



Conclusions of the IX Annual Meeting of the UCCN

We, the members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) assembled for its 2015 Annual Meeting in Kanazawa, Japan, have agreed upon the following:

1. The main activities undertaken by the UCCN Secretariat shall continue to focus on liaising with all creative cities, proposing programmatic initiatives and flagship projects, managing the designation process of new members, promoting visibility and organizing meetings as appropriate.
2. The Steering Group is made up of one coordinator from each of the seven creative fields and the representative of the forthcoming Annual Meeting Host City. These coordinators are nominated by the members of the creative sub-networks which must also designate a deputy coordinator to act as a substitute if necessary. The composition of the Steering Group shall be such that, as far as possible, all geographical regions are represented. If such geographical representation is not provided through the designation of the cluster coordinators, it will be the responsibility of the cluster coordinators themselves to co-opt cities from non-represented regions. The Steering Group performs a two-year term. All of its members are renewed at the UCCN Annual Meeting at the end of the second year of that term. The next Steering Group renewal will take place at the 2016 Meeting in Östersund.
3. The Steering Group's principal responsibilities for the forthcoming year are as follows:
 - a) Overseeing the evaluation of applications by candidate UCCN members in accordance with the process and criteria established by the Designation Procedure of the 2015 Call for Applications and the related documentation provided by the Secretariat.
 - b) Participating in the selection of the Host City of the 2017 Annual Meeting and launching the corresponding selection process for 2018 according to the Host City Selection Criteria adopted in the present Annual Meeting.
 - c) Participating in the evaluation of the Membership Monitoring reports submitted by member cities in February 2016, including the presentation of a brief report of the conclusions of the Membership Monitoring Exercise to the 2016 Annual Meeting.

- d) Contributing to the organization and preparation of the 2016 UCCN Annual Meeting to be held in Östersund (Sweden).
4. If sufficient funds are available, a high-level round table and exhibition showcasing the activities of the UCCN at UNESCO's Headquarters will be organized during the meeting of the Culture Commission at the UNESCO General Conference (12 – 14th November 2015) in the framework of UNESCO's 70th anniversary. Representatives of each sub-network will present the activities and achievements of their respective creative fields.
 5. Member cities will also mark the 70th anniversary of UNESCO by engaging in a number of flagship projects throughout the year. All actions undertaken in this context will be effectively communicated to the Secretariat.
 6. Member cities will contribute as much and as effectively as possible to the elaboration of the Global Report on Culture and Sustainable Urban Development by providing UNESCO with relevant case studies, data and analysis on targeted projects, operations or policies highlighting the role of culture in sustainable urban development.
 7. To further strengthen the UCCN and promote progress towards its objectives and goals at the local and international levels, member cities commit to launching innovative measures, partnerships and projects both within and across the seven creative fields and network-wide.
 8. Member cities will continue to provide the Secretariat with up-to-date and regular communication material on events and activities they have organized that are relevant to the UCCN objectives. This material will be used by the Secretariat to maintain the Network's modern, creative and responsive digital platform.
 9. Member cities will continue to measure the impact of the UNESCO Creative City designation at the local level, including through academic research and data collection, and to foster exchanges on cross-cutting issues of mutual interest, in particular in the framework of the forthcoming Annual Meetings.
 10. Member cities suggest to launch the calls for applications of the UCCN every two years in order to ensure an effective integration of the new members within the Network as well as the formulation and implementation of effective partnerships.
 11. Member cities note UNESCO's appeal to contribute directly to the Network on a regular basis, including through resource mobilization for the Network within their partnership activities and facilitating the development of partnerships between UNESCO and the private sector for the consolidation and broadening of its activities.
 12. Member cities request UNESCO to propose a flexible mechanism by which they can contribute to the functioning of the Network on a regular and voluntary basis.