



Report of the 2nd Meeting of the UNESCO Inter-Agency Platform on Culture and Sustainable Development 30 September 2021 (3:30 – 5:00 CET)

Participants: 19 confirmed participating agencies (including UNESCO) and partner IGOs

I. Introductory remarks by UNESCO Assistant Director – General for Culture, Ernesto Ottone R.

- The main objectives of the Platform, which aims notably at building more systemic collaboration between UN agencies and partner IGOs to harness culture for sustainable development.
- The 3 thematic areas of work guiding the reflection of the Platform, namely *Reduced Inequalities, Climate Action and Dialogue and Peace*. These core areas reflect the multifaceted impact of culture and of action across the UN system, as recalled by the UN Secretary General in the recently published Report *Our Common Agenda*.
- An update on major achievements in the field of culture and sustainable development since the first meeting of the Platform in May 2021, notably the adoption of the first ever [Declaration of the G20 Ministers of Culture](#) under the Italian Presidency of G20 in July 2021; and the consideration of the [UN Secretary General Report on the implementation of the 74/230 Resolution Culture and Development](#) by the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, which will pave the way for the adoption of the next Resolution on Culture and Development by end 2021 .
- The strategic perspective of the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies – Mondiacult 2022, which will be hosted by the Government of Mexico in September 2022 and stressed that it is expected that the joint work under the Inter-Agency Platform will also inform the policy discussions and outcomes of this major intergovernmental meeting.

II. Summary of first meeting and objectives of the second meeting

- Ms Paola Leoncini Bartoli, Director, Cultural Policies and Development (UNESCO), summarized the salient points of the inaugural meeting of the Platform in May 2021 and outlined the objectives of the Second Meeting, notably: (i) finalizing the Terms of Reference of the Platform (ToRs) and agreeing on the working modalities (following the proposal sent to the Members of the Platform in July 2021); (ii) to consider a timetable for the work of the Platform for 2021-2022; and (iii) to exchange on the preliminary proposal of the areas of focus and the expected outcomes for the three thematic areas - *Reduced Inequalities, Climate Action and Dialogue and Peace* - sent along with the ToRs in July 2021.

III. Discussion on the proposed timeline for the work of the Platform

- Four meetings of the Platform are planned to take place between November 2021 and March 2022.
- Three thematic workshops will first be organized, with a view (i) to build a shared conceptual understanding for each of the three thematic areas, (ii) to identify projects and programmes carried out by the members of the Platform that illustrate the overall focus of the Platform; and (iii) to outline possible avenues for cooperation.
- Participation in the 3 thematic workshops will be open and UN organizations will be asked to prepare specific presentations on each topic from the perspective of respective expertise and mandates.
- A wrap-up feedback session will be planned in March 2022 to pool the results of the 3 thematic workshops and to discuss steps forward and joint outputs, including in the framework of Mondiacult 2022.

Open exchange on focus areas and expected outcomes of each of the three thematic areas

- A preliminary proposal was drafted by UNESCO on the basis of the inputs provided by the members of the Platform during the first meeting and with the objective to federate efforts across the respective mandates of all participating organizations, to strengthen evidence on the effective impact of culture on sustainable development.

●●● On Thematic area 1 - *Reduced Inequalities*

Participants exchanged on the need to better reflect social security and social protection issues – including the portability of social benefits - in the expected outcomes. Besides strengthening synergies between educational and cultural institutions - as mainstreamed in the expected outcomes - ILO suggested to reinforcing the linkages between labour and cultural institutions, notably to jointly advocate for fair remuneration. UNDESA underscored the importance of job creation for marginalized groups and proposed to rephrase the related expected outcome, replacing “for marginalized groups” by “with marginalized” to fully recognize them as key actors in the process. UNDESA also expressed its willingness to support UNESCO in the upcoming International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032), building on UNDESA’s systemic interaction with the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In this regard, UNESCO informed participants of the upcoming webinar on cultural policies and indigenous peoples in the framework of the International Decade and highlighted the [Los Pinos Declaration](#) as a key strategic document for the Decade.

SEGIB informed participants that it will host the Ibero-American Conference of the Ministers of Culture under the leadership of the Dominican Republic on 21 October 2021. Ministers will discuss issues related to culture and sustainable development. The resulting roadmap will be shared with the Platform, as it cuts across the three thematic areas of work. The joint declaration of this ministerial meeting is also aimed at feeding into the Mondiacult 2022 process.

●●● On Thematic area 2 - *Culture for Climate Action*

UNESCO informed participants about the updating of UNESCO’s *Strategy on Culture and Climate Change*, notably as regards World Heritage, and on recent actions engaged to address climate change impact on cultural heritage and cultural expressions from the perspective of the implementation of UNESCO’s 6 Culture Conventions, as well as in the context of COP-26, focusing on culture’s contribution to adaptation and mitigation strategies.

UNFCCC expressed its interest and engagement to contribute specifically to the topic in relation to local and indigenous knowledge, as the agency recently launched a new platform to create an open and inclusive space for knowledge sharing, fostering the capacity of engagement (including through technologies) and climate policy action for indigenous peoples. UNFCCC also expressed its interest in collaborating with the members of the Platform on the *non-economic losses* of climate change - a key topic at the COP-26 - and an entry point to explore ways in which climate-related events impact health, mobility, culture, and other societal issues.

●●● On Thematic area 3 - *Culture for Peace and Dialogue*

UNDESA recalled the importance of sports for development and peace, as well as to promote culture and dialogue.

UNESCO underlines that traditional sports, as an integral part of intangible cultural heritage according to the international definition (see *UNESCO 2003 Convention on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage*) could be envisaged to bridge sports with culture.

WIPO underscored the nexus between violent extremism and poverty related to unemployment and economic vulnerability – especially among youth. In that context, linkages between peace and poverty reduction should be made more explicit.

UNHCR noted with appreciation the inclusion of culture in the humanitarian response as one of the expected outcomes.

Next Steps and Conclusion

- UNESCO will integrate the comments of the members of the Platform as part of the focus and expected outcomes of the 3 thematic areas and share the updated terms of reference to the members of the Platform for feedback and comments (to be provided by 22 October 2021).
- UNESCO will also send a final timetable of the Platform's meetings from November 2021 to March 2022.
- A dedicated webpage was created to host the contributions of the members of the Platform. All participating agencies and IGOs are encouraged to share their high-resolution institutional logos and any other relevant document and communication material pertinent to the Platform's objectives through the dedicated mailbox for the Platform (ipcsd@unesco.org) .