



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
5 August 2013

Original: English

---

## Sixty-eighth session

Item 21 (d) of the provisional agenda\*

### Culture and development

## Culture and development

### Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits the report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in accordance with General Assembly resolution [66/208](#).

---

\* A/68/150.



## **Report of the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

### *Summary*

The present report, prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, presents the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution [66/208](#) and includes a feasibility assessment of a possible United Nations conference aimed at taking stock of the contribution of culture to development and formulating a consolidated approach to culture and development. To this end, the report outlines the work and initiatives undertaken by member States, the United Nations governing bodies, 15 United Nations bodies and the United Nations system as a whole, as well as other international entities, in building on culture for sustainable development. The report also includes recommendations for enhancing the role of culture in the post-2015 development agenda.

## I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/208 on culture and development, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a progress report on the implementation of the resolution and to assess, in consultation with relevant United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations development system, in particular, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the feasibility of various measures, including a possible United Nations conference, to take stock of the contribution of culture to development and to formulate a consolidated approach to culture and development.

## II. Nexus between culture and development

2. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 65/166 and 66/208 in 2010 and 2011, respectively, the role of culture in achieving development has received greater visibility and generated interest. As the present report seeks to demonstrate, the two resolutions on culture and development have significantly advanced the debate on culture at the national and regional levels, and within the United Nations system, as well as in post-2015 agenda consultations.

3. In the year 2000, culture was absent from the sustainable development equation as defined by the Millennium Declaration and by the Millennium Development Goals. However, today, the role culture's role in achieving equitable, inclusive and sustainable development is more widely recognized and better demonstrated.

4. As the United Nations system and Member States are mobilized to evaluate the Millennium Development Goals and their related implementation and evaluation processes, and to design the priorities and mechanisms for the post-2015 agenda, the present report gives an account of the progress made and the data generated since December 2011 — with a view to informing the post-2015 agenda on culture's growing recognition both as an enabler and a driver for sustainable development, as highlighted during the July 2013 Economic and Social Council annual ministerial review and the thematic debate on culture and development organized by the President of the General Assembly in June 2013.

### **Culture as an enabler for sustainable development**

5. The motto "one size does not fit all" implies that only when development is place-based, human centred, and responsive to the cultural context, can it yield sustainable, inclusive and equitable outcomes. Indeed, culturally informed development interventions ensure improved articulation between goals and processes and between plans and their actual implementation. This applies to areas such as health, education and infrastructure, facilitating a better fit with local values, conditions, resources, skills, and limitations.

6. Culture-led development focuses on people, and is therefore more likely to lead to greater social inclusiveness and resilience for individuals and communities, while allowing the use of local resources, skills, and knowledge.

7. Moreover, acknowledging and promoting respect for cultural diversity as part of a human rights-based approach to development can facilitate intercultural dialogue, prevent conflicts and protect the rights of individuals and marginalized groups, within and between nations, thus creating favourable conditions for achieving development goals.

### **Culture as a driver for sustainable development**

8. Promoting and supporting cultural expressions contribute to strengthening the social capital of a community and fosters innovation, entrepreneurship, democracy and trust in public institutions.

9. The cultural sector's contribution to income-generation and job creation has convinced many member States to capitalize on culture as an activity sector capable of driving local development. Today, many cities use cultural heritage and cultural events and institutions to improve their image, stimulate urban development, and attract visitors and investments.

10. Cultural and creative industries represent one of the most rapidly expanding sectors in the global economy, accounting for 3 to 4 per cent of world gross domestic product (GDP).

11. The tourism sector — 45 per cent of which is cultural — accounts for 9 per cent of world GDP, 6 per cent of total exports from least developed countries and for 1 out of 11 jobs globally.

12. The need for culturally sensitive policies in achieving socially inclusive development is widely acknowledged.. People are able to define themselves in society and more fully realize their aspirations when respect for their culture is guaranteed. Of particular significance in this regard is the role that culture plays in enlarging peoples' capabilities to lead the lives they choose, through full participation in cultural life and full access to cultural assets and resources in all their diversity.

13. Investing in culture can effectively drive social inclusion and cohesion, and reduce violence, especially in cities. For example, through investment in cultural infrastructure and activities, the city of Medellín (Colombia) dramatically reduced urban violence homicides by up to 60 per cent in 2012.

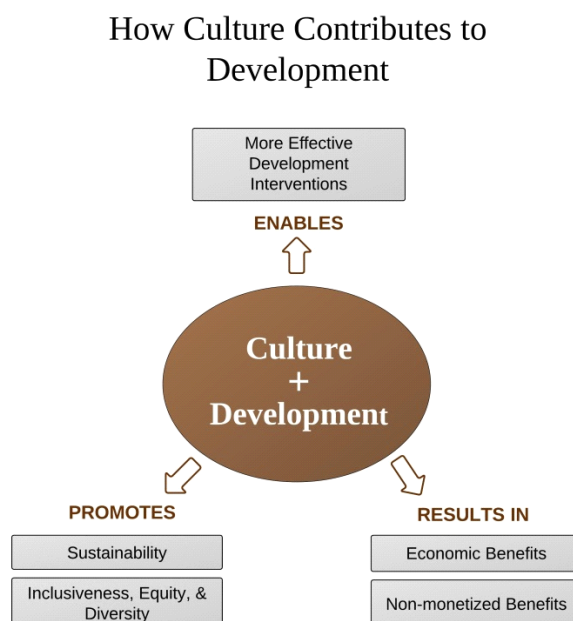
14. Cultural factors influence lifestyles, individual behaviours, consumption patterns, values related to environmental stewardship, and interaction with the natural environment. Local and indigenous knowledge systems and environmental management practices serve as valuable insight and tools for tackling ecological challenges, preventing biodiversity loss, reducing land degradation, and mitigating the effects of climate change.

15. Appropriate conservation of the historic environment, including cultural landscapes, and the safeguarding of traditional knowledge, values and practices, in synergy with other scientific knowledge, enhances the resilience of communities to disasters and climate change.

16. Culture can be an enabler for achieving quality education, as much as education is a vehicle for transmitting shared values, knowledge and skills. There is great potential for educational curricula to promote understanding, tolerance, diversity, human rights and democracy in order to foster social cohesion, as well as

to safeguard and share culture. Arts education, conceived in the broadest sense, can also heighten learning, and develop freedom of expression and sense of self-accomplishment.

17. Integrating culture into educational policies and curricula enhances their effectiveness. Indeed, the way people learn and transmit knowledge is very different, depending on their geographical and cultural backgrounds. Therefore, educational strategies that are responsive to local cultures, contexts and needs and that take into account mother tongue and local languages and are designed in cooperation with the communities concerned, have been found most effective. The figure below illustrates the effects of culture on development:



### III. Recent developments at the intergovernmental level

18. In June 2012, the Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development provided some positive elements for mainstreaming the role of culture in the United Nations sustainable development agenda by focusing on human development and recognizing that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country. The Outcome Document referred to the importance of cultural diversity for sustainable development, recognized the relationship between people, their ecosystems and their cultural heritage, the importance of investing in cultural tourism, the need for conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of human settlements, for the revitalization and rehabilitation of historic districts, and acknowledged the relationship between culture and biodiversity, and the sustainable use of resources by indigenous peoples and local communities.

19. In July 2013, the 2013 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council included culture for the first time in its history as one of the themes of its annual ministerial review entitled “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture for promoting sustainable development and in achieving Millennium Development Goals”. Members of the Council acknowledged the fundamental importance of cultural diversity as a source of enrichment for humankind and a contributor to sustainable development of local communities, peoples and nations. They recognized that culture is an essential component of sustainable development, represents a source of identity, innovation and creativity for individuals and the community, and is an important factor in building social inclusion and eradicating poverty. A broad agreement emerged as to the need to promote capacity-building at all levels for the development of a dynamic cultural and creative sector, including by supporting the development of cultural institutions and industries within broader efforts to promote sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth.

20. Addressing “Employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth, education and culture”, the fourth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, held in June 2013, stressed culture’s overarching role in building identity, fostering dialogue, and achieving the three dimensions of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental. It also recognized culture as both an “enabler” and “driver” of sustainable development, the need for development strategies and programmes to rely on cultural resource and respect cultural rights in adopting to local contexts, the need to build on cultural heritage management, sustainable cultural tourism, and the creative industries for economic growth, job creation, and environmentally sustainable management practices, and to promote cultural values in the educational programmes for fostering resilience, inclusiveness and dialogue. Several participants made appeals to pay due attention to culture in striving to achieve the sustainable development goals.

21. Convened at the initiative of the President of the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, Vuk Jeremić, in partnership with UNESCO, a thematic debate on culture and development, held on 12 June 2013 at United Nations Headquarters, generated exchanges on the role of culture for development, highlighted key experiences of Member States that draw on culture to address pressing issues such as poverty, discrimination and unemployment, and provided a platform to discuss ways to further use culture as a resource for achieving development goals.

22. The President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the UNDP Administrator, the UNESCO Director-General, and the High Representative of the Alliance of Civilizations took part in the debate, along with Ministers and high-level Government representatives from 14 countries. The President of Ireland intervened via video message. Several regional groups stated the view that culture was both an enabler and driver of development, and should be recognized as such in the post-2015 development agenda. The need for culture to be among the key issues taken into account while defining the sustainable development goals and creating a post-2015 development agenda was also strongly stressed.

23. Between 2011 and 2013, several regional meetings focused on the role of culture in development. A short account is provided hereafter by geographical region.

24. At the fourth session of the Conference of Ministers for Culture of the African Union, held in Kinshasa, from 29 October to 2 November 2012, Ministers adopted the Kinshasa Declaration, entitled “Culture as a catalyst of socioeconomic and political transformation in Africa”, which highlighted the ever-growing importance of creative and cultural industries in the world economy, and the essential role of culture in achieving peace, security and socioeconomic development. They urged putting an end to human and cultural rights violations and insisted on the primordial role of culture in ensuring regional integration and cooperation through shared African values. This resulted in the adoption of a plan of action on combating harmful traditional practices and protecting their cultural and natural heritage. Ministers advocated for the integration of culture in national development strategies and in the post-2015 development agenda.

25. The Pan-African Forum, entitled “Sources and resources for a culture of peace”, held in Luanda from 26 to 28 March 2013, organized jointly by the African Union, the Government of Angola and UNESCO, focused on cultural sources and resources for sustainable peace in Africa, and natural resources as sources of conflict or opportunity for sustainable development. Its action plan recommended valuing the contribution of African culture for dialogue and reconciliation, strengthening the links between education and culture, and developing the economy of culture, as well as strengthening the role of cosmogonies and traditional and indigenous knowledge.

26. During the eighteenth annual meeting of ministers of culture of the Arab region, held in Manama on 13 and 14 November 2012, an action plan for culture was adopted. The ministers also issued the Manama Declaration, in which they called for building on culture to achieve equitable and sustainable development and social inclusion, and to foster democracy, knowledge-building, freedom of expression, creativity, shared values, dialogue, participation and human rights.

27. At its nineteenth summit, held in Bali, Indonesia, on 17 November 2011, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) issued a declaration entitled “ASEAN unity in cultural diversity: towards strengthening ASEAN community”, which highlighted the role of culture in creating a peaceful and socially responsible regional space by enhancing solidarity, unity and harmony in diversity. They also stressed the potential of culture as a driver for economic growth, social cohesion and transformation, an asset for regional pride, and a vehicle for enhanced understanding between communities, and called for respect for cultural rights. The importance of culture for well-being and the realization of full human potential was further highlighted. The plan of action focused on building and enhancing the ASEAN community by fostering regional cooperation and partnerships through the strengthening of cultural and creative industries, and national cultural policies.

28. The Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the third international conference on small island developing States, held in Kingston from 2 to 4 July 2013, was attended by some 100 participants, including representatives of Caribbean Governments, United Nations and regional agencies and organizations and major groups. Participants stressed the critical role of cultural industries in national and regional economic development, calling upon the international community to commit to protecting natural and cultural heritage. The Kingston outcome document recognized the importance of promoting cultural identity for advancing sustainable development and called for a people-centred approach to poverty eradication.

**European Union and related institutions**

29. The Council of the European Union adopted a workplan for 2011 to 2014, in which it agreed to promote the integration of culture in development policies and recognized that culture-based development has relevance for all regions and in all stages of development.

30. In 2012, the European Commission issued a communication entitled “Promoting cultural and creative sectors for growth and jobs in the European Union”, outlining a strategy for the cultural and creative sectors to boost the economy, foster sustainable growth, jobs and social cohesion, promote and safeguard cultural and linguistic diversity, in accordance with the European Union 2020 Strategy.

31. In its final statement, the tenth Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Culture, held in Moscow on 16 April 2013, entitled “Governance of culture and promoting access to culture”, stressed the importance of cultural policies to enhance democratic citizenship and social cohesion, generate economic growth and promote cultural diversity, cultural exchange and dialogue.

32. Within the framework of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention), which recognizes heritage as a resource for cultural, ecological, economic, social and political development, in September 2013, the Council launched the “Faro Steps”, a European-wide initiative to raise awareness on the value of heritage for society.

33. The Conference of the Ministers of Culture of South-Eastern Europe, held in Sofia on 24 and 25 October 2012 and entitled “Intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development”, issued a joint declaration highlighting culture’s role in enhancing regional and bilateral cooperation, intercultural dialogue and social cohesion for sustainable development. A unified ministerial platform on culture and development in south-east Europe called for the due recognition of culture in the 2013 Economic and Social Council annual ministerial review.

34. Ministers and heads of delegations of the Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) participating in the first Eastern Partnership Ministerial Conference on Culture, held in Tbilisi on 28 June 2013, agreed to strengthen their cultural policies and creative sectors and highlighted the need to include culture in their development agendas and to encourage interministerial cooperation and partnerships with civil society on cultural issues.

35. Ministers of culture of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States issued the Suriname Declaration at their first meeting, held in Paramaribo on 14 and 15 March 2013. The Declaration underlined the importance of culture for development focusing on the potential of culture to achieve regional integration, create sociocultural spaces to enhance cultural-economic cooperation within the region, and stimulate exchanges between the countries. The ministers insisted on the need to promote cultural diversity, preserve and safeguard traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, respect cultural rights, and design culturally aware policies to promote shared values, foster culture as a means to eradicate poverty and to reduce social inequalities in the region.



## IV. Progress in implementation by the United Nations system

36. Since 2011, the bodies of the United Nations system have increased their cooperation in the area of culture for sustainable development. The following initiatives were implemented at the United Nations level during the period under consideration:

### **United Nations Development Assistance Framework**

37. In recent years, the role of culture for development has gained importance within and beyond the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.<sup>1</sup> A 2012 UNESCO analysis revealed that, while in the late 1990s, culture was included in only 30 per cent of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, its presence had been increasing steadily, culminating in 70 per cent inclusion by January 2012, mainly with the participation of UNESCO, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Moreover, culture is associated with all the thematic areas of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, namely: social and economic development (55 per cent), sustainable development (17 per cent), human rights (10 per cent) and governance (18 per cent).

### **United Nations Development Group**

38. In November 2012, the United Nations Development Group established a UNESCO-chaired Task Team on Culture and Development with the participation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP, UNFPA, UNIDO and ILO. The team will operate until late 2013. Its objectives include the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on culture and development, facilitating the exchange of experiences and data, with a view to supporting a United Nations system-wide reflection on the impact of culture on sustainable development, both at the global and country levels, and assessing resources available within the United Nations system to support culture and development programmes, strategies, statistics and indicators at the global, regional and country level.

### **United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

39. In June 2012, the report of the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, entitled "Realizing the Future We Want for All" referred to the role of culture on numerous occasions and, in paragraph 71, specifically noted that it was also critical to promote equitable change that ensured people's ability to choose their value systems in peace, thereby allowing for full participation and empowerment. The report also stated that communities and individuals must be able to create and practice their own culture and enjoy that of others free from fear and that this would require, inter alia, respect for cultural

<sup>1</sup> UNESCO United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks survey as at January 2012: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/culture-in-the-undafs/search-tool/>.

diversity, safeguarding cultural and natural heritage, fostering cultural institutions, strengthening cultural and creative industries, and promoting cultural tourism.

40. Within the framework of this task team, a United Nations “Think piece on culture and development” was presented in June 2012 among 11 thematic papers produced by the United Nations system<sup>2</sup> to feed the post-2015 process.

#### **United Nations Development Programme/Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund**

41. Operating from 2006 to 2013, the [UNDP/Spain](#) Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund is an international fund of some 900 million United States dollars, intended to accelerate progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, ensure strong national ownership, and support the United Nations reform. The Fund has financed programmes implemented jointly by several United Nations agencies, together with the national authorities of some 49 countries, in eight thematic areas, including “ culture and development”. As the convenor of the thematic window on culture and development,<sup>3</sup> UNESCO, in collaboration with 15 United Nations entities, implemented 18 joint Programmes<sup>4</sup> with a budget of \$96 million.

42. The scope of the culture and development joint programmes ranged from strengthening cultural and creative industries, developing sustainable cultural tourism, safeguarding tangible and intangible heritage, and promoting cultural diversity and pluralism, to supporting inclusive policies and ethnic minority development.

43. These programmes have contributed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by promoting social cohesion, poverty reduction, health, environmental sustainability and gender equality. More than 1.5 million individuals directly benefited from the programmes, in particular women, youth, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples, representatives of the private sector and the civil society organizations, community and religious leaders, and Government authorities.

#### **United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization creative economy report**

44. The 2013 special edition of the *Creative Economy Report* was jointly prepared by UNDP through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and UNESCO, and is to be launched in late 2013. This report builds on the 2008 and 2010 editions of the multi-agency *Creative Economy Report* prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and UNDP through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, in cooperation with UNESCO, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Trade Centre. The 2013 edition of the *Creative Economy Report* explores diverse pathways to development through creative and cultural

<sup>2</sup> Available from [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam\\_undf/thinkpieces/2\\_culture.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/thinkpieces/2_culture.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/achieving-the-millennium-development-goals/mdg-f-culture-and-development/>.

<sup>4</sup> These programmes were implemented in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territories, Cambodia, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Turkey.

industries and analyses ways to strengthen them in order for them to achieve inclusive social and economic development. It recognizes that many of these pathways can be found in cities and regions.

45. Moreover, the report analyses the impact of projects from across the Global South funded through the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund and the UNESCO International Fund for Cultural Diversity. Among the critical factors of success identified are local capacity development, management of assets by local populations, and transnational connections and flows. Success was found to be limited by weak public sectors. In response, a range of indicators of effectiveness and success are proposed in the report to enable local policymakers to assess, monitor and take full advantage of local potential and creative talents.

### **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

46. As the only United Nations agency with a specific mandate in the field of culture, UNESCO has consolidated the repositioning of culture in development in recent years through a range of analytical, normative, technical, operational, and capacity-building initiatives and tools.

47. Through its arsenal of normative instruments in the field of culture, including six major conventions,<sup>5</sup> UNESCO has undertaken capacity-building activities with a view to training national professionals and civil society actors in heritage protection and promotion, fighting against the destruction and illicit trafficking of cultural property with a special focus on conflict and post-conflict areas, designing national legislation that facilitates the development of cultural and creative industries, protects tangible and intangible heritage, and informs national cultural policies.

48. UNESCO manages the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, designed to foster the emergence of dynamic cultural sectors in the developing world. Since 2011, 61 projects, totalling \$4 million, have been supported in 40 developing countries.

49. UNESCO organized the Hangzhou International Congress, entitled “Culture: key to sustainable development” (Hangzhou, China, 15-17 May 2013), with the financial support of the Government of the People’s Republic of China. As the first international congress specifically focusing on the linkages between culture and sustainable development organized by UNESCO since 1998, the encounter provided a global forum to discuss the role of culture in sustainable development in the perspective of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda.

50. The Congress’ 500 participants from 82 countries — including high-level Government representatives, United Nations entities (the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP, UNCTAD, WIPO, the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), UNIDO, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the United Nations

---

<sup>5</sup> The 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols; the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property; the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage; the 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage; the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Culture Heritage; and the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

Environment Programme (UNEP), development banks and institutions, academia, the private sector and civil society, and prominent experts — addressed the contribution of culture to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as to peace and security. The Congress also considered the crucial role of culture in forging sustainable cities and building resilient societies, through heritage and creativity, as well as the potential of public-private partnerships in achieving those goals.

51. Participants adopted the Hangzhou Declaration: Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies,<sup>6</sup> which recommended nine concrete actions to place culture at the heart of development policies, in the context of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda and beyond, namely:

- (a) Integrate culture within all development policies and programmes;
- (b) Mobilize culture and mutual understanding to foster peace and reconciliation;
- (c) Ensure cultural rights for all to promote inclusive social development;
- (d) Leverage culture for poverty reduction and inclusive economic development;
- (e) Build on culture to promote environmental sustainability;
- (f) Strengthen resilience to disasters and combat climate change through culture;
- (g) Value, safeguard and transmit culture to future generations;
- (h) Harness culture as a resource for achieving sustainable urban development and management;
- (i) Capitalize on culture to foster innovative and sustainable models of cooperation.

52. In the concluding paragraph of the Declaration, participants recommended that a specific Goal focused on culture be included as part of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda, to be based on heritage, diversity, creativity and the transmission of knowledge, and including clear targets and indicators that relate culture to all dimensions of sustainable development.

53. UNESCO has continued its work on the development of indicators and statistics in the area of culture. The Culture for Development Indicators project has been piloted in 12 test countries and has produced concrete policy results at the national level. The statistics in the table below have emerged from the project.

	<i>Added value (percentage of GDP)</i>	<i>Cultural occupations (percentage of employed population)</i>	<i>Household expenditures (percentage of household expenditures)</i>
Scale	0-100	0-100	0-100
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5.72	4.70	2.43
Cambodia	1.53	0.54	0.30

<sup>6</sup> Available from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002212/221238m.pdf>.

	<i>Added value (percentage of GDP)</i>	<i>Cultural occupations (percentage of employed population)</i>	<i>Household expenditures (percentage of household expenditures)</i>
Colombia	.42		2.60
Ecuador	4.76	2.20	3.41
Ghana	1.53	0.03	0.66
Namibia		0.6	9.09

54. In 2012 and 2013, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics published two handbooks, *Measuring Cultural Participation and Measuring the Economic Contribution of Cultural Industries*, that proposed a methodology to define international standards for cultural statistics. This was supported through capacity-building, training and technical assistance in Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation, Africa, south-east Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. An update and new analysis on international flows of cultural goods and services in 2013 and a global survey of the feature film sector confirmed that Nigeria is one of the largest producers of movies in the world, along with the United States of America and India, and that China, Brazil and the Republic of Korea register the highest growth rate in terms of movie production. In 2012, the Institute initiated a global cultural employment statistics survey with an anticipated global launch in 2015. The survey will establish the first international database of internationally comparable data and indicators of cultural employment. Topics will include gender equality, employment status, secondary jobs, educational profile and age profile of employed persons in the culture sector.

#### **United Nations Industrial Development Organization**

55. UNIDO enhances creative assets in developing countries, by promoting heritage-related economic activities; it addresses the constraints that affect the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in creative industries (size, isolation, lack of knowledge on market requirements and the institutional environment), works on remedy strategies, and supports Governments in translating cultural heritage into design-wise products that can meet market demands.

56. A successful example of the UNIDO strategy is its participation in the Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme in the Creative Industries funded under the joint United Nations programme entitled “Towards Gender Parity in Pakistan”, through which UNIDO implements a pilot project in Pakistan, which capitalizes on creative industries and cultural heritage to create jobs and empower women. Through this initiative, UNIDO provides assistance to establish a favourable regulatory environment, build the capacities of business service providers, provide technical and managerial services to existing and potential entrepreneurs, and support the translation of cultural heritage of Pakistan into competitive, design-wise products (e.g., marble mosaics, textiles, etc.). Targeted gender-sensitive value chain analysis revealed gender inequalities and solutions for greater efficiency.

57. The business growth centres created within the framework of the project aim to enhance the capabilities, mobility, visibility and connectivity of women entrepreneurs and to serve as networking facilities for strategic public-private sector initiatives. The project has benefited more than 8,000 women and will be rolled out throughout Pakistan.

### **World Tourism Organization**

58. In 2012, UNWTO published the first study on tourism and intangible cultural heritage,<sup>7</sup> which provides comprehensive baseline research on the linkages between tourism and intangible cultural heritage. The study investigates Government-led actions, public-private partnerships and community initiatives in the areas of tourism development and intangible heritage. It also proposes practical steps for the creation, management and marketing of intangible heritage-based tourism products, and recommends guidelines for tourism policymakers to foster tourism development through the safeguarding of intangible heritage.

59. In 2013, UNWTO organized several conferences on heritage and tourism, including a seminar on tourism at World Heritage sites, held in Turkey in March 2013. The International Conference on Exploring New Cultural Horizons for Tourism, held in Bahrain in April 2013, identified innovative means to widen communities' involvement in the development of tourism products based on cultural heritage assets, such as intangible heritage of host populations.

60. A joint UNWTO-UNESCO workshop on Heritage Corridors Tourism Strategy was organized in Kazakhstan in October 2013 to develop a common tourism planning and management strategy for the Silk Roads Heritage Corridor in Central Asia and China. UNWTO is also organizing, with the participation of UNESCO, a conference on tourism development on cultural and natural heritage sites in Cambodia, to be held in November 2013, to review opportunities and challenges of sustainable tourism.

### **World Bank**

61. The World Bank Group has a growing portfolio in the areas of cultural and natural heritage, and sustainable tourism. Since the 1970s, through its International Development Association (IDA) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the Bank has financed some 320 projects and technical assistance activities for a commitment of \$7 billion. Moreover, since the 1950s the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has financed approximately 280 related projects for a commitment of \$2.5 billion. Currently, IDA and IBRD have approximately 110 operations under implementation covering these three areas, for a commitment of \$3.5 billion; IFC has about 60 operations, for a commitment of \$600 million.

62. The Bank's work in these areas focuses on conservation and development of city cores, particularly World Heritage cities. An appealing historic centre can differentiate a city from competing locations; branding the whole city nationally and internationally and helping it to attract investment and talented people. Recent studies by the Bank (including *The Economics of Uniqueness — Investing in Historic City Cores and Cultural Heritage Assets for Sustainable Development*) reveal that those cities most successful at attracting investment to meet the aspirations of their citizens — thus contributing to alleviating extreme poverty and boosting prosperity — are able to effectively harness their resources.

---

<sup>7</sup> Available from <http://www.e-unwto.org/content/l62353/>.

**International Fund for Agricultural Development**

63. At the first global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum held at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome on 11 and 12 February 2013, 28 representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations from all continents monitored and evaluated the implementation of the IFAD Policy of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, including its contribution to the realization of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with a view to improving benefits for indigenous peoples, building and strengthening partnerships between IFAD and indigenous peoples, and addressing the links between poverty and sustainable development and culture and identity.

**World Intellectual Property Organization**

64. In 2012, WIPO supported research on the economic contribution of the cultural and creative industries in over 40 countries. Through macroeconomic and specific industry studies, WIPO provided Governments with strong evidence of the broad impact of these industries, supported by copyright, on national development. Empirical results have been used in policy and strategy development, awareness-building programmes and capacity-building activities. A total of 49 training programmes and projects were organized with the participation of more than 1,400 Government officials from 96 developing countries and least developed countries. WIPO provides developing countries with copyright management tools upon request, and a new publication on intellectual property issues in film distribution was published.

65. In the context of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property and the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, in 2012, WIPO undertook several activities to devise legislative and practical measures to enhance access to culture, information, and educational material, including a study entitled "Using Copyright to Promote Access to Information and Creative Content". In addition, WIPO continued to facilitate a negotiation process in the area of limitations and exceptions to copyright for the benefit of educational and research institutions, persons with disabilities, libraries and archives. This process resulted in the convening of a Diplomatic Conference to Adopt a Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities, held in Marrakesh in June 2013.

66. In 2012, the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore pursued its work on "text-based negotiations" regarding the effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. Several technical assistance and awareness-raising initiatives to protect and promote traditional cultural expressions and cultural heritage were also carried out in 2012.

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

67. In the framework of the second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, FAO launched a publication entitled "Indigenous Peoples' food systems and well-being, Interventions and policies for healthy communities". The publication focuses on findings from more than 40 partners from various disciplines who created health promotion interventions for communities using local food systems and knowledge,

through participatory processes. It presents a global overview of Indigenous Peoples' health circumstances, environmental concerns, and infant and child-feeding practices, and provides specific case studies from Canada, Japan, Peru, India, Colombia, Thailand and Micronesia. This long-term research project demonstrates the potential of local traditional food systems to improve health and well-being.

#### **United Nations Environment Programme**

68. In 2013, UNEP was designated to act as the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which was created as an independent intergovernmental body with the goal of strengthening the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development. One of the Platform's key operating principles is to recognize and respect the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. This principle is currently being implemented in two ways, and in close collaboration with UNESCO, FAO and UNDP, through the development of procedures and approaches for working with different knowledge systems in the development of a draft conceptual framework for the Platform.

#### **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

69. Since 2000, the UNCTAD mandate has included assisting developing countries in identifying innovative policy options for optimizing the economic contributions of creative industries, and supporting them to improve institutional, regulatory and financing mechanisms, in order to foster trade and development gains towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In 2012 and 2013, UNCTAD provided support to several countries in this area.<sup>8</sup>

70. At the ministerial meeting of the thirteenth session of UNCTAD, held in Doha in April, 2012, Member States adopted the Doha Declaration, which mandated UNCTAD to continue to provide analytical work and technical assistance to developing countries, including in sectors related to the creative economy and entrepreneurship. The meeting was followed by a High-level policy dialogue on the creative economy for development to support Governments in enhancing this sector.

71. UNCTAD has developed the Global Database on the Creative Economy, a policy design tool and an Academic Exchange Network on Creative Economy aimed at promoting international cooperation, strategic alliances, research exchanges and advocacy. UNCTAD has also carried out policy-oriented research for the 2013 special edition of the *Creative Economy Report*.

72. In 2013, UNCTAD co-organized with the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Beijing Municipality, a Global Services Forum (Beijing, May 2013) aimed at assisting Governments in designing suitable frameworks for the management of creative resources.

---

<sup>8</sup> Countries supported included Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mozambique, Nigeria, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia.



**United Nations Institute for Training and Research**

73. Within the framework of its training programme on the Management and Conservation of World Heritage Sites series, UNITAR organized the tenth annual workshop of the series in Hiroshima, Japan, in April 2013 for 24 participants from 15 countries on the nomination process for World Heritage sites.

**United Nations Office for Project Services**

74. As part of the 2010-2014 United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) supported Argentina in strengthening its cultural institutions. Within the framework of the Ministry of Culture's Bicentennial Work Programme, UNOPS helped the Government of Argentina to refurbish historic buildings and 10 national museums through procurement services, and with the construction and equipping of the new facilities of the National Congress Library, which now house its archive and a cultural centre.

**United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

75. UN-Habitat recognizes the symbiotic relationship between culture and development and acknowledges the transformative power of innovation and creativity to ensure quality of life, equity and environmental sustainability and economic vitality. The recognition of culture heritage as a finite resource and as means of improving social fabric is mainstreamed throughout UN-Habitat's activities, such as its work on "public space and placemaking", thus enforcing the element of preservation in sustainable urban development.

76. Together with partners such as the GoDown Arts Centre (Kenya), BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts (Belgium) and the European Commission, UN-Habitat is striving to bring arts and culture to the forefront of the development agenda. The Programme has partnered with the Swedish gaming company, Mojang AB (creators of Minecraft) to use a gaming platform developed for urban planning to encourage participatory planning, targeting often marginalized audiences, such as youth. In its report entitled "State of the World's Cities 2012/2013, Prosperity of Cities", UN-Habitat called for action to promote urban prosperity, including through cultural innovations to support the transition to the city of the twenty-first century.

**Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS**

77. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) recognizes the central role of culture as a foundation of society and seeks to maximize the positive contributions of cultural leaders towards responses that: (a) achieve public health goals through the implementation of evidence-supported approaches; (b) respect the dignity and rights of individuals, particularly with regard to non-discrimination, health, security of the person, privacy and freedom from violence; and (c) include pragmatic approaches that respond to peoples' behaviours and needs. UNAIDS further recognizes the role of culture and education in achieving the three zeros, namely: (a) zero new HIV infections; (b) zero AIDS-related deaths; and (c) zero AIDS-related discrimination.

78. UNAIDS promotes inclusive dialogue in all aspects of the HIV response, acknowledging that the behaviours and known risk factors for HIV infection can be controversial and culturally sensitive. UNAIDS therefore adopts comprehensive,

evidence-based prevention treatment, care and support approaches that take into account local circumstances, ethics and cultural values.

### **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

79. In 2011, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) adopted the “Age, gender and diversity policy: working with people and communities for equality and protection”. Through the systematic application of an age, gender and diversity approach in its operations worldwide, UNHCR seeks to ensure that all persons of concern enjoy their rights on an equal footing and are able to participate fully in the decisions that affect their lives and those of their family members and communities. In this context, diversity refers to different values, attitudes, cultural perspectives, beliefs, ethnic background, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, health, social status, skill and other specific personal characteristics. In 2012, the age, gender and diversity accountability framework report — an annual independent assessment of the Office’s progress in implementing its age, gender and diversity policy — highlighted a wide array of initiatives that were implemented to enhance the protection of displaced populations.

### **United Nations Population Fund**

80. The Fund’s Pacific Multi-Country Strategy calls for strengthened national capacity for increased availability, analysis and utilization of data on population dynamics, youth, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health, including through alliances with parliamentary groups, traditional leaders, cultural and faith-based organizations, recognizing that they are effective champions for advancing sensitive development issues.

81. In the Asia-Pacific region, an initiative funded by the European Commission was launched in the Philippines to address the rights of indigenous peoples in northern Mindanao to access information and services on sexual and reproductive health, using culturally sensitive approaches. In the spirit of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the initiative seeks to engage with indigenous communities using approaches that are acceptable to their way of life, beginning with qualitative peer research designed to better understand their needs and priorities in these areas.

82. In Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, UNFPA is partnering with traditional communities, youth, women, religious leaders and educators in the fight against female genital mutilation and gender-based violence, as well as in efforts to enhance HIV prevention and increase the use of maternal health services.

83. Malawi has passed the Gender Equality Act criminalizing harmful cultural practices related to violations of sexual reproductive health rights of girls and women. UNFPA strongly advocated that the Gender Equality Act call upon all Chiefs to adhere to it. Through the joint programme on adolescent girls, advocacy campaigns in communities and dialogue with traditional and religious leaders have resulted in reduced rates of early marriage, teenage pregnancies and school drop-outs.

84. UNFPA-Mozambique is in partnership with the University of Maputo to strengthen the scientific evidence linking culture and sexual and reproductive health

and rights, and training various cultural actors and service providers, to improve their contributions to community health and rights using a sociocultural development lens. UNFPA assisted the Ministries of Health, Education and Youth to incorporate the sociocultural approach in the annual plans of the national Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Programme, and trained the national and provincial coordinators and peer educators in the approach.

85. UNFPA-Uganda has invested in studies identifying sociocultural factors as major drivers of the HIV epidemic. UNFPA continues to work with cultural institutions in Uganda where it supported the passing of a cultural by-law on the age of marriage and its enforcement mechanism, including through the signing of marriage certificates by cultural chiefs only for those above 18 years of age.

#### **United Nations International Children's Fund**

86. Through its global, regional and national programmes and capacity-development initiatives, UNICEF addresses sociocultural factors that impact the lives of children and their communities through evidence-based and human rights focused strategies. In Kyrgyzstan, for example, UNICEF, together with the Aga Khan and Soros Foundations and local talents, developed an animated series for children called Keremet Koch (the Magic Journey) that uses culture as an entry point for dialogue to influence social change on issues related to child survival, development, protection and participation.

87. Culture provides children with identity and continuity, which is important in emergencies and crisis affected contexts. Based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF emphasizes that children's education should encourage children to respect others, human rights and their own and other cultures, taking into account the context in which children grow and develop in the home and the more macroenvironments of the society. For example, in 2012, UNICEF, together with the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development, conducted an arts education programme for Syrian children in Jordanian refugee camps to help the children traumatized by the conflict to relieve their tensions and channel their energy creatively.

88. The commitment of UNICEF to equity aims at narrowing the gaps that keep back deprived and marginalized populations. Its recently developed Monitoring Results for Equity Systems framework takes into account social and cultural factors of development interventions. Behavioural and social change related to a local sociocultural system is a critical component of the framework.

## **V. Feasibility of a United Nations conference on culture and development**

89. In its resolution [66/208](#), the General Assembly requested UNESCO to assess the feasibility of a possible United Nations conference to take stock of the contribution of culture to development and to formulate a consolidated approach to culture and development.

90. The 2011 report on culture and development ([A/166/187](#)) and the present report provide an overview of the work of the United Nations bodies and the diverse initiatives taken in the area of culture. Moreover, they demonstrate that culture-

sensitive approaches within the United Nations underpin mandates in areas as diverse as education, poverty alleviation, health, environmental sustainability, agriculture, food security, industry, urbanization, refugee protection, migration, social cohesion, human rights, and gender equality.

91. Both reports indicate that in the area of culture and sustainable development, the United Nations system provides technical assistance at a policy and operational level with a focus on capacity-building (institutional and human), awareness-raising, mainstreaming culture in development policy and programmes, conserving and leveraging cultural heritage, including indigenous knowledge as an asset for development, as well as generating knowledge through policy-oriented research, lessons learned through implementation, and data collection for monitoring and evaluating the impact of culture on development.

92. The present report underlines the growing collaboration within the United Nations system, among Member States, and between the United Nations and Member States, to foster the role of culture in development, and integrate it into national, regional and international policies.

93. The present report also emphasizes that a number of important developments have taken place since the launch of the post-2015 development process. Today, it is clear that the global efforts to address gaps in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and map the way forward for future development goals and approaches are better informed of culture's impact on and contribution to development, and that approaches and practices have been better consolidated and assessed within the United Nations shared policies, practices and long-term vision.

94. As demonstrated, Member States have convened numerous regional and international meetings and initiatives to discuss and reflect on the role of culture in achieving sustainable development, the highlight of which was the 2013 Economic and Social Council annual ministerial review held in Geneva from 1 to 4 July 2013, and the thematic debate convened by the President of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters on 12 June 2013.

95. The United Nations engaged in and finalized joint operational actions, and evidence-based strategic and policy reflections, in particular the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund — culture and development window, increased mainstreaming of culture in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes, the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Culture and Development, and several country-based initiatives; these actions have made it possible to strengthen and consolidate United Nations-wide approaches, strategies and operations with regard to culture's role in sustainable development.

96. UNESCO has also engaged the international community and several United Nations entities in its initiatives to build knowledge and exchange expertise and ideas on the role of culture in sustainable development in the perspective of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda, the highlight being the Hangzhou International Congress (see para. 49 above).

97. As described in the present report, the numerous initiatives undertaken in 2012-2013, together with Member States-driven discussions and statements on the contribution of culture to sustainable development, have considerably improved understanding of the contribution of culture to sustainable development.

98. The 2013 Economic and Social Council annual ministerial review on “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals” provided an excellent platform for integrating culture in the United Nations agenda at large; it clarified the nexus between culture and sustainable development and helped to share concepts, definitions, and recommendations to be made in the framework of the post-2015 agenda.

99. In the light of the tremendous progress made, a United Nations conference on culture and development would effectively support Member States in reinforcing national, regional and international policies and operations to harness the contribution of culture to sustainable development. The conference would help to define concrete actions and implementation, measurement and monitoring tools in this field.

100. The conference could be organized as part of efforts to follow-up on and implement the post-2015 development agenda; it could last for two days and consist of plenary sessions and round tables. In addition to United Nations Member States, invitations would be extended to United Nations system executive heads, representatives of development banks, non-governmental organizations, foundations, civil society, and the private sector.

101. The conference could be organized at United Nations Headquarters or be hosted by a Member State.

## VI. Conclusions

**102. Significant progress has taken place since December 2011 at the policy and operational levels, among Member States and United Nations entities, with the active and valuable involvement of civil society and the private sector.**

**103. Knowledge, experience and data on the nexus between culture and development have grown, thus providing more insight into the debate on the post-2015 development agenda.**

**104. The 2013 Economic and Social Council annual ministerial review, and the thematic debate on culture and development convened by the President of the General Assembly on 12 June 2013 constituted a turning point in the consideration by the United Nations intergovernmental process of the role of culture in the post-2015 development agenda, and have created a momentum for building on the wide range of initiatives and data described in the present report to enhance future United Nations system-wide policies and actions in this field. This is reflected in the recent appeals by Member States to give due attention to culture in national development strategies and in the post-2015 development agenda, and in future deliberations on the definition of sustainable development goals.**

**105. The present report attests that there is movement towards increased inter-agency cooperation and joint policymaking and towards consolidated and strengthened regional approaches, strategies, decisions, policies, and action plans on the role of culture in sustainable development.**

106. The significant progress achieved and the momentum generated to date call for an insightful reflection and due consideration in order to build full awareness of the importance of integrating culture into the future United Nations agenda. At this critical juncture in the global development agenda, the crucial role that culture plays to achieve sustainable development and well-being, and to build on peoples' profoundly rooted needs and aspirations, should not be underestimated.

107. A United Nations conference on culture and development would be an effective tool to support Member States in translating their increasing willingness to harness culture's contribution to sustainable development into concrete international, regional and national policies and operations.

---