Creative Cities
Network

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO
CREATIVE
CITIES
NETWORK

XII ANNUAL MEETING
CREATIVE CROSSROADS
KRAKOWICE | Kraków—Katowice
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Conclusions

of the

XIIth Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network

We, the members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN),

Assembled for its 2018 Annual Meeting in Krakow and Katowice, Poland,

Expressing appreciation to the Host Cities for their hospitality,

Reaffirming its recognition of UNESCO's mission and values,

Committed to the UCCN's Mission Statement and objectives,

Engaged in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 11,

Aspiring to great dynamism within the international community for culture-driven sustainable urban development,

Have carried out discussions, and subsequently agreed on the following:

1. The UCCN reaffirms its position as an operational global network of urban laboratories for innovative ideas and practices towards sustainable development in cities. As a cultural crossroads and global creative hub, the Network has made the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda its guidelines via its UCCN Strategic Framework approved by the member cities at the last Annual Meeting.

2. The member cities welcome the momentum that the cultural and creative sectors are quickly developing worldwide and acknowledge key trends and priorities in these fields, including digital and artificial intelligence, sustainable and participative tourism, emerging megacities, urban-rural networks, quality education, and entrepreneurship particularly for women and youth. They are engaged in investing their resources and pooling their experience and know-how in these areas together with other member cities, notably through international and transversal collaboration.

3. The member cities are committed to UNESCO's and UCCN' values and vision, and herald sustainable development at the local level. Cities are mobilized to integrate culture in their vision as part of their DNA and transmit these values to the local population, to nurture awareness about the transformative potential of the creative

sector and to stimulate local political engagement in culture-powered sustainable development.

4. The member cities recognize the complementarity of the sub-network meetings of the UCCN Annual Meeting, as well as their importance in fostering coordination and collaboration between cluster members. These meetings should also be reinforced to further facilitate the integration of new members. The Secretariat encourages each cluster to organize at least one or two formal sub-network meetings between every two Annual Meetings, and to engage and inform the Secretariat of key information related to the conceptualization, organization and outcomes of these events.

5. The UCCN Steering Group (SG) was created at the VIIIth Annual Meeting in Chengdu, China, to strengthen the communication between the Secretariat and the members, as well as to facilitate the participation of the members in activities at both the Network and sub-network level. The composition of the Steering Group shall be such that, to the extent possible, all geographical regions are represented. Aimed at reinforcing equal representation and ensuring 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 are recommended to take over the role of Coordinators after the first two-year mandate, was proposed at the previous Annual Meeting. Following the discussions undertaken at the current Meeting, this turnover mechanism has been approved by the member cities and was immediately taken into effect after the second SG renewal.

6. The member cities note that the second SG renewal took place at the current Annual Meeting. As a result, the new coordinators are the following:

- Crafts and Folk Art: Icheon (Coordinator) and Paducah (Deputy Coordinator)
- Design: Detroit (Coordinator) and Kortrijk (Deputy Coordinator)
- Film: Sydney (Coordinator) and Santos (Deputy Coordinator)
- Gastronomy: Parma (Coordinator) and Ensenada (Deputy Coordinator)
- Literature: Nottingham (Coordinator) and Ljubljana (Deputy Coordinator)
- Media Arts: Enghien-les-Bains (Coordinator) and Gwangju (Deputy Coordinator)
- Music: Mannheim (Coordinator) and Katowice (Deputy Coordinator)

As the Host City of the next Annual Meeting, the city of Fabriano, will also be a member of the SG until the end of the event concerned. The next renewal of the coordinators and deputy coordinators will be organized at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

7. The member cities note that after the first three Membership Monitoring and Reporting Exercises, in total 41 Membership Monitoring Reports (MMRs) have been submitted by the member cities that joined the Network between 2004 and 2013. All these reports are currently available on the UCCN website. In the next exercise, 28 MMRs will be expected by the end of November next. Given the growing scale of the exercise, the Secretariat will lead discussions and consultations with the member cities to seek other methods to continue improving the Network's monitoring and reporting activities.

8. The Network will continue its efforts towards building a more sustainable and balanced growth. In this regard, the major change in the designation process adopted by member cities at last Annual Meeting, which limits the number of cities that could receive the designation by country to two (these designations must be in two different creative fields), will be implemented as of the next Call for Applications to be launched in 2019.

9. Announced at last year's Annual Meeting in Enghien-les-Bains, France, the UCCN Mayors' Declaration was reviewed by the participating Mayors of the current Annual Meeting, illustrating their continued commitment to the UCCN as well as their firm pledge to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in their cities.

10. Following the introduction of the voluntary contribution mechanism last year, 7 member cities, namely Al-Ahsa, Chengdu, Dénia, Dunedin, Gaziantep, Icheon and Santa Fe, have made voluntary financial contributions to support the development of the UCCN. On behalf of UNESCO, the Secretariat expresses its appreciation to these cities and calls on more members to follow suit.

11. Echoing previous points, the member cities recognize the need to make financial contributions to the UCCN to ensure its development and sustainability, given that the Network is an extra-budgetary programme. A new financial mechanism will be reflected on and developed as part of a global governance mechanism, as mentioned in Point 16 of the Conclusions.

12. The next UCCN Annual Meeting will take place in Fabriano, Italy, from 5 to 10 June 2019, under the theme of 'The Ideal City', as currently programmed. Following the presentations by the three preselected candidate cities during the current Meeting, the selection of the Host City of the 2020 Annual Meeting will be organized online by the Secretariat after the 2018 Meeting.

13. Both the member cities and the Secretariat agreed on the importance of having a more systematic and regular communication, including among the members, between the clusters, as well as between the Secretariat and the coordinators, in different forms such as via Skype and other online tools.

14. To capitalize on the rapidly increasing richness and diversity of activities, and thus the information and data generated subsequently, the Secretariat has undertaken a series of initiatives within the Network, such as LAB.2030 and the UCCN's contribution to UNESCO's global efforts to measure culture's essential role in sustainable development. A large number of member cities have already participated in these initiatives, making contributions by providing valuable materials about their local and international activities, practices, and cases.

15. The Secretariat remains committed to securing and creating opportunities to increase the visibility of the Network on the international stage, by taking advantage of UNESCO's communication channels and networks as well as its unique role with regard to culture within the UN system. Therefore, the Secretariat will keep promoting best experiences and practices from the Network, while soliciting relevant members to join UNESCO in international activities and events. Member cities appreciate the Secretariat's efforts and will actively answer to calls for contributions and inputs from the latter for this purpose. The High Level Political Forum to be held in New York in July next may be one such upcoming occasion.

16. Guided by the Organization's vision to consolidate the UCCN, which is also shared by member cities, UNESCO will initiate reflections and consultations, on developing a new governance mechanism to solidify its foundation and enable it to thrive in an encouraging global context conducive to culture-powered sustainable development. A proposal will be made by the Secretariat in the near future. These reflections may also address issues around structure, programming and financial sustainability, as well as monitoring the engagement and participation of the member cities in the

Network.