



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 20 (c)

**Globalization and interdependence: culture and sustainable development**

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2019

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/74/382/Add.3)*]

### 74/230. Culture and sustainable development

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Recalling its resolutions 41/187 of 8 December 1986, 46/158 of 19 December 1991, 51/179 of 16 December 1996, 52/197 of 18 December 1997, 53/184 of 15 December 1998, 55/192 of 20 December 2000, 57/249 of 20 December 2002, 65/166 of 20 December 2010 and 66/208 of 22 December 2011 concerning culture and development, 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and 68/223 of 20 December 2013, 69/230 of 19 December 2014, 70/214 of 22 December 2015 and 72/229 of 20 December 2017 on culture and sustainable development,*

*Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,*

*Reaffirming also the Paris Agreement<sup>1</sup> and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United*

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.



Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>2</sup> that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

*Welcoming* the holding of the 2019 Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General on 23 September, taking note of the multi-partner initiatives and commitments presented during the Summit, and taking note also of the Youth Climate Summit, held on 21 September,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

*Welcoming* the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>3</sup> calling for its full, effective and timely implementation at all levels, and reaffirming that culture and cultural diversity are sources of enrichment for humankind and provide an important contribution to the sustainable development of cities, human settlements and citizens, empowering them to play an active and unique role in development initiatives,

*Recalling* that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, *inter alia*, the natural and cultural diversity of the world is acknowledged and it is recognized that cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development,

*Recalling also* the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions,<sup>4</sup> as well as other international conventions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that acknowledge cultural diversity and economic and social development,<sup>5</sup>

*Recognizing* that culture is an essential component of human development, that it represents a source of identity, innovation and creativity for the individual and the community and that it is an important factor in social inclusion and poverty eradication, providing for sustainable economic growth and ownership of development processes,

*Recognizing also* the growing importance of the digital environment in the diffusion of cultural and creative content,

*Recognizing further* the importance of respect and understanding for cultural diversity throughout the world and of working together and not against each other

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2440, No. 43977.

<sup>5</sup> Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, of 1954 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 249, No. 3511); Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, of 1970 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 823, No. 11806); Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, of 1972 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1037, No. 15511); Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, of 2001 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2562, No. 45694); and Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, of 2003 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2368, No. 42671).

and of fostering intercultural understanding and dialogue, mutual listening and learning and an ethic of global citizenship and solidarity,

*Recalling* its resolution [73/130](#) of 13 December 2018 on the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin, aware of the importance attached to the return of cultural property that is of fundamental spiritual, historical and cultural value, and expressing deep concern about the continuing illicit trafficking in cultural property and its damage to the cultural heritage of nations,

*Recalling also* the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, on 13 September 2007,<sup>6</sup> and its call for States to enable access to and/or the repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned,

*Recalling further* the principles of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,<sup>7</sup> and acknowledging that cultural diversity is a source of enrichment for humankind and an important contribution to the sustainable development of local communities, peoples and nations, supporting their ability to play an active and unique role in development initiatives,

*Recognizing* the importance of multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving the diversity of languages and cultures globally and that genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding, and recognizing also the importance for the peoples of the world to communicate in their own language,

*Recalling* its resolution [71/178](#) of 19 December 2016, in which it proclaimed the year beginning on 1 January 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages, to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages,

*Noting* the fourth international conference on the theme “Preservation of world languages and development of linguistic diversity in cyberspace: context, policy, practice”, held under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Yakutsk, Russian Federation, from 1 to 5 July 2019,

*Recalling* the concerns expressed in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>8</sup> on the underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions in the area of culture, which has prevented women from having a significant impact in the area of culture and development,

*Recalling also* the importance of the promotion of national cultures, artistic creation in all its forms and international and regional cultural cooperation, and reaffirming in this regard the relevance of strengthening national efforts and regional and international cooperation mechanisms for cultural action and artistic creation and recognizing respect for cultural pluralism, as defined by the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, as policies for the inclusion and participation of all citizens that guarantee social cohesion and the vitality of civil society and peace, enhance cultural development and contribute to sustainable development,

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<sup>6</sup> Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October–3 November 2001*, vol. I and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, sect. V, resolution 25, annex I.

<sup>8</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

*Recognizing* the linkages between cultural and biological diversity and the positive contribution of local and indigenous traditional knowledge in addressing environmental challenges in a sustainable manner,

*Recalling* the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,<sup>9</sup> and acknowledging that, in many regions, forests have important cultural and spiritual value,

*Taking note* of the declaration adopted in Florence, Italy, on 4 October 2014, at the third United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries, the Hangzhou outcomes, adopted at the conference on the theme “Culture for sustainable cities”, held in Hangzhou, China, from 10 to 12 December 2015, the Bali Declaration, adopted at the second World Culture Forum, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 10 to 14 October 2016, the global report on culture for sustainable urban development of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, entitled *Culture: Urban Future*, of October 2016, the new strategy for the integration of culture and creativity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the eleventh annual meeting of the Creative Cities Network, held in Enghien-les-Bains, France, from 30 June to 2 July 2017, the twelfth annual meeting of the Creative Cities Network, held in Krakow and Katowice, Poland, from 12 to 15 June 2018, and the thirteenth annual meeting of the Creative Cities Network, held in Fabriano, Italy, from 10 to 15 June 2019, as well as its discussions on the role of culture across development areas, including education, entrepreneurship, innovation, inclusiveness and environmental sustainability,

*Recognizing* the role of museums as crucial partners for protecting and promoting culture, from safeguarding world heritage to countering illicit trafficking in cultural property, in particular through their preservation, research, communication and education efforts,

*Recognizing also* that culture in diplomacy remains an important component of strengthening international relations,

*Reiterating* the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;<sup>10</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development that provides people and communities with a strong sense of identity and social cohesion and contributes to more effective and sustainable development policies and measures at all levels, and stresses in this regard that policies responsive to cultural contexts can yield better, sustainable, inclusive and equitable development outcomes;

3. *Recognizes* the power of culture as a driver of sustainable development, which contributes to fostering social inclusion and developing a strong and viable economic sector by generating income, creating decent jobs and addressing both the economic and social dimensions of poverty through cultural heritage, including its protection and preservation, and cultural and creative sectors, while providing innovative and effective solutions to cross-cutting issues, such as education, health, gender equality and women’s empowerment, technology and the environment;

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<sup>9</sup> See resolution [71/285](#).

<sup>10</sup> [A/74/286](#).

4. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of culture to the three dimensions of sustainable development and to the achievement of national development objectives, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>11</sup> and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as other internationally agreed development goals, and in this regard acknowledges:

(a) That culture contributes to inclusive economic development, as cultural heritage preservation, cultural and creative sectors, sustainable cultural tourism and cultural infrastructure, including urban regeneration, can be sources of income generation, job creation and decent work for all, including at the community level, thus improving living conditions and fostering community-based economic growth, and contribute to the empowerment of individuals;

(b) That culture contributes to inclusive social development for all, including local communities and indigenous peoples, with respect for cultural diversity, safeguarding of the cultural and natural heritage, fostering of cultural institutions and strengthening of cultural and creative sectors, in urban and rural contexts;

(c) That culture contributes to environmental sustainability, since the protection of cultural and biological diversity and natural heritage is important for sustainable development, and that support for traditional systems of environmental protection, and resource management, can contribute to the increased sustainability of fragile ecosystems and the conservation, preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to avoiding land degradation and addressing climate change;

5. *Reaffirms* that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development, and acknowledges that culture can contribute to sustainable development by constituting a valuable resource for enabling communities to participate fully in social and cultural life, facilitating inclusive governance and dialogue at the national, regional and international levels and contributing to conflict prevention and resolution, as well as to reconciliation, recovery and resilience;

6. *Reaffirms its commitment* to embracing diversity in cities and human settlements, to strengthening social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality and women's empowerment, innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusion, identity and safety, and the dignity of all people, including people in vulnerable situations, as well as to fostering liveability and a vibrant urban economy and to taking steps to ensure that local institutions promote pluralism and peaceful coexistence within increasingly heterogeneous and multicultural societies;

7. *Recognizes* that culture should be taken into account in the promotion and implementation of new sustainable consumption and production patterns that contribute to the responsible use of resources and address the adverse impacts of climate change;

8. *Acknowledges* that quality education, non-formal education and lifelong learning are enriched by culture, transmitting shared values, knowledge and skills, and also acknowledges that arts education can make a direct contribution to the constructive transformation of educational systems to meet the needs of learners in a rapidly changing world and the need for a creative and adaptive workforce;<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>12</sup> As stated in the preamble to the outcome document of the second World Conference on Arts Education, held in Seoul from 25 to 28 May 2010, namely, the Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education.

9. *Calls for* the promotion of education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage;

10. *Recalls* the inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of several targets reflecting the contribution of culture to sustainable development, also recalls that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, and in this regard looks forward to their achievement, building on the positive results and impact of programmes utilizing culture as an enabler of sustainable development;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts and initiatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the mandated United Nations agency on culture, to strengthen and measure the transformational impact of culture on the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

12. *Decides* to give consideration, as appropriate, to the contribution of culture to sustainable development in the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

13. *Takes note with appreciation* of the high-level event on culture and sustainable development in May 2019, convened by the President of the General Assembly on the occasion of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, pursuant to resolution [72/229](#);

14. *Welcomes* the convening of the Forum of Ministers for Culture by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 19 November 2019, on the theme “Culture and public policy for sustainable development”, the first forum of its kind to be held in 21 years, with a focus on the contribution of culture to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and its linkages to education, social transformation, employment and the environment;

15. *Looks forward* to the multi-partner international alliance on nature and culture to be launched in 2020 at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will aim to strengthen international cooperation on the linkages between biological and cultural diversity to achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity of humanity living in harmony with nature;

16. *Invites* all countries, as well as intergovernmental bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders:

(a) To raise public awareness of the importance of cultural diversity for sustainable development, promoting its positive value through education and media tools;

(b) To ensure a more visible and effective integration and mainstreaming of culture into economic, social and environmental development policies and strategies at all levels;

(c) To ensure that women and men can equally access, participate in and contribute to cultural life and decision-making, and to further commit themselves to the development of cultural policies and programmes with a gender perspective at the local, national and international levels in order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

(d) To undertake relevant intercultural dialogue and cooperation and cultural diversity programmes for youth to engage in a multicultural society, participate in the

achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, achieve better educational results and acquire a broader and more diverse range of skills and competences;

(e) To promote capacity-building, where appropriate, at all levels for the development of dynamic cultural and creative sectors, in particular by encouraging creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship, supporting the development of cultural institutions and cultural and creative sectors, providing technical and vocational training for culture professionals and increasing employment opportunities in the cultural and creative sectors for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development;

(f) To actively support the emergence of local markets for cultural goods and services and to facilitate the effective and licit access of such goods and services to international markets, taking into account the expanding range of cultural production and consumption and, for States parties thereto, the provisions of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;<sup>4</sup>

(g) To promote the diversity of and the access to cultural expressions in the digital environment;

(h) To preserve and maintain local and indigenous traditional knowledge and community practices of environmental management, which are valuable examples of culture as a vehicle for sustainable development, and to foster synergies between modern science and technology and local and indigenous knowledge, practices and innovation;

(i) To accelerate efforts to protect cultural and natural heritage from extreme weather events, sea level rise, desertification and other threats exacerbated by climate change, which jeopardize its integrity and preservation for present and future generations;

(j) To promote global awareness of the linkages between cultural and biological diversity, including through the protection and preservation and encouragement of the customary use of biological resources, in accordance with traditional cultural practices, as an important element of a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

(k) To support national legal frameworks and policies for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage and cultural property, encouraging initiatives to fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property, and for the return of cultural property, in accordance with national legislation and applicable international legal frameworks;

(l) To support national legal frameworks and policies to enable intellectual property rights to sustain those involved in cultural creativity, including by promoting international cooperation to prevent the misappropriation of creative works;

(m) To promote access to and/or the repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned;

(n) To note that, in achieving these objectives, innovative mechanisms of financing, public and private, can make a positive contribution in assisting developing countries in mobilizing additional resources for development on a stable, predictable and voluntary basis, and to reiterate that such voluntary mechanisms should be effective, should aim to mobilize resources that are stable and predictable, should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing, should be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of developing countries and should not unduly burden such countries;

(o) To mobilize culture as a vehicle to foster tolerance, mutual understanding, peace and reconciliation in the context of conflict-prevention, conflict-resolution and peacebuilding processes;

17. *Expresses deep concern* that cultural property, including religious sites, shrines and cemeteries, and objects, is increasingly targeted by terrorist attacks and vandalism, often resulting in its damage, theft or complete destruction, and condemns such attacks;

18. *Encourages* all countries, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, within their existing mandates, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to enhance international cooperation in supporting the efforts of developing countries towards the development and strengthening of cultural and creative sectors, cultural tourism and culture-related microenterprises and to assist those countries in developing the necessary infrastructure and skills, as well as in mastering information and communications technologies and in gaining access to new technologies on mutually agreed terms;

19. *Encourages* initiatives to foster cultural cooperation agreements and networks at the regional level for knowledge- and information-sharing for sustainable development;

20. *Also encourages* programmes that facilitate social benefits and economic rights for artists and cultural professionals, including opportunities for decent work, fair remuneration and equal pay for work of equal value, as well as training in the light of technological advancement and digitalization;

21. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to continue to provide support, to facilitate financing and to assist countries, upon their request, in developing their national capacities to optimize the contribution of culture to sustainable development, including through information-sharing, the exchange of best practices, data collection, research and study and the use of appropriate evaluation indicators, as well as to implement applicable international cultural conventions, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

22. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies to continue to assess, in consultation with countries, the contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development through the compilation of quantitative data, including indicators and statistics, with a view to informing development policies and relevant reports, where appropriate, and to continue to act as a platform for exchange among countries on the nexus between culture and sustainable development, including through the Forums of Ministers for Culture;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that United Nations country teams continue to further integrate and mainstream culture into their programming exercises, in particular United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in consultation with relevant national authorities, when assisting countries in the pursuit of their development objectives;

24. *Encourages* all countries, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to give due consideration to the contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development in the formulation of national, regional and international development policies and international cooperation instruments, and in this regard, building upon the discussion at the previous high-level event on culture and sustainable development, invites the President of the General Assembly to host a

one-day high-level event on this subject, within existing resources, during the seventy-fifth session of the Assembly, and to invite the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to support him or her, within its existing mandates;

25. *Reaffirms* the commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and commit to taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries and to reach the furthest behind first;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-sixth session, under the item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, the sub-item entitled “Culture and sustainable development”.

*52nd plenary meeting  
19 December 2019*

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