



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Hangzhou, People's Republic of China

10-12 December 2015



In the framework of the Culture and Sustainable Urban Development Initiative, launched by UNESCO to nourish the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNESCO will convene an **International Conference on Culture for Sustainable Cities**, in Hangzhou, People's Republic of China, from 10 to 12 December 2015. The conference is organized in cooperation with the Hangzhou Municipal People's Government and with the support of the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO.



West Lake, Hangzhou, China
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The UNESCO Culture and Sustainable Urban Development Initiative

UNESCO has launched the Initiative on Culture and Sustainable Urban Development, promoting and supporting the recognition of the strategic role of culture, through cultural heritage and the cultural and creative industries, for sustainable urban development, in the framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Initiative is based on three pillars:

- The UNESCO Global Report on Culture and Sustainable Urban Development;
- The International Conference on Culture for Sustainable Cities (Hangzhou, People's Republic of China, from 10 to 12 December 2015);
- The contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the process leading to the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat-III), to be held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016.

OBJECTIVES

- sharing experiences and propose strategic recommendations to strengthen culture-based sustainable urban development initiatives at the international, national, regional and local levels;
- present and discuss the draft *UNESCO Global Report on Culture and Sustainable Urban Development*;
- contribute to the reflection on a "New Urban Agenda" in the context of the UNESCO Culture Conventions and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, thus providing strategic input to the Habitat-III Conference (Quito, Ecuador, 2016).

PARTICIPANTS

High-level representatives of Governments and International Organizations, mayors and city managers, internationally renowned experts, representatives of the private sector, Universities and non-governmental organizations from all regions of the world.

THEMES

- The role of culture in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Cultural heritage for sustainable cities
- Creativity at the core of the urban economy
- Cultural institutions and events, leverages for urban regeneration
- The need for an integrated vision for urban management
- Multicultural Cities: the challenges of urban governance
- From Hangzhou to Quito and onwards: best practices for sustainable urban development
- Public spaces as a key to urban regeneration
- Managing Cultural Tourism as a driver for Cities
- New threats to urban heritage: strengthening resilience



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FORMAT

The Conference will be organized in plenary sessions and parallel thematic working groups. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Chinese.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- *The Hangzhou Outcomes*: recommendations on maximizing the role of culture to achieve sustainable urban development and effective ways of integrating culture in urban planning and regeneration policies and urban creative economy and quality of life

- An international platform to share challenges, best practices and case studies on preservation and redevelopment of urban areas
- Strategic input to finalize the *UNESCO Global Report on Culture and Sustainable Urban Development*

The UNESCO Global Report on Culture and Sustainable Urban Development

Over the past decades, cities have become prominent actors in the promotion of sustainable development policies. Today, more than half of the world's population lives in an urban environment and it is expected that, in the next 30 years, 70% of the world population will live in urban areas.

Culture is a key resource to promote sustainable urban development, by preserving the identity of communities and individuals, attracting activities and visitors and fostering the development of the creative economy and quality of life.

In this context and considering that the main entry point for culture within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the Goal on sustainable cities, UNESCO has launched the preparation of a *Global Report on Culture and Sustainable Urban Development*, in the framework of the UNESCO Culture Conventions. For the first time, a global report will consolidate strategic analyses and recommendations to foster the role of culture for sustainable urban development, based on founding data and analyses from partner institutions from all regions of the world, and strategic highlights on specific issues collected from key actors in the areas of cultural heritage and creative industries.

The International Conference on "Culture for Sustainable Cities" will be a milestone event to address key issues related to culture and sustainable urban development and provide a strategic input to the UNESCO Global Report, which will be finalized in 2016 as a substantial contribution to the Habitat-III Conference.

CONTACT

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