



## CONCLUSIONS

### XI<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network

#### Enghien-les-Bains, France

2 July 2017

We, the members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) assembled for its 2017 Annual Meeting in Enghien-les-Bains, thank the Host City for its generous hospitality. After discussions and consultations, we have agreed on the following:

1. The UCCN has adopted at this Meeting the new Strategic Framework for the Network, which sets the priorities for the Secretariat and the member cities going forward together. The Framework was prepared by the Secretariat in close collaboration with the Steering Group, in response to the Conclusions of the Xth Annual Meeting in Östersund, Sweden. Over the coming years, the key focuses of the Network will include:
  - Developing research and knowledge management mechanisms for culture-engaged policies;
  - Developing co-creative partnership mechanisms to support members and applicant cities, particularly those from the Global South, so as to improve global integration of all members;
  - Showcasing member cities' innovative power on an international platform, in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and
  - Developing effective communication and capacity-building materials for the whole Network.
2. In order to ensure a more sustainable development of the Network, the member cities have decided to decrease the maximum number of designations per country per Call. As of the 2019 Call, a maximum of two applications, instead of three as in the previous Calls, from the same country, and covering two different creative fields, may receive the designation following the evaluation process.
3. Meanwhile, applications from under-represented regions within the Network, particularly those from developing countries, will be encouraged, so as to further the Network's geographical balance. Based on this year's experience of the Africa region, the Cooperation Framework, which pairs applicant cities and member cities could be extended to other under-represented regions in the future Calls.
4. The UCCN will initiate and develop a capacity-building and up-streaming mechanism for newly designated cities as well as to better prepare future candidate cities and further facilitate their integration in the Network in case of designation.
5. The member cities are encouraged to undertake collective efforts to increase the research capacity of the Network by sharing documentation, experiences and expertise built at the city level, in addition to collecting, analyzing and sharing good practices and data that underscore the role of culture and creativity in sustainable urban development. Collective initiatives led by the Secretariat in line with UNESCO's methodologies and frameworks,

and in close collaboration with experts, as well as research and educational institutions in member cities, should be undertaken. The extended UCCN pool of experts could be a valuable resource to tap into.

6. The UCCN Steering Group (SG) was created at the VIII<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Chengdu, China, and its role and structure was further elaborated upon at the IX<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Kanazawa, Japan, and the X<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Östersund, Sweden. The first renewal of the SG members occurred at the X<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and the second will take place at the XII<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Krakow and Katowice, Poland. In order to strengthen representativeness as well as to ensure the continuity of the SG, a rotating mechanism, in which the SG members are eligible to serve for a maximum of two consecutive mandates of two years, and the Deputy Coordinators may take over the role of Coordinators after the first two-year mandate, has been proposed. Further discussions on this subject will be undertaken within the Network, and a new mechanism could be established at the next Annual Meeting.
7. Co-creative partnership involves a number of actors, including local governments, civil society, and professionals, working in concert to produce mutually-valuable outcomes. The member cities recognize the profound potential of this approach for the encouragement of cultural and creative sectors, as well as for the facilitation of economic growth and social development. In the next year, member cities commit to taking actions to enhance participatory policy-making and activity implementation.
8. The member cities fully recognize and actively advocate for the essential role of digital technologies and public spaces, whose comprehensiveness and inclusiveness closely connect different cultural and creative sectors, and enable cities to design, create and build better urban environments for all inhabitants.
9. The member cities agree that the Annual Meeting should be more focused and streamlined in terms of outcomes and impact as the Network continues growing. A maximum of three participants per city including the Focal Point and one senior political representative must be ensured in the future Meetings.
10. The member cities note that following the first Membership Monitoring Report exercise, formalized at the IX UCCN Annual Meeting in Kanazawa, Japan, the second round was implemented. 10 reports have been submitted by member cities that joined the Network in 2008 and 2009. Following the assessment process, a comprehensive summary was made at this Annual Meeting. As specified in the Membership Monitoring Guidelines, the 22 member cities designated between 2010 and 2013 shall submit their report by 30 November 2017, and then every four years.
11. Each creative field should submit in advance, every 6 months, through its Coordinator, a plan of activities featuring the major future projects and initiatives planned by its member cities and aimed at implementing the UCCN Mission Statement, as agreed at the X Annual Network Meeting in Östersund, Sweden. A common format was established by the Secretariat, member cities submitted their plans to their Coordinator, and the first round of 6-month plans was released last April. Based on this first experience, the Network aims to refine the process over the next year to ensure greater consistency in reporting and comparability across fields.
12. Echoing the call for contributions by the Mayors from Creative Cities in their Declaration at this Annual Meeting, the member cities reiterate the need for financial contributions to the Network in order to ensure its sustainability, given its status as an extra-budgetary programme, and in light of the increased demands placed on the Secretariat as the Network grows in membership and activity scope. This is also to ensure the leading role

that the UCCN is called to take on the global stage in building and promoting prosperous, inclusive and sustainable cities through creativity and innovation.

13. In order to further strengthen their political engagement towards the Network, the member cities are highly encouraged to designate, by city, an official political representative alongside the Focal Point, seeking to further integrate culture and creativity into local development policies, strategies and plans, as well as to strengthen the communication and collaboration between UNESCO and the member cities.
14. The member cities congratulate the city of Fabriano, Italy, for being designated as the Host City of the 2019 UCCN Annual Meeting by consensus at this Meeting and look forward to the next Annual Meeting in Krakow and Katowice, Poland.