# Special Declaration on Culture by MERCOSUR Member States and Associated States

**Date**: 2022-12-06

**Location**: Montevideo, Uruguay

## Executive Summary

On December 6, 2022, leaders from Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Brazil convened in Montevideo to address the cultural sector’s challenges post-COVID-19. They expressed concerns over the pandemic’s negative impacts, including structural weaknesses and unequal access to culture. The declaration emphasizes the need for effective policies to revitalize the cultural sector, protect heritage, and improve conditions for artists. It highlights the importance of international cooperation and a strengthened multilateral information system to measure the cultural sector’s relevance. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to regional integration, cultural rights, and the promotion of technology in cultural initiatives. They called for the decentralization of culture, support for creative industries, and measures against illicit trafficking of cultural goods, aiming to ensure cultural access for all citizens and foster sustainable cultural development in the region.

## Characteristics

* The declaration addresses the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the cultural sector, highlighting structural weaknesses and inequalities in access to culture.
* It emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and regional efforts to support cultural industries and creative sectors post-pandemic.
* The document calls for policies to protect cultural heritage, improve working conditions for artists, and promote the use of technology in cultural initiatives.
* It stresses the need for cultural integration and the recognition of artists’ rights to enhance educational and job opportunities.
* The declaration advocates for the decentralization of culture to ensure equitable access to cultural rights for all citizens.

## Actors

| Category | Actor |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | MERCOSUR |

## Main Themes

| Category | Subcategory |
| --- | --- |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Digital Inclusion; Gender Equality in Tech; Digital Education |
| Regional & International Cooperation | Global Digital Cooperation; Digital & Technological Partnerships |

## Practical Applications

* Established commitment to design and implement effective policies for the reactivation of the cultural sector, protection of cultural heritage, and formalization of artists and cultural workers.
* Ongoing efforts to strengthen the multilateral information system to develop joint actions for measuring the economic, social, and environmental relevance of the cultural sector.
* Initiatives to utilize technology as a tool for promoting culture, arts, knowledge, and creative industries, including cultural, collective, or community enterprises.
* Commitment to work on existing regulations to promote common spaces and facilitate the exchange of cultural goods and services, as well as the mobility of artists and cultural workers, especially from ethnic, indigenous, and rural communities.
* Agreement to promote the decentralization of culture in national territories to ensure access to cultural rights for all citizens.
* Initiatives to enhance the trade of goods and services within cultural and creative enterprises, including popular economies and community cultural enterprises.

## Commitments

No specific quantifiable commitments or targets identified.