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## Committee on Culture – 15th Meeting

### City of Mexico

20 October 2018  
10:00 – 11:30

### REPORT

5 November 2018

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#### SUMMARY

The 15th meeting of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Committee on Culture was held in Mexico City on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in the frame of the events for the third UCLG Mexico City – Culture 21 International Award.

The meeting served to highlight and discuss the Committee's progress in 2018 on implementing the work programme. It also helped decide upon a work programme for 2019. One of the important events for 2019 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> UCLG Culture Summit that will take place on 3-5 April 2019 in Buenos Aires.

The meeting formally approved the City of Mexico Declaration: "Culture and Peace", drafted during the "Cultural Rights and Peace in the City" International Workshop held the previous day.

One important note about the meeting was the change to the Committee's Governance Team. The cities of Angers and Belo Horizonte left their vice-presidential roles, while Lisbon joined the team as co-president and Rome as vice president.

The meeting held a moment of remembrance for Eduard Miralles, one of the Committee's founders, and active member for many years, who passed away recently.

## 1. Context

The UCLG Committee on Culture is a very **unique platform**: there is no other meeting point at the global scale for cities, organizations and networks who work on the relationship that exists between local cultural policies and sustainable development.

The UCLG Culture Committee is **open to the participation** of cities from all continents on an equal level, and helps UCLG to be better known by developing well-defined activities and themes.

The **Agenda 21 for culture** is the first document with worldwide mission that advocates establishing the groundwork of an undertaking by cities and local governments for cultural development. In January 2018, more than 750 cities, local governments and organizations from all over the world were connected to the Agenda 21 for culture.

**United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)** adopted the Agenda 21 for culture as a reference document in October 2004 (Executive Bureau of Sao Paulo), and established the Working Group on Culture in June 2005 (World Council of Beijing), which soon was converted into the Committee on Culture in October 2007 (World Congress of Jeju) and ratified in 2010 (World Congress of Mexico) as well as during the following World Congresses in Rabat (2013) and in Bogotá (2016), which notably increased the consideration for culture within the global organization.

The **UCLG Committee on Culture** was created in order to:

- Analyse the context and send cities' key messages related to global cultural aspects. Awareness-raising, lobbying and policy development.
- Enhance exchanges of experiences and peer-learning. Networking and Project development.

The **aim of the UCLG Committee on culture**, approved during the World Congress in Mexico and extended during the World Congresses in Rabat (2013) and Bogotá (2016), is "To promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development through the international dissemination and the local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture".

The current agenda includes 7 action areas which correspond to the priorities of the Committee. (1) Implementation (with the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21 and the UCLG Culture Summit). (2) Representation / Institutional relations / Strengthening cooperation and network. (3) Development and Monitoring. (4) Learning and cooperation (with the "Leading Cities", "Pilot Cities" and "Culture 21 Lab" working programmes). (5) Strengthening the UCLG network.

During the **previous meeting**, held on 12 November 2017 in Jeju in the framework of the second UCLG Culture Summit, the Committee assessed the activities undertaken, and launched the third edition of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21. This meeting was also the occasion to present UCLG Policy Councils and to discuss the results of the second Culture Summit which had ended the same day.

## 2. Meeting Summary

### Opening of the Meeting

Eduardo Vázquez, Councillor for Culture of Mexico City and co-president of the UCLG Committee on Culture welcomed participants and explained the history of the building where the meeting was held. The Rule Cultural Centre currently sits on the old site of Moctezuma's "Casa de las Fieras", which later became part of a large Franciscan monastery. At the beginning of the 20th century, the present structure was built and later expanded, but was damaged by the 185 earthquake. In 1992, a group of artists took over the space to preserve what remained of the

building. Later on, thanks interventions by the municipal government and other institutions, a process of reconstruction began which made it possible to inaugurate the Cultural Centre in 2017. It currently houses exhibition spaces, work and training areas on digital culture, an incubator for cultural businesses, and the Colombia House in Mexico, among others.

Following this, Martin Levenson, Adviser to the Councillor for Culture of Mexico City, presented the agenda for the meeting, approved by the participants.

Finally, Jordi Pascual, Coordinator of the UCLG Committee on Culture, welcomed all participants, commenting on the importance of the Committee's annual meeting and inviting everyone to actively participate.

## **Presentation and Discussion on Progress of Implementation of the 2018 Work Programme**

Jordi Pascual continued his presentation by recalling the general frame for the Committee's work: the main documents Agenda 21 for Culture and Culture 21 Actions, and the existence of the Committee under the United Cities and Local Governments global network. He presented the Committee's work programme for the following year, organised into several areas:

### *Implementation*

Of particular note in this area is the third UCLG Mexico City – Culture 21 International Award, whose presentation ceremony took place in Mexico City last evening. The award recognises Mexico City's leadership and has had a significant impact on UCLG, evidenced by the large number of applications from cities all around the world and the fact that the UCLG Secretary General regards the City's example as a benchmark to be followed by the organisation. Mexico has combined a strong narrative with an implementation process that actively involves cities.

Also with regard to implementation, in 2018 the third UCLG Culture Summit is being organised by the City of Buenos Aires, to be held there on 3-5 April 2019.

### *Learning*

Jordi Baltà, Adviser to the Committee on Culture, took a moment to present this area, referencing three Learning programmes that promote the Committee: Pilot Cities, Culture 21 Lab, and Leading Cities. The Pilot Cities Programme is a 26-30 month long project with a common methodology. At the same time however, its implementation is adapted to different cities' lived realities. He stressed that between 2018 and 2019 several of the cities that had started the programme in its initial years would be finishing, while newer cities are and will be joining the programme. He also noted an increase in the number of cities participating in Culture 21 Lab, a short workshop that is prepared and carried out over four to five months. Mr. Baltà turned to Leading Cities, restricted to cities with experience in this area, and presented examples of the work carried out, highlighting a focus on responding to city-specific issues, while at the same time generating relevant knowledge for all those cities involved in the network. Finally, he underlined on the need to collaborate with local government associations, noting the example of the seminar carried out alongside the South African Local Governments Associations (SALGA) in March 2018. The goal of this is to coordinate national or regional peer learning frameworks, and adapt them to specific realities.

### *Monitoring*

Sarah Vieux, Communications Officer for UCLG, presented this section, specifically noting the launch of a new database called *Obs*, which brings together 130 good practices on culture and local sustainable development. Many of these practices came out of experiences learned from the first two years of the award, and many more initiatives from the third year are expected to be adopted. The new *Obs* system has led to a revision of the way content is presented with a way to search for keywords related to the nine Commitments of "Culture 21 Actions" and the 17

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also allows other cities to submit their own good practices.

Jordi Pascual emphasised the unique nature of the database, pointing out the large number of projects and the connection between culture and the SDGs. Martin Levenson underscored the involvement of experts in analyses and the fact that this helped experiences be viewed as good practices.

#### *Strengthening the UCLG Network*

Jordi Pascual stressed the importance of being a part of the extensive UCLG network because it involves regular participation in the organisation's major statutory bodies (World Council, Executive Bureau), discussion bodies (the Policy Councils) and contribution to the global GOLD report on local democracy, among others.

#### *Cooperation*

In this area, Jordi Pascual drew special attention to the SDGs and their presence in the publication of the guide, *Culture in Sustainable Development Goals: A Practical Guide to Local Action*. Mr. Pascual also stressed the importance of partnerships with networks and stakeholders working on issues closely related to the Committee's themes, including collaborations with Culture Action Europe, Culture and Development—connected with the Creative Mobilities programme, among others—SALGA, the "Culture at Work Africa" project, ICOMOS, IFLA, the Climate Heritage Network, and the Global Youth Culture Forum which was implemented alongside the province of Jeju.

#### *Communication*

Sarah Vieux discussed the presence of a system with various websites. First, there is a primary website ([agenda21culture.net](http://agenda21culture.net)), from which one can access three different sites dedicated to the good practices in *Obs*, mentioned above, and those dedicated to the Culture Summit and the UCLG Mexico City – Culture 21 International Award. She also noted the use of social media and specific updates sent out by the Committee, as well as newsletters and the *Culture 21 Review*. Jordi Pascual added that work had been done to update the subscription mailing lists so as to meet with European General Data Protection Regulation.

To conclude the presentation of the work programme, Jordi Pascual explained the Culture Committee team, made up of himself, Sarah Vieux, Jordi Baltà, and Marta Llobet, and the precious help of the Resources team, as well as the other teams and staff of the UCLG World Secretariat, as well as the various experts who regularly collaborate with the Committee.

#### *Discussion*

This began with some words from a group of participants. Martin Levenson discussed the City of Mexico Declaration: "Culture and Peace", drafted during the "Cultural Rights and Peace in the City" International Workshop held the previous evening. Some amendments had been added based on comments and suggestions. He suggested that the Committee could support the Declaration and participate in its dissemination.

Participants took note of the draft Declaration and also agreed to include amendments based on gender equality, as proposed by Gisella Previtali (Montevideo) and Lucina Jiménez.

The participants subsequently approved, by acclamation, the Mexico City Declaration: "Culture and Peace".

At the request of Eduardo Vázquez and Martin Levenson, it was agreed that a public reading of the final version of the Declaration was to be done in several languages, which would take place during the public session scheduled for that afternoon at the international Zócalo Book Fair. Furthermore, also based on their suggestion, a space on the website would be created for the Committee on Culture to facilitate access to the text.

Raquel Martinez, culture officer for the Union of Ibero American Capitals (UCCI), described her organisation's activities in the cultural sphere, such as the presentation of the Ibero-American Capital of Culture Award. She also expressed her interest in strengthening the alliance with UCLG and other groups in fields that promote the relationship between culture and the SDGs.

Monserrath Tello, Councillor for Culture of Cuenca, highlighted the fact that in 2018 Cuenca hosted the Continental Intermediate Cities Forum. This event focused on mobility and gender and adopted culture as a cross-cutting issue. She expressed her interest in strengthening work focused on gender within the Committee, and perhaps in connecting this with other ongoing initiatives such as the Women for Culture Network. In lending support to the City of Mexico Declaration, she called for greater visibility of these initiatives.

With respect to this, Jordi Pascual added that the relationship between culture and gender had already generated considerable interest, particularly during the last session at the Summit in Jeju. In fact, there were already a number of sessions devoted to this issue planned for the Summit in Buenos Aires. These were to be further developed in the reflections afterwards, a process that makes it possible to collaborate with other networks.

### **Governance of the Committee**

Martin Levenson moved on to this order of business. Jordi Pascual began by describing the current configuration of the Committee's Governance Team, indicating that he had been in contact with all the current members of the Governance Team so that each one could assess its continuation; he also informed that, through [Circular number 143](#), all the Committee's official members (over 100) were informed that the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting would include the renewal of the Committee's Governance Team as an important issue in its agenda. Following this, Angers and Belo Horizonte expressed their interest in leaving their vice-presidential positions in the Committee, while Lisbon indicated its wish to become co-president, and Rome a vice president.

Manuel Veiga, Municipal Director of Culture for Lisbon, declared that his city's cultural policy was very well aligned with the objectives of the Committee on Culture. He introduced a video of Catarina Vaz Pinto, the Councillor for Culture who had not been able to attend the meeting, in which she expressed her satisfaction with the Committee's work and her interest in forming part of the governing team as co-president, in order to address issues such as the relationship between culture and the SDGs, or the European Agenda for Culture, among others.

Luca Bergamo, First Deputy Mayor of Rome, in charge of Cultural Development, recalled that he had worked closely with the Committee during his time as Secretary-General of Culture Action Europe. After joining the local government of Rome, he had once again approached UCLG, understanding that given today's global issues, local governments should have a greater role. Additionally, the cultural policies that Rome supports today seek to promote cultural rights, which until now have been inaccessible to many people. Being part of the Committee's governing team would serve to reinforce these initiatives.

Martin Levenson expressed his gratitude to Lisbon and Rome, who submitted requests to become co-president and vice president, respectively.

All the participants approved, by acclamation, the proposal to add Lisbon and Rome to the Governance Team.

As of 20 October 2018, the governing body of the Committee on Culture is comprised of three co-presidents and seven vice presidents.

Co-Presidents: Mexico City, Lisbon and Buenos Aires

Vice Presidents: Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Paris, Porto Alegre and Rome.

### **Other Issues**

Enrique Avogadro, Minister of Culture for the City of Buenos Aires, stated that it was an honour for his city to co-chair the Committee. He congratulated them for the work that has been done, noting in particular the good practices, which he added were in need of greater dissemination during the Summit of Buenos Aires. He also thanked the City of Mexico for organising the workshop and the meeting, as well as for publishing its manual on public policies and cultural rights, which is an excellent part of its legacy and discourse. Mr. Avogadro also expressed his happiness with being able to work alongside Mexico City, Lisbon, and Rome in the future. The latter was recently incorporated as vice president along with the others. He also reminded members of the upcoming Third Culture Summit in Buenos Aires.

Eduardo Vázquez highlighted the role of the Committee on Culture as a space for developing solutions to the threats we face, such as exclusion, xenophobia, and others. He also shared the exciting news that cities like Lisbon and Rome will be included in this process, subsequently welcoming them and expressing his gratitude.

Jordi Pascual also took a moment to remember Eduard Miralles, adviser to the *Diputació* (Provincial Government) of Barcelona and president of the Interarts Foundation, who passed away in Barcelona at the end of August. Eduard Miralles was one of the founders of the UCLG Committee on Culture; he was present in many meetings representing the Diputació, and a friend of many members. He facilitated a number of collaborative projects, and made very important contributions to the organisation, including writing some sections and paragraphs of “Culture 21 Actions”.

Finally, Eduardo Vázquez concluded the meeting, thanking all participants and, subsequently a group photo was taken.

### 3. Annexes:

- Annex 1 includes the meeting agenda.
- Annex 2 includes the list of participants at the meeting.

## Contact

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## **Annex 1**

### **Agenda**

**Place:** Centro Cultural El Rule, Mexico City

- 10.00 **Official opening of the meeting** by Mr Eduardo Vázquez, Co-President of the UCLG Committee on Culture
- 10.05 Presentation and discussion of the **state of implementation of the Committee's work programme in 2018**, including:
1. **Implementation**, including the International Award UCLG-Mexico City-Culture 21 and the UCLG Culture Summit
  2. **Learning**, including the capacity-building programmes Leading Cities, Pilot Cities, and Culture 21 Lab, as well as thematic seminars
  3. **Monitoring**, including the OBS of good practices, new research areas as well as our key narrative
  4. **Strengthening the UCLG network**, including participation in the activities of UCLG (World Secretariat, Policy Councils and sections)
  5. **Cooperation**, including the global advocacy on the SDGs, as well as partnerships
  6. **Communication**, including the website, the newsletters and the social media
- 11.10 **Governance of the Committee**, including the agreement on the cities that will be members of the Governance Team for 2019 and 2020.
- 11.25 **Other issues**
- 11.30 **End of the meeting and picture**

## Annex 2

### List of participants

<i>City, local government or organisation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname(s)</i>	<i>Position</i>
<b>Official members</b>			
Barcelona	Montserrat	Tort	Director of Studies, Institute for Culture, Barcelona
Bilbao	Iñaki	López de Aguilera	Director for Culture
Buenos Aires	Enrique	Avogadro	Minister for Culture
Buenos Aires	Luciana	Blasco	Deputy Secretary, Cultural Policy and New Audiences
Cuenca	Monserrath	Tello Astudillo	Councillor for Culture
Escazú	Freddy	Montero	Director for Cooperation
Lisbon	Manuel	Veiga	Municipal Director for Culture
Lyon	Loïc	Graber	Councillor for Culture
Lyon	Marc	Villarrubias	Director of Cultural Cooperation
Malmö	Ivana	Baukart	Coordinator of the Cultural Strategy
Mexico City	Eduardo	Vázquez	Councillor for Culture
Mexico City	Martín	Levenson	Advisor to the Councillor for Culture
Mexico City	Sandra	Pacheco	In charge of International affairs, Secretariat for Culture
Mexico City	Ana	Arteaga	Cultural Rights, Secretariat for Culture
Montevideo	Gisella	Previtali	Coordinator, Audiovisual Management
Roma	Luca	Bergamo	First Deputy Mayor, in charge of Cultural Development
Vaudreuil-Dorion	Michel	Vallée	Director for Culture
UCLG-MEWA	Mehmet	Duman	Secretary General
<b>Observers</b>			
Novosibirsk	Elena	Shchukina	Director of the Municipal Museum
Observatory for Diversity and Cultural Rights of Friburg	Patrice	Meyer-Bisch	President
University of Jinju	Hoon Jeong	Byung	Professor
Iberoamerican Capital Cities Association (UCCI)	Raquel	Martínez	In charge of Culture
<b>Experts of the Committee</b>			
	Lucina	Jiménez	General Director of Conarte and Agenda 21 for culture expert
	Antoine	Guibert	Agenda 21 for culture expert
<b>UCLG</b>			
Committee on Culture	Jordi	Pascual	Coordinator
Committee on Culture	Jordi	Baltà	Consultante
Committee on Culture	Sarah	Vieux	Director of Communications
<b>Apologies</b>			



			Director of Institutional coordination and development, Municipal Secretariat for Culture
Belo Horizonte	Marcelo	Bones	
Belo Horizonte	Janine	Avelar	Municipal Foundation for Culture
Bogotá	María Claudia	López	Councillor for Culture
Concepción	Mauricio	Castro	Director for Culture
Dakar	Abdoulaye Elimane	Kane	Personal Councillor to the Mayor on Culture and Development
Strasbourg (City and Eurometropole)	Julien	Chiappone-Lucchesi	Head of International Relations
Jeju (Province)	Hyun Min	Kim	Director, Cultural Division
Jeju (Province)	Eunjoo	Chae	Coordinator, Culture
Konya	Mücahit Sami	Küçüktiöli	Director of the Cultural Department
European Metropolis of Lille (MEL)	Paulo	Pais	Director of International Cooperation
Lisbon	Catarina	Vaz Pinto	Councillor for Culture
Makati	Dwayne	Samarista	Project manager
Montevideo	Mariana	Percovich	Secretary for Culture
Panamá	Alexandra	Schjelderup	Director for Culture
Paris	Karin	Fouledeau	In charge of International Relations, culture department
Porto Alegre	Luciano	Alabarse	Councillor for Culture
Quito	Pablo	Corral Vega	Councillor for Culture
Rosario	Guillermo	Ríos	Councillor for Culture and education
Saint-Denis	Didier	Coirint	Director for Culture
South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA)	Xolile	George	Executive Director
UCLG – Africa	Jean-Pierre	Elong Mbassi	Secretary General
Les Arts et la Ville	Lynda	Roy	Director
Réseau Culture21.fr	Christelle	Blouët	Coordinator
UCLG – Technical Office for Libanese Cities	Béchir	Odeimi	President and Director of the Technical Office for Libanese Cities
Special Adviser on Culture in Sustainable Cities	Catherine	Cullen	Former president of the UCLG Committee on Culture