



# The Tracker



## CULTURE & PUBLIC POLICY

### A Policy Monitoring Tool

APRIL 2022

This monthly Tracker is produced by UNESCO to monitor culture in public policy with regards to the UN Sustainable Development Agenda. It highlights developments within national and regional contexts, as well as emerging debates on culture's contribution to sustainable development. Drawing on a variety of sources, it provides a broad overview of cultural policy trends worldwide at the national, regional and international level and looks at ways in which countries integrate culture into other policy areas.

## SPECIAL ISSUE N°1

# COUNTDOWN TO MONDIACULT 2022

**T**he Countdown to MONDIACULT 2022 has begun! This is the first part of a special series counting down to the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022, which will be held in Mexico from 28 to 30 September. In this issue, we will explore this major international conference, what is at stake, emerging debates about culture in public policy, the future of the creative economy, culture in times of crisis, culture for jobs, culture for resilience and well-being, cultural diplomacy, and culture for peace and security.



Mondiacult 2022  
México

## UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022

28-30 September 2022

Mexico

*Culture paving the way towards a sustainable future*

Pre-Hispanic City of Chichen-Itza, a UNESCO World Heritage site  
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## CONTENTS

Cultural Policy Highlights – p.2

Countdown to MONDIACULT 2022 – p.6

Culture in the 2030 Agenda – p.25

Find out more – p.28

**155+** Member States

**400+** civil society organizations

have already joined the conversation on MONDIACULT 2022



**JOIN IN!**

## Focus on...



Local & Urban



Indigenous Peoples



Climate Action



Small Island Developing States (SIDS)



Culture & Education



Jobs & Infrastructure



Digital



Gender Equality



Youth



Regulatory Frameworks



Social Inclusion

## CULTURAL POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

This section showcases a selection of the latest developments in cultural public policy from UNESCO Member States. Recovery measures in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural sector have shown that countries are moving towards more adaptive and longer-term strategies to build resilience in their cultural sectors, and to anchor more deliberately culture across the broad public policy spectrum.



The Ministry of Culture and Sport of **Spain** has set up an Employment Commission for the contemporary art sector with the aim of promoting creation and support for creators, the increase of contemporary artistic heritage, supporting for platforms for the development of contemporary artistic practices, promoting of external action and the internationalisation of the sector, as well as training and research.



Creative **New Zealand** – Toi Aotearoa has launched a new Digital Global New Work Fund 2022 to support research, development or creation of new artwork in the digital space for global audiences.



The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture has constituted a 22-member committee to lead **Ghana's** quest to restitute trafficked cultural heritage and artifacts.

The Ministry of Culture of **Peru** presented the Plan for the Recovery of Cultural Industries and the Arts, with technical assistance from UNESCO Peru and support from the Government of Sweden. Among the goals of the Plan are the generation of employment, the improvement of working conditions for arts workers, capacity building, the strengthening of local governments, the use of cultural spaces, as well as training for artistic promotion.





# CULTURAL POLICY HIGHLIGHTS



The Ministry of Culture of the **British Virgin Islands** is currently revising its 2013 cultural policy with the aim of emphasizing current national priorities, which include a focus on developing the creative industries, cultural heritage, and cultural education, and to promote culture across other policy sectors such as trade, tourism, education, environment, youth, media and sports.

The Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication of **Morocco** is preparing a strategy to protect the country's cultural heritage from cyberattacks that is set to be ready by July of this year. This initiative is linked to the "Made in Morocco" project to register and protect its tangible and intangible national cultural heritage, which aims to promote Moroccan cultural heritage at the global level.



The **South African** Cultural Observatory has submitted its 2022 Creative Industries Economic Mapping Study Report on the contribution of the cultural and creative sector to the economy in the post COVID-19 environment to the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture.



Kalimba, traditional music instrument from Zimbabwe  
Karina Bostanika/Shutterstock.com

Stakeholders of the creative sector of **Zimbabwe** have met for the validation of the five-year National Music Strategy, drafted by the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe and sector partners, with the support of UNESCO and the EU.

The Cultural Heritage Administration of the **Republic of Korea** has begun work drafting a new National Heritage Basic Law. The new law aims to bring the national classification of heritage in line with UNESCO internationally agreed principles and definitions.



The Arts Council of **Ireland** has announced the launch of a new International Arts Policy, 2022 – 2025, in recognition of the important role of international practice and relations in the development of the arts in Ireland. The strategic framework sets out to deliver a more effective alignment of support aimed at the integration of national and international activities delivered by Irish-based artists and organisations.



zero take/Unsplash.com



# CULTURAL POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

The Ministry of Culture of **Iraq**, UNESCO and the **United Arab Emirates**, have launched the reconstruction phase of 3 iconic sites in Mosul, following an initial 3-year preparatory phase. The work is part of UNESCO's flagship "Revive the Spirit of Mosul" initiative.



Reconstruction of the Al-Nouri Mosque from amidst the ruins, Mossul UNESCO/Moamin Al-Obaidi



**Thailand** has launched an initiative to use film and TV production to leverage the "soft power" of the country's scenic nature and assets to boost income.



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Looted cultural and archaeological artifacts have been returned to Libya from the United States of America. Two busts, dating back to the Greek era spanning from 639 BC until 322 BC, are thought to have been lost since the 1980s.

The National Centre for Arts and Culture of the **Gambia** has launched a two-year project to strengthen national capacities for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. The project, funded by UNESCO, aims to engage communities and experts to research, list, and photograph rituals, ceremonies, oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, festive events, knowledge and practices that will be compiled in a national inventory.

The Ministry of Culture and Youth of **Costa Rica**, through the National Library System, has launched a National Strategy for the promotion of reading and books, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and with the support of the Organisation of Ibero-American States (OEI), as well as the technical support of the Regional Centre for Book Promotion in Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLALC).



The Ministry of Culture of **Italy** has allocated a budget of 2 million euros to support Ukrainian artists residing in the country to be able to continue their creative work. The Ministry will distribute the money to 20 Italian cultural foundations for artistic residencies for Ukrainian artists working in theatre, cinema, visual arts, opera, dance, and museology.



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# CULTURAL POLICY HIGHLIGHTS



In the **United Arab Emirates**, the Abu Dhabi Center for the Arabic Language, affiliated with the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, has launched a specialized Arabic digital dictionary to boost digital Arabic content which aims to establish an integrated digital reference for native and non-Arabic speakers.



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The Ministry of Culture and Creative Industries of **Cabo Verde** has launched the Access to Culture Scholarship programme (programa Bolsa de Acesso à Cultura) to foster inclusion of over 3000 lower income pupils in "enjoyment of the arts".



In **Viet Nam**, the province of Binh Thuan has launched a smart tourism portal for tourists, businesses, and state management agencies that integrates information about particular destinations, as well as cultural and sport features.



The Government of **Cyprus** has passed legislation establishing a Deputy Ministry of Culture under the umbrella of the Education Ministry. The law is part of a series of actions aiming to create a coherent cultural policy focused on supporting artistic expression, opening up to civil society and enhancing interculturalism, as a result of the repercussions of the pandemic on the cultural and creative sector.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of **Colombia**, together with the Ministry of Culture, have officially launched a Law on Cultural Crafts to allow the certification of people who work in traditional trades, learned from inherited knowledge such as midwifery, traditional cooking and the translation of native languages. This certification allows people to become trainers of these traditional practices as well, as have access to financing possibilities.



The Ministry of Culture and Heritage of **Ecuador** and the National Institute of Cultural Heritage have opened a call for initiatives to promote heritage and social memory. Resources are available for research on cultural heritage, as well as its promotion and dissemination.



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## Repositioning cultural policies: An imperative for a sustainable future



Pre-Hispanic City of Chichen-Itza,  
a UNESCO World Heritage site  
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The UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022 will be the next major milestone in UNESCO's work as a global platform for intergovernmental dialogue and policy development. It comes 40 years after the 1982 MONDIACULT conference that set out new directions, standards, and frameworks for cultural policies at the global level for the following decades. The world has changed radically since then and it is time to reposition culture across the broad public policy spectrum in the face of sustainable development challenges.

**M**ONDIACULT 2022 will be convened from 28 to 30 September 2022, hosted by the Government of Mexico and aims to be a historic occasion where global decision-makers, cultural policy-makers and key figures from the sector will share their perspectives and ambitions, placing culture at the center stage of sustainable development prospects. Previous UNESCO ministerial conferences on culture have shaped new concepts, leading to the development of regulatory frameworks as well as new strategic approaches building on cultural capital, from heritage to creativity, and forging inclusive societies.



## Key objectives

- Reinvigorating the reflection on cultural policies in today's context**, discussing related priorities and instruments with a view to adapting them to encompass sustainable development challenges, including, the adaptation of the cultural sector to the digital transformation, the contribution of culture to social and economic development as well as to climate action;
- Supporting the global policy dialogue on the transversal role of culture as a global public good** to sustain the resilience, well-being and prosperity of societies with a view to ensure more robust integration of culture across the public policy spectrum at the global, regional, and national levels, while also converging multi-stakeholders' efforts at all levels; and
- Identifying core areas of future policy perspectives for the cultural sector in the coming decade**, notably filling potential gaps in policy engagement and mechanisms, with a view to guiding Member States in policy design, as well as international and regional organizations, while also informing UNESCO's future work in the field of culture, including across its Culture Conventions and Recommendations.

## Key themes at a glance





## A history of MONDIACULT

**Culture's impact in contributing to sustainable development across policy domains has been recognized for over 40 years.** Culture reaches beyond the narrowly defined field of cultural policy itself, more broadly informing environmental, economic and social policies. Speaking at the opening of the 1982 MONDIACULT World Conference, then-Director-General Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow stated that "its purpose [was] ... to encourage thorough reflection of the fundamental problems of culture in the world as it is today and spell out fresh guidelines both for strengthening the cultural dimension in development and for facilitating cultural cooperation."

**The broad definition of culture, adopted by the very first World Conference, gets to the heart of what it means to be human.** It affirmed 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 belief." (Mexico Declaration, 1982).

**Following the United Nations World Decade on Culture (1988-1998), the United Nations set up an independent World Commission on Culture and Development,** headed by former Secretary General of the United Nations Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and hosted by UNESCO. The publication of "Our Creative Diversity" in 1995 marked a turning point in the global reflection on culture shifting the focus from a purely sectoral approach to cultural policies towards a more transversal one which sets culture across the broad development spectrum underlining the recognition of cultural diversity as a precondition for content- and context-relevant development (i.e. "no one size fits all").

### The recognition of cultural diversity as a basis for development

#### 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 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.

#### [2001 UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity](#)





The United Nations General Assembly, for over ten years, has increasingly anchored culture in broader development prospects, particularly through specific resolutions on “Culture and Development” (2010 and 2011), arguing that “too many well-intended development programmes have failed because they did not take cultural settings into account” (UNGA, 2013). Subsequent General Assembly resolutions were adopted by Member States at the UNGAs in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2019 leading to the integration of culture into UN programmes in countries, as illustrated in the UN Development Assistant Frameworks (UNDAFs): whereas in 2008 less than 30% mentioned culture and by 2013 this had risen to 70%.

**The Hangzhou Declaration: Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies (2013), further honed the ways in which culture contributes to sustainable development:** identifying that, firstly, culture should be considered as a fundamental enabler of sustainability due to its “extraordinary power”, particularly when fostering people-centre and place-based approaches, and when integrated into development programmes and peace-building initiatives. Secondly, culture should also be seen as a driver through the specific contributions that it can make – as knowledge capital and a productive sector – to inclusive, social and economic development, environmental sustainability, peace and security. Today the contribution of culture to social development and economic growth is undisputed globally.



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## Culture as AN ENABLER...

“Culture should be considered to be a fundamental enabler of sustainability, **being a source of meaning and energy, a wellspring of creativity and innovation, and a resource to address challenges and find appropriate solutions.** The extraordinary power of culture to foster and enable truly sustainable development is especially evident when a people-centred and place-based approach is integrated into development programmes and peace-building initiatives.”

## AND A DRIVER... of sustainable development

“Culture [is] a driver for sustainable development, through the specific contributions that it can make – as **knowledge capital and a sector of activity** – to inclusive social, cultural and economic development, harmony, environmental sustainability, peace and security.”

Extracts from [Hangzhou Declaration](#), 2013



# COUNTDOWN TO MONDIACULT 2022

## Deepening the foundations of cultural policies over time

### 1982

#### MONDIACULT: BROADENING THE DEFINITION OF CULTURE

The **first UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies** (MONDIACULT) broadens the international definition of culture as "the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society or social group". (Mexico Declaration).

### 1995

#### OUR CREATIVE DIVERSITY: CULTURE IS INTRINSIC TO DEVELOPMENT

The independent **UNESCO World Commission on Culture and Development** established by the United Nations, and entrusted to UNESCO, outlines that development divorced from its human and cultural context is 'growth without a soul'. It further stresses that development embraces not only access to goods and services, but also the opportunity to choose a full, satisfying, valuable and valued way of living together.

### 1999

#### MEASURING THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF CULTURE

UNESCO joins forces with The World Bank on analyzing **financing, resources and the economics of culture in sustainable development** to highlight culture's economic value, in terms of investment, employment and benefits calling for more systemic analysis and collection of cultural statistics.

### 2003

#### DEFINING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH BUILT AND MOVABLE HERITAGE



UNESCO Member States adopt the **Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**, committing to safeguarding living heritage, noting that it constitutes the mainspring of cultural diversity and contributes to anchoring culture in development from a human-centered perspective.

#### CULTURAL HERITAGE, A TARGET IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

The **UNESCO Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage** enriches further international law concerning cultural heritage. The Declaration affirms that States and the international community should take all appropriate measures to prevent, avoid, stop and suppress acts of intentional destruction of cultural heritage whether during armed conflict or in peacetime.

### 2006

#### ACCELERATING THE MDGs THROUGH CULTURE



Establishment of the **Thematic Window on Culture and Development of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F)** with an overall contribution of US \$ 95 million whose coordination is entrusted to UNESCO. The Fund aims to invest in harnessing the impact of culture on sustainable development in national development policies to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) worldwide.

### 1988

#### ACKNOWLEDGING THE CULTURAL DIMENSION OF DEVELOPMENT

The international community proclaims the **World Decade for Cultural Development** to promote the inclusion of the cultural dimension of development at the national and international levels. The Decade led to the development of landmark international regulatory frameworks and operational guidelines to protect, preserve, safeguard and promote culture in its diversity.

### 1998

#### BRINGING CULTURE INTO THE HEART OF POLICY-MAKING

UNESCO convenes the **Stockholm Conference on Cultural Policies for Development** to define a new global agenda of cultural policies for development calling for the elaboration of an Action Plan on priorities for cultural policies federating multi-stakeholder partnerships.

### 2001

#### UNESCO UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity highlights cultural diversity as "**as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature**" and makes its defence an ethical imperative indissociable from respect for the dignity of the individual.

#### EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF CULTURE TO EMBRACE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE



The **Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage** acknowledges the necessity for humanity to protect of all traces of human existence of a cultural, historical or archaeological nature that have been partially or totally underwater, periodically or permanently, for at least 100 years, often subject to looting, including both objects and cultural sites.

### 2005

#### PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS



The **Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions** recognizes the dual nature, both cultural and economic, of contemporary cultural expressions. The 2005 Convention is at the heart of the creative economy shaping the design and implementation of policies and measures that support the creation, production, distribution of and access to cultural goods and services, the 2005 Convention is at the heart of the creative economy.

### 2009

#### DEVELOPING A FIRST SET OF INDICATORS FOR CULTURE

The **UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators Suite (CDIS)** presents an innovative approach and methodology to document, through factual quantitative and qualitative data, the multidimensional role of culture across national development processes.





# COUNTDOWN TO MONDIACULT 2022

## Deepening the foundations of cultural policies over time

### 2011

#### ENRICHING THE DEFINITION OF CULTURE TO ENCOMPASS URBAN LANDSCAPE

The **Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) Recommendation** calls on Member States to integrate conservation and management of cultural heritage in cities and settlements with policies and practices for sustainable urban development.

### 2015

#### INTEGRATING CULTURE INTO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Culture features in Sustainable Development Goal 11 and its target 11.4 calls for the strengthening of efforts to **protect and preserve the world's cultural and natural heritage** in order to sustain livelihoods. Beyond SDG 11, culture is recognized in Voluntary National Reports (VNRs) for the implementation of Agenda 2030 as a crosscutting enabler and driver of sustainable development.

#### PROTECTING AND PROMOTING MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS

The Recommendation on the protection and promotion of museums and collections brought forward the **social, economic and educational role of museums** for sustainable development, the protection and promotion of cultural diversity towards building inclusive knowledge societies.

### 2017

#### RECOGNIZING THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR PEACE

The United Nations Security Council adopts the Resolution 2347 on "**Maintenance of international peace and security**: destruction and trafficking of cultural heritage by terrorist groups and in situations of armed conflict". This resolution is the first ever resolution adopted by the Security Council drawing a clear nexus between cultural heritage and peace and security.

### 2021



#### PROCLAIMING AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CREATIVE ECONOMY

The United Nations General Assembly proclaims the **International Year of the Creative Economy for Sustainable Development** to support the contribution of the cultural and creative sector to social development and economic growth. It reaffirms the potential of cultural and creative industries to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

#### INTEGRATING CULTURE IN THE G20

In an historic first, world leaders firmly integrate culture into the G20 **Rome Leaders' Declaration**.

### 2013

#### ADVANCING CULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE POST-2015 GLOBAL AGENDA

The **Hangzhou Declaration**: Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies further refines the multifaceted role of culture in achieving sustainable development goals, and advocates for the inclusion of culture in the post-2015 global development framework.

### 2016

#### RECOGNIZING THE DESTRUCTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** recognized Ahmad Al-Faqi Al-Mahdi guilty of war crime and sentenced him for his responsibility in the deliberate destruction of nine mausoleums and the secret gate of the Sidi Yahia mosque in UNESCO's World Heritage site of Timbuktu (Mali) in 2012. This historic decision, a first under the Rome Statute, is a **crucial step to end impunity for the destruction of cultural heritage**. It confirms earlier decisions taken by international jurisdictions and it amplifies them in a judgment entirely devoted to the destruction of cultural heritage.

### 2019

#### REINVESTING IN GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE

UNESCO reinvests in global policy dialogue on culture through the convening of the **UNESCO Forum of Ministers of Culture (Paris)** to address the adaptation of cultural policies to the global development challenges such as quality education, employment, social inequalities, the digital revolution, and environmental action, across the broad spectrum of development policy.

#### MEASURING CULTURE FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

The **UNESCO Culture|2030 Indicators** provide a revised methodological framework of thematic indicators whose objective is to measure the impact of the contribution of culture in the implementation of the SDGs and Targets enshrined in the 2030 Agenda.

### 2022

#### MONDIACULT 2022 RENEWING CULTURAL POLICIES

The UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development - MONDIACULT 2022 will tackle global challenges and outline future priorities in order to **shape a more robust and resilient cultural sector**, while strengthening culture across sustainable development prospects.



Mondiacult 2022  
México



## Renewing cultural policies: A sense of urgency

**Over the last four decades, the global landscape – and the cultural sector itself – have profoundly evolved.** Newly emerged fault lines in the international order as well as overarching transnational challenges, such as inequalities, conflicts, the technological revolution and climate change, have pushed countries to adapt their public policies to better fulfill their role in ensuring the provision of global public goods – an imperative which is particularly relevant to culture. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic has starkly exposed the shared vulnerability of countries and the cultural and creative industries themselves. In this context, the cultural sector has faced widespread disruption, bringing to the forefront the urgent need for the sector to adapt within the broad public policy spectrum.

**Despite these prevailing challenges, the nexus between culture and sustainable development has gained clear recognition for its role in supporting continuity,** engagement, employment, resilience, and well-being. This nexus also reveals the value of culture in our societies and the weight of the cultural sector in advancing social and economic development at the global and national levels. This momentum led the way for a renewed vision of cultural policies to gain ground in the broad public policy spectrum. It is against this background that UNESCO is reinvesting in the global policy dialogue in the field of culture, building on its historic and constitutional legacy of fostering multilateral cooperation and policy dialogue in the wake of its landmark conferences on cultural policies held respectively in 1982 and 1998 – whose conceptual and policy outcomes laid the ground for major advances in the conceptualization and architecture of cultural policies. As we entered the last Decade of Action for the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals agreed by the international community as our common aspirational roadmap, UNESCO is engaging its Member States and the international community to embark on a renewed reflection on cultural policies to tackle global challenges and outline immediate and future priorities in order to shape a more robust and resilient cultural sector, fully anchored in public policies and sustainable development prospects.

“**When culture is understood as the basis of development, the very notion of cultural policy has to be considerably broadened.**”

Independent World Commission on Culture and Development, chaired by Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Extract from “Our Creative Diversity”, 1995



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## Culture as a global public good

Over the last few decades, the world has witnessed the emergence of global challenges, whose scope and complexity have urged countries to reshape their public policies. Rising inequalities, climate change, the digital transformation, accelerated urbanization, and the upsurge in conflicts and migratory flows are among the overarching challenges that now shape the global policy landscape. These policy trends directly impact the cultural sector, bringing up both challenges for its resilience and opportunities for its transformation. The cultural sector, more than any other policy domain, has a capacity to adapt across time, building on the dynamic essence of culture itself. More substantially, the global policy landscape sheds a fresh light on the fundamental and transformative role of culture in our societies. The urge to shift the focus of public policies towards global public goods – an imperative recently reiterated by the UN Secretary General in the Our Common Agenda report – cuts across all policy domains but is particularly relevant to culture.



**Now is the time to re-embrace global solidarity and find new ways to work together for the common good.**

United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres

**In this more fragmented world, the foundations of multilateralism have been eroded.** The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these fault lines, while also exposing the deep interdependence between countries and the need to forge common responses to transnational phenomena that are also affecting the cultural sector. In a very uncertain, unregulated global environment, multilateral dialogue is needed more than ever before to address issues that transcend national borders. This aspiration was clearly reflected in the UN world consultation Shaping our Future Together, whose 1 million respondents around the world, particularly youth, have expressed an unequivocal yearning for international cooperation and global solidarity. What culture has to bring, in that context, is its power to bridge people and countries, offering more inclusive, participative and collaborative models, to foster mutual understanding and forge a renewed paradigm for multilateralism, which places human dignity at its heart. Shifting international relations from competition to cooperation is a global endeavor, in which culture should fully contribute.

**The global landscape of cultural policies has also profoundly evolved over the past decades.** Unlike the global context which prevailed in 1982, many countries around the world have now set up culture ministries and institutions and have enacted cultural policy documents and frameworks – although to an uneven extent across the different regions. While cultural policies have tended to remain relatively isolated from other policy areas, their scope has expanded to encompass more comprehensive approaches to culture – including cultural diversity, intangible heritage and the creative economy – and interact more broadly with other domains, as reflected by the growing policy investment in cultural tourism or cultural diplomacy or novel approaches such as cultural literacy. While the role of the State remains central to devise public policy, guarantee fundamental rights, and regulate the cultural sector, cultural policies have gradually transitioned towards multilayered governance patterns, involving a multiplicity of stakeholders – from local governments and civil society organizations, to subregional and regional organizations – which have become more influential and engaged on cultural policymaking.



Cultural policies have gradually incorporated the conceptual approaches which took shape in Mexico in 1982 and Stockholm in 1998, thus highlighting the historical significance of such world conferences and their profound impact on cultural policies over the following decades.

**This upward trajectory has been directly supported by the gradual commitment of countries towards expanding regulatory frameworks in the cultural sector** – an endeavor that was supported by UNESCO through its normative function by the development of a set of soft law and binding normative instruments over the past decades. Concepts around the definitions of cultural heritage, cultural expressions, creativity and their significance for peoples and societies were subsequently refined, systematized and translated into international legal instruments through the emergence of the UNESCO Culture Conventions in 2001, 2003 and 2005, adding themselves to the already existing “first generation” normative instruments and frameworks such as the 1954, 1970 and 1972 UNESCO Conventions. These global policy discussions also triggered the “first generation” Conventions to evolve their approaches in light of contemporary challenges, leading to the emergence, for example, of concepts such as historic urban landscapes or underwater heritage. Overall, UNESCO Culture Conventions, Declarations and Recommendations provide Member States with a robust set of policy and standard-setting instruments, whose ratification and implementation has been instrumental in strengthening and updating the cultural sector’s legislative frameworks at the national level. In recent years, the implementation of UNESCO’s Culture Conventions and programmes at country level has also allowed States to review their policy approaches to better demonstrate the impact of these regulatory frameworks on sustainable development, notably by integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their assessment and monitoring mechanisms.

**Despite these fundamental structural advances, the cultural sector remains vulnerable – a fragility which was starkly exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.** While bringing out the essential role of culture – as well as the undisputed economic and social value of the cultural sector in the sustainable development paradigm – the pandemic also served as a reality check, exposing preexisting vulnerabilities within the cultural sector. As millions of artists and cultural professionals were abruptly left out of work, the necessity to consolidate social security to build a more resilient and thriving cultural sector was particularly highlighted. With many cultural venues and institutions now facing permanent closure, putting cultural diversity at risk, renewing and stabilizing their economic models emerged as a key priority. As international travel was put on hold, the dependence of the cultural sector on the tourism industry and the need to forge more inclusive and sustainable tourism models was made more pressing. Likewise, it also unveiled the reality of social inequalities and the digital divide.

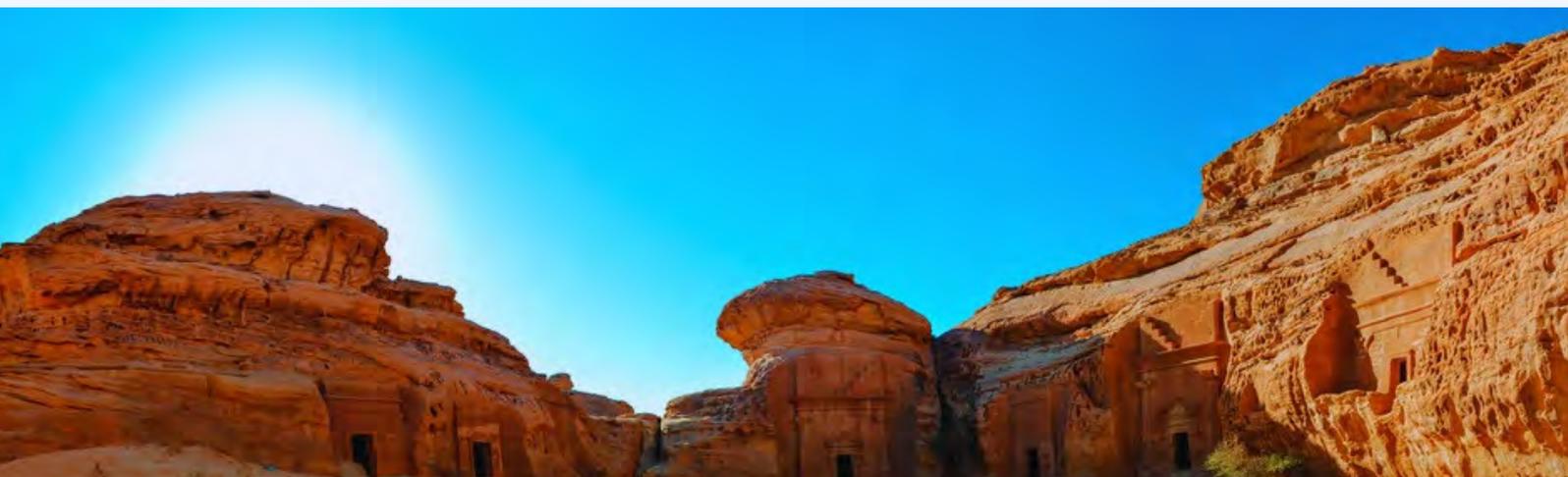




## A renewed momentum on culture and sustainable development

Linkages between culture and sustainable development were already at the core of both the 1982 and 1998 UNESCO World Conferences on Cultural Policies, reflecting the historical grounding of this rationale, as soon as the notion of sustainable development itself took shape in global policy discussions in the early 1980s, notably fostered by the United Nations World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997), with UNESCO as the lead agency. The World Decade was aimed at broadening development concepts to place greater emphasis on its cultural dimension, fostering creative skills and cultural life, thus redressing the limitations of a development concept that had been based primarily on quantitative and material growth since the end of the Second World War, towards a more global concept of development, embracing the aspirations of peoples and societies to shape the twenty-first century. However, in the following decades, the nexus between culture and sustainable development, which was inherently conducive to a transversal and holistic vision of culture, was overshadowed by a more sectoral approach to cultural policies that was deemed a better fit to responding to globalization targets. Thereby it also hindered the effective integration of the cultural sector across public policies at the national and global levels, up until the adoption of the 2000 UN Millennium Declaration by the international community and the launch of the Millennium Development Goals, which preceded the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Over the past few years, however, policy engagement around harnessing culture for sustainable development has gained significant momentum at both the global, regional and national levels, further highlighting the undisputed recognition of the social and economic weight of the cultural sector and its multidimensional impact on resilience, wellbeing and prosperity. This momentum was further strengthened by a number of global policy processes led or supported by UNESCO. The reinvestment of global policy dialogue on culture for sustainable development at the global and regional levels, echoing a growing aspiration of countries to engage in culture-led multilateral dialogue, was illustrated notably by the UNESCO Forum of Ministers of Culture in November 2019. Likewise, the unprecedented inclusion of culture in the G20 in 2019 and 2020, under the respective presidencies of Saudi Arabia and Italy, marked a major step forward, leading to the first ever G20 ministerial Declaration on culture in July 2021. Regional and sub-regional organizations also proved instrumental in amplifying this momentum, notably through supporting regional culture ministerial dialogue, data collection, policy monitoring and evidence-building, as well as joint advocacy efforts to document and demonstrate this rationale.





“MONDIACULT 2022 will provide new momentum for the global policy dialogue on culture for sustainable development, to advance the free exchange of ideas and knowledge by encouraging cooperation among countries.

Ernesto Ottone R., UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture

**Equally, culture has gained ground in sustainable development frameworks in more robust and systemic ways.** The paradigm shift entailed by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, whose logic relies on a comprehensive approach to public policies beyond a silos approach guided by sectoral policies, poses sustainable development as a set of interrelated variables that opens up a new perspective alongside novel approaches in harnessing culture as a critical dimension in development processes. Although culture does not have a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), it pervades all the 17 SDGs, reflecting its impact across the public policy spectrum, from social inclusion and economic growth, to education, climate action and urban policies. At the UN level, this policy trend is apparent, in particular, by the momentum propelled by the International Year of the Creative Economy for Sustainable Development in 2021 or the upcoming adoption of a strengthened UN Resolution on Culture and Development, which further reflects and amplifies countries' commitment.

**The trend is further strengthened by the integration of culture as a crosscutting dimension in the work of UN agencies,** funds and programmes whose core mandate relate to education, migrations, gender equality, labor, trade, intellectual property, human rights, tourism, and social development. Furthermore, the growing inclusion of culture in national sustainable development planning and monitoring – notably as part UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, Common Country Assessments, Voluntary National Reports, as well as COVID-19 national impact assessment and recovery plans – testifies to a more solid and articulate anchoring of culture within sustainable development thinking and practices. To continue this drive UNESCO has put in place an Interagency Platform on Culture for Sustainable Development in May 2021, bringing together 24 UN agencies as well as international and regional organizations to foster a structured dialogue and strengthen joint action. Building on these converging dynamics and as we enter the last Decade of Action for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the transversal nature of culture and its transformative impact will be instrumental to fill implementation gaps and shape sustainable development pathways.



**Mariachi, string music, song and trumpet**  
Inscribed in 2011 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity



## MONDIACULT 2022: Many voices, common goals

In order to ensure a holistic and thorough reflection on future directions for cultural policies, MONDIACULT 2022 builds on the voices of a wide-range of stakeholders to reposition culture at the core of development prospects through institutional, intellectual, and operational cooperation, in the tradition of UNESCO's role as a laboratory of ideas. MONDIACULT 2022 is an intergovernmental conference, with Member States experiences, needs and priorities at the fore. However, the vital perspectives and insights from various stakeholders, including organizations from civil society, are also critical for shaping future prospects towards a more inclusive, resilient and renewed cultural sector.

Five regional consultations held between December 2021 and February 2022 brought to the fore current trends pertaining to cultural policies, notably in the context of the post-pandemic recovery strategies; identifying key areas for the adaptation of the cultural sector to address current challenges; and specific priorities requiring urgent policy investment, with a view to formulating concrete and operational recommendations.

**158**  
representatives of  
**Member States**

**105**  
Ministers and  
Vice Ministers

**Mapping current trends  
in cultural policies**

### ACADEMIA

**+30**  
UNESCO Chairs and  
category II centres

**Identifying key areas for the adaptation  
of the cultural sector**



### REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEVELOPMENT BANKS

**+45**  
regional and sub-regional  
organizations

**+20**  
agencies of the  
**UN SYSTEM**

**Identifying priorities for  
policy investment**

### CIVIL SOCIETY

**+360**  
organizations

## Building reflections: Some regional prospects

Whilst there are differences in the emerging priorities across the five regions, the inclusive regional consultations identified overall trends to be addressed by the MONDIACULT Conference...

**1** The interdependence of public policies

**2** Protecting and promoting cultural diversity in the digital space

**3** Cultural heritage for peace and security

**4** Innovating governance models in the cultural sector

**5** Culture and education as the backbone of sustainability

**6** Advancing cultural rights for participation, freedom of expression, social and economic benefits

**7** Bolstering data and evidence on the impact of culture on development



## **ResiliArt x MONDIACULT 2022: A UNESCO global movement for and by artists and cultural workers**

In parallel of the regional consultations, UNESCO has been engaging with civil society organizations and cultural professionals, particularly through the ResiliArt X MONDIACULT 2022 movement.

ResiliArt was launched by UNESCO in April 2020 as a global movement to capture the resilience and concerns of artists and culture professionals in the face of COVID-19 crisis through virtual debates. At its launch, publicly-accessible online conferences were far and few between; ResiliArt hence served as a pioneering platform of open exchange dedicated to culture with a coherent mission and framework, stimulating debate and new arenas for dialogue. A rapid global replication followed, and to date, over 350 debates have been organized involving more than 115 countries, covering a multitude of topics from creativity to heritage. The latest phase of ResiliArt capitalises on the success of the movement launched during the global lockdown that stimulated new arenas for dialogue for artists and cultural professionals in all regions of the world.

The movement serves as an inclusive, accessible platform for any interested stakeholder to contextualize the high-level deliberation leading up to MONDIACULT and inform its outcomes. The recommendations, data and results of each ResiliArt x MONDIACULT debate will be gathered through an online survey, subsequently analyzed by UNESCO to develop regionally categorized overviews and trends. Such analysis will be used during the upstream preparation of the Conference and Member State consultations, so high-level discussions in Mexico City will take into account the ever-evolving needs, gaps and opportunities on the ground.

**ResiliArt**  
for Mondiacult

**350+**  
cultural  
professionals

**115+**  
countries



Elena11/Shutterstock.com



## Time to unleash the potential of culture for sustainable development

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been instrumental in bringing to the fore the social, environmental and economic relevance of culture. Indeed, research by UNESCO shows concretely that culture contributes to all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): in their Voluntary National Reviews submitted to the UN to monitor progress towards the SDGs, countries have cited concrete examples with linkages to culture. In recognition of the significance of the cultural and creative sectors, the UN General Assembly designated 2021 as an International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development to support the recovery of the cultural and creative sector and its undisputed impact on economic growth.

Since the launch of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) exercise in 2016, about



reporting on their VNRs have integrated

**Culture** in their national policies for sustainable development

### Culture supports content- and context-relevant development

A UNESCO analysis of Voluntary National Reviews that are submitted to the United Nations to monitor progress towards the 2030 Agenda demonstrated that culture is already contributing to public policies across the policy spectrum.

Artists, cultural professionals and policy makers are drivers of innovative partnerships

The respect for cultural diversity - from the right to express and create to that of fostering access to cultural life - is inseparable from respect for human rights

Strengthening the link between cultural diversity and biodiversity fosters a more sustainable human-nature interactions

Protecting marine heritage helps achieve healthy and productive oceans

Traditional knowledge and skills build resilience to counter the effects of natural disasters and climate change

Culture can trigger behavioural changes towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns

Creativity and cultural heritage are at the heart of people-based strategies for more sustainable cities and communities

Respect for cultural diversity generates positive dialogue and social inclusion

Cultural infrastructure and creative professionals drive innovation and diversify economies

Culture helps eradicate the social and economic aspects of poverty

Local and indigenous knowledge promotes sustainable agricultural practices and food security

Culture strengthens communication and information for disease prevention

Arts education and linguistic diversity encourage intercultural dialogue, equipping young people with the skills to become global citizens

Fostering cultural participation helps to advance gender equality and women's empowerment

Community engagement in the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage improves the sustainable development of water-related ecosystems

Energy consumption patterns are powered by cultural behaviours

The cultural and creative industries offer job opportunities adapted to local realities and needs

HOW CAN CULTURE HELP FILL IMPLEMENTATION GAPS IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 17 SDGS?



## Unfinished business...

Highlights on Sustainable Development Goals for which the role of culture is particularly relevant:



**+45%**  
of education and training in the cultural and creative sector in both developed and developing countries focus on digital literacy for creation and experimentation.



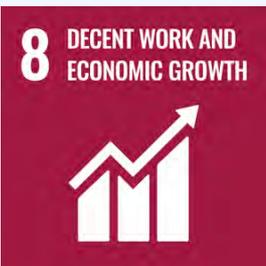
**13%**  
of employment at the city level worldwide is in the creative and cultural industries.



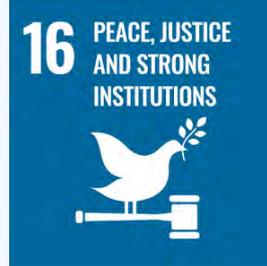
**48%**  
of work in the culture and entertainment sector is done by women. Yet, they remain underrepresented in positions of leadership.



**10 million km<sup>2</sup>**  
of UNESCO designated cultural and natural sites around the world contribute to global climate change mitigation action.



**50 million**  
jobs are created by the cultural and creative sectors worldwide.  
**+10 million**  
jobs, however, were lost in 2020 alone, due to the pandemic.



**75%**  
of UNESCO's Member States have ratified the Organization's six cultural conventions, thus strengthening their mechanisms for equal access to culture, inclusion, heritage protection and the promotion of cultural rights.

## DECADE OF ACTION

Progress has been made in several areas, but action to meet the SDGs is still behind schedule. While the UN Secretary General has launched the Decade of Action to accelerate sustainable solutions to the world's biggest challenges, culture has a potential transformative impact to help fill implementation gaps of the 2030 Agenda.



Pierpaolo Pulinas/Shutterstock.com



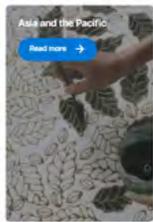
**FIND OUT MORE**

## COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES ON MONDIACULT

### MONDIACULT 2022 WEBSITE

#### Regional consultations for MONDIACULT 2022

From December 2021 to February 2022, five regional consultations were organized in the run-up to MONDIACULT 2022. They helped to identify specific priorities of each region that require stronger policy investment, to better harness the contribution of culture across the public policy spectrum, as well as to address the most pressing challenges of sustainable development. Find out more below:



Mondiacult 2022  
México



[www.unesco.org/en/mondiacult2022](http://www.unesco.org/en/mondiacult2022)



### LATEST NEWS FROM UNESCO



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#### UNESCO LAUNCHES EMERGENCY PLAN TO BOOST WORLD HERITAGE-LISTED REEFS' RESILIENCE

UNESCO World Heritage coral reefs cover over half a million km2 worldwide, exhibiting exceptional biodiversity and playing a crucial role in the fight against climate change. Alarmingly, under the current emissions scenario, all World Heritage-listed reefs are at risk of disappearing by the end of this century.

**PRESS RELEASE**

This Tracker is produced by UNESCO's Cultural Policies and Development entity, in English and French. We are counting on partners to support its production in other UNESCO official languages, to expand the global discussion on culture and public policy.



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