

# Agenda 21 de la Cultura

Reunión Anual  
Comisión de Cultura  
CGLU

1 y 2 de Octubre  
de 2014  
Buenos Aires  
Argentina

## Round of the UCLG Committee on Culture 2014: Buenos Aires holds world meeting of cities committed to culture in sustainable development

**Buenos Aires, October 2, 2014** - From September 29 to October 2, 2014, Buenos Aires hosted the **11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on Culture of the worldwide network United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**. The meeting brought together representatives from **over thirty local governments in America, Europe, Africa and Asia**, as well as international organizations such as UNESCO, representatives of cultural networks and universities. Within the framework of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UCLG Committee on Culture, the **Second International Seminar *Cities, Culture and Future: Toward a new Agenda 21 for culture*** was also held in La Usina del Arte. Over 1000 people attended the seminar.

The president of the UCLG Committee on Culture, Catherine Cullen, is pleased with the success of the initiative: "Ten years after its approval, Agenda 21 for culture continues enjoying international consensus of the cities and territories. The new Agenda 21 for culture will be based on cultural diversity, cooperation and citizen participation."

"The city of Buenos Aires is proud to have hosted this event and to be the federating point of the cities committed to Agenda 21 for culture," declared the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Buenos Aires, Hernán Lombardi.

The meeting in Buenos Aires was held at a crucial time for UCLG. A decade after the approval of Agenda 21 for culture in 2004, **the draft of the new Agenda 21 for culture was discussed in Buenos Aires**, and the final version must be approved at an international congress to be held in Bilbao (Basque Country, Spain) March 18-20, 2015.

The participants of the meeting in Buenos Aires **reasserted the basic principles that make up Agenda 21 for culture**. Among these are (a) the key role of culture in achieving sustainable development in the world today; (b) the recognition of cultural rights and cultural diversity; (c) the role of culture as key element of inclusive communities; (d) the development of public policies based on social participation; (e) the access to cultural goods and services for all people, and (e) the fight against situations of inequality, vulnerability and violence. The authorities, experts and guests also highlighted the essential function played by local governments in the design and implementation of cultural policies (essential to a democratic society), which require adequate supplies of resources; the need to strengthen the collaboration between cultural policies and educational, social, economic, environmental and urban planning policies; and the need to develop inclusive models of cultural policies, which recognize the participation of civil society. **The new draft document, discussed in Buenos Aires, will have a more practical nature and wishes to facilitate the elaboration of policies and the exchange of experiences** between local governments of different countries.

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- ▶ The meeting in Buenos Aires was also held in the context of the international debate on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations, which after September 2015 will replace the Millennium Development Goals approved in 2000. The UCLG Committee on Culture, together with other international organizations, currently works **to make the SDG explicitly incorporate cultural development, understood as the full exercise of cultural rights, as a goal and as a dimension of sustainable development**, considering the lessons learned in this regard by the international community throughout the past decade.

## About UCLG:

The goal of **UCLG** is to be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community.

**Agenda 21 for culture** is the founding document of the UCLG Committee on Culture, the first document of worldwide scope which proposes policies and actions of cities and local governments for cultural development. Agenda 21 for culture was approved in 2004 by cities and local governments throughout the world committed to human rights, cultural diversity, sustainability, participative democracy and the creation of conditions for peace.

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