CONCLUSIONS

X Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network

Östersund, Jämtland Härjedalen, Sweden
16 September 2016

We, the members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) assembled for its 2016 Annual Meeting in Östersund, Sweden, have considered issues for the future development of the Network and the reinforcement of partnerships between UNESCO and the member cities as well as among the member cities towards building sustainable creative cities, and have agreed on the following:

1. The UCCN Secretariat shall continue to make progress in liaising with all member cities, directly or through the UCCN Steering Group (SG), thereby proposing programmatic initiatives and flagship projects, assuming the global management of the Network including the designation process of new members, the membership monitoring mechanism, the organization of the Annual Meetings and the selection of the host cities, undertaking research initiatives, as well as promoting visibility of the Network and raising awareness for culture and creativity for sustainable urban development as appropriate.

2. The Network's main areas of action in the coming year will focus on:
   i)   enhancing the mobility of artists and professionals in cultural and creative sectors;
   ii)   implementing the membership monitoring and assessment mechanism;
   iii) launching and implementing the 2017 UCCN Call for Applications;
   iv)   integrating new members and further consolidating the Network;
   v)   formulating a strategy and a research agenda for the Network including a database of good practices;
   vi)   enhancing capacities in the Global South and inter-city partnerships intended to implement the UCCN Mission Statement; and
   vii) further developing transversal exchange and collaboration between member cities to make creativity a key lever of sustainable urban development.

3. Created in the VIII UCCN Annual Meeting in Chengdu, China, the UCCN Steering Group was established in 2014 for a 2-year tenure. Its structure and role were further specified in the Conclusion of the IX Annual Meeting in Kanazawa, Japan. The main responsibilities of the SG are, including but not limited to, the following:
   i)   facilitating communication between the Secretariat and the member cities in each creative field;
   ii)   coordinating the collective activities of each creative field, as well as centralizing and transmitting information and results, including the submission of the creative field's plan of activities to the Secretariat every 6 months;
   iii) co-organizing at least one creative field meeting per year;

iv)   contributing to the evaluation process of the Call for Applications;

v)   participating in the validation and preselection of candidate cities for the designation of the host cities of the Annual Meetings;

vi)   contributing to the evaluation process of the Membership Monitoring Report Exercise including the presentation of an evaluation report at the 2017 Annual Meeting; and

vii) promoting and supporting cooperation between the 7 Creative Fields in the Network.

4. The first renewal of the SG members took place at the current Annual Meeting. The new SG is composed of the following cities:

- Crafts and Folk Art: Fabriano (Coordinator) and Icheon (Deputy Coordinator)

- Design: Shenzhen (Coordinator) and Detroit (Deputy Coordinator)

- Film: Galway (Coordinator) and Sydney (Deputy Coordinator)

- Literature: Krakow (Coordinator) and Dublin (Deputy Coordinator)

- Media Arts: Dakar (Coordinator) and Enghien-les-Bains (Deputy Coordinator)

- Music: Gent (Coordinator) and Mannheim (Deputy Coordinator)

- Gastronomy: Östersund (Coordinator) and Ensenada (Deputy Coordinator)

The second renewal of the SG will be organized at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

5. The member cities call for the development of a future UCCN strategy to be submitted at the 2017 Annual Meeting. Such a strategy should be based on UNESCO's strategy in related fields, which are specified in the Programme and Budget of the Organization, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, as well as on the findings of the research project "Maximizing the potential of the UCCN" and ongoing debates on the subject within the Network.

6. Enghien-les-Bains, France, Creative City of Media Arts, was designated as the Host City of the 2017 UCCN Annual Meeting, following the selection process carried out by the Secretariat in collaboration with the SG and involving the member cities designated before December 2015. The selection of the Host City of the 2018 UCCN Annual Meeting will be conducted online by the Secretariat and the result is expected to be announced in the second half of October 2016.

7. The member cities have approved the Secretariat's proposal to formalize the online votes for the selections of Host Cities of UCCN Annual Meetings as of 2018 to further streamline the selection procedure. The Host City Selection Criteria agreed at the IX UCCN Annual Meeting will be reviewed in order to integrate the security norms and procedures related to the meetings organized by or in cooperation with UNESCO.

8. Among the documents for submission, the bid documents for the Host City of Annual Meeting shall be, as of the 2018 host city selection, submitted both in English and French, the two working languages of UNESCO, to facilitate the evaluation and selection process led by the Secretariat in collaboration with the SG and member cities. The submission of both an English and a French version of the rest of the documents, such as the Application for Designation and the Membership Monitoring Report, is optional but highly recommended so as to improve the quality and effectiveness of the global management of the Network.

9. The Membership Monitoring Report formalized in the IX UCCN Annual Meeting in Kanazawa, Japan, was implemented for the first time this year. 8 reports have been submitted by the member cities that joined the Network between 2004 and 2006 with the exception of Edinburgh due to technical reasons. After the assessment process jointly implemented by the Secretariat and the SG, the global evaluation was made at this Annual Meeting. The member cities designated between 2007 and 2009, listed hereafter, should submit their reports to the Secretariat by 30 November 2016:

- Glasgow (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) - City of Music
- Iowa City (United States of American) - City of Literature
- Kobe (Japan) - City of Design
- Lyon (France) - City of Media Art
- Melbourne (Australia) - City of Literature
- Nagoya (Japan) - City of Design
- Shenzhen (China) - City of Design
- Bradford (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) - City of Film
- Ghent (Belgium) - City of Music
- Kanazawa (Japan) - City of Crafts and Folk Art

10. The organization of at least one sub-network meeting per year by each creative field is recommended in view of an improved implementation of the decisions taken by the Network, as well as a better sharing of the activities, initiatives, measures and policies undertaken by members of each creative field. It is also aims to further nurture a collective thematic reflection on the 7 creative fields and to promote inter-sectorial sharing of experiences and best practices. Information about these events, including the agenda, presentation of major topics, list of participants and main outcomes, is recommended to be timely provided to the Secretariat so that the information could be diffused in the Network.

11. Each creative field should establish and submit in advance, every 6 months, through its Coordinator a plan of activities featuring the major future projects and initiatives planed by its member cities and aimed at implementing the UCCN Mission Statement. The recommended submission periods are March and September. In this regard, a common format will be established upon the agreement between the Secretariat and the Steering Group.

12. The Network's member cities are encouraged to further participate in and contribute to not only the activities of the Network but also the implementation of the international agenda for sustainable urban development through culture and creativity, notably in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda to be adopted at the Habitat III Conference.

13. The member cities are encouraged to make financial and/or non-financial contributions to the Network, an extra-budgetary programme, on a voluntary basis to ensure the long-term stability of the Network and strengthen its global governance and management. A fundraising plan could be proposed by the Secretariat at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

14. The member cities recognize the progress made by the Secretariat in terms of communication and visibility and encourage the later to continue its efforts to further promote the Network worldwide through its digital platform as well as other communication channels.