



United Cities and Local Governments
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos



Fourth meeting of the Committee on culture
Guangzhou, 11 November 2009

Report
29 December 2009

The Committee on culture held the fourth meeting on 11 November 2009, in Guangzhou (China). The meeting analysed the most recent activities of the Committee and approved the priorities for 2010.

The Committee is becoming a hub of information and expertise on the relation between cultural policies and local development.

The Committee advocates for culture to become the fourth pillar of sustainable development at a local level, and suggests some specific actions for the Plan 2010-2013 of UCLG.

Context

UCLG's Committee on culture is the meeting point of cities, local governments and networks that place culture at the heart of their development processes. Chaired by Barcelona and vice-chaired by Lille, Stockholm and Buenos Aires, it consists of fifty cities, local governments and organisations from all over the world. The main objective of the Programme for 2008-2010 (see annex 2) is:

“To promote the role of culture as a central dimension of local policies, fostering the relation between culture and sustainable development and the processes of intercultural dialogue, through the international dissemination and local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture”

The **Agenda 21 for culture** is the first document with worldwide mission establishing an undertaking by cities and local governments for cultural development. Today, 350 cities, local governments and organisations from all over the world are linked to Agenda 21 for culture.

United Cities and Local Governments – UCLG is the largest association of local governments in the world. Founded in May 2004, UCLG acts as the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government. It adopted Agenda 21 for culture as a reference document for its cultural programmes in October 2004, constituted its Working Group on Culture in June 2005, which was succeeded by the current Committee in October 2007.

The Committee on Culture held its **fourth meeting** on 11 November 2009, in Guangzhou, in the framework of the statutory meetings (World Council and Executive Bureau) of UCLG.

Catherine Cullen, vice-president of the Committee and Councillor for culture of Lille, spoke to the plenary of the World Council on 13 November 2009 (see annex 1), and requested the involvement

of UCLG leaders to achieve that culture is considered to be the fourth pillar of sustainable development.

The meeting

Catherine Cullen chaired the meeting and explained the contents of Agenda 21 for culture and the strategies that guide the work of the Committee on culture. Moreover, she explained the policies and programmes that the city of Lille is implementing in accordance with Agenda 21 for culture.

Ms Eva Garcia-Chueca summarised the report of activities carried out in 2009, and the Committee discussed the main priorities for 2010.

The city of Vancouver presented its cultural policies. Other participants highlighted the importance of culture in terms of urban policies.

Main agreements

1. **Relation with Unesco.**

- UCLG has been officially accepted as an observer to the Organs of the Convention on the protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of Unesco.
- Moreover, the Committee on culture (through the City of Stockholm) is assessing the programme "Network of Creative Cities".
- Last, but not least, the Committee has been involved in the process "Towards a new framework for cultural policies", convened by the Division on Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue.

The Committee highlighted the fact that, despite the progress, there is still much work to do so as to achieve a closer relationship with Unesco.

2. **Reports published in 2009.**

- "Culture, local governments and Millennium Development Goals", with articles by Inge Ruigrok, Amareswar Galla, José-Antonio González Mancebo and Nil Sismanyazici-Navaie.
- "The Agenda 21 for culture in France State of affairs and outlook", by Christelle Blouët, in cooperation with of the French *Observatoire des Politiques Culturelles*.
- "Culture and sustainable development: examples of institutional innovation and proposal of a new cultural policy profile", written for the Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue of UNESCO.
- "Cities, cultures and development. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture", with 20 articles of Mayors, councillors and civil society leaders.

The Committee is satisfied with the quality of these reports but requests a more extensive diffusion. It also discusses the importance of writing a report on Cultural policies and gender in 2010 or 2011. Funding will be required.

3. **List of cities.** In April 2009, the number of cities, local governments and organizations from all over the world that were linked to Agenda 21 for culture reached the figure of 350. An "imaginary city map" was produced as an illustration, and as a nice way to celebrate the fifth anniversary.

The Committee underlines the importance of this list, and discusses how information on cultural policies of cities that have adopted Agenda 21 for culture can be spread more effectively.

4. **Translations.** Agenda 21 for culture is now translated in 17 languages: Arabic, Bulgarian, Catalan, English, French, Galician, German, Italian, Japanese, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian (Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian), Spanish, Swedish, Turkish and Ukrainian.

The Committee agrees not to prioritise more translations.

5. **Seminars.** The Committee organised two seminars in 2009

- The seminar on "Culture, sustainable development and local governments", in June 2009, in Barcelona, in cooperation with the French *Observatoire des Politiques Culturelles* and Unesco, order to mark the 5th anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture.
- The workshop on "African cities and local cultural cooperation", which took place at the Euro-African Campus for cultural cooperation, in Maputo, in June 2009, in

cooperation with OCPA – Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa and Interarts Foundation.

The Committee agrees to prepare more seminars for 2010, as they are useful to spread Agenda 21 for culture, advocate for culture to be the fourth pillar of sustainable development, and enlarge the number of circles connected to the Committee.

6. **Priorities for 2010**, following to the programme 2008-2010 agreed in Jeju (see annex 2):
 - *To focus on lobby and advocacy, within UCLG, so that culture has a plenary session in the World Congress of Mexico and becomes a strategic priority of UCLG for 2011-2013.*
 - *To launch a call for proposals on the local governance of culture. The call will be restricted to UCLG members, in Africa, Iberoamerica and the Mediterranean. Projects will have to be based on Agenda 21 for culture*
 - *To develop our partnerships with the European Union and the Council of Europe, and to deepen our alliance with AECID – Spanish Agency for International Cooperation.*

The agenda of the meeting is reproduced in annex 3.

Contact

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Annexes

Annex 1. Speech of Catherine Cullen to the plenary of UCLG's World Council
Annex 2. Programme 2008-2010
Annex 3. Agenda of the meeting

Annex 1.

Speech of Catherine Cullen to the plenary

World Council of UCLG, Guangzhou, 12 November 2009

M. le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs,

En tant que Vice-présidente, je représente le président de la Commission Culture, Jordi Marti, maire-adjoint de Barcelone.

La Commission Culture de la CGLU, entièrement dédiée à l'Agenda 21 de la Culture, plaide pour que la Culture soit considérée comme le 4^{ème} pilier du développement durable.

Nous proposons quelques actions spécifiques pour la planification stratégique 2010-2013.

Premièrement : pour faire suite au programme 2009-2010 initié et géré par la Ville de Barcelone et l'Agence Espagnole de Coopération Internationale et de Développement, nous proposons la création d'un fonds multi-donateurs (multi-donor FUND) géré par le secrétariat mondial de la CGLU, et dédié à la coopération culturelle entre les Villes.

Deuxièmement, nous proposons la création d'un programme de « peer review » des stratégies culturelles des Villes : nous aurions besoin d'apprendre les uns des autres, toujours mieux et toujours plus.

Troisièmement, nous proposons de lancer une étude plus approfondie sur la relation entre culture et développement durable, sujet d'échanges permanents au sein de notre Commission.

Et enfin quatrièmement, nous sollicitons la présence des membres de l'exécutif de la CGLU au sein des Instances de la Convention sur la Diversité Culturelle de l'Unesco – convention essentielle pour le maintien de la diversité culturelle dans le monde.

Pour conclure, nous pensons qu'à l'heure de la mondialisation, l'importance de la Culture dans nos Villes et nos Territoires est incontournable :

- facteur à la fois d'identité (savoir d'où l'on vient) et d'ouverture sur les Autres et sur le Monde (inter culturalité),
- facteur de développement économique (les industries créatives, le tourisme) ET de lien social, apporté par un foisonnement de pratiques artistiques et d'actions d'éducation artistique.

Tout ceci nous incite plus que jamais à réfléchir ensemble sur le rôle essentiel de la culture dans un processus de développement durable.

Merci.

Annex 2.

Programme 2008-2010 of the Committee on culture

Approved in Jeju on 31 October 2007 by the World Council of UCLG

Main aim

To promote the role of culture as a central dimension of local policies, fostering the relation between culture and sustainable development and the processes of intercultural dialogue, through the international dissemination and local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture

Main objectives

1. **Governance.** A committee with active members with shared responsibilities and very dynamic within UCLG.
1.1. To strengthen our governance (membership, vicechairs and chair), agreeing upon specific responsibilities on particular issues.

1.2. To continue the partnership with the networks of cities for culture, such as Interlocal, Eurocities – Culture Forum, les Rencontres and Mercociudades – Unidad Temática de Cultura

1.3. To promote the participation to the Committee of national associations of municipalities.

1.4. To foster the relation between our work and the main topics of the world agenda: Millenium Development Goals, Development Cooperation, City Diplomacy...

1.5. To establish a close cooperation with the UCLG Committees

1.6. To consolidate a close cooperation with the regional sections and the Metropolitan section of UCLG

1.7. To analyse the creation of an external advisory board of experts

2. **Development of projects.** UCLG and its Committee on culture are locally, nationally and internationally well-known, and develop specific projects in the field of exchanging experiences and good practices on the local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture.

2.1. To continue the communication through the website <http://www.agenda21culture.net> and its corporate image

2.2. To periodically update the database of all the cities and local governments implementing activities under the framework of the Agenda 21 for culture

2.3. To reinforce the external visibility of Agenda 21 for culture

2.4. To improve the internal circulation of information (newsletter or bulletin)

2.5. To increase the number of translations of Agenda 21 for culture

2.6. To support the local implementations of Agenda 21 for culture

2.7. To develop specific projects in the field of exchanging experiences and good practices on the local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture, by local governments or civil society agents, mainly through peer-review tools.

2.8. To explore the realisation of specific actions in the fields of training and capacity building, in partnership with international and national funding agencies

2.9. To explore, and eventually agree, on a joint celebration by cities each 21 May, World Day for Cultural Diversity, from 2008 onwards, in partnership with UNESCO

2.10. To explore the creation of an emblematic action, label or award that recognises cities and/or projects related to Agenda 21 for culture

2.11. To explore the elaboration of a glossary of concepts related to Agenda 21 for culture

3. **Policy development.** Research and development as the engine of key documents on local cultural policies that are widely disseminated.

3.1. To continue the work of Research and Development, with new reports on issues related to Agenda 21 for culture; possible topics could be: culture and sustainable development, culture and local governance, culture and decentralised cooperation, and creative industries and local development.

3.2. To analyse the production of new policy papers, and to analyse suitable approval: UCLG Committee on culture, Executive Bureau or World Council.

3.3. To analyse the feasibility of elaborating a document on “Cultural indicators and Agenda 21 for culture” that further develops the document approved on this issue in October 2006.

4. **Development of alliances and partnerships.** Networking and advocacy that establish the basis of shared projects, allowing cities an active presence in the international debates on culture and sustainable development.

4.1. To deepen on the strategic relation with UNESCO, establishing specific partnerships on concrete issues, such as the Convention on Cultural Diversity, the Network of Creative Cities, and others.

4.2. To deepen on the strategic relation with the European Union, establishing specific partnerships on concrete issues

4.3. To deepen on the strategic relation with the Council of Europe, establishing specific partnerships on concrete issues, such as the Intercultural Cities programme.

- 4.4. To explore contacts and develop a relation with other UN agencies and programmes: UN-Habitat, UNDP, UN-Sustainable Development
- 4.5. To establish a close cooperation with the Alliance of Civilisations.
- 4.6. To continue the relation with civil society organisations and networks devoted to international cultural cooperation, and to explore the realisation of specific projects
- 4.7. To explore the establishment of contacts with OWHC – Organisation of World Heritage Cities and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
- 4.8. To explore the establishment of contacts with the international thematic cultural networks (IFLA, ICOM, ICOMOS...).

5. **Resources.** Funds to support the implementation of specific projects and allow the long-term sustainability of the Committee.

- 5.1. To obtain resources from national and international agencies and donors.
- 5.2. To establish sponsorship agreements with private corporations

Annex 3
Agenda of the meeting

Languages

Simultaneous translation in English, French and Spanish

Venue

Dong Fang Hotel
No.120 Liuhua RD
Guangzhou
China
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Draft programme

- 16.30 – Official opening of the meeting.
- 16.40 – Written report of the activities developed by the Presidency during the last year.
- 16.50 – How Agenda 21 for culture is implemented in Lille.
- 17.00 – Input from cities on the local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture.
- 17.30 – Discussion on priorities of the Committee for the next year.
- 17.45 – Conclusions
- 17.55 – Picture
- 18.00 – End of meeting