



# CULTURE

## IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

A BRIDGE  TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



# CULTURE IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

## A Bridge to Build a Sustainable Future



### Culture in the Voluntary National Reviews

Culture is not only a sector of activity in itself, but also a transversal, intrinsic component across the public policy spectrum, acting as an enabler to accelerate sustainable development processes. While culture does not have a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) in the 2030 Agenda, it is reflected across many of the goals and targets including those on sustainable cities (SDG 11), decent work (SDG 8), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), climate action (SDG 13), gender equality (SDG 5), innovation (SDG 9), and peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG 16).

This transversal dimension of culture in public policy-making is increasingly reflected in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) submitted by Member States. These reports, which countries are invited to provide to monitor their progress in the achievement of the SDGs, are key indicators of public policy priorities and commitments at country level, and draw a global picture of the ways in which countries envision a more sustainable future. The transversality of culture can be appreciated in the ways in which countries explicitly integrate culture in education, heritage, innovation and city development, and implicitly through environmental dimensions, social inclusion, and peace-building.

UNESCO, has analysed the VNRs for the period 2016-2020, and can confirm that culture interacts with all 17 SDGs at the different policy levels. This snapshot provides inspiration going forward as we place culture at the heart of the UN Decade of Action on Sustainable Development.

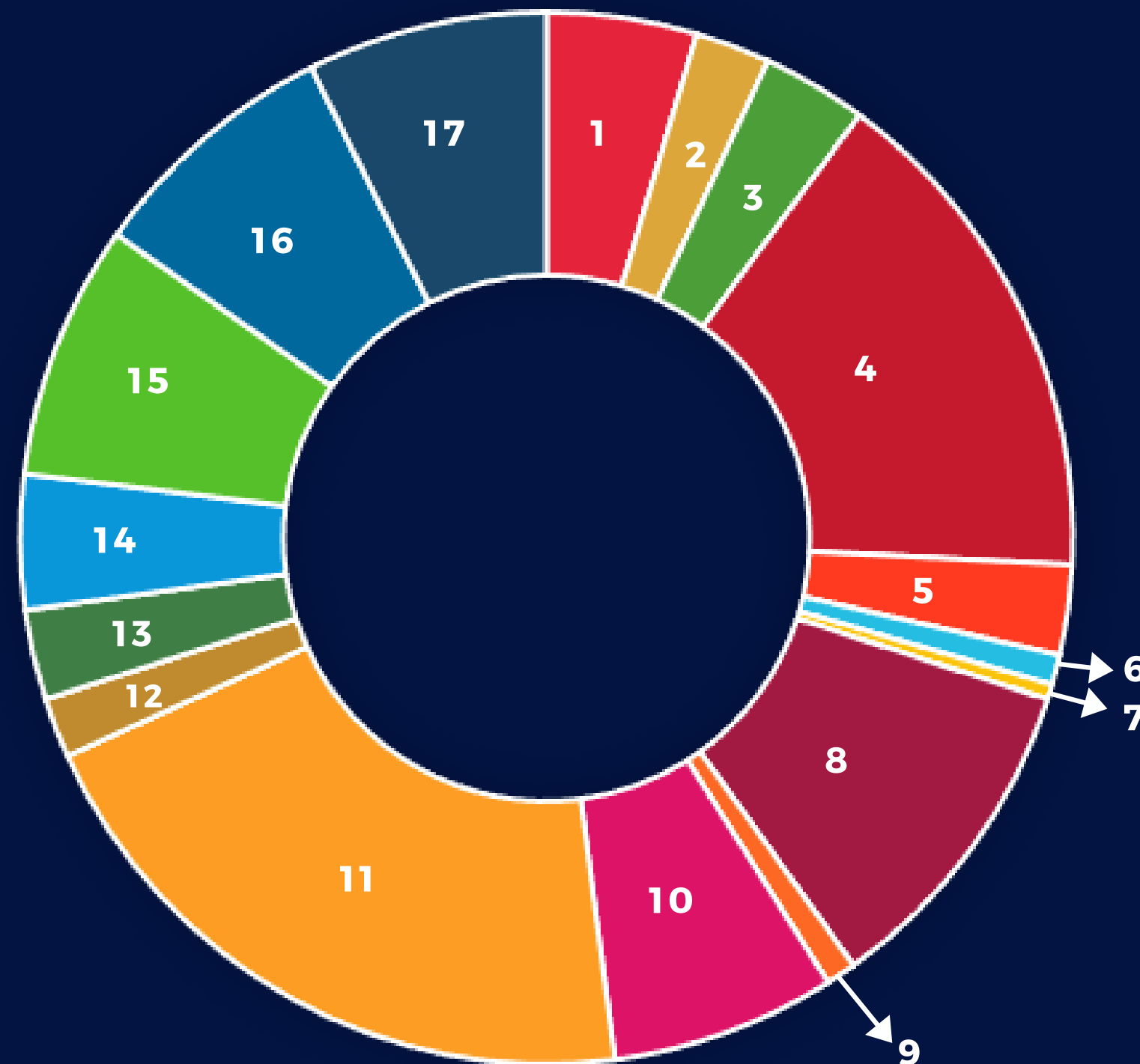


# CULTURE IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

## Linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals



HOW COUNTRIES REPORT ON LINKAGES BETWEEN CULTURE AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THEIR VNRS



Since 2016, Culture has been mentioned across **all 17 SDGs** in relation to laws, policies, and initiatives.

From **205** VNRS analysed, **95** directly linked initiatives with a cultural component to SDGs.

**22** countries mentioned the **transversal role of culture** and is therefore the bedrock of all 17 SDGs.

# CULTURE IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

## The transversal role of culture



### CULTURE AS A CROSS-CUTTING THEME

**Chile** pursued a consultation process with indigenous groups to establish the Ministry and National Council for Indigenous Peoples in order to formally recognize their cultural, social and economic rights.  
VNR 2017 & 2019



### CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AS A NATIONAL PRIORITY

**Greece's** national development strategy prioritizes the cultural and creative industries as an increasingly recognised dynamic cluster and identifies them as a key priority. It aims to encourage multi-stakeholders' partnerships and promote start-up entrepreneurship and initiatives to support micro and small enterprises.  
VNR 2018

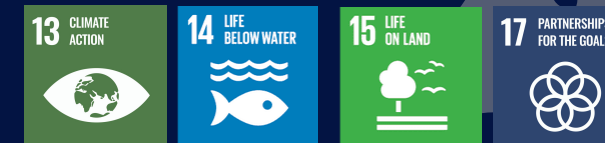


### CULTURE AS A CROSS-CUTTING THEME

The **Vision 2030 Jamaica** emphasizes culture as a cross-cutting driver for sustainable development. It aims to promote an authentic and transformational culture through strengthening values and attitudes for social, economic and environmental development, as well as the expansion of cultural and creative industries and the preservation of cultural heritage.  
VNR 2018

### WATER SUSTAINABILITY FOR COASTAL RESILIENCE

The **Kenyan** coastline is endowed with unique natural and cultural resources. To manage the region's economic development in a sustainable way, the Coast Development Authority has been addressing development challenges by employing participatory, multi-sectoral and integrated development approach that considers all related factors in the region.  
VNR 2017



### EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS

**Morocco** is implementing programmes to strengthen the participation of women cultural professionals in cultural and artistic events, cultural awareness campaigns, on cultural values and intercultural dialogue; as well as working on the provision of cultural spaces for the organization of cultural events for women's civil society.  
VNR 2020



### TRADITIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

**Samoa** is strengthening the revival of traditional food production and preservation practices as a response to strengthen food security in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Using local knowledge, it strengthened the production of the underutilized but highly nutritious crops such as laupele.  
VNR 2020

# CULTURE IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

## Integration of Culture into Different Policy Levels



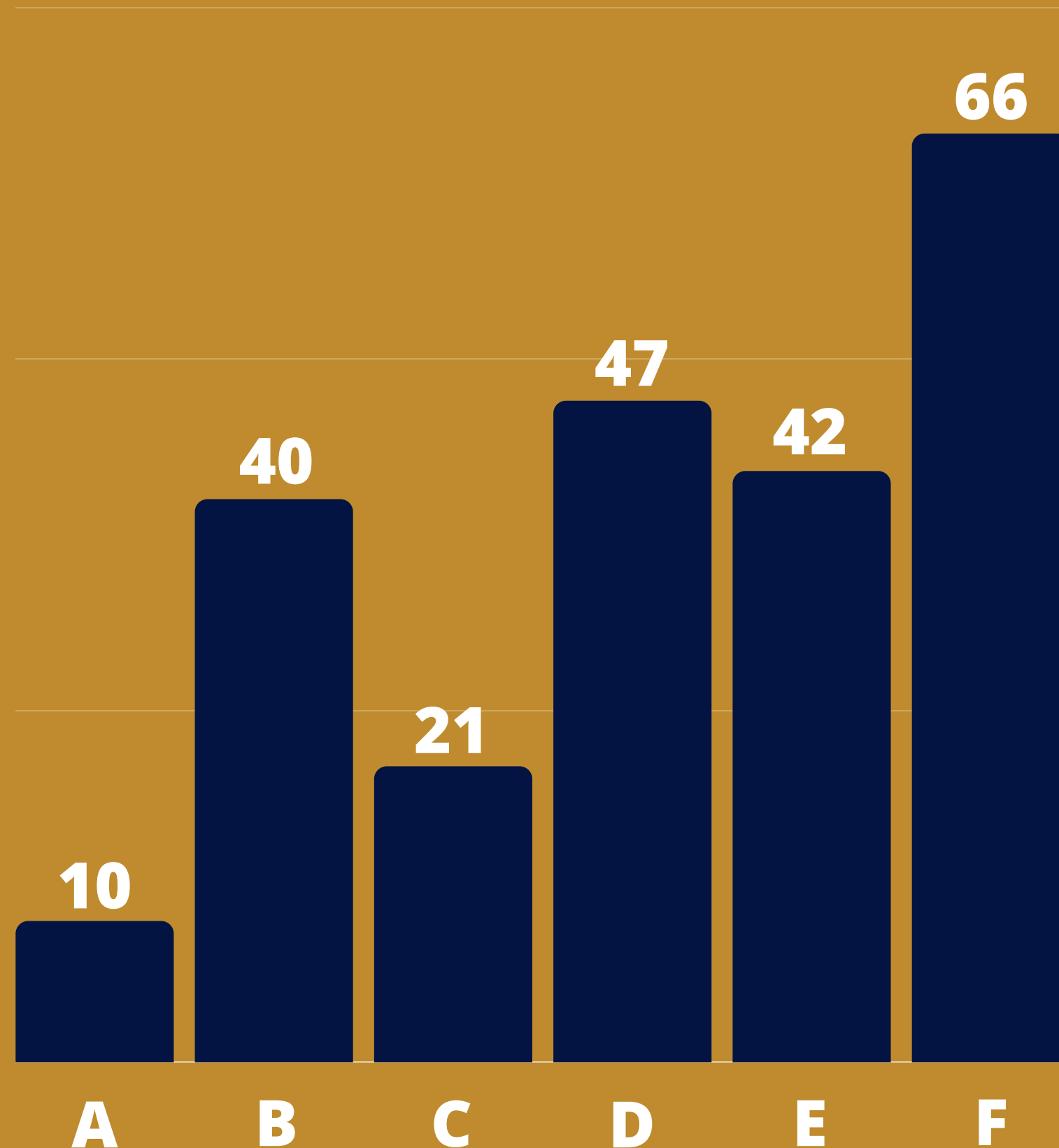
### HOW CULTURE IS INCORPORATED IN DIFFERENT PUBLIC POLICY INSTRUMENTS



# CULTURE IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS



Number of countries referencing culture in different public policy levels (2016-2020)



**A NATIONAL CONSTITUTION**



**B NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OR VISION DOCUMENT**



**C NATIONAL & REGIONAL LAWS**

**D PUBLIC BUDGET, INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS & IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS**



**E OTHER STRATEGIES & POLICY DOCUMENTS**

**F MULTILATERAL COOPERATION**



# CULTURE IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

## Cultural integration at the different policy levels



### NATIONAL BUDGET

#### ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FILM SECTOR

**Austria** has devised a comprehensive package of measures through the federal film funding bodies for support, mentoring, training and film production to promote equality for women and close the gender pay gap in the film sector.  
*VNR 2020*

### VISION DOCUMENT

#### LINKING CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND BIODIVERSITY

Through its Vision 2040, **Guyana** aims at becoming a green state with a view to mitigating the effects of climate change. It makes explicit linkages between natural heritage, biodiversity and cultural diversity. These links are promoted through different events, such as its Indigenous Heritage Month.  
*VNR 2019*



### NATIONAL LAW

#### EQUIPPING YOUTH WITH SKILLS FOR PEACE BUILDING

The **Central African Republic** ensures that public school students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable development by fostering their appreciation for a culture of peace, intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity.  
*VNR 2019*

### NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

#### CULTURAL RIGHTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS



The **Hungarian** Constitution of 2012 articulates the principles of the rights of future generations including the “preservation and protection of material, intellectual and natural resources”, which includes heritage, language and biodiversity.  
*VNR 2018*

### MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

#### INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Launched in 2016 in the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, MiSK Global Forum brings together young leaders, creative persons and intellectuals from all over the world with an aim to explore ways and means of addressing the challenge of change. The forum aims to achieve sustainable development goals through promotion of understanding between cultures, tolerance, mutual respect, ethics of good citizenry and sharing of responsibilities.  
*VNR 2018*

### IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

#### INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES' KNOW-HOW STIMULATES LOCAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

**Brunei Darussalam** is one amongst many other countries in Asia who have implemented the One Village, One Product policy, which aims to invest in communities' creative know-how, and local crafts in particular, to support job creation, local tourism and social inclusion. By promoting local goods and practices with high added value, villages improve their standard of living.  
*VNR 2020*

# CULTURE IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

## A transformative force for Sustainable Development



During the United Nation's Decade of Action, culture can accelerate progress to a more sustainable future by building a bridge between global ambitions and local action. Natural and cultural heritage, creativity, museums, living heritage and intercultural dialogue enhance all dimensions of sustainable development for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. UNESCO works to unleash this potential by:

- Promoting good practices on culture's impact in sustainable development
- Accelerating actions towards the implementation of cultural initiatives
- Using research and evaluation to inform cultural policy development

This leaflet is produced by UNESCO

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