

## WORK OF CONSULTATION MECHANISMS IN 2025

### COMMITTEE ON CULTURE

#### Mission

The mission of the Committee on Culture, approved in Mexico (2010) and extended in Rabat (2013), Bogotá (2016), Durban (2019) and Daejeon (2022) 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 work programme for 2025

<b>A. Implementation</b>	
<b>UCLG Culture Summit</b>	- To organise the 6 <sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit.
<b>International Award UCLG - Mexico City – Culture 21</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To promote the winners of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award.</li> <li>- To promote the "best" initiatives (good practices) on the local promotion of cultural rights that can be replicated or transferred to other cities, contexts or territories.</li> <li>- To prepare the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award (to be launched in November 2025).</li> </ul>
<b>The "OBS" database of good practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To consolidate the dedicated website "OBS" presenting our more than 400 good practices, searchable per 17 SDGs, the 9 Commitments of Culture 21 Actions and more than 100 keywords, including new good practices coming from the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award (2023-2024).</li> <li>- To consolidate partnerships (examples: British Council, Metropolis' USE platform and CHN), to explore a connection with the UNESCO Creative Cities Network – UCCN and to analyse possible specific "sponsorship" for the database.</li> </ul>
<b>The Rome Charter</b>	- To promote the Rome Charter and use it as one of the modules of the new framework document, that is, Culture 21 Plus (working title).

<b>B. Advocacy</b>	
<b>Towards a Culture Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To continue the work to achieve a Culture Goal in the post-2030 Development Agenda, with the #Culture2030Goal campaign; launching a full version 1 of the "Culture Goal" proposal in June 2025, so that it can influence Mondiacult 2025 in September 2025.</li> <li>- To ensure a wide dissemination of the version 1 among partners, members, experts and all relevant possible contributors; possibly with regional/national seminars in key cities.</li> </ul>
<b>Mondiacult 2025</b>	- To participate in the UNESCO Mondiacult 2025 Conference, to take place in Barcelona on 29-30 September and 1 October 2025 as well as in the events prepared around Mondiacult.
<b>UN 2030 Agenda, SDGs and New Urban Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To ensure a strong presence in the UN World Summit for Social Development (4-6 November 2025), fully aligned with the UCLG's Local – Social Covenant.</li> <li>- To participate in the UN HLPF (July 2025) in several formats, including the dissemination of the "Culture in the VLRs and VNRs" reports published in 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024</li> </ul>

	<p>and the "Culture Goal" document version 1 (to be launched a few days before the HLPF, see above).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To be visible and active in global initiatives that relate culture and sustainable development.</li> </ul>
<b>G-20 and U-20</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To reinforce and promote the presence of culture as a key dimension of sustainable development in the debates generated by these networks.</li> </ul>
<b>Global civil society networks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To continue our committed membership in the #Culture2030Goal global campaign.</li> <li>- To work with the Climate Heritage Network and its "Race to Resilience" process, reinforcing the presence at the COPs.</li> <li>- To consolidate an operational connection with the most relevant global civil society networks in the field of culture, such as ICOMOS, IFLA, IMC, IFCCD and Culture Action Europe.</li> <li>- To contribute to the Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award.</li> <li>- To explore new partnerships.</li> </ul>
<b>Partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To consolidate long-term partnerships with the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, UNESCO and the EU.</li> </ul>
<b>City networks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To consolidate an operational connection with all global / regional networks concerned by "culture in sustainable cities", including WCCF, Eurocities, ICLEI, GPM, World Heritage Cities – OWHC, European Network of Cultural Centres (ENCC), Culture Next and Ibercultura Viva, as well as INTACH, CDN and LAV.</li> </ul>

## C. Monitoring and follow-up

<b>Key narrative</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To adopt the UCLG global framework document "Culture 21 Plus" on Cultural Rights, the Transitions and Care, based on the UCLG Pact for the Future – Daejeon Declaration, and on the acquis of the UCLG Committee on Culture, including Culture 21 Actions and the Rome Charter.</li> <li>- To ensure a wide co-construction process of Culture 21 Plus among the cities of the Committee (with tests held worldwide).</li> <li>- To prepare thematic modules of Culture 21 Plus, so that this toolkit offers a wide range of options for UCLG to engage (examples of possible modules: heritage, climate change, gender equality, the Rome Charter, etc.) and to respond to specific circumstances (e.g. smaller cities, rural areas or metropolises).</li> <li>- To elaborate key briefings / new research on issues related to culture and sustainable cities, for example (a) the relation culture – migration - anti-racism, (b) the cultural dimension of metropolitan policies, (c) culture, emergencies and eco-transition.</li> <li>- To explore the elaboration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the report on Culture, Cities and the COVID-19 Pandemic.</li> </ul>
<b>Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To consolidate the website as a true portal to knowledge on "culture in sustainable cities".</li> <li>- To analyse in-depth our presence on social media (TW, FB, Flickr, Instagram, Youtube) and explore other media (LinkedIn, BlueSky, Mastodon).</li> <li>- To continue publishing the Info newsletter twice a month, and the biennial Culture 21 Review.</li> <li>- To align the communication programmes with the #Local4ActionHub.</li> <li>- To continue supporting UCLG major initiatives and activities towards our networks and audiences.</li> </ul>
<b>Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To ensure the full involvement of all members of the Governance Team in the leadership of the Committee.</li> <li>- To invite new cities or regions to become active in the Committee.</li> </ul>
<b>Budget</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To consolidate a balanced budget.</li> </ul>

<b>D. Learning</b>	
<b>Leading Cities</b>	- To use the new Culture 21 Plus in the work of the "Leading Cities", as this is the prestigious label that recognises the work of the most advanced cities in specific areas, with contents adapted to each city.
<b>Pilot Cities and Culture 21 LAB</b>	- To use the new Culture 21 Plus in the work of the Pilot Cities, both for self-evaluation of the current "state of affairs" in a place (Culture 21 LAB) or for the design of new policies for a local government.
<b>The "Seven Keys"</b>	- To launch a new series of workshops of our capacity-building programme "Seven Keys" on the localisation of SDGs with a cultural perspective, in close cooperation with UCLG Sections and UCLG partners.
<b>Online seminars</b>	- To organise or participate in a wide number of online seminars, webinars and meetings on the role of culture in people-centred sustainable development.
<b>Peer-learning and capacity-building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To deliver the programme "Capitals of Culture, together" that relates the European, African and other regional initiatives among them, and with the global conversation on development (with funding from DG-INTPA).</li> <li>- To facilitate more peer-learning exchanges among cities and local and regional governments.</li> <li>- To consolidate a group of experts that work with the learning and capacity-building programmes.</li> <li>- To promote and disseminate the MOOCs designed in 2022 on culture and climate resilient development and culture and gender equality, connecting them to Culture 21 Plus.</li> <li>- To design and implement specific learning activities with local government associations and key regional or national civil society networks on cultural policies, in close cooperation with UCLG Sections.</li> </ul>
<b>Seminars and events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To actively take part in initiatives organised by our members and partners, such as the Global Young Creatives Residencies of Jeju, the IN SITU initiative or the Creative Mobilities seminar.</li> <li>- To promote meetings between cities that share similar objectives or commitments in order to create "portfolios" or "portfolios of evidence" to enhance action plans implemented in each city.</li> </ul>

<b>E. Strengthening the UCLG network</b>	
<b>Within UCLG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To actively disseminate, promote and contribute to unfold the UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity: for the People, for the Planet, for the Governments.</li> <li>- To actively participate in the annual Retreat, the Executive Bureau and the World Council, as well as to contribute to UCLG Policy Councils and institutional processes.</li> <li>- To support all UCLG World Secretariat initiatives, including the Policy Councils and initiatives coming from other parts of the network such as Committees or communities of practices.</li> <li>- To actively participate in the Global Taskforce, and to strengthen its role in the current global debates on culture and sustainable development, building among others on its contribution to Mondiacult 2025.</li> <li>- To support the campaign 10, 100, 1000 on Human Rights in the Cities, coordinated by the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Human Rights and Participatory Democracy.</li> <li>- To support the ODP annual Award on Participatory Democracy.</li> </ul>
<b>UCLG partnerships and programmes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To contribute to reinforce UCLG specific and global partnerships</li> <li>- To contribute to programmes led or endorsed by UCLG, such as the Youth Climate Action Fund (YCAF) by Bloomberg</li> </ul>

	Philanthropies, or the WYDE Women's Leadership initiative supported by the European Union and UN Women.
<b>UCLG sections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To guarantee new areas of cooperation, with joint (advocacy and "on-the-ground") specific projects with all UCLG Sections.</li> <li>- To hold periodical meetings with UCLG Sections (especially important for those sections with an active Culture Committee).</li> </ul>

## 2. Updates on the leadership of the consultation mechanism and any relevant information

The UCLG Committee on Culture is jointly chaired by Buenos Aires, Lisbon and Mexico City, and vice-chaired by Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Brazzaville and Jeju. The list of members of the Committee is available on [this website](#).

Our narrative is based on human rights, good governance, people-centred development and the co-creation of the city. Our narrative is aligned with the UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity: for the People, for the Planet, for the Governments.

We are a unique meeting point: the global platform that unites cities, organisations and networks that foster the relation between local cultural policies and sustainable development. We are seen as the global leader of "Culture in Sustainable Cities".

The Committee on Culture has a Secretariat located at the premises of the UCLG World Secretariat in Barcelona.

## 3. Key outcomes or policy documents in 2024

- 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21: [Award Ceremony](#) in Mexico City, and International Seminar '[Cultural Innovation and Prospective for Cities and Territories](#)'.
- Culture 21 Plus, our global toolkit on Cultural Rights in Sustainable Development: second draft and call of expressions to "test" the toolkit worldwide (physical / online).
- Culture 21 Plus workshops in [Elefsina](#), [Esch-sur-Alzette](#), [Puebla](#), [Ségou](#), [Bandung](#) and [Thailand](#).
- "Culture Capitals Working Together": [Seven Keys workshop in Brazzaville](#), Youth CreaLab in Brazzaville, draft Terms of Reference for the new Capital and [webinar on "Culture Capitals for a Culture Goal. Working to Boost the Connections between Regional Initiatives and Global Challenges"](#).
- UCLG Culture Summit: [Dublin Statement "Culture. Future. Goal"](#) and [Final Report](#).
- The [OBS of good practices](#): new good practices in 2024.
- Culture2030Goal campaign: Statement "[No Future without Culture](#)"; Statement "[Culture2030Goal welcomes progress in mobilising culture to achieve development goals in latest Pact for the Future draft](#)"; Statement "[The Missing Goal](#)"; Report "[Culture in the 2024 Voluntary National Reviews](#)"; Statement "[From Summit to Substance](#)", institutional document "[New Governance Framework](#)".
- Global advocacy on Culture Goal: Seminar "[A Culture Goal in the SDGs: context, actors and challenges](#)" in Bilbao; and #Culture2030Goal side-events "[From Summit to Substance](#)" at the UN Summit for the Future, and "[Centring culture in reinforcing SDG delivery and achieving the goals of the Pact for the Future](#)" in the context of the UN HLPF.

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## **CONTACT**

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