural exchange and to the flourishing of creative capacities that sustain public life.

ARTICLE 3 – Cultural diversity as a factor in development  
Cultural diversity widens the range of options open to everyone; it is one of the roots of development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth, but also as a means to achieve a more satisfactory intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence.

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE HARMONIOUS  
INTERACTION AMONG PEOPLE AND GROUPS  
WITH PLURAL, VARIED AND DYNAMIC  
CULTURAL IDENTITIES AS WELL AS THEIR  
WILLINGNESS TO LIVE TOGETHER.

ARTICLE 4 – Human rights as guarantees of cultural diversity  
Cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of indigenous peoples. No one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon the rights guaranteed by international law, to discriminate or to promote intolerance.

ARTICLE 5 – Cultural rights as an enabling environment for cultural diversity  
Cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent.

ARTICLE 2  
FROM CULTURAL DIVERSITY  
TO CULTURAL  
PLURALISM

The flourishing of creative diversity requires the full implementation of cultural rights as defined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Articles 13 and 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. All persons have therefore the right to express themselves and to create and disseminate their work in the language of their choice and particularly in their mother tongue; all persons are entitled to quality education and training that fully respect their cultural identity; and all persons have the right to participate in the cultural life of their choice and conduct their own cultural practices, subject to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

ARTICLE 6 – Towards access for all to cultural diversity  
While ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image, States should be exercised that all cultures can express themselves and make themselves known. Freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, unequal access to art and to scientific and technological knowledge, including in digital form, and the possibility for all cultures to have access to the means of expression and dissemination are the guarantees of cultural diversity.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY

ARTICLE 7 – Cultural heritage as the wellspring of creativity  
Creative traditions on the roots of cultural tradition, but not when contact with other cultures. For this reason, heritage in all its forms must be preserved, enhanced and handed on to future generations as a record of human experience and aspirations, so as to foster creativity in all its diversity and to inspire genuine dialogue among cultures.

ARTICLE 8 – Cultural goods and services as commodities of a unique kind  
In the face of present-day economic and technological change, opening up vast prospects for creation and innovation, particular attention must be paid to the diversity of the supply of creative works to ensure recognition of the right of authors and artists and to the specificity of cultural goods and services which, as vectors of identity values and meaning, must not be treated as mere commodities or consumer goods.

ARTICLE 9 – Cultural policies as catalysts of creativity  
While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of diversified cultural goods and services through cultural industries that have

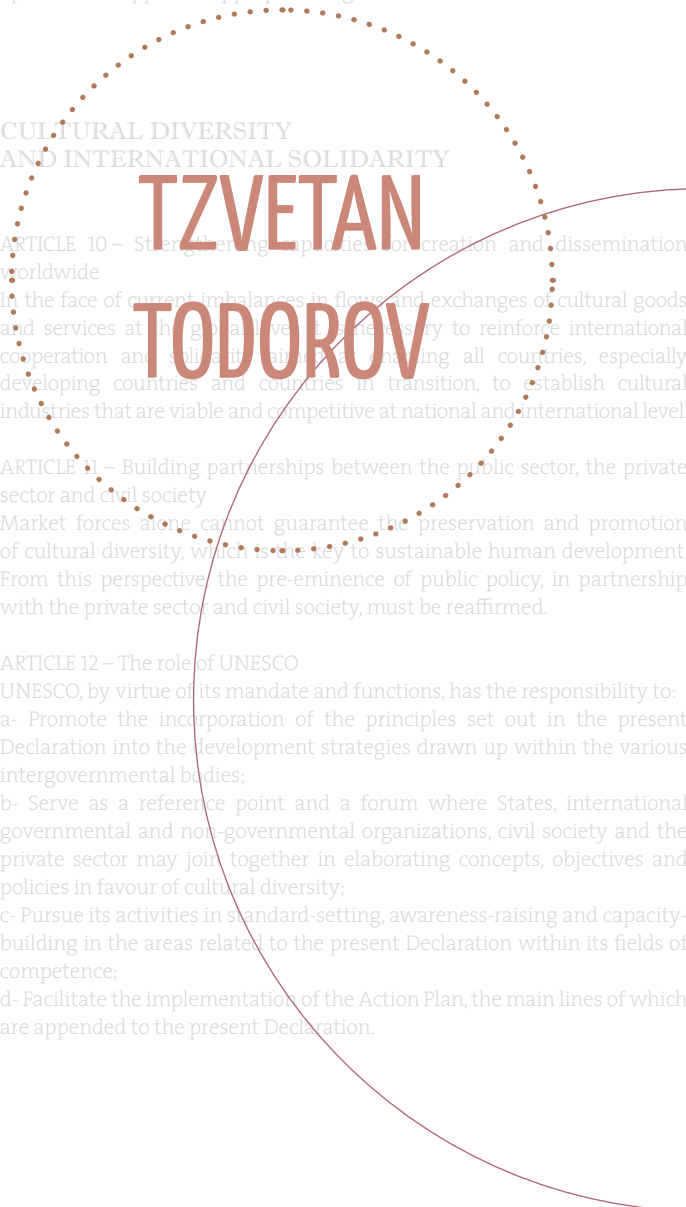
the means to assert themselves at the local and global level. It is for each State, with due regard to its international obligations, to define its cultural policy and to implement it through the means it considers fit, whether by operational support or appropriate regulations.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY  
AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

ARTICLE 10 – Strengthening capacities for creation and dissemination worldwide  
In the face of current imbalances in flows and exchanges of cultural goods and services at the global level, it is necessary to reinforce international cooperation and solidarity among all countries, especially developing countries and countries in transition, to establish cultural industries that are viable and competitive at national and international level.

ARTICLE 11 – Building partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society  
Market forces alone cannot guarantee the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which is the key to sustainable human development. From this perspective, the pre-eminence of public policy, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, must be reaffirmed.

ARTICLE 12 – The role of UNESCO  
UNESCO, by virtue of its mandate and functions, has the responsibility to:  
a- Promote the incorporation of the principles set out in the present Declaration into the development strategies drawn up within the various intergovernmental bodies;  
b- Serve as a reference point and a forum where States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector may join together in elaborating concepts, objectives and policies in favour of cultural diversity;  
c- Pursue its activities in standard-setting, awareness-raising and capacity-building in the areas related to the present Declaration within its fields of competence;  
d- Facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan, the main lines of which are appended to the present Declaration.





**THE GENERAL CONFERENCE,**  
Committed to the full implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments, such as the two International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political rights and to economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling that the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO affirms “that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern”,

Further recalling Article I of the Constitution, which assigns to UNESCO among other purposes that of recommending “such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image”,

Referring to the provisions relating to cultural diversity and the exercise of cultural rights in the international instruments enacted by UNESCO,

Reaffirming that culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, the ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs,

Noting that culture is at the heart of contemporary debates about identity, social cohesion, and the development of a knowledge-based economy,

Affirming that respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance and cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding are among the best guarantees of international peace and security,

Aspiring to greater solidarity on the basis of recognition of cultural diversity, of awareness of the unity of humankind, and of the development of intercultural exchanges,

Considering that the process of globalization, facilitated by the rapid development of new information and communication technologies, while representing a challenge for cultural diversity, creates the conditions for renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations,

Aware of the specific mandate which has been entrusted to UNESCO, within the United Nations system, to ensure the preservation and promotion of the fruitful diversity of cultures,  
Indissociable from a democratic framework, cultural pluralism is conducive to cultural exchange and to the flourishing of creative capacities that sustain public life.

**IDENTITY, DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM**

**ARTICLE 1 – Cultural diversity: the common heritage of humanity**  
Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.

**ARTICLE 2 – From cultural diversity to cultural pluralism**  
In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious interaction among people and groups with plural, varied and dynamic cultural identities as well as their willingness to live together. Policies for the inclusion and participation of all citizens are guarantees of social cohesion, the vitality of civil society and peace. Thus defined, cultural pluralism gives policy expression to the reality of cultural diversity.

In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious interaction among people and groups with plural, varied and dynamic cultural identities as well as their willingness to live together.

**ARTICLE 3 – Cultural diversity as a factor in development**  
Cultural diversity widens the range of options open to everyone; it is one of the roots of development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth, but also as a means to achieve a more satisfactory intellectual, social and spiritual existence.

**CITIZENS ARE GUARANTEES**

**OF SOCIAL COHESION, THE**

**VITALITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

**AND PEACE. THUS DEFINED,**

**CULTURAL PLURALISM GIVES**

**POLICY EXPRESSION TO**

**THE REALITY OF CULTURAL**

**DIVERSITY.**

As guarantees of cultural diversity

The defence of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of indigenous peoples. No one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope.

**ARTICLE 5 – Cultural rights as an enabling environment for cultural diversity**  
Cultural rights are inseparable from human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent.

The flourishing of creative diversity requires the full implementation of cultural rights as defined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Articles 13 and 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. All persons have therefore the right to express themselves and to create and disseminate their work in the language of their choice, and particularly in their mother tongue; to participate in the life of their community, to create and to develop their own identity; and all persons have the right to participate in the cultural life of their choice and conduct their own cultural practices, subject to state and human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**ARTICLE 6 – Towards access for all to cultural diversity**  
While ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image care should be exercised that all cultures can express themselves and make themselves known. Freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to, and the scientific and technological knowledge, including in digital form, and the possibility for all cultures to have access to the means of production and dissemination are the guarantees of cultural diversity.

**LOURDES ARIZPE**

**CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY**

**ARTICLE 7 – Cultural heritage as the wellspring of creativity**  
Creation draws on the roots of cultural tradition, but flourishes in contact with other cultures.

For this reason, heritage in all its forms must be preserved, protected and handed on to future generations as a record of human experience and aspirations, so as to foster creativity in all its diversity and to inspire genuine dialogue among cultures.

**ARTICLE 8 – Cultural goods and services: commodities of a unique nature**  
In the face of present-day economic and technological change, opening up vast prospects for creation and innovation, particular attention must be paid to the diversity of the supply of creative work, to the protection of the rights of authors and artists and to the specificity of cultural goods and services which, as vectors of identity, values and meaning, must not be treated as mere commodities or consumer goods.

**ARTICLE 9 – Cultural policies as catalysts of creativity**  
While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of diversified cultural goods and services through cultural industries that have

The outworn metaphor of the 'mosaic of cultures' or the 'global cultural mosaic' no longer describes different peoples' cultural preferences as they enter the world of the twenty-first century. Cultures are no longer the fixed, bounded, crystallized containers they were formerly reputed to be. Instead they are transboundary creations exchanged throughout the world via the media and the Internet. We must now regard culture as a process rather than as a finished product.

**ARTICLE 10 – Strengthening capacities for creation and dissemination**  
If cultural diversity is an irrepressible manifestation of the inventiveness of the human spirit, the creation of difference is equally inexorable. Yet the manner in which such difference is defined and acted upon by governments and social custom determines whether it is to lead to greater overall social creativity or else to violence and exclusion.

**ARTICLE 11 – Building partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society**  
We argue that the acknowledgement, approval and even celebration of diversity, while it does not imply relativism, does imply pluralism. Cultural pluralism here refers to the way in which different nation-states, civil groups and national and international institutions understand and organize cultural diversity. No policy prescription can be readymade in this respect; such an exploration has to be made in terms of the culturally-diverse histories of all countries.

**ARTICLE 12 – The role of UNESCO**  
UNESCO has the honour and the responsibility to:  
a- Promote the recognition of the international status of the present Declaration into the development strategies drawn up within the various regions of the world;  
b- Serve as a reference point and a forum where States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector may coordinate their efforts to achieve common objectives and policies in favour of cultural diversity;  
c- Pursue its activities in standard-setting, awareness-raising and capacity-building in its fields of competence;  
d- Facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan, the main lines of which are appended to the present Declaration.

Cultural pluralism means granting cultural groups the right to diversity in the public sphere, and this may involve separating the question of the loyalty and attachment of people living in the same national territory from that of their rights as citizens.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO, COMMITTED TO THE full implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling that the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO affirms "that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace, are essential to the well-being of the world; and that the sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern",

Further recalling Article I of the Constitution which assigns to UNESCO among other purposes that of recommending such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image",

Referring to the various international instruments enacted by UNESCO concerning cultural rights in the field of cultural diversity,

Reaffirming that culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society (or a social group) and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, and moral attitudes and ethical norms,

Noting that culture is at the heart of contemporary debates about identity, social cohesion and the role of the State,

Affirming that respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding are among the best guarantees of international peace and security,

Aspiring to the full realization of the right of everyone to the highest attainable level of diversity of awareness of the unity of humankind and of the development of intercultural exchanges,

Considering that the process of globalization, facilitated by the rapid development of new information and communication technologies, though representing a challenge to cultural diversity, also offers an opportunity for renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations,

Aware of the specific role of UNESCO in the promotion and protection of the United Nations system to ensure the preservation and promotion of the fruitful diversity of cultures,

Proclaims the following principles and objectives:

We are by definition complicated beings. That is the general rule for any society but one that is particularly applicable in the case of societies where complex layers of sediment have been laid down as a result of the inequalities of colonial life. Not everything was negative, far from it. The hybridization of which we are the outcome has achievements and positive values to its credit wherein the West and Europe also had their share.

The Abbe Grégoire, Victor Schoelcher - and all those who spoke out and still speak out, who campaigned for human rights without distinction of race and against discrimination, these were my guides in life. They stand forever as representatives of the West's great outpouring of magnanimity and solidarity, an essential contribution to the advancement of the ideas of practical universality and human values, ideas without which the world of today would not be able to see its way forward. I am forever a brother to them, at one with them in their struggle and in their hopes.

I believe in the redeeming power of words, but not without love and humanism. I really do believe in human beings. And I find something of myself in all cultures. We are all taking part in the same great adventure. That is what is meant by cultures, cultures that come together at some meeting-point.

We have never regarded our specificity [negritude] as the opposite or antithesis of universality. It seemed to us or at least to me to be very important to go on searching for our identity but at the same time to reject narrow nationalism. Our concern has always been a humanist concern and we wanted it to have roots. We wanted to have roots and at the same time to communicate. I think it was in a passage in Hegel that we found this idea about specificity. He points out that the particular and the universal are not to be seen as opposites, that the universal is not the negation of the particular but is reached by a deeper exploration of the particular.

The West told us that in order to be universal we had to start by denying that we were black. I, on the contrary, said to myself that the more we were black, the more universal we would be. It was a totally different approach. It was not a choice between alternatives, but an effort at reconciliation. The identity in question was an identity reconciled with the universal. For me, there can never be any imprisonment within an identity.

Identity means having roots, but it is also a transition, a transition to the universal.

Nature and history have placed us at the crossroads of two worlds, of two cultures, if not more. And so I have tried to reconcile those two worlds, because that was what had to be done.

I believe in the importance of exchange, and exchange can only take place on the basis of mutual respect.

UNESCO UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY ADOPTED BY THE 31<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO, PARIS, 2 NOVEMBER 2001

Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be regarded as such.

ARTICLE 2 – From cultural diversity to cultural pluralism

It is the vitality of cultural diversity, the interaction among people and groups with plural, varied and dynamic cultural identities as well as their willingness to live together. Policies for the inclusion and participation of all citizens are guarantees of social cohesion, the vitality of civil society and peace. Thus defined, cultural pluralism gives policy expression to the reality of diversity. In a democratic framework, cultural pluralism is conducive to cultural exchange and to the flourishing of creative capacities that sustain public life.

ARTICLE 3 – Cultural diversity as a factor in development

Cultural diversity is one of the roots of development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth, but also as a means to achieve a more satisfactory intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual development of individuals and societies.

ARTICLE 4 – Human rights as guarantees of cultural diversity

The defence of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of indigenous peoples. No one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope.

ARTICLE 5 – Cultural rights as an enabling environment for cultural diversity

Cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent. They are essential for the full development and well-being of the individual and the community and are as such the concern of all. They must be protected and encouraged as the means of promoting the fruits of cultural diversity to all.

The flourishing of creative diversity requires the full implementation of the means to assert themselves at the local and global level. It is for each country, with due regard to its international obligations, to define its cultural policy and to implement it through the means it considers fit, whether by legislative, administrative, financial, operational support or appropriate regulations.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY WIDENS THE RANGE OF OPTIONS OPEN TO EVERYONE; IT IS ONE OF THE ROOTS OF DEVELOPMENT, UNDERSTOOD AS A MEANS TO ACHIEVE A MORE SATISFACTORY INTELLECTUAL, EMOTIONAL, MORAL AND SPIRITUAL EXISTENCE.

ARTICLE 6 – Towards access for all to cultural heritage

While ensuring the free flow of ideas by cultural exchanges, States should be exercised that all cultures can express themselves and make themselves known. Freedom of expression, development of pluralism, universal access to art and to scientific and technological knowledge, including in digital form, and the availability of cultural goods and services are essential for the expression and dissemination of the plurality of cultural diversity.

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY

ARTICLE 7 – Cultural heritage as the wellspring of creativity

Creation draws on the roots of cultural tradition, but flourishes in contact with other cultures. For this reason, heritage in all its forms must be preserved, enhanced and handed on to future generations as a record of human experience and aspirations, so as to foster creativity in all its diversity and to inspire genuine dialogue among cultures.

ARTICLE 8 – Cultural goods and services: commodities of a unique kind

In the face of present-day economic and technological change, opening up vast prospects for creation and innovation, particular attention must be paid to the diversity of the supply of creative work, to due recognition of the rights of authors and artists and to the specificity of cultural goods and services which, as vectors of identity, values and meaning, must not be treated as mere commodities or consumer goods.

ARTICLE 9 – Cultural policies as catalysts of creativity

While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of diversified cultural goods and services through cultural industries that

ARTICLE 10 – Strengthening capacities for creation and dissemination

Worldwide, in the face of current imbalances in flows and exchanges of cultural goods and services, it is necessary to reinforce international cooperation and solidarity aimed at enabling all countries, especially developing countries and countries in transition, to establish cultural industries that are viable and competitive at national and international level.

ARTICLE 11 – Building partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society

Market forces alone cannot guarantee the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which is the key to sustainable human development. From this perspective, the pre-eminence of public policy, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, must be reaffirmed.

ARTICLE 12 – The role of UNESCO

UNESCO, by virtue of its mandate and functions, has the responsibility to:

- a- Promote the incorporation of the principles set out in the present Declaration into the development strategies drawn up within the various intergovernmental bodies;
- b- Serve as a reference point for formulating policies, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector may join together in elaborating concepts, objectives and policies in favour of cultural diversity;
- c- Pursue its activities in standard-setting, awareness-raising and capacity-building in the areas related to the present Declaration within its fields of competence;

ARTICLE 13 – Implementation of the Action Plan, the main lines of which are appended to the present Declaration.

AS A MEANS TO ACHIEVE A MORE SATISFACTORY INTELLECTUAL, EMOTIONAL, MORAL AND SPIRITUAL EXISTENCE.

**THE GENERAL CONFERENCE,**  
Committed to the full implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments, such as the two International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political rights and to economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling that the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO affirms “that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern”,

Further recalling Article I of the Constitution, which assigns to UNESCO among other purposes that of recommending “such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image”,

Referring to the provisions relating to cultural diversity and the exercise of cultural rights in the international instruments enacted by UNESCO,

Reaffirming that culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs,

Noting that culture is at the heart of contemporary debates about identity, social cohesion, and the development of a knowledge-based economy,

Affirming that respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding are among the best guarantees of international peace and security,

Aspiring to greater solidarity on the basis of recognition of cultural diversity, of awareness of the unity of humankind, and of the development of intercultural exchanges,

No one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope.

Aware of the specific mandate which has been entrusted to UNESCO, within the United Nations system, to ensure the preservation and promotion of the fruitful diversity of cultures,

Declares the following principles and adopts the present Declaration.

**IDENTITY, DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM**

**ARTICLE 1 – Cultural diversity: the common heritage of humanity**  
Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.

**ARTICLE 2 – From cultural diversity to cultural pluralism**  
In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious interaction among people and groups with plural, varied and dynamic cultural identities as well as their willingness to live together. Policies for the inclusion and participation of all citizens are guarantees of social cohesion, the vitality of civil society and peace.  
Thus defined, cultural pluralism gives policy expression to the reality of cultural diversity.  
Indissociable from a democratic framework, cultural pluralism is conducive to cultural exchange and to the flourishing of creative capacities that sustain public life.

**ARTICLE 3 – Cultural diversity as a factor in development**  
Cultural diversity widens the range of options open to everyone; it is one of the basic conditions for development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth, but also as the fulfilment of the intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence.  
**THE DEFENCE OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY IS AN ETHICAL IMPERATIVE, INSEPARABLE FROM RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY. IT IMPLIES A COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, IN PARTICULAR THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO MINORITIES AND THOSE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.**

**ARTICLE 4 – Human rights as guarantees of cultural diversity**  
The defence of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of indigenous peoples. No one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope.

**ARTICLE 5 – Cultural policy: an enabling environment for cultural diversity**  
Cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent.

**TANELLA BONI**  
The flourishing of the diversity requires the full implementation of cultural rights as affirmed in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Article 27 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. All persons have, therefore, the right to express themselves and to create and disseminate their work in the language of their choice, and to do so in their own culture. All persons are also entitled to quality education, meaning that fully respect their cultural identity; and all persons have the right to participate in the cultural life of their choice and conduct their own cultural activities in the full exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**ARTICLE 6 – Towards a global culture of dialogue**  
While ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image care should be exercised that all cultures can express themselves and that all cultures are known.  
Freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to art and to scientific and technological knowledge, including in digital form, and the possibility for all cultures to participate in the free circulation of ideas and dissemination are the guarantees of cultural diversity.

**CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY**

**ARTICLE 7 – Cultural heritage as the wellspring of creativity**  
Creation draws on the roots of cultural tradition, but flourishes in contact with other cultures.  
For this reason, heritage in all its forms must be preserved, enhanced and handed on to future generations as a record of human experience and aspirations, so as to foster creativity in all its diversity and to inspire genuine dialogue among cultures.

**ARTICLE 8 – Cultural diversity and innovation**  
In the face of present-day economic and technological change, opening up vast prospects for creation and innovation, particular attention must be paid to the diversity of the supply of creative work, to due recognition of the rights of authors and artists and to the specificity of cultural goods and services which, as vectors of identity, values and meaning, must not be treated as mere commodities.

**ARTICLE 9 – Cultural production and creativity**  
While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of diversified cultural goods and services through the participation of all countries that have

the means to assert themselves at the local and global level. It is for each State, with due regard to its international obligations, to define its cultural policy and to implement it through the means it considers fit, whether by operational support or appropriate regulations.  
The word *dignitas* is hard to define and refers sometimes to the respect a human being deserves, sometimes to the respect due to oneself.

**ARTICLE 10 – Strengthening capacities for creation and dissemination**  
Nowadays, in all areas of life, it is the lack of human dignity that is problematic. From the law to politics *via* philosophy, economics, medicine and the new information and communication technologies, approaches to human dignity are as diverse as the cultures, knowledge and beliefs that feed into the debates. Nevertheless, above and beyond the many viewpoints, we are talking about humanity, its present and future, not an abstract humanity but one that is embodied in the ‘human person’ in the singular.

Humanity is not ‘solely’, as we might think, being separated from nature, the privilege of an all-conquering reason, with the benefit of science and technology. It is not the gradual transition to an increasingly elevated culture and mind, maybe to a ‘civilization’ from which we could classify all the other cultures.

**ARTICLE 11 – Building partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society**  
Market forces alone cannot guarantee the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which is the key to sustainable human development. From this perspective, the pre-eminence of public policy, in partnership with the private sector, is essential.

**ARTICLE 12 – The role of UNESCO**  
In order to ensure the effective implementation of the present Declaration, UNESCO has the responsibility to:  
a- Promote the incorporation of the principles set out in the present Declaration into the development strategies drawn up within the various intergovernmental bodies;  
b- Serve as a reference point and a forum where States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector can meet to discuss the implementation of the Declaration and to develop policies in favour of cultural diversity;  
c- Pursue its activities in standard-setting, awareness-raising and capacity-building in the areas related to the present Declaration within its fields of competence;  
d- Facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan, the main lines of which are set out in the present Declaration.

Human dignity is a value in itself because it speaks of the human, like certain cultures where giving your word is another type of contract with a ‘human face’ which has an ethical and not a political or legal character.  
In a particular situation a person is never ‘conscious’ of their own dignity except through the other’s actions: the other’s look, the changes the other makes them undergo as if they were an object, the travails the other puts them through. To conclude, human dignity – the idea, the principle, the requirement – is manifest in every human relationship from the first glance, the first word, the first encounter as a mutual recognition of one another.



Proclaims the following principles and adopts the present Declaration:

ARTICLE 5 – Cultural rights as an enabling environment for cultural diversity  
Cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent.

to modern legitimacy by the state theory and in everyday life puts the wealth and both political change del

to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan, the main lines of which are appended to the present Declaration.

For all these reasons it is not meaningful to speak of cultural rights or, more broadly, of sustainable pluralism outside of a linked commitment to the political economy of dignity. This means that cultural rights and even human rights more generally should be integrally connected to the welfare and well-being of all citizens and to the reduction of poverty as a global priority.

receiver, but also broadens the giver – the teachers, the parents, the friends.

Recently the perspective of “clash of civilizations” has gained much currency, and what is most immediately

in terms of one dimension only, to see people in terms of this allegedly pre-eminent and all-engulfing classification of civilizations can itself contribute to political insecurity, since

As it happens, every human being has many

Proclaims the following principles and adopts the present Declaration:

# AMARTYA SEN

everything other than some single, allegedly profound, way of classifying people is to set them up into warring camps.

Here too schooling, with an appropriate concern for real history and basic values such as the universal need for tolerance, can have a very positive and constructive role. The importance of non-sectarian and non-parochial curricula that expand, rather than reduce, the reach of reason can be hard to exaggerate.

#### ARTICLE 4 – Human rights as guarantees of cultural diversity

education into a prison, rather than being a passport to the wide world (as it is meant to be). Education can be a great liberator of the human mind, with many indirect benefits – economic, political and social.

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## CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY

ARTICLE 6 – Towards access for all to cultural diversity

While ensuring the free flow of necessary word and image, care should be exercised that all cultures can express themselves and make themselves known.

**FOR ALL TO CULTURAL**

Freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to art and to scientific and technological knowledge, including in digital form, and the possibility for all cultures to have access to the means of expression and dissemination are the guarantees of cultural diversity.

ARTICLE 8 – Cultural goods and services: commodities of a unique kind

**EQUAL ACCESS TO ART AND TO SCIENTIFIC AND KNOWLEDGE, INCLUDING IN DIGITAL FORM, AND THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF AUTHORS AND ARTISTS AND TO THE SPECIFICITY OF CULTURAL GOODS AND SERVICES**

**CULTURES TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION AND TO THE MEANS OF DISTRIBUTION**

As the face of the digital economy opens up vast prospects for creation and innovation, particular attention must be paid to the specificities of cultural goods and services, which are not only commodities but also bearers of a unique identity. It is essential to ensure that all cultures have access to the means of production and to the means of distribution, and that the rights of authors and artists are protected.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY  
AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

ARTICLE 12 – The role of UNESCO

UNESCO, by virtue of its mandate and functions, has the responsibility to:

- a- Promote the incorporation of the principles set out in the present Declaration into the development strategies drawn up within the various intergovernmental bodies;
- b- Serve as a reference point and a forum where States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector may join together in elaborating concepts, objectives and policies in favour of cultural diversity;
- c- Pursue its activities in standard-setting, awareness-raising and capacity-building in order to add to the present Declaration within its fields of competence;

**TECHNOLOGICAL**

**SIBILITY FOR ALL**

**EXPRESSION AND**

d- Evaluate the implementation of the Action Plan, the main lines of which are appended to the present Declaration.



# DARYUSH SHAYEGAN

THE FINAL CONSEQUENCE, Commonly, the full implementation of cultural rights and fundamental freedoms is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments, which are the two International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political rights and to economic, social and cultural rights, recalling that the Preamble to the Constitution of the State affirms “that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern”,

Further recalling Article I of the Constitution which states that UNESCO among other purposes that of recommending such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image”,

Referring to the provisions relating to cultural diversity and the exercise of cultural rights in the international instrument entered into by UNESCO,

Reaffirming that culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional attributes, as well as a social group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and emblem, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs,

Noting that culture is at the heart of contemporary debates on identity, social cohesion, and the development of a knowledge-based economy,

Affirming that respect for the diversity of cultures, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding, are among the best guarantees of international peace and security,

Aspiring to greater solidarity on the basis of recognition of cultural diversity, of awareness of the unity of humankind and the development of intercultural exchanges,

Considering that the process of globalization, facilitated by the rapid development of new information and communication technologies, though representing a challenge for cultural diversity, creates the conditions for renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations,

Aware of the specific mandate which has been entrusted to UNESCO, within the United Nations system, to ensure the preservation and promotion of the fruitful diversity of cultures,

Proclaims the following principles and adopts the present Declaration:

What characterizes our time, with its many sources of confusion and uncertainty, is the bewildering chaos it unravels before us, leaving us at our wits end. It seems as though Pandora's box has opened and all the jinn or, shall we say, genies, have come out of the magic bottle, from the most ancient to the most recent and garish. It is therefore necessary to exorcise them with the resources at hand. Why, however, should there be a resurgence of forgotten voices and an explosion of all these age-old repressed sensitivities? Because the recapitulative memory has long paved the way for this opening.

Consequently, in the light of the current situation, we are doomed to constantly broaden our knowledge, expand our range of sensitivities, draw on other cultural memories and secure new keys to unlock resources hidden hitherto.

For better or for worse, we have thus come to an *inter-epistemic* situation, and the whole issue of cultural diversity consists precisely of overcoming these shortcomings and establishing new linkages in which the hall of mirrors would have a creative – rather than inhibiting – impact.

## ARTICLE

ARTICLE 1 – Cultural diversity as guaranties of cultural diversity The richness of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative inseparable from respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of indigenous peoples. No one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope.

ARTICLE 5 – Cultural rights as an enabling environment for cultural diversity Cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent.

The flourishing of creative diversity requires the full implementation of cultural rights as defined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Articles 13 and 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. All persons have therefore the right to express themselves and to create and disseminate their work in the language of their choice, and particularly in their mother tongue; all persons are entitled to quality education and training that fully respect their cultural identity; and all persons have the right to participate in the cultural life of their choice and conduct their own cultural practices, subject to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

ARTICLE 6 – Towards access for all to cultural diversity

While ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image care should be exercised that all cultures can express themselves and make themselves known.

Freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to and use of scientific and technological knowledge, including in digital form, and the possibility for all cultures to have access to the means of expression and dissemination are the guarantees of cultural diversity.

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY

**CREATION DRAWS ON THE ROOTS OF CULTURAL TRADITION, BUT FLOURISHES IN CONTACT WITH OTHER CULTURES. FOR THIS REASON, HERITAGE IN ALL ITS FORMS MUST BE PRESERVED, AND HANDED ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS AS A RECORD OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE AND ASPIRATIONS, SO AS TO FOSTER CREATIVITY IN ALL ITS DIVERSITY AND TO INSPIRE GENUINE DIALOGUE AMONG CULTURES.**

ARTICLE 8 – Cultural goods and services: commodities of a unique kind In the face of present-day economic and technological change, opening up vast prospects for creation and innovation, particular attention must be paid to the diversity of the supply of creative work, to due recognition of the rights of authors and artists and to the specificity of cultural goods and services which, as vectors of identity, values and meaning, must not be treated as mere commodities or consumer goods.

ARTICLE 9 – Cultural policies as catalysts of creativity

While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of diversified cultural goods and services through cultural industries that have

the means to assert themselves at the local and global level. It is for each State, with due regard to its international obligations, to define its cultural policy and to implement it through the means it considers fit, whether by operational support or appropriate regulations.

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

ARTICLE 10 – Strengthening capacities for creation and dissemination worldwide

In the face of current imbalances in flows and exchanges of cultural goods and services at the global level, it is necessary to reinforce international cooperation and solidarity aimed at enabling all countries, especially developing countries and countries in transition, to establish cultural industries that are vibrant and competitive at the national and international level.

ARTICLE 11 – Building partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society Market forces alone cannot guarantee the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which is the key to sustainable human development. From this perspective, the pre-eminence of public policy, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, must be reaffirmed.

ARTICLE 12 – The role of UNESCO UNESCO, by virtue of its mandate and its responsibility to: a- Promote the implementation of the principles set out in the present Declaration into the development strategies drawn up within the various intergovernmental bodies;

b- Serve as a reference point and a forum where States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector may join together in elaborating concepts, objectives and policies in favour of cultural diversity;

c- Pursue its activities in standard-setting, awareness-raising and capacity-building in the field of cultural diversity in its fields of competence;

d- Facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan, the main lines of which are appended to the present Declaration.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE,  
Committed to the full implementation of the human rights and  
fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human  
Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments such as the two  
International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political  
rights and to economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling that the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO affirms “that  
the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and  
liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a  
sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance  
and concern”,

Further recalling Article I of the Constitution, which assigns to UNESCO  
among other purposes that of recommending “such international  
agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word  
and image”,

Referring to the provisions relating to cultural diversity and the exercise of  
cultural rights in the international instruments enacted by UNESCO,

Reaffirming that culture is a source of inspiration and a source of pride for  
spiritual, material and intellectual creation, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles,  
ways of living to be valued and safeguarded,

Noting that culture is the source of social cohesion, and the development of a knowledge-based economy,

Affirming that respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and  
cooperation, in a spirit of mutual understanding and respect, are the  
best guarantees of international peace and security,

Aspiring to greater solidarity on the basis of recognition of cultural  
diversity, of awareness of the unity of humankind, and of the development  
of intercultural exchanges,

Considering that the process of globalization, facilitated by the rapid  
development of new information and communication technologies, though  
representing a challenge for cultural diversity, creates the conditions for  
renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations,

Aware of the specific mandate which has been entrusted to UNESCO, within  
the United Nations system, to ensure the preservation and promotion of  
the fruitful diversity of cultures,

Proclaims the following principles and adopts the present Declaration:



IDENTITY, DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM

ARTICLE 1 – Cultural diversity: the common heritage of humanity  
Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied  
in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies  
making up human civilization. Cultural diversity enriches the lives of people,  
of communities and of humankind as a whole. It is a heritage of all peoples.  
In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be  
recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.

ARTICLE 2 – From cultural diversity to cultural pluralism  
In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious  
interaction among people and groups with their cultures, values and beliefs,  
cultural identities as well as their willingness to live together. Policies  
for the inclusion and participation of all citizens are guarantees of social  
cohesion, the vitality of all societies and the peace of the world. Thus defined,  
cultural diversity gives policy expression to the reality of  
cultural diversity.

Indissociable from a democratic framework, cultural pluralism is conducive  
to cultural exchange and to the flourishing of creative capacities that  
contribute to the development of societies.

ARTICLE 3 – Cultural diversity as a factor in development  
Cultural diversity is a factor in development because it generates creative  
capacities, which are the source of innovation, entrepreneurship and  
the roots of development, understood not simply in terms of economic  
development but also in terms of the development of the intellectual, moral,  
emotional, moral and spiritual existence.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ARTICLE 4 – Human rights as guarantees of cultural diversity  
The defence of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from  
respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and  
fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to  
minorities and those of indigenous peoples. No one may invoke cultural  
diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law,  
nor to limit their scope.

ARTICLE 5 – Cultural rights as an enabling environment for cultural diversity  
Cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal,  
indivisible and interdependent.

ARTICLE  
CULTURAL GOODS  
AND SERVICES:  
COMMODITIES  
OF A UNIQUE KIND

In the face of present-day economic and technological change, opening up vast prospects for creation  
and innovation,

PARTICULAR ATTENTION MUST BE PAID TO THE DIVERSITY OF THE SUPPLY OF CREATIVE  
WORK, TO DUE RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF AUTHORS AND ARTISTS AND TO THE  
SPECIFICITY OF CULTURAL GOODS AND SERVICES

which, as vectors of identity, values and meaning, MUST NOT BE TREATED AS MERE COMMODITIES  
OR CONSUMER GOODS.

ACTION PLAN OF THE  
STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE

The action plan of the Stockholm Conference requires the full implementation of  
cultural rights as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human  
Rights and in Articles 13 and 15 of the International Covenant on Economic,  
Social and Cultural Rights. All persons have the right to express  
themselves and to create and disseminate their work in the language  
of their choice, and particularly in their mother tongue; all persons are  
entitled to quality education and training that fully respect their cultural  
identity; and all persons have the right to participate in the cultural life of  
their choice and conduct their own cultural practices, subject to respect for  
human rights and fundamental freedoms.

1. The Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for  
Development, held at Stockholm (30 March-2 April 1998),

While ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image care should be  
exercised that all cultures can express themselves and make themselves  
known, and that all persons have the right to participate in the cultural life of  
their choice and conduct their own cultural practices, subject to respect for  
human rights and fundamental freedoms.

7. Considering that one of the functions of cultural policies is to  
ensure sufficient scope for the flourishing of creative capacities;

8. Having regard to the ever more rapid processes of socio-economic,  
technological and cultural change, and the growing disparities at  
the national and international level, as well as the importance of  
respecting copyright and intellectual property in view of the risks  
and challenges arising from the promotion of cultural industries and  
trade in cultural products;

ARTICLE 7 – Cultural heritage as the wellspring of creativity  
Recognizes the following principles:

6. Cultural creativity is the source of human progress; and cultural  
diversity, being a treasure of humankind, is an essential factor of  
development.

10. Creativity in societies favours creation, which stems above all  
from an individual commitment. This commitment is essential to  
building our future heritage. It is important to preserve and promote  
the conditions for such creation – in particular the freedom of the  
creative artist – within every community.

ARTICLE 9 – Cultural policies as catalysts of creativity  
While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies  
must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of  
creative works and goods.

5. Cultural policies should promote creativity in all its forms,

the means to assert themselves at the local and global level. It is for each  
State, with due regard to its international obligations, to define its cultural  
policy and to implement it through the means it considers fit, whether by  
operational support or appropriate regulations.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY  
AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

facilitating access to cultural practices and experiences for all  
citizens regardless of nationality, race, sex, age, physical or mental  
disability, enrich the sense of cultural identity and belonging of  
every individual and community and sustain them in their search for  
dignified and safe future.

ARTICLE 10 – Strengthening capacities for creation and dissemination  
of cultural goods and services at the global level, it is necessary to reinforce international  
cooperation and solidarity aimed at enabling all countries, especially  
developing countries and countries in transition, to establish cultural  
industries that are viable and competitive at national and international level.

Policy Objectives Recommended to Member States

On the basis of the preceding principles, the Conference recommends  
that States adopt the following five policy objectives:

Objective 3: Reinforce policy and practice to safeguard and enhance  
the cultural heritage, tangible and intangible, moveable and  
immoveable, and to promote cultural industries

ARTICLE 10 – The role of UNESCO  
UNESCO, by virtue of its mandate and functions, has the responsibility to:

a- Promote the incorporation of the principles set out in the present  
Declaration into national legislation and policy, and to encourage  
intergovernmental bodies;

10. Give priority to the creation of a network at the national, regional  
and international level involving artists and administrators of projects  
and cultural amenities in order to improve access to culture in both  
quantitative and qualitative terms.

c- Pursue its activities in standard-setting, awareness-raising and capacity-  
building in the areas related to the present Declaration within its fields of  
competence;

11. Assist artists, designers and craftspeople by clarifying,  
safeguarding and improving the rights of creators and consolidate  
these rights in relation to the market, both locally and worldwide, by  
preventing commercial abuses.

12. Promote the idea that cultural goods and services should be fully  
recognized and treated as being not like other forms of merchandise.



THE GENERAL CONFERENCE,

Committed to the full implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments, such as the two International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political rights and to economic, social and cultural rights,

A successfully integrated society protects the social and legal rights of its diverse populations, and ensures that individuals and groups enjoy a fair and equitable distribution of cultural goods and services. Schools are busy; libraries thrive; artists' studios buzz with activity; theatrical companies experiment with new plays while staging the classics; museums take a historical view without neglecting contemporary art. Such a state of well-being, crucial for agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image,

complex global transformations - a mobile world marked by the migration of peoples (forced or free); the construction of network societies across national frontiers and beyond regional borders; and the uses of new technologies for diverse, often conflicting, political, cultural and religious ends.

In that context, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs,

Today, cultural creativity emerges from such a crucible of complex conditions, and unsettles many of our assumptions about cultural value. A "national" culture, for instance, can no longer be considered the homogenizing terrain that sustains an unbroken and uninterrupted tradition of indigeneity. Members of multicultural or multiethnic communities (national or diasporic minorities) with different historical provenances relate to their cultural heritages in ways that are distinct and different. The more diverse the meaning and experience of Heritage in a multicultural community, the more important it is to preserve the singular value of any particular, local experience of a cultural tradition. Why protect the singular in the midst of diversity? In protecting the tangible and intangible heritage of any one culture, we preserve its living memory - its values, norms and aesthetic forms - and can study the way in

IDENTITY, DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM

HOMI K. BHABHA

ARTICLE 1 – Cultural diversity: the common heritage of humanity

Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the multivocal and multivalent mosaic of meanings and customs that defines intercultural dialogues in our times. Keeping heritage alive as an archive of living memory, open to the past and the future, protects cultural traditions from becoming frozen in time, memorials to obsolescence and orthodoxy.

In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious interaction among people and groups with plural, varied and dynamic cultural identities. The dialogues of everyday life in a diverse global world for the inclusion and participation of all citizens are guarantees of social cohesion, the vitality of civil society and peace.

to create hybrid forms of arts, crafts, architecture, literature or cuisine. Hybridity reflects the evolving dynamics of creativity in plural societies. Hybridization does not weaken or dilute heritage or tradition, as is often claimed. What it reveals is that any cultural tradition has multiple lineages of influence and inference, opening it up to diverse interpretations and revisions which enhance its creative potential. Hybridity reveals the capacity that exists within a cultural heritage or tradition that enables it to affiliate with more universal values, and become compatible with 'foreign' cultures, traditions, peoples and countries. Likewise, the hybridity of tradition does not compromise the creative originality of a culture; it enhances the ability of an artist or a craftsman to find forms of expression and representation that resonate across different cultures, thereby expanding the scope and scale of communication and creativity.

In the context of cultural diversity, creativity is an expression of what lies at the intersection of values; it articulates the interdependent experience of diverse communities; and it creates a capacity for imaginative, empathic dialogue across diverse cultures. These qualities of creativity can be articulated in familiar

emotional, moral and spiritual existence.

ARTICLE 2 – Culture is the set of distinctive spiritual, intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence.

ARTICLE 3 – Cultural diversity is the common heritage of humanity.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ARTICLE 4 – Human rights as guarantees of cultural diversity

Human rights are the basis of a society in which everyone enjoys respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of indigenous peoples, who may have a cultural identity of their own.

In the context of cultural diversity, creativity is an expression of what lies at the intersection of values; it articulates the interdependent experience of diverse communities; and it creates a capacity for imaginative, empathic dialogue across diverse cultures. These qualities of creativity can be articulated in familiar

emotional, moral and spiritual existence.

ARTICLE 5 – Cultural rights as enabling environment for cultural diversity

The flourishing of creative diversity requires the full implementation of cultural rights as defined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Articles 13 and 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. All persons have therefore the right to express themselves and to create and disseminate their work in the language of their choice, in a form and medium of their choice, and to have their cultural identity recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.

While ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image care should be taken that no culture can exploit others and that the interests of indigenous communities and peoples are fully protected.

Freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to art and scientific and technological knowledge, including in digital form, and dissemination are the guarantees of cultural diversity.

dialogue amongst diverse groups or communities is free of any sense of cultural supremacy or sovereignty. Hybridity is the enemy of what is unequal and unfair.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY

Bearing all this in mind, it is important to see cultural goods as "commodities of a unique kind" that cannot merely be equated with consumer goods. Cultural goods bear the special signature of creativity: they emerge in contexts of social diversity, and take their place at the intersection of values; they refer to tradition and heritage, while establishing their interdependence with other cultural goods that exist "side-by-side" with them; and finally, cultural goods are interpretations of what is the best in the past and the present, and as such they are the unique visions of authors or artists, craftsmen and *cusiniers*. In formulating their cultural policies, States must recognize that if they treat cultural goods simply as consumer goods - commodifying and instrumentalizing their value - they will not merely pillage the creativity of the present, but will destroy the rich material that, in the passing of time, will become the heritage of the future.

ARTICLE 6 – Cultural heritage as the wellspring of creativity

Creation draws on the roots of cultural tradition, but flourishes in contact with the present. Heritage in all its forms must be preserved, enhanced and handed on to future generations as a record of human experience and as a source of inspiration for the future.

ARTICLE 7 – Cultural rights as enabling environment for cultural diversity

While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of creative works and to the development of cultural industries that have

the capacity to assert themselves at the local and global level. It is for each State, with due regard to its international obligations, to define its cultural policy and to implement it through the means it considers fit, whether by legislative support or appropriate regulations.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

ARTICLE 8 – Strengthening co-operation for creation and dissemination of cultural goods and services at the global level

ARTICLE 9 – Strengthening co-operation for creation and dissemination of cultural goods and services at the global level

ARTICLE 10 – Strengthening co-operation for creation and dissemination of cultural goods and services at the global level

ARTICLE 11 – Building partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society

ARTICLE 12 – The role of UNESCO

ARTICLE 13 – The role of UNESCO

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While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of diversified cultural goods and services through cultural industries that have the means to assert themselves at the local and global level.

ARTICLE 12 – The role of UNESCO

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# WOLE SOYINKA

**CULTURAL INDUSTRIES THAT ARE VIABLE**

a- Promote the incorporation of the principles set out in the present Declaration into the policies and programmes within the various intergovernmental bodies;

b- Serve as a reference point and a forum where States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector may join together in elaborating concepts, objectives and policies in favour of cultural diversity;

c- Pursue its activities in standard-setting, awareness-raising and capacity-building in the areas related to the present Declaration within its fields of competence;

d- Facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan, the main lines of which are appended to the present Declaration.

## SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY

[illegible]

Proclaims the following principles and adopts the present Declaration:

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE,  
Committed to the full implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments, such as the two International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political rights and to economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling that the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO affirms “that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern”,

Further recalling Article I of the Constitution, which assigns to UNESCO among other purposes that of recommending “such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image”,

Referring to the provisions relating to cultural diversity and the exercise of cultural rights in the international instruments enacted by UNESCO,

Reaffirming that culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs,

Noting that culture is at the heart of contemporary debates about identity, social cohesion and the development of a knowledge-based economy,

Affirming that respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding are among the best guarantees of international peace and security,

Aspiring to greater solidarity on the basis of recognition of cultural diversity, of awareness of the unity of humankind, and of the development of intercultural exchanges,

Considering that the process of globalization, facilitated by the rapid development of new information and communication technologies, though representing a challenge for cultural diversity, creates the conditions for renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations,

Aware of the specific mandate which has been entrusted to UNESCO, within the United Nations system, to ensure the preservation and promotion of the fruitful diversity of cultures,

Proclaims the following principles and adopts the present Declaration:

IDENTITY, DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM

ARTICLE 1 – Cultural diversity: the common heritage of humanity  
Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humanity. It is a source of exchange, innovation and creativity. Cultural differences are not obstacles to human solidarity; on the contrary, they are the basis of it. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.

ARTICLE 2 – From cultural diversity to cultural pluralism  
In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious interaction among people and groups with plural, varied and dynamic cultural traditions. The ability to live together is a prerequisite for the inclusion and participation of all citizens are guarantees of social cohesion, the vitality of civil society and peace. Thus defined, cultural diversity is a policy expression to the reality of cultural diversity. Indissociable from a democratic framework, cultural pluralism is conducive to cultural richness and the building of creative capacities that sustain public life.

ARTICLE 3 – Cultural diversity and sustainable development  
Cultural diversity widens the range of options open to everyone; it is one of the roots of development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth and productivity but also as a more satisfactory intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ARTICLE 4 – Human rights as guarantees of cultural diversity  
The defence of cultural diversity is a moral imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of indigenous peoples. No one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope.

ARTICLE 5 – Cultural rights as an enabling environment for cultural diversity  
Cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent.

AUNG SAN SUU KYI

It is precisely because of the cultural diversity of the world that it is necessary for different nations and peoples to agree on those basic human values which will act as a unifying factor. When democracy and human rights are said to run counter to non-Western culture, such culture is usually defined narrowly and presented as monolithic. In fact the values that democracy and human rights seek to promote can be found in many cultures. Human beings over the world need freedom and security that they may be able to realize their full potential.

The flourishing of creative diversity requires the full implementation of cultural rights as defined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Articles 13 and 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. All persons have therefore the right to express themselves and to create and disseminate their work in the language of their choice, and particularly in their mother tongue; all persons are entitled to quality education and training that fully respect their cultural identity; and all persons have the right to participate in the cultural life of their choice and conduct their own cultural practices, subject to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

ARTICLE 6 – Towards access for all to cultural diversity  
While ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image care should be exercised that no culture or expression is demeaned, nor may themselves known. Freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to cultural heritage and the possibility for all cultures to have access to the means of expression and dissemination are the guarantees of cultural diversity.

a- **PROMOTE THE INCORPORATION OF THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT**  
**in the present Declaration INTO THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES DRAWN UP**  
**WITHIN THE VARIOUS INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES;**

ARTICLE 7 – Cultural heritage as the wellspring of creativity  
Creation draws on the roots of cultural tradition, but flourishes in contact with other cultures. For this reason, heritage in all its forms must be preserved, enhanced and handed on to future generations as a record of human experience and aspirations, so as to foster creativity in all its diversity and to inspire genuine dialogue among cultures.

ARTICLE 8 – Cultural goods and services: commodities of a unique kind  
In the face of present-day economic and technological change, opening up vast prospects for creation and innovation, particular attention must be paid to the diversity of the supply of creative work, to due recognition of the rights of authors and artists and to the specificity of cultural goods and services which, as vectors of identity, values and meaning, must not be treated as mere commodities or consumer goods.

ARTICLE 9 – Cultural policies as catalysts of creativity  
While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of diversified cultural goods and services through cultural industries that have

the means to assert themselves at the local and global level. It is for each State, with due regard to its international obligations, to define its cultural policy and to implement it through the means it considers fit, whether by operational support or appropriate regulations.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

ARTICLE 10 – Strengthening capacities for creation and dissemination worldwide  
In the face of current imbalances in flows and exchanges of cultural goods and services at the global level, it is necessary to reinforce international co-operation, aimed at enabling all countries, especially developing countries and countries in transition, to establish cultural industries that are viable and competitive at national and international level.

ARTICLE 11 – Encouraging partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society  
States should guarantee the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which is the key to sustainable human development. In this perspective, the pre-eminence of public policy, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, must be reaffirmed.

ARTICLE 12 – The role of UNESCO  
UNESCO, by virtue of its mandate and functions, has the responsibility to:  
a- Promote the incorporation of the principles set out in the present Declaration into the development strategies drawn up within the various intergovernmental bodies;  
b- Serve as a reference point and a forum where States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector may join together in elaborating concepts, objectives and policies in favour of cultural diversity;  
c- Pursue its activities in standard-setting, awareness-raising and capacity-building in the areas related to the present Declaration within its fields of competence;  
d- Facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan, the main lines of which are appended to the present Declaration.

ARTICLE



THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, committed to the full implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments, such as the two International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political rights and to economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling that the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO affirms "that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern",

Further recalling Article I of the Constitution, which assigns to UNESCO, among other purposes that of recommending "such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image",

Referring to the provisions relating to cultural diversity and the exercise of cultural rights in the international instruments enacted by UNESCO,

Reaffirming that culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society, group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs,

Noting that culture is at the heart of contemporary debates about identity, social cohesion, and the development of a knowledge-based economy,

Affirming that respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding are among the best guarantees of international peace and security,

Aspiring to greater solidarity on the basis of recognition of cultural diversity, of awareness of the unity of humankind, and of the development of intercultural exchanges,

Considering that the process of globalization, facilitated by the rapid development of new information and communication technologies, though representing a challenge for cultural diversity, creates the conditions for renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations,

Aware of the specific mandate which has been entrusted to UNESCO, within the United Nations system, to ensure the preservation and promotion of the fruitful diversity of cultures,

Proclaims the following principles and adopts the present Declaration:

IDENTITY, DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM

ARTICLE 1 – Cultural diversity, the common heritage of humanity Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.

b- **SERVE AS A REFERENCE POINT AND A FORUM WHERE STATES, INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR MAY JOIN TOGETHER IN ELABORATING CONCEPTS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES IN FAVOUR OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY;**

ARTICLE 2 – Cultural diversity as a factor in development In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious relations among people and groups. The plural and dynamic cultural identities as well as their willingness to live together. Policies for the inclusion and participation of all citizens are guarantees of social cohesion, the vitality of civil society and peace. Thus defined, cultural pluralism gives policy expression to the reality of diversity.

ARTICLE 3 – Cultural diversity as a factor in development Cultural diversity widens the range of options open to everyone; it is one of the roots of development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth, but also as a means to achieve a more satisfactory intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ARTICLE 4 – Human rights as guarantees of cultural diversity The defence of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of indigenous peoples. No one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope.

ARTICLE 5 – Cultural rights as an enabling environment for cultural diversity Cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent.

The flourishing of creative diversity requires the full implementation of cultural rights. Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Articles 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. All persons have therefore the right to express themselves and to create and disseminate their work in the language of their choice and in their mother tongue; all persons are entitled to participate in the cultural life of their community, ensuring that fully respect their cultural identity; and all persons have the right to participate in the cultural life of their choice and conduct their own cultural practices, subject to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

ARTICLE 6 – Managing diversity is one of the core tasks of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. While ensuring the free flow of ideas by word and image care should be exercised that all cultures can express themselves and make themselves known. Diversity raises questions about the role of the State and about public policy. Freedom of expression, media pluralism, multilingualism, equal access to art and to scientific and technological knowledge, including in digital form, are essential for all cultures to have access to the means of expression and dissemination are the guarantees of cultural diversity.

Managing the diversity of States has always been a central question of international relations.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND CREATIVITY

Today, managing diversity within States is becoming a core issue of global governance.

ARTICLE 7 – Cultural heritage as the wellspring of creativity Creation draws on the roots of cultural tradition, but flourishes in contact with other cultures. Ten years ago, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of 9/11, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity that sets out the principles for understanding and managing diversity – in this case, cultural diversity. It sets out a vision for a new approach to living together, a new approach to development that makes the most of the wealth of humanity's great diversity, something that calls for a new humanism.

The Universal Declaration defines cultural diversity as an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent.

ARTICLE 9 – Cultural policies as catalysts of creativity While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of intellectual and artistic works and to the development of the cultural industries that have

the means to assert themselves at the local and global level. It is for each State, with due regard to its international obligations, to define its cultural policy and to implement it through the means it considers fit, whether by operational support or appropriate regulations.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

ARTICLE 10 – Strengthening capacities for creation and dissemination worldwide Imbalances in flows and exchanges of cultural goods and services at the global level, it is necessary to reinforce international cooperation and solidarity aimed at enabling all countries, especially developing countries and countries in transition, to establish cultural industries that are viable and competitive at national and international level.

ARTICLE 11 – Building partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society Market forces alone cannot guarantee the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which is the key to sustainable human development. From this perspective, the pre-eminence of public policy, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, must be reaffirmed.

ARTICLE 12 – The role of UNESCO UNESCO, by virtue of its mandate and functions, has the responsibility to:

- a- Promote the incorporation of the principles set out in the present Declaration into the development strategies drawn up within the various countries;
- b- Serve as a reference point and a forum where States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector join together in elaborating concepts, objectives and policies in favour of cultural diversity;
- c- Pursue its activities in standard-setting, awareness-raising and capacity-building in the areas related to the present Declaration within its fields of competence;
- d- Coordinate the implementation of the Action Plan, the main lines of which are set out in the present Declaration.

MAIN LINES OF AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION

*The Member States commit themselves to taking appropriate steps to disseminate widely the “UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity” and to encourage its effective application, in particular by cooperating with a view to achieving the following objectives:*

1 — Deepening the international debate on questions relating to cultural diversity, particularly in respect of its links with development and its impact on policy-making, at both national and international level; taking forward notably consideration of the advisability of an international legal instrument on cultural diversity.

2 — Advancing in the definition of principles, standards and practices, on both the national and the international levels, as well as of awareness-raising modalities and patterns of cooperation, that are most conducive to the safeguarding and promotion of cultural diversity.

3 — Fostering the exchange of knowledge and best practices in regard to cultural pluralism with a view to facilitating, in diversified societies, the inclusion and participation of persons and groups from varied cultural backgrounds.

4 — Making further headway in understanding and clarifying the content of cultural rights as an integral part of human rights.

5 — Safeguarding the linguistic heritage of humanity and giving support to expression, creation and dissemination in the greatest possible number of languages.

6 — Encouraging linguistic diversity – while respecting the mother tongue – at all levels of education, wherever possible, and fostering the learning of several languages from the earliest age.

7 — Promoting through education an awareness of the positive value of cultural diversity and improving to this end both curriculum design and teacher education.

8 — Incorporating, where appropriate, traditional pedagogies into the education process with a view to preserving and making full use of culturally appropriate methods of communication and transmission of knowledge.

9 — Encouraging “digital literacy” and ensuring greater mastery of the new information and communication technologies, which should be seen both as educational discipline and as pedagogical tools capable of enhancing the effectiveness of educational services.

10 — Promoting linguistic diversity in cyberspace and encouraging universal access through the global network to all information in the public domain.

11 — Countering the digital divide, in close cooperation in relevant United Nations system organizations, by fostering access by the developing countries to the new technologies, by helping them to master information technologies and by facilitating the digital dissemination of endogenous cultural products and access by those countries to the educational, cultural and scientific digital resources available worldwide.

12 — Encouraging the production, safeguarding and dissemination of diversified contents in the media and global information networks and, to that end, promoting the role of public radio and television services in the development of audiovisual productions of good quality, in particular by fostering the establishment of cooperative mechanisms to facilitate their distribution.

OF THE UNESCO UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY

13 — Formulating policies and strategies for the preservation and enhancement of the cultural and natural heritage, notably the oral and intangible cultural heritage, and combating illicit traffic in cultural goods and services.

14 — Respecting and protecting traditional knowledge, in particular that of indigenous peoples; recognizing the contribution of traditional knowledge, particularly with regard to environmental protection and the management of natural resources, and fostering synergies between modern science and local knowledge.

15 — Fostering the mobility of creators, artists, researchers, scientists and intellectuals and the development of international research programmes and partnerships, while striving to preserve and enhance the creative capacity of developing countries and countries in transition.

16 — Ensuring protection of copyright and related rights in the interest of the development of contemporary creativity and fair remuneration for creative work, while at the same time upholding a public right of access to culture, in accordance with Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

17 — Assisting in the emergence or consolidation of cultural industries in the developing countries and countries in transition and, to this end, cooperating in the development of the necessary infrastructures and skills, fostering the emergence of viable local markets, and facilitating access for the cultural products of those countries to the global market and international distribution networks.

18 — Developing cultural policies, including operational support arrangements and/or appropriate regulatory frameworks, designed to promote the principles enshrined in this

Declaration, in accordance with the international obligations incumbent upon each State.

19 — Involving all sectors of civil society closely in framing of public policies aimed at safeguarding and promoting cultural diversity.

20 — Recognizing and encouraging the contribution that the private sector can make to enhancing cultural diversity and facilitating, to that end, the establishment of forums for dialogue between the public sector and the private sector.

*The Member States recommend that the Director-General take the objectives set forth in this Action Plan into account in the implementation of UNESCO’s programmes and communicate it to institutions of the United Nations system and to other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with a view to enhancing the synergy of actions in favour of cultural diversity.*



# BIOGRAPHIES

## IRINA BOKOVA

Irina Bokova served as Bulgaria's representative to the United Nations, as her country's Secretary of State for European integration, Foreign Minister, Ambassador of Bulgaria in France and Monaco and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. As Founder and Chairperson of the European Policy Forum, she worked to overcome divisions in Europe and promote the values of dialogue, diversity, human dignity and rights. She is the first woman Director-General of UNESCO.

## BAN KI-MOON

Ban Ki-moon, born in the Republic of Korea, is the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations. He has set a priority of rallying world leaders around new global challenges such as climate change and economic upheavals, pandemics and problems of access to food, energy and water.

## KOFI ANNAN

Kofi Annan, from Ghana, was the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, from 1997 to 2006, and the first to have come from the Organization's staff. He has worked to reform the United Nations, bring the Organization closer to the population, and obtain the commitment of Member States for the new millennium. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001 for this action.

## CLAUDE LÉVI-STRAUSS

Claude Lévi-Strauss (1908-2009) was a French anthropologist and ethnologist and one of the central figures in the structuralist school of thought. He held the chair of social anthropology at the Collège de France from 1959 to 1982. Elected member of the Académie Française in 1973, he was a key figure in the human sciences in the second half of the twentieth century. He was also a foreign member of the academies of the United States of America, United Kingdom, Netherlands and Norway, and received honorary doctorates from 15 universities worldwide, as well as many national and international awards for his research.

## TZVETAN TODOROV

Tzvetan Todorov, born in Bulgaria, is director of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). A philosopher, historian of ideas, linguist and semiologist, his most recent work has focused on multicultural societies and the question of memory. In 2011, he received the Prix de la Critique of the Académie Française.

## LOURDES ARIZPE

Lourdes Arizpe, from Mexico, is a professor of anthropology at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and a researcher at the Regional Centre for Multidisciplinary Research. She was a member of the World Commission on Culture and Development until she was appointed UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture in July 1994. In that capacity, she directed the first two UNESCO World Culture Reports in 1998 and 2000. She is an honorary doctor of numerous foreign universities.

## AIMÉ CÉSAIRE

Aimé Césaire (1913-2008), was a Martiniquan poet and politician. He was one of the founders, with Léopold Sédar Senghor among others, of the négritude literary movement. Deputy of the French National Assembly for 48 years and Mayor of Fort-de-France for 56 years, he was a major figure in the awareness of and fight against the cultural and political oppression of colonization. His work as a whole reflects the search to emancipate humanity.

## TANELLA BONI

Tanella Boni born in Côte d'Ivoire, is a French-speaking poet, novelist and critic. She has been a professor of philosophy at the University of Cocody in Abidjan. Her research focuses on culture and cultural diversity, human rights, and women's rights in particular. In 2005 she received the Ahmadou Kourouma Prize for her novel *Matins de couvre-feu*, and in 2009 she was awarded the Antonio Viccaro International Prize for Poetry.

## ARJUN APPADURAI

Arjun Appadurai, born in Mumbai (India), is an anthropologist specializing in the study of modernity and globalization. Co-founder of *Public Culture*, an interdisciplinary journal in cultural studies, he is associated with prestigious European and American institutions such as the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Smithsonian Institution. He is currently a professor at New York University (United States of America).

## AMARTYA SEN

Amartya Sen, an economist, is one of the best known and most respected Indian intellectuals. He received the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 1998 for his work on the theory of human development. His work covers the theory of well-being, the mechanisms that generate poverty and famine, the theory of social choice, political liberalism and gender inequalities. He was Master of Trinity College at the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) and is a professor at Harvard University (United States of America).

## DARYUSH SHAYEGAN

Daryush Shayegan, is an Iranian philosopher and novelist. Previously a professor of comparative philosophy at the University of Tehran, he was also director of the Iranian Centre for Dialogue among Civilizations. In 2011, he was awarded the Grande Médaille de la Francophonie from the Académie Française.

## HOMI K. BHABHA

Homi K. Bhabha, from India, has taught literature at Harvard University since 2001, having worked at several prestigious universities. An Oxford graduate, her work focuses on cosmopolitanism and cultural hybridization, and mixes different human and social science disciplines, such as literature, history, anthropology, and psychoanalysis.

## WOLE SOYINKA

Wole Soyinka is from Niger. He was the first African writer to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, in 1986. He has never dissociated his political engagement from his work. The latter, as the Nobel prize jury underlined, "with poetic overtones fashions the drama of existence". He is one of the co-founders of the International Parliament of Writers and the president of the African Community of Culture.

## WANGARI MAATHAI

Wangari Maathai, an ecological and political activist from Kenya, founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977. In 2004, she became the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize "for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace".

## AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Aung San Suu Kyi, female politician in the non-violent opposition movement of Myanmar, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. She is General Secretary of the National League for Democracy (NLD). She was under house arrest for many years and regained her freedom of movement in 2010.

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