



The first World Culture Forum was held in Bali, Indonesia between 23-27 November, 2013



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Initiated by the President of the Republic of Indonesia H.E Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and organised by the Indonesian government, the first World Culture Forum (WCF) was held in Bali, Indonesia between 23-27 November, 2013. More than 1000 participants from 45 countries gathered in Bali to explore the role of culture as a means to achieve sustainable development. During the opening ceremony, President Yudhoyono stated that “we already have a World Economic Forum and the World Social Forum for critical discussions on globalization and all its aspects. However, we are yet to have a global forum for meaningful dialogues on the importance of culture”.

The forum is based on the need for a more visible and effective integration and mainstreaming of culture into development policies and strategies at all levels, as expressed during the UN General Assembly in 2011. It is now widely accepted around the globe that culture can be a driver in sustainable development, as opposed to the past deficit model of culture as an obstacle to development. In line with this acceptance of the power of culture in development, and with the acceptance that more innovative and entrepreneurial ways need to be adopted when considering the successes and failures in achieving the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), it is acknowledged that culture in all its dimensions needs to to be integrated more forcefully in development. Culture must become an integral part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the post-2015 Development Agenda. A general understanding was reached about the UN processes for culture to be included in goals for sustainable development (post-2015).

The overarching theme of the WCF was “The Power of Culture in Sustainable Development”, and six symposia were organized under the following sub-themes, forming the general framework of WCF 2013: Holistic Approaches to Culture in Development; Civil Society and Cultural Democracy; Creativity and Cultural Economics; Culture in Environmental Sustainability; Sustainable Urban Development; Inter-Faith Dialogue and Community Building. Leading figures on issues of culture and development gave keynote addresses, among them, Director General of UNESCO Irina Bokova; Nobel Prize in Economic Science Laureate Prof. Dr. Amartya Sen; and journalist and commentator at CNN Dr. Fareed Zakaria. Also many experts working on the various aspects of culture joined the forum to share their knowledge.

The outcome of the WCF is the “Bali Promise” as transcribed below:

BALI PROMISE

We the participants of the inaugural World Culture Forum: The Power of Culture in Sustainable Development, convened at the initiative of Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, in Bali from 24 to 27 November 2013, call for measurable and effective role and integration of culture in development at all levels in the UN post- 2015 Development Agenda.

We underline that culture is a driver, enabler and enricher of sustainable development.

We strongly recommend that the cultural dimension of development be explicitly integrated in all the Sustainable Development Goals taking into consideration the following:

- *finding new modalities for the valuing and measuring of culture in sustainable development;*
- *developing accountable and ethical frameworks for evidence-based measures of community engagement and stakeholder benefits;*
- *fostering new participatory models promoting cultural democracy and social inclusion;*
- *ensuring conceptual clarity, equity and capacity building in mainstreaming gender concerns;*
- *fostering stability in social, political and economic development for nurturing the culture of peace at both local and international levels;*
- *supporting the leadership of young people in cultural endeavours;*
- *promoting local knowledge systems in guiding environmental conservation and heritage protection;*
- *developing and strengthening productive partnerships among public and private sectors;*
- *strengthening community ownership and civil society participation in the delivery of sustainable development projects to enhance their transformative role;*
and

- *encouraging creativity and fostering the development of cultural industries to alleviate poverty and promote economic and cultural empowerment.*

We call on governments to commit themselves for the integration of culture in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

We recognize the World Culture Forum as a permanent platform for promoting the role of culture in sustainable development and the safeguarding of the cultural and linguistic diversity of humanity.

We, the participants of the World Culture Forum, welcome Indonesia's commitment to be the host of future Bali World Culture Forums.

Bali, Indonesia, 26 November 2013

For more information visit <http://wcfina.org>

