



Conclusions

Towards a New Agenda 21 for culture: African Cities Take the Floor

Synthesis report of the workshop held in Dakar (Senegal) on Friday 25 April 2014, Hotel Pullman.

Organisers: Dakar City Council, Senegalese Association of Mayors, and UCLG Committee on Culture.

Conclusions

Meeting today, Friday 25 April 2014 at the Hotel Pullman, under the aegis of Dakar City Council, the Senegalese Association of Mayors, and UCLG Committee on culture, the different partners and participants have undertaken a reflection on the issue “Towards a New Agenda 21 for culture: African Cities Take the Floor”.

The Mayor of Dakar, Mr Khalifa Ababacar SALL, opened the session with a welcome speech. Afterwards, the importance of this meeting and the place of culture within the sustainable development process was emphasised by the Senegalese Minister for Culture, Mr Abdoul Aziz MBAYE, the former Minister of Culture, Mr Moustapha KA, the Coordinator of Agenda 21 for culture (UCLG), Mr Jordi PASCUAL, and Ms Guiomar ALONSO, representative of UNESCO.

Next, Professor Abdoulaye Elimane KANE, former Minister of Culture and Cultural Advisor at Dakar City Council, explained its cultural policy under the aegis of the new municipal team.

The workshops, whose main objective was to share experiences between the cities in Senegal, Africa and other actors for an effective contribution to the production of a new Agenda 21 for culture, provided fruitful exchanges.

Based on guideline documents for a [new Agenda 21 for culture](#), the different contributions dealt with the major place of culture within sustainable urban development. Participants debated the following subjects:

- (a) the key concepts linked to debates on culture and sustainable urban development: identity, solidarity, creativity, heritage, and diversity.
- (b) the issues and challenges: urban growth, demographic growth, urban development, good governance, funding and relation between culture and the 3 other dimensions of development (economy, environment and social inclusion).
- (c) the future opportunities and trends: good practices, monitoring, exchanges of experiences, networks, leadership.

It was noted that Agenda 21 for culture places Africa and its conception of culture and the need for territorialisation of cultural policies at the core of its concern as it is at the territorial level that the development challenges take shape.

Participants also emphasised the need to consider cultural actors and entrepreneurs as important agents of urban development:

The workshop recommends the pooling of efforts:

- **The production of practical guides for local elected members to have a clear and better perception of the notion of local cultural policy.**
- **The implementation of a new pedagogy in keeping with the ICTs which, nevertheless, are emancipation tools.**
- **The mapping out of good practices and the elimination of bad practices developed in some environments.**
- **Encourage African Cities to develop art works and public infrastructures which bear the cultural imprint of the cities.**

The workshop recommends that the 4 aforementioned issues should be included in the new Agenda 21 for culture.

Drafted in Dakar on 25 April 2014

NOTE: This is an abridged report, which will be extended and put at the disposal of all participants for comments.

Annex 1: Introduction and context

Introduction and Context

Culture has always been at the core of [UCLG](#), with the adoption of the [Agenda 21 for culture](#) (May 2004), the Policy Statement "[Culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development](#)" (November 2010), the key presence in the activities of the Post-2015 [Global Taskforce](#) (since March 2013) and the activities of the Committee on Culture.

The UCLG World Congress in Rabat in October 2013 confirmed the importance of culture as an essential dimension of sustainable development of cities and local and regional governments. The World Congress of UCLG confirmed the importance to redraft the Agenda 21 for culture.

UCLG members and partners think this new document on culture and sustainable development should: (a) build on the successes of the Agenda 21 for culture, (b) update its recommendations, with a clearer focus on the implementation of policies, and (c) give more importance to the promotion of good practices, with more exchanges (peer-review, expertise).

The process of developing the [new Agenda 21 for culture](#) began in 2013 in meetings and seminars held in Lille-Métropole, Buenos Aires and Rabat, and will continue in 2014 in different formats: meetings, seminars, articles and questionnaires. This process will be concluded with an important event in 2015: "[Culture Summit of UCLG](#)".

The Committee on culture wishes to engage cities from all around the world to reflect on what should be the priorities of the new Agenda 21 for culture. African cities take the floor.

Annex 2: Agenda

Schedule	Activities
8.00 – 9.00 a.m.	Arrival and welcoming of the participants.
9.00 – 10.00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome speech by Mr Khalifa Ababacar SALL, Mayor of Dakar - Speech of Mr. Moustapha KA, former Minister of Culture and Mayor of Passy - Speech of Mr Abdoul Aziz MBAYE, Minister of Culture - Speech of the representative of the Committee on culture of UCLG. - Speech of the representative of UNESCO. - Presentation of the participants.
10.00 – 10.15 a.m.	Coffee break.
10.15 – 11.15 a.m.	Presentation of UCLG and of its committee on culture. Session on the knowledge on Agenda 21 for culture, based on Annex “A”. - Debate.
11. 15 – 12.15 a.m.	Session on priorities about and African cities development, based on Annex ”B”. Presentation of the cultural programmes of the Mayors. - Debate.
12.15 – 2.00 p.m.	Lunch break.
2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	Session on the first draft of the new Agenda 21 for culture, based on Annex “C”. Discussion and comments.
4.00 – 16.15 p.m.	Coffee break
4.15 – 16.45 p.m.	Working guide lines presentation
4.00 – 5.15 p.m.	Discussions, Recommendations and proposals.
5.15 – 6.00 p.m.	Ending speech by the Mr BALDÉ, President of Senegalese Association of Mayors
6.30 – 8.00 p.m.	Tribute to Oumar N’DAO in the gardens of the City Hall of Dakar.

Annex 3: Questions for the debate

TEXT A. KEY-MESSAGE OF AGENDA 21 FOR CULTURE

Agenda 21 for culture was born in 2004, in Barcelona, in the framework of the constituent process of UCLG – United Cities and Local Governments. Agenda 21 for culture is a declaration on: (a) cultural rights, (b) sustainability and territory, (c) economy, Medias and cultural industries, (d) inclusion and participation, and (e) governance.

Q1. Did you know about the existence of Agenda 21 for culture?

Q2. Please mention at least 5 concepts that you directly associate with culture and sustainable development of cities. Please explain why, briefly.

The Committee on culture of UCLG was created in 2005 to enhance the role of Agenda 21 for culture within UCLG – United Cities and Local Governments. The mission of the Committee on culture is: “To promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development through international dissemination and the local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture”.

Q3. Are you familiar with the activities of the UCLG Committee on culture?

Q4. If you have answered YES to question 3 above, what are the activities that Agenda 21 for culture has not implemented satisfactorily?

- a) Agenda 21 for culture is too wide, and sometimes difficult to understand.
- b) Agenda 21 for culture is conceptually old and does not match with current trends in cultural policies.
- a) It is not a real agenda: it does not suggest clear targets and indicators to cities.
- b) Self-assessment tools to track / monitor the progress do not exist.
- c) Not enough technical assistance (experts / peer-review) to help the local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture.
- d) Good practices are not very visible on the website and the best examples cannot be identified.
- e) Not enough training and capacity-building activities.
- f) Meetings of the Committee have low global visibility and impact.
- g) Insufficient lobbying of national governments.
- h) Culture is not recognised as a pillar / dimension of sustainable development by the United Nations.
- i) Some key organisations are not closely involved in your work.
- j) Other.

Q5. *If you have answered YES to question 3 above, what are the most valuable activities undertaken by the UCLG Committee on culture?*

- a) Translations of Agenda 21 for culture to several languages.
- b) The publication of six thematic reports.
- c) The document “Culture as the Fourth Pillar of Sustainable Development” (2010).
- d) Fund for implementation of Agenda 21 for culture.
- e) Seminars and training.
- f) Open website, newsletter and Twitter.
- g) Compendium of local good practice.
- h) Advocacy of UN system on cities – culture – sustainable development, especially, culture in Post-2015 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- i) The International Award “UCLG – MEXICO City – Culture 21”.
- j) Other.

TEXT B. THE WORLD HAS CHANGED

Culture is now at the heart of globalisation. In 2004, the Convention on Cultural Diversity (UNESCO, 2005) did not exist and the MDG-fund of UNDP (2006) had not been conceived yet. Global civil society organisations in culture are now very active (FICDC, Culture Action Europe, Arterial...) and institutional national actors (arts councils and national ministries for culture) are working together in the IFACCA. There is a clear global challenge: the place of culture in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Habitat III (2016). The world has changed.

Q6. *What are the main **global trends** in culture and development that we should consider? Please explain briefly.*

Q7. *What are the main **local trends** in culture and development that we should consider? Please explain briefly.*

TEXT C. THE CONTENTS

The UCLG Committee on culture is preparing a new Agenda 21 for culture. We want to be sure that this new Agenda for culture will be useful. We need to guarantee that the areas covered by the new Agenda 21 for culture are crucial for the next 10 years and in general for the future of cities and regions. These areas may not necessarily be well-covered by current policies. We are looking for the present and the future. The new Agenda 21 for culture needs to be pioneering and bold.

Q8. *Which areas should become the core of the new Agenda 21 for culture?*

The UCLG Committee on culture also wants the new Agenda 21 for culture to be more clearly oriented to the implementation of policies. We believe the new document should

be the engine of a learning community that promotes intelligence and networking, with more exchanges between the cities.

Q9. *What should be the core activities of the UCLG Committee on culture in 2014-2020?*

- a) Establish a system of targets and indicators on culture and sustainability in cities.
- b) Provide frameworks for the self-assessment of cities.
- c) Support and guidance to cities in the implementation of new Agenda 21 for culture.
- d) Facilitate peer-review mechanisms and exchanges.
- e) Organise thematic training and capacity-building seminars.
- f) Place more emphasis on the good practices available on the website.
- g) Au Improve presence in all social networks: YouTube, Twitter, etc.
- h) Organise a highly visible annual meeting of all cities involved in Agenda 21 for culture.
- i) Position the new Agenda 21 for culture as a prestigious “brand” for those cities that are really committed and are the real leaders.
- j) Limit the number of cities working with the new Agenda 21 for culture to a “manageable” number.
- k) Lobby national governments.
- l) Advocacy and lobby to UN system on the relation cities - culture - sustainable development.
- m) Research in key areas.
- n) Other.

Q10. *With which organisations should the UCLG Committee on culture closely work in the period 2014-2020?*

CONTACT

CITY OF DAKAR

Marie DIENG

Email: marie.dieng@villededakar.org

Website: www.villededakar.org

Tel: +221 33 849 09 12

+221 77 633 30 87

UCLG

Committee on culture

Email: info@agenda21culture.net

Web: www.agenda21culture.net

Twitter: @agenda21culture