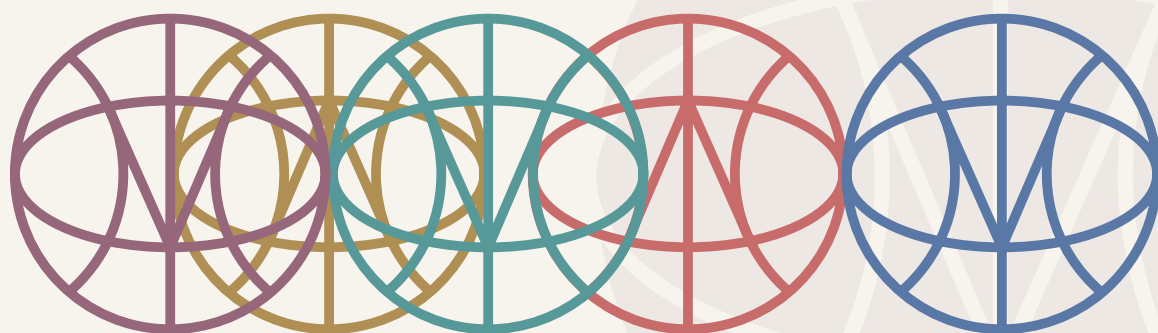


UCLG CULTURE SUMMIT

CULTURE IS ALWAYS IN THE ANSWER



REPORT

BARCELONA

26-28 SEPTEMBER 2025



**UCLG
CGLU**

United Cities
and Local Governments

In partnership with:

Barcelona



**Diputació
Barcelona**



**Generalitat
de Catalunya**



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE CULTURA



culture 21

UCLG Committee
Commission de CGLU
Comisión de CGLU

In the context of:



unesco



MONDIACULT 25
ESPAÑA

**ÀGORA
CÍVICA**

INTRODUCTION

The UCLG Culture Summit constitutes the main meeting point at global level of cities, local governments and organisations that are committed to the effective implementation of policies and programmes on culture and sustainability.

Its 6th edition was held in Barcelona from 26-28 September 2025, back-to-back and within the framework of **Mondiacult 2025**, the UNESCO Conference of Ministers for Culture (29 September - 1 October 2025). The Summit was also connected to **the Civic Agora**, a 5-day programme of public debates on culture and development, organised by the City Council of Barcelona, the Barcelona Provincial Council (Diputació), the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat de Catalunya), and Spain's Ministry of Culture, in the context of Mondiacult 2025 and in close cooperation with UNESCO.

Entitled “Culture is Always in the Answer”, the 6th UCLG Culture Summit was designed to host global discussions on several of the critical challenges that humanity is facing, and send evidence-based and clear messages to the international community. Sustainable development that ignores culture is impossible. Crises that do not acknowledge their cultural dimensions will never be overcome. Policies and programmes that do not fully involve cultural actors and aspects fail. In fact, UCLG and its members have continuously shown the crucial importance of local cultural policies and programmes.

The Summit also discussed progress and evolving engagement of the international community on the intersection between culture and sustainability. Engagement was very noticeable in Mondiacult 2022, the global Conference on Cultural Policies organised in Mexico City, where UNESCO referred to culture as a global public good, promoted cultural rights to be the foundation of cultural policies and endorsed the need to advocate for a stand-alone Culture Goal in the SDGs. UNESCO and many national governments explicitly and eloquently supported these 3 elements. This momentum was particularly visible at the 6th UCLG Culture Summit, which marked another turning point with the presentation of a Version 1 of **the Culture Goal: From Necessity to Reality**, with its targets and indicators. However, the battle to include culture in the global agenda is not yet won: some actors still hesitate on the agency of cultural policies, and some nations still doubt on the need for a Culture Goal.

And this is precisely why we must carry on, and why the 6th UCLG Culture Summit is called

“CULTURE IS ALWAYS IN THE ANSWER”

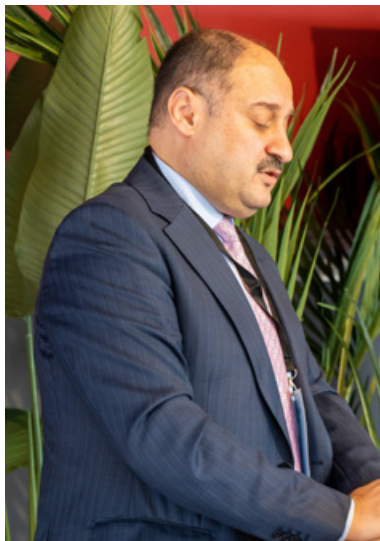
26 SEPTEMBER 2025

Care, Wellbeing, Creativity and Sustainability

This session kicked-off the Summit with a keynote speech and two panel discussions with a clear message: Culture is what makes us human, and development is only sustainable if its cultural dimension is explicit.

The session also discussed how cultural rights can embody care-based approaches, and how creativity, cultural values and practices can enhance care for one another while promoting more sustainable, resilient communities. Strong and diverse voices highlighted how cultural rights and practices can further advance territories towards a model of development rooted in care, creativity, feminism and shared responsibility towards the people and the planet.

This session was supported by the WYDE Women's Leadership Initiative, promoting the participation of women leaders' voices in the discussion.



“

Today we gather to share with you, from different continents and cultures, the **transformative power of culture** and its potential to shape the future.

MEHMET KASIM GÜLPINAR

Mayor of Şanlıurfa and
UCLG MEWA Culture
Ambassador

“

Care is not a weakness. **Care is leadership**, because it means protecting values, thinking of others, and working for justice and society.

LARA YOUSIF ESHAQ ZARA

Mayor
Alqosh



“

It is a great honour to host this Culture Summit in the city of **Barcelona**.

JORDI PASCUAL

Coordinator of the
Culture Committee
UCLG



“

Understanding **culture as care** at this moment in time is profoundly radical: it places people and the planet at the centre, that is, at the heart of this reproduction of life.

ANNA CALVETE MORENO

Head of Research
UCLG



“

We live in a global context where democracy and world peace are under threat. Culture also plays a fundamental role in defending people's legitimate **rights and freedoms**.

ANTONIO GRASSI

Director of the Culture and Tourism Society

Maricá, Rio de Janeiro

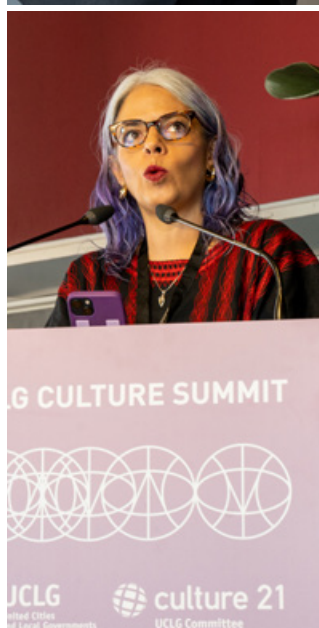
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Cultural policies are also policies of care. Cultural policies are based on, and go beyond, artistic dissemination. A policy for care and a cultural policy... In my opinion, they are one and the same.

MICHEL VALLÉE

Director General and President

Culture Pour Tous



“

In Mexico City, we aspire to a **care revolution** that will enable us to realise the right to free time, especially for women.

LUZ ELENA ARANDA

Director General for Cultural Cooperation

Mexico City



“

Care as a general paradigm, but also in cities or urban areas, invites us to think of the **city as an ecosystem** where the tangible and symbolic, the physical and cultural, the economic and emotional are intertwined. A city of care recognises culture as a fundamental right and an essential element of people's overall health.

MARIA VICTORIA ALCARAZ

Director of Cultural Cooperation Ministry for Culture

Autonomous City of Buenos Aires





“

By valuing a community's heritage, audiovisual works, gastronomy and traditions, culture not only creates a sense of belonging, but also generates opportunities and reinforces **the social fabric**.

— **ANDRÉ DINIZ**

Secretary of Creative Economy
Niteroi



“

Culture is undoubtedly a **powerful lever**, but this lever does not work mechanically. Without democratic governance, sufficient resources, protection of rights and the fight against inequality, the promise of culture for well-being and sustainability remains a fragile idea and sometimes even a source of exclusion.

— **VALERIA MARCOLIN**

Co-director
Culture et Développement



“

It brought communities to think together with local governments about what is important to them. Suddenly it wasn't just coming from this colonial framework of what museums have always been and have always run, but then communities had to define **what was important to them**, and how they want to take care of this.

— **MUTANU KYANY'A**

Head of Programs and Outreach
African Digital Heritage Kenya



“

The more you **immerse yourself in culture**, the more music you listen to, the more books you read, the more you want to consume this good.

— **ROSA BOLADERAS**

Councilor for International Relations
Terrassa

“

Empathy in designing access to culture will be essential to ensure that everyone can access culture on equal terms.

— **MARÍA SOLEDAD CISTERNAS REYES**

Lawyer and former Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General on Disability and Accessibility
Santiago de Chile



“

Today more than ever, caring for and sustaining culture for the benefit of citizens means caring for the present of **future generations**.

— **IVAN ABRIL**

Member of the Committee on Education, Culture and Sport
Cuenca

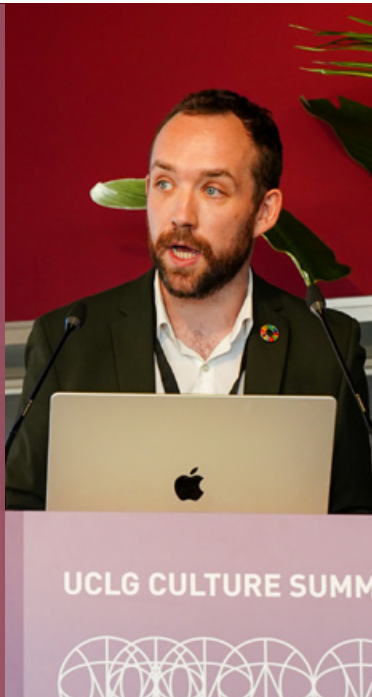
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Every society is shaped by the stories it chooses to tell about itself. In Wales we have chosen to tell **a story of care**. Care for people, care for the planet, and care for those not yet born. This is written into law, through our Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

JACOB ELLIS

Director for External Relations and Culture

Wales



“

Traditionally committed to its values of **hospitality, creativity**, and above all, **solidarity**, the city of Douala makes mutual support a central focus of its cultural policy.

ABRAHAM BISSAY SOMBSI

Head of the Department of Arts, Culture and Promotion of Local Languages

Douala



United Cities
@uclg_org

Sep 23, 2025

Join us at #UCLGCultureSummit celebrated this week in Barcelona back to back w/ @UNESCO

#Mondiacult2025 and on our way to the World Congress in Tangier!

👉 Culture is Always In The Answer. From Local Solutions to Global



The session “Care, Wellbeing, Creativity and Sustainability” enjoyed the support of:

WYDE
Women's Leadership



Workshop with the Night Commissioner of Barcelona...

This workshop brought some participants together with Carmen Zapata, Barcelona's first Night Commissioner. She is responsible for coordinating and mediating the city's nightlife, especially with regard to cultural and night-time activities, while ensuring peaceful coexistence and respect for the rest of the residents.

The Night Commissioner talked about how to improve time management in the city at night, guaranteeing that Barcelona —a city that is active 24 hours a day— balances, harmonises and takes into account the different uses and needs of its population, including those occurring during the night. She also emphasised how this initiative aligns with the rights- and care-based cultural policies promoted by the local government. Participants discussed similar ongoing initiatives in their respective cities and learned about each other's contexts.

“

The Barcelona Night Office is an internationally recognised model for reconciling cultural activities, leisure, safety and coexistence at night, with a **care-based approach**.

CARMEN ZAPATA

Night Commissioner
Barcelona



... and Opening Reception at UCLG Headquarters



27 SEPTEMBER 2025

Global Networks on Climate and Culture: Towards COP30, and beyond

Although culture holds a clear transformative power, it remains largely absent from global climate policy frameworks. Overlooking cultural knowledge, institutions and practices in key global frameworks not only undermines the ability of climate strategies to respond to local realities and community identities, but also misses opportunities to unlock the full potential of culture to enable climate resilience, solidarity and justice.

This session introduced the work carried out by UCLG and fostered a collective reflection on shared priorities and challenges, in which participants underlined that climate change is not only an ecological or economic crisis but also a cultural one. From First Nations in the Pacific facing submerged cemeteries and loss of access to ancestral traditions, to nomadic lives under threat in Eurasia, to youth voices calling for community-led cultural action, to Ugandan communities regenerating landscapes through cultural symbols and intergenerational dialogue, the message was clear: as custodians of memory, identity and cultural rights, local and regional governments, need to secure a key role for culture in shaping the climate agenda.



“
Culture is a pillar of sustainable development. In this spirit, we see climate and culture not as separate agendas but as inseparable parts of the same challenge. Culture is not only a victim of climate change, it is also a driver of solutions.

PABLO MARIANI

UCLG Programme Manager
Ecological Transition

“

Let's work on it together and let the result of this Culture Summit be a way in which the decolonisation process and the respect for Indigenous First Nations knowledge is going to be at the **forefront of the solutions** we put to our collective sustainable future.

DOMINIC WY KANAK

Councillor and First Nations
Leader



“

Another example that I would like to draw is the lives of Indigenous peoples living in the far north, in Russian Siberia. There are a lot of small groups of people who try to **preserve their languages** and their traditional style of lives.

RASSIKH SAGITOV

Secretary General
UCLG Eurasia





“

I had the great honour of being here earlier this weekend seeing the “Castellers” in celebration of La Mercè Festival, and I really think that that cultural activity represents exactly what we are here to do: build a foundation of strong people, support their youth all the way to the top, they work together, the community comes in and helps strengthen when the foundation seems to be needing a bit of help. In the end that little hand raised in the air shows that we **are better together**.

JULIANNE POLANCO

Senior Advisor

California State Office of Historic Preservation



“

How they can share their experiences, the Environmental Ministry and the Cultural Ministry, to **work together**, not only in financing but also with all the experiences and built programmes.

RALF WEISS

2N2K Germany – Sustainability in Arts and Culture Network.

“

We ask and encourage companies to not only to green their workplaces and raise awareness among their employees and audiences, but also to ensure that the production itself and the venues, where they hold music festivals or carry out production, increasingly incorporate **sustainability criteria**.

EDGAR GARCIA CASELLAS

Director

Catalan Institute for Cultural Companies





“

Championing the insights, answers and solutions that our members have **innovated and achieved** through this programme so far.

JENNY HAY

Regional Coordinator
North America of
the Climate Heritage
Network



“

This work speaks to the broader topics that we are discussing at this Summit, that cultural heritage is not separate from culture sustainability, it is a **foundation** to it.

ISAAC ESEET

Regional Coordinator
Africa and the Arab States
of the Climate Heritage
Network

“

When we are talking about culture we are not just talking about entertainment, days and customs. We are talking about **the centre of our human rights**.

MARCELE OLIVEIRA

COP 30 Presidency

Youth Climate
Champion (2025 – 2026)



“

We know that violence generates more violence. Do we use violent or peaceful means? **These are really important questions:** Force or consent? Co-option or conversation, and climate justice and cultural rights, or do we just force through the same old problematic systems we have relied on for at least 500 years?

ALISON TICKELL

Director

Julie's Bicycle



“

Culture and heritage remain the great missing force in **global climate frameworks** and this is an omission that the world cannot afford.

AGNÈS RUIZ

UCLG Policy Officer and Focal
Point for Culture



CCFU

ccfu_ngo

Sep 27, 2025

From the margins to the mainstream: Culture takes centre stage in global development

CCFU with @climateheritagenetwork is at the UCLG Culture Summit and UNESCO's Mondiacult Conference in Barcelona where leaders, governments & cultural actors have united to demand an SDG 18 – Culture 2030 Goal.

🎯 Key highlights:

✅ 17 countries signed the Barcelona Declaration, committing to integrate culture into climate action.

✅ A united call for a dedicated SDG on culture, filling a long-standing gap in the global agenda.

✅ Africa's voice was loud & clear. Our own Isaac Eseet and Simon Musasizi shared lessons from Uganda, from protecting Rwenzori indigenous knowledge to restoring Semei Kakungulu heritage site with support from @britisharts & @intoheritage



Why We Need a Culture Goal Now

The Culture 2030 Goal campaign addresses a long-standing gap: the absence of comprehensive coverage of culture in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While culture appears in some targets, the lack of a dedicated Culture Goal has two major drawbacks that are widely recognized:

- First, within the culture sector, broadly understood, the non-recognition of culture represents a missed opportunity to use the shared language of sustainable development to connect diverse cultural dimensions around common objectives — including the sustainability of institutions, jobs, gender equality, and other SDG-related goals. Sustainable development requires sustainable culture.
- Second, the absence of a Culture Goal limits the transformative potential of culture — understood not only as a sector but as a set of beliefs, practices, and behaviors — to support progress on climate, biodiversity, oceans, freshwater, and cities. Sustainable development requires a culture of sustainability.

This session was the global launch of the **Version 1 of a Culture Goal**, including its targets and indicators. It constituted a key moment to hear the loud and clear voices of the global cultural networks, the members of the Culture 2030 Goal Campaign, as well as voices from leading countries and key actors in this conversation. This session showed how a Culture Goal has the power to provide the common language and shared framework that the cultural field currently lacks. It would empower the sector to demonstrate its value, help implement existing SDGs with their cultural dimensions in mind, and support cultural rights, participation, and vibrant local ecosystems.



“

In 2025, the Culture 2030 Goal campaign committed to deliver what no one had ever done before: a detailed and realistic proposal of a **Culture Goal**.

JORDI PASCUAL

Coordinator of the Culture Committee

UCLG

“

This involves the recognition of cultural rights, so that it is not simply about culture ‘contributing’, but rather about culture being recognised as a **universal human right**, a right to participate in cultural life, to preserve languages, to express identities and to access arts education.

SÒNIA HERNÁNDEZ ALMODÓVAR

Minister for Culture

Catalonia





“

We need to show that **Culture is goalable**. Not because everything important about culture fits in a framework of indicators, but because without that framework of indicators, the argument for a Culture Goal never quite flies. This time there is no excuse. It can be done. In practice.

JOHN CROWLEY

President PHGD Group, lead author of the version 1 of the Culture Goal



“

A Culture Goal will help us create that shared language, **shared frame for action** and accountability, and, critically, one that is shared with actors outside of our sector.

SHARON MEMIS

Secretary General

International Federation of Libraries' Associations and Institutions - IFLA

“

ICOMOS is especially proud to see Target 8 which makes explicit **the culture-nature connection**, that's something we have been pushing for years through our culture-nature journey.

NAIMA BENKARI

International Council on Monuments and Sites

ICOMOS



“

We are committed to support the current Sustainable Development Goals, but also we are advocating strongly for the establishment of a dedicated, “the” **Culture Goal**.

MEDEA EKNER

Director General

International Council on Museums - ICOM



“

Yet a standalone Culture Goal points beyond borders. It treats culture as a truly global endeavour and calls for a **level of coordination** no single state can deliver. It calls for rethinking culture as a supranational competence and that's where I think the Goal will be utterly helpful for us.

LARS EBERT

Secretary General

Culture Action Europe - CAE



“

Including **culture as a Goal** in the upcoming global sustainable development framework is a concrete and essential lever. It is necessary to reduce imbalances and ensure that current and future generations can connect with each other, while respecting and celebrating their diversity.

MARIE-JULIE DESROCHERS

Secretary General

International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity - IFCCD



“

Culture needs to be recognised as a **strategic pillar of development** in the same way as health, education or the environment, and African voices must be taken into account in global politics.

**ALASSANE INSA
BABYLAS**

Chairman

Arterial Network



“

Target One of the Culture Goal “Realize Cultural Rights for All” resonates powerfully with our “Five Music Rights Framework”. What is remarkable about this Goal is how it operationalises **cultural rights through specific indicators** rather than relying on them as abstract principles.

DR. SHEILA WOODWARD

President

International Music Council - IMC



International Music Council

internationalmusiccouncil

Sep 27, 2025

🌍 Pre-Mondiacult High-level Session: “Why We Need a Culture Goal Now?” 🌍

IMC is uniting its voice to fellow members of the #Culture2030Goal campaign, leading countries and other key actors to open a global conversation about next steps towards a culture goal. IMC President Dr. Sheila Woodward shared our perspectives on this topic with the audience.

As part of the UCLG Culture Summit, this session marked the official launch of the expanded and revised Culture Goal proposal presented by the campaign.

Read more here:

<https://culture2030goal.net/roadmap-2025>





“

I would like to stress how important the Culture Goal will be to provide a **common language and a shared framework** for all those who are involved in the cultural sector, as artists, as creators, as producers, as mediators or audiences.

— CATARINA VAZ-PINTO

Consultant for Arts and Culture

Member of the Supervisory Board of the European Cultural Foundation

Former Deputy Mayor for Culture of Lisbon



“

For ASEF, it is really crucial to have the recognition of a Culture Goal, because it will also **unlock funding and policy frameworks** that are more open and responsive to culture, once it is part of the SDGs.

— VALENTINA RICCARDI

Director, Culture Department

Asia-Europe Foundation - ASEF



“

This one Culture Goal: art spaces, cultural spaces will be acknowledged as spaces where we can **imagine and rehearse futures**. These futures have to be implemented and art and culture is a practice.

— MARKUS REYMANN

Co-director

Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary - TBA21

“

To adopt the **Culture Goal into our practice**, in our programmes and also to go outside our comfort zone in order to reach new believers.

— JOSEP FERRÉ

Executive Director

Anna Lindh Foundation



“

A specific SDG for culture would be a decisive tool for consolidating these advances on a global scale, giving culture **the central role it deserves**.

— RAPHAEL CALLOU

Director for culture

Organization of Ibero-American States - OEI



“

We are not here to be satisfied with consolation prizes. We are here to move mountains. We are here to say, really, this “aberration” has to stop. (...) What we are here advocating, the Culture Goal, that **culture matters** to people and communities and the Planet and humanity.

— SNEŠKA QUAEDVLIEG-MIHAILOVIĆ

Secretary General

Europa Nostra



“

Our ambition is to make this indicator set **the baseline for all the programmes** that are attempting to become capital of Culture, in Europe or in other continents.

ȘTEFAN TEIȘANU

Secretary General
Culture Next Cities
Network



“

That is why the elected representatives of the city and Eurométropole of Strasbourg wanted to create **an SDG 18 dedicated to culture** within our Local Voluntary Review. We believe that culture is part of the response to global and local challenges.

CAMILLE GIERTLER

Director for Culture
Strasbourg



“

I invite all governments at all levels – local, regional and, of course, all states – to implement policies as if this SDG 18 had already been adopted, **even before it is formally approved.**

IBONE BENGOETXEA

Vice-President, and Minister
for Culture
Basque Country



İzmir Akdeniz Akademisi

@izmeda

Sep 27, 2025

At the opening of the “Culture 2030 Goal” session of the 6th Culture Summit organized by the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), UCLG Culture Committee Coordinator Jordi Pascual thanked İzmir for its contributions to the initiative.



Cultura y Ciudadanía

@cultuciudadania

Sep 27, 2025

At the session of the 6th UCLG Culture Summit “Why We Need a Culture Goal Now” as a special session of #XIEncuentroCulturalyCiudadanía, we listen to the voices of the global cultural networks that are part of the Culture2030Goal Campaign, as part of the global sustainable development agenda.





“

Really, the link between sustainable development and cultural rights is that people's, their identities, their values, their visions, have to be represented in Sustainable Development. And everybody that will read this new Goal has to take this into account.

ALEXANDRA XANTHAKI

UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights

“

The Ministry of Culture is working hard to fully incorporate **the inclusion of culture as a standalone Goal** in the post-2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

MARGARETH MENEZES

Minister for Culture
Brazil



“

When we discussed about the own Cultural Goal, for me, this is very clear, now is the moment to have it, to obtain it, and of course **Mondiacult will be a very important moment** to have a strong call, to have the standalone Goal.

ERNEST URTASUN

Minister for Culture
Spain



“

So that by 2027, when discussions are set to begin, there will be no more “buts” when it comes to placing culture on the agenda, because the “buts” used to be about “we don't have a way to measure it”. **The indicators are being launched now.** You have done a very meticulous job.” (...) “Therefore, a standalone Goal... with passion.

ERNESTO OTTONE RAMIREZ

Assistant Director General for Culture
UNESCO



Ministerio de Cultura
@culturagob

Minister of Culture Ernest Urtasun speaks at the event “Why We Need a Culture Goal Now” at the UCLG Culture Summit, as part of Ágora Cívica

Participating

@AlexXanthaki

@ErnestoOttoneR

@MargarethMnzs

Sep 27, 2025





SUMMIT OF MAYORS

In a context marked by growing inequalities, the climate crisis, conflicts and rapid digital transformations, cities are at the forefront of cultural innovation, inclusion and resilience, playing a crucial role in safeguarding cultural rights, facilitating cultural access and boosting the power of culture in people's daily lives.

And this is particularly why this session gathered the voices of UCLG leading cities and globally active local governments in two high-level panels with Mayors and other high representatives to share, exchange and acknowledge their experience and leadership in cultural policy – and to ensure that their voices are clearly heard in the lead-up to Mondiacult 2025.

This session reaffirmed a powerful message: there is no sustainable development without culture and, consequently, culture needs a stand-alone Culture Goal in the post-2030 global development agenda. And if the UN serves the common good through public institutions, then local and regional governments, as the public institutions that provide public services closest to the population, need to have culture “Always in the Answer”, anchoring the commitments of the **UCLG Local Social Covenant** to transform people's lives from the local to the global.



“

Cultural policies not only shape a city's artistic activities, but also influence its democracy, social cohesion and sustainable development. Izmir believes that a **cultural policy** aligned with the UCLG's principles and values will make our city more inclusive, more creative and more resilient.

PINAR OKYAY

Deputy Secretary General
Izmir Metropolitan Municipality

“

For us, a Sustainable Development Goal that focuses on culture is about understanding the **cultural dimension of human rights** and, therefore, the need that culture poses today for solving many of the strategic problems in our cities.

SANTIAGO TRUJILLO

Councillor for Culture
Bogotá



“

Seen from the lens of the foundational economy, culture is part of the basic civic infrastructure that chiefs how people live, how they connect and how they build a more sustainable inclusive future. So, **embedding culture in the SDGs** is therefore logical to us.

DAVE MOUTREY

Director Culture and Creative Industries

Manchester



“

We understood it then and still understand today: **values are the driving force** behind the human development of a city, which ties in perfectly with the 2030 Agenda. We share the same spirit, whereby people, cities and the planet must be at the heart of all public policies.

GONZALO OLABARRÍA

Councillor for Culture

Bilbao



“

I believe that Tangier can serve as a ground-breaking platform to address these matters and, why not, to make culture one of the Goals of the post-2030 Agenda.

ABDERRAHIM ZEBBAKH

Head of International Cooperation, Culture and Communication, Cabinet of the Mayor

Tangier



“

The United Nations serves **the common good**, serves the public, serves the public institutions. And local and regional governments are nothing else but public institutions that deliver public services to transform the citizens' lives. So, that is where we want to have culture: always in the answer.

PABLO FERNÁNDEZ MARMISSOLLE-DAGUERRE

Assistant Secretary General for Partnerships

UCLG



“

This is precisely the opportunity. **Because this Goal is dictated by reality.** Reality: because we will never achieve peace without culture. Sustainable development will not happen without culture.

FATIMETOU ABDEL MALICK

President of Nouakchott Region

President of UCLG-Africa,

President of UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality



“

We firmly believe that guaranteeing cultural rights will also provide answers to chronic problems of democracy, justice and sustainable development, both in the MEWA region and throughout the world.

AHMET AKIN

Mayor of Balıkesir

UCLG Vice President

President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and Tourism





“

We will build on the Brazzaville label, the second African Capital of Culture of UCLG Africa, to launch a campaign for the Culture Goal and invite young people from around the world to **discover Brazzaville**.

DIEUDONNÉ BANTSIMBA

Mayor of Brazzaville

President of the Culture Committee of UCLG-Africa



“

With this in mind, we have developed a programme that combines **cultural rights and citizenship**, both as a physical and digital space that allows us to integrate all members of our population into a process that promotes peace.

HÉLÈNE POLIFONTE

Mayor

Baie-Mahault, Guadeloupe

“

I am truly honoured that **Jeonju has been selected to host the 2027 Culture Summit**. I hope that with the cities all around the world we can create a new renaissance through the exchange of cultural policies.

YUN DONGUK

Vice Mayor

Jeonju



“

I am so delighted to see that you have committed to this declaration, and I can only hope, like you hope, that this declaration of Mayors, and even more so, **the actions of the Mayors**, to interpret culture in the right way, to use cultural rights in their policies, are going to become good practices so that the states can take them forward.

ALEXANDRA XANTHAKI

UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights

“

One of the objectives, and almost an imperative, for us as organisers and **hosts of Mondiacult**, and for UNESCO as a whole, is to respond to organised civil society, in which the network of cities has played a fundamental role to advance the Culture Goal.

JORDI MARTÍ GRAU

State Secretary for Culture

Spain



“

A force capable of building bridges between local actions and global goals. One that places **care for people and the planet** at the centre of the political agenda and recognises culture as an essential part of any solution.

MARIA EUGÈNIA GAY

Second Deputy Mayor

Barcelona





United Cities

@uclg_org

Sep 27, 2025

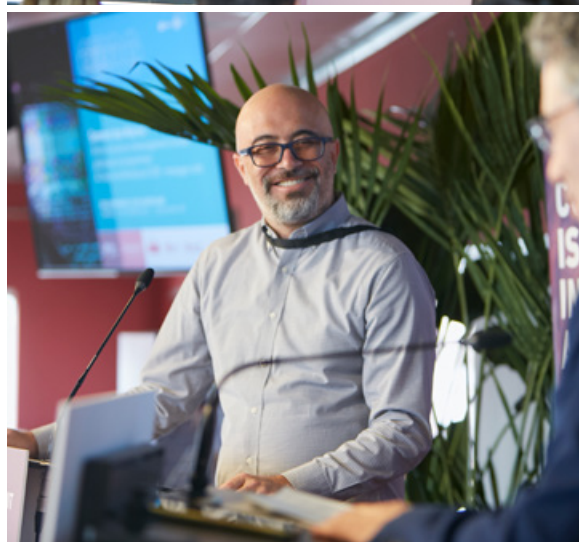
#Listen2Cities at #UCLGCultureSummit

Summit of Mayors: Key Messages #Mondiacult2025

Yun Donguk, Vice-Mayor of

@smartjeonju

"Our future strategy: becoming a global city. Jeonju has been selected to host the 7th Culture Summit of UCLG. Culture is already in the answer"



Santiago Trujillo

@santitrujillo8

We are in Barcelona with UCLG, discussing about Bogotá and its cultural potential. The most important networks in the world are observing us, feeling us and supporting us.

Sep 28, 2025





Alexandra Xanthaki

xanthakialexandra Sep 28, 2025

Barcelona and the amazing day of human towers. I cannot think of another city where we can discuss human rights as encouraging creativity and diversity more than here.

Cannot wait for MONDIACULT, the world's discussion of (with??) Ministers of Culture to start. On what cultural rights are, how they will implement them, and how they are linked with development.



Tita Larasati

larasatita

Oct 15, 2025

UCLG Culture Summit 2025 "Culture is always in the answer"

Just before Mondiacult began, UCLG held a Culture Summit, which was closely related to cultural issues in the Sustainable Development Goals, in the context of the 3rd Global Conference on Cultural Policies by UNESCO, Mondiacult 2025. The theme of this 6th Culture Summit was "Culture is always in the answer".

The UCLG Culture Summit presented Culture 21 Plus, a new framework document developed by the UCLG Culture Committee. UCLG is also a global leader in advocating for the Culture Goal in the development agenda.

[...]

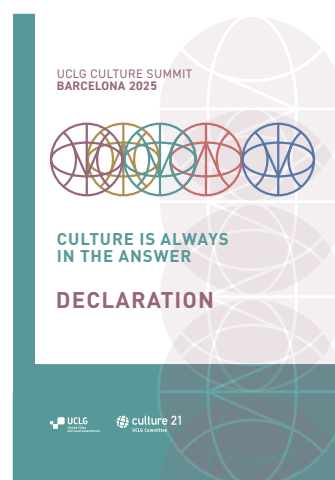


CULTURE IS ALWAYS IN THE ANSWER

THE BARCELONA DECLARATION (2025)

The **Barcelona Declaration** entitled “Culture is Always in the Answer” was adopted within the frame of the 6th UCLG Culture Summit, held on the eve of Mondiacult 2025.

This document embodies both a responsibility and an opportunity for cities to be conveners of multi-level dialogue and a laboratory for the exercise of cultural rights in a context marked by uncertainty and distrust. The Barcelona Declaration reaffirms the municipal conviction that systemic transformation is built where people live, through local public services, citizen participation, and empowered communities, and positions culture as a rights-based practical solution to the converging crises confronting us today: climate and ecological disruption, rising inequalities, social exclusion, armed conflicts and an increasing polarisation fuelled by technological and political upheavals.



The Declaration calls on UNESCO, the UN system and national governments to deliver the Mondiacult 2022 commitments through:

- I. National cultural policies that guarantee the full participation in cultural life for all, as well as economic and social rights of artists, artistic freedom and freedom of expression, linguistic and cultural diversity, the rights of peoples and communities to their cultural identity and heritage, including the expressions of the cultures of indigenous peoples, and the protection, return, and restitution of cultural property.
- II. The attainment of a stand-alone Goal in the post-2030 Agenda.

From Barcelona, local leaders are sending a loud and clear message to the world: there is no sustainable development without culture, and culture must be part of all responses, because Culture is Always in the Answer.

CONCLUSIONS

The 6th UCLG Culture Summit was held in Barcelona on 26, 27 and 28 September 2025. The timing was exceptional: The Summit took place within the frame of the Civic Agora— a large event for debate and contributions, bringing together civil society organisations and local, regional and national governments— and back-to-back with Mondiacult 2025, the global conference on cultural policies organised by UNESCO. This alignment guaranteed that local voices and civil society could meaningfully shape the global conversation at a time of heightened momentum.

The city of Barcelona, the host of the 6th UCLG Culture Summit, the Civic Agora and Mondiacult, provided a particularly relevant setting: a city with 2,000 years of Mediterranean history, and internationally renowned for its vibrant, outward-looking approach, with avant-garde creativity and a robust cultural ecosystem. Its cultural identity has long been linked to the struggle for freedom and democracy, and the defence of language, as well as being a city of talent and creativity par excellence, where multiple creative sectors thrived.

In this context, the Summit has witnessed great projects, programmes and policies developed by local and regional governments, and their associations, all around the world. Many demonstrate why cultural rights need to be the foundation of policies for Climate and Ecological Transitions, Equality and Gender Mainstreaming, Health and Wellbeing, Public Spaces, and Education, among other areas— in instances that consider culture not as an “add-on” but an enabler of development. The Summit also showcased projects that were born to consolidate spaces and processes related to heritage, creativity, diversity and knowledge, as core dimensions of human dignity, in very solid, well-structured and resourced cultural policies that are fully aligned with cultural rights and that fully empower the cultural actors of the place.

In parallel, the Summit urged to comply with the promises announced three years ago, in Mondiacult 2022, for them to become a reality in Mondiacult 2025, especially with regard to the Culture Goal. There is a widespread and shared claim for a dedicated Culture Goal in the UN post-2030 Agenda. Building on the leadership of many, including cities and nations from all corners of the world, organised civil society and UNESCO, the Culture 2030 Goal campaign released the first-ever proposal of a stand-alone Goal for Culture, with targets and indicators. This document is not only a feasible and credible proposal, but also essential to localise all global agendas. In Barcelona, Mayors and local authorities urged national governments and the UN system as a whole to make this stand-alone Goal a reality, and to support a systemic transformation anchored in solid and bold cultural policies that care for the people and the planet. Because

CULTURE IS ALWAYS IN THE ANSWER

www.agenda21culture.net/summit

UCLG Culture Summit 2025

culturesummit@uclg.org

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This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union

