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## **UCLG Committee on Culture – 18<sup>th</sup> meeting**

### **ONLINE**

16 December 2021  
16.00 – 17.30 CET

### **REPORT**

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#### **SUMMARY**

The 18th meeting of the United Cities and Local Governments Committee on Culture (UCLG) was held online on December 16th, 2021.

The meeting was held to present and discuss the status of the Committee's 2021 work plan, its implementation and its planned medium-term projects, as well as forthcoming initiatives in 2022. One of the important events for 2022 is the adoption of the Pact for the Future in the UCLG World Congress, to be held in Daejeon, Republic of Korea.

The UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir, held on 9-11 September 2021, and the reports on the relationship of culture with gender equality and climate action were important elements of the discussion, which also focused on the learning and capacity-building programmes of the Committee and its advocacy task to strengthen the role of culture in sustainable development strategies in the post-pandemic era.

## 1. Context

The UCLG Committee on Culture is a **unique authority**: there is no other global meeting point that brings cities, organizations, and networks together to work on the relationship between local cultural policies and sustainable development.

The UCLG Committee on Culture is **equally open to participation from** cities on all continents. Additionally, UCLG has established its reputation by developing clearly-defined activities and issues.

**Agenda 21 for Culture** was the first global document on cultural development to establish actions by cities and local governments. By January 2019, more than 750 cities, local governments, and organizations around the world were involved with Agenda 21 for Culture.

**United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)** adopted Agenda 21 for Culture as a reference document in October 2004 (Executive Bureau of São Paulo) and established its Working Group on Culture in June 2005 (Beijing World Council). This was followed by the Committee on Culture in October 2007 (Jeju World Congress) which was ratified in 2010 (Mexico World Congress), and the subsequent Congresses: Rabat (2013), Bogotá (2016) and Durban (2019).

The **UCLG Committee on Culture was created to:**

- Analyse local contexts and send key messages on global cultural issues to specific cities.
- Raise awareness, as well as help with lobbying and policy development.
- Improve the sharing of experiences and mutual learning.
- Support networking and project development.

The **goal of the UCLG Committee on Culture** is "to promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development through international dissemination and implementation of Agenda 21 for Culture at the local level". This approach was adopted at the World Congresses in Mexico (2010), and later expanded in Rabat (2013), Bogotá (2016) and Durban (2019).

The current programme has 5 areas of action, which correspond to the Committee's priorities. (1) Implementation (including the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21, the UCLG Culture Summit and the database of good practices "OBS"). (2) Advocacy (including global civil-society networks, partnerships, city networks and communication. (3) Monitoring and follow-up (4) Learning (which includes the "Leading Cities", "Pilot Cities" and "Culture 21 Lab" programmes, as well as the new "Seven Keys" programme on culture in the SDGs). (5) Strengthening the UCLG Network.

In the **previous meeting**, held in Guangzhou and online on November 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 in the context of the UCLG World Council, which took place from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the Committee approved the work programme for 2020, including the forthcoming organisation of the 5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021, with an online launch in June. Part of the discussion also focused on the reflection and development of proposals in the face of COVID-19 crisis.

## 2. Meeting Summary

### Opening Remarks

**Enrique Avogadro**, Minister for Culture of the City of Buenos Aires, Co-President of UCLG Culture Committee, welcomed all attendees and officially opened the 18th meeting, highlighting the tireless work of the Committee on Culture in the face of the COVID-19 crisis, in which culture has had the need to reinvent itself against adversity, enhancing collaboration and resilience among communities and as a fundamental element to build citizenship.

**José Alfonso Suárez del Real**, Chief of Mayor's Office of the Government of Mexico City, Co-President of the UCLG Culture Committee, reflected on the opportunity provided by the pandemic to position culture as an integrating element of the life in communities, to enrich the multiculturalism that characterises Mexico City and to strengthen ties and links with friendly cities through technology.

**Diogo Moura**, Deputy Mayor on Culture of Lisbon, Co-President of UCLG Culture Committee, congratulated UCLG and the Committee on Culture for their pioneering work, and stated that while the pandemic has uncovered inequalities, culture is fostering development and the possibility to achieve many further goals.

**Emilia Saiz**, Secretary General of UCLG, emphasized that in this critical moment where universality is getting a new meaning, culture has been used as an antidote for the negative impact of the crisis, and it is key to renew the relationships among people, planet and governments. This will be considered in the pluriannual strategy that UCLG is adopting next year in the World Congress.

### Work Programme

**Jordi Pascual**, Coordinator of the Committee on Culture of UCLG, thanked the Secretary General of UCLG and the Co-Presidents of the Committee on Culture for their words and support, and presented the main elements of the Committee's programme undertaken in 2021.

#### 1. The UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir and the Izmir Declaration.

**Onur Eryüce**, Advisor to the Mayor of Izmir, explained that the 4<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir and online, held from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021, was a powerful learning experience in which the new concept of circular culture, based on the harmony with four dimensions –nature, past, each other and change– was introduced by Mayor Tunç Soyer.

**Salim Korkmaz**, General Coordinator, UCLG-MEWA, remarked that the Izmir Summit happened in the right time and place, since MEWA region represents heterogeneous and solidary societies. He also stressed that during the Summit the first Voluntary Local Review (VLR) of the region was launched in Izmir.

#### 2. The ceremony of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Award "UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21".

**Vannesa Bohórquez**, Councillor for culture, Mexico City recalled through a video message that the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Award received 81 candidatures from cities and 21 nominations from personalities from around the world, and that the winners were the cities of Medellín and Segou, and the personalities Eusebio Leal and Vandana Shiva.

**José Alfonso Suárez del Real** announced that the conditions to guarantee the organisation of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award under a new format were being generated and thanked UCLG for its support in favour of cultural rights.

3. The new content in the "OBS" of good practices.

**Sarah Vieux**, Communications Officer of the Committee on Culture of UCLG, presented the database of good practices on culture in sustainable cities, "OBS", as an initiative that currently showcases 286 examples from over the world. She also mentioned the ongoing partnerships with the British Council and Metropolis to share good practices.

4. The Seven Keys in Bulawayo, el Puerto de la Cruz, Lisbon and Xi'an.

**Alexandra Sabino** from Lisbon introduced the Seven Keys workshop as a learning tool for cities to integrate the culture dimension into the SDGs. She explained that in the workshop organised in Lisbon, with Cristina Farinha as external expert, 36 participants from different municipal departments, as well from civil society, gathered to explore linkages between the SDGs and the work already being done in the city in the cultural field, with positive results.

5. The report on "Gender Equality and Cultural Actions".

**Marta Llobet**, Learning and Advocacy Officer of the Committee on Culture of UCLG, presented the recently published report on "Cultural Actions Supporting Gender Equality in Cities and Territories", written by former UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights Farida Shaheed and coordinated by the Secretariat of the Committee, and its conclusions.

6. The culture content of COP26 and the report on "Culture and Climate Resilient Development".

**Agnès Ruiz**, Officer of the Committee on Culture of UCLG, followed on the also new "The Role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development", an initiative launched by the Committee in cooperation with the Working Group 5 of the Climate Heritage Network, and coordinated by **Andrew Potts**. The latter emphasized the unprecedented engagement of cultural actors in COP26 and recalled the importance of culture-based and people-centred strategies in the face of the climate emergency.

After the UCLG [video](#) "Culture is the antidote for the secondary effects of the current, and all, crises", several participants provided their vision and comments: **Gonzalo Olabarría**, Councillor for Culture, Bilbao, shared his realistic yet optimistic view, and argued that the planet cannot meet its challenges if culture is not a structuring element of the global strategy; **Monica Barrios**, on behalf of Nicolás Montero, Councillor for Culture, Leisure and Sports, Bogotá, delivered a message of collaboration, solidarity and optimism, stating that culture is a means of social cohesion and trust; **Daniel Granados**, Commissioner for Cultural Rights, Barcelona, introduced the new Cultural Rights Plan "Fem Cultura" and invited participants to the forthcoming Conference on the role of cultural rights in cities, to be held in November 2022 in Barcelona; and **Changa Byun**, officer of the Special Self-Governing Province of Jeju, presented the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Global Young Creatives Residency, which will be celebrated in Jeju Island in July and August 2022 as an opportunity to inspire creative solutions to the current challenges.

**Emilia Saiz** thanked participants for their contributions and applauded the commitment of local and regional governments breaking through as one towards the Daejeon World Congress, to be held on 10-14 October 2022. She announced the main tracks of the event and highlighted key elements of the Pact for the Future: the notion of circular culture, the New Urban Agenda, the gender equality movement, and the localisation of SDGs.

The Committee's work programme for 2022 was then presented by **Jordi Pascual**, who briefly mentioned its main areas: (1) "Strengthening the UCLG network", including the Pact for the Future, and the work with UCLG Policy Councils, UCLG sections (the African Capital of Culture initiative as an example) and with all the areas of the World Secretariat; (2) "Implementation", including the next steps of the Award in 2022, the call for the 5th UCLG Culture Summit in 2023, the OBS of good practices, and the next steps of the Rome Charter; (3) "Advocacy": including UNESCO's Mondiacult 2022, the #culture2030goal campaign, the framework of the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and other partnerships; (4) "Learning", including the continuation of the Seven Keys as well as the capacity-building programmes Leading Cities, Pilot Cities and Culture 21 Lab, and the webinars and MOOCs in the UCLG Teachable platform; (5) "Monitoring and follow up", including communication, the website, newsletters and social media; and (6) "Governance and budget".

Finally, **José Alfonso Suárez del Real** and **Diogo Moura**, Co-Presidents of the Committee, congratulated the Committee for its work and stressed the importance to unite strategic priorities, including culture in the UCLG Pact for the Future and ensuring that the Committee will be active part of consultation processes in 2022.

A group picture was taken and the session came to its end.

### **3. Annexes:**

- Annex 1 includes the agenda of the meeting.
- Annex 2 includes the list of participants to the meeting.

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### **Contact**

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## ANNEX 1

Agenda of the meeting.

**Languages.** English, French and Spanish. Simultaneous translation.

- 16.00 **Official opening of the meeting** by Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General and the Co-Presidents of the Culture Committee: Enrique Avogadro, Minister for Culture, City of Buenos Aires; José Alfonso Suárez del Real, Chief of Mayor's Office of the Government of Mexico City; and Diogo Moura, Deputy Mayor on Culture of Lisbon.
- 16.10 Presentation of **the main elements of the Committee's programme undertaken in 2021**. Initial presentation by Jordi Pascual, coordinator of the UCLG Culture Committee, and speeches by:
- a) The UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir, and the Izmir Declaration, by Onur Eryüce, Advisor to the Mayor of Izmir, followed by comments from Salim Korkmaz, General Coordinator, UCLG-MEWA.
  - b) The ceremony of the 4th edition of the Award "UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21", by Vannesa Bohórquez, Councillor for Culture, Mexico City and Co-President of the UCLG Culture Committee (video message).
  - c) The new content in the "OBS" of good practices, by Sarah Vieux, UCLG Culture Committee.
  - d) The Seven Keys in Bulawayo, el Puerto de la Cruz, Lisbon and Xi'an, by Alexandra Sabino, Lisbon.
  - e) The report on "Gender Equality and Cultural Actions", by Farida Shaheed, author of the report, and Marta Llobet, UCLG Culture Committee.
  - f) The culture content of COP26 and the report on "Culture and Climate Resilient Development", by Andrew Potts, coordinator of the Climate Heritage Network and author of the report, and Agnès Ruiz, UCLG Culture Committee.
  - g) Other cooperative work undertaken in 2021: the cooperation with UCLG sections, the U20 Rome-Milan Communiqué, the "Cities are Listening" session, the artistic work in the frame of the Rome Charter, the final publication of "Culture at Work – Africa", the European "Voices of Culture" report, the contribution to the GOLD VI process on "culture and inequalities", the report on culture in the VLRs, our Webinars in the "Learning with UCLG" platform, the "strategy" document of the #culture2030goal campaign, the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between UCLG and ICOMOS, and the work with the cities (Malmö, Barcelona, Jeju, Ramallah) etc.
- 16.40 **Vision and comments.**
- Gonzalo Olabarría, Councillor for Culture, Bilbao
  - Nicolás Montero (TBC), Councillor for Culture, Leisure and Sports, Bogotá
  - Daniel Granados, Commissioner for Cultural Rights, Barcelona
- 17.00 Presentation of **the Committee's programme for 2022**:
- 1) **Strengthening the UCLG network**: the Pact for the Future, to be approved by UCLG in the UCLG World Congress of Daejeon (10-14 October 2022); the work with UCLG Policy Councils, with UCLG sections

(the African Capital of Culture initiative as an example) and with all the areas of the World Secretariat.

- 2) **Implementation:** the Award in 2022: next steps; the call for the 5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit in 2023; the OBS of good practices, and the Rome Charter: next steps.
- 3) **Advocacy:** UNESCO's Mondiacult 2022, the #culture2030goal campaign, the frame of the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and other partnerships.
- 4) **Learning:** the Seven Keys continued, as well as the capacity-building programmes Leading Cities, Pilot Cities, and Culture 21 Lab; the webinars (and the MOOC) in the UCLG Teachable platform.
- 5) **Monitoring and follow up:** communication, including the website, the newsletters and the social media.
- 6) **Governance and budget.**

17.15 **Questions and comments, and other issues.**

17.25 **Final words** by the Co-Presidents of the Committee: José Alfonso Suárez del Real, Chief of Mayor's Office, Government of Mexico City, and Diogo Moura, Deputy Mayor on Culture of Lisbon.

17.30 **Picture and end of the meeting.**



## ANNEX 2

List of participants to the meeting.

<i>City, local government or organisation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname(s)</i>
<b>Official members</b>		
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	Pascale	Charlebois
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	Randa	Napky
Ankara	Derya	Şaşmaz Candan
Baghdad	Khawlah	Mousa
Barcelona	Esteve	Caramés
Barcelona	Daniel	Granados
Barcelona	Jaume	Muñoz
Belo Horizonte	Bernardo A.	Santos de Faria
Belo Horizonte	Bernardo	Silva Martins Ribeiro
Beylikdüzü	Meltem	Basa
Bilbao	Gonzalo	Olabarria
Bilbao	Iñaki	López de Aguilera
Bogotá	Clarisa	Ruiz-Correal
Bogotá	Monica A.	Barrios Gonzalez
Bogotá	Nicolás	Montero
Buenos Aires	Enrique	Avogadro
Buenos Aires	Luisa	Montoreano
Buenos Aires	Sabrina	Daneff
Bulawayo	Josh	Nyampimbi
Concepción	Mauricio	Castro
Esch-sur-Alzette	Ralph	Waltmans
Esch-sur-Alzette	Céline	Schall
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)	Elena	Pierce
Frente Nacional de Prefeitos (FNP)	Roberta	Paola
Gabrovo	Velimira	Hristova
Granollers	Gemma	Roquet
Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality	Beyza	Sohtorikoğlu
Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality	Fatih	Acar
Izmir	Ege	Yildirim
Izmir	Onur	Éryuce
Izmir	Ayşegül	Sabuktay
Izmir	Polen	Biçer
Jabalia	Sadi	Dabboor
Jeju	ChangA	Byun
Kaunas	Ina	Pukelyte
Kazan	Adelya	Yakupova
Lisboa	Diogo	Moura
Lisboa	Mário	Alves
Lisboa	Alexandra	Sabino
Lisboa	Rute	Mendes
Lomas	Pablo	Mariani

Lyon	Christine	Tollet
Malmö	Fiona	Winders
Mar del Plata	Patricia María	Suárez
Mexico City	José Alfonso	Suárez del Real
Mexico City	Vannesa	Bohorquez
Mexico City	Lucina	Jimenez
Mexico City	Marlene	Fautsch
Mexico City	Otto	Becerril
Mexico City	Ernesto	Castro
Mexico City	Raquel	Portillo
Porto Alegre	Álvaro	Santi
Saint-Denis	Didier	Coirint
Seine-Saint-Denis	Sara	Mazetier
São Paulo	Bruno	Imparato
Terrassa	Joan	Chicón
Terrassa	Anna	Farràs
Vaudreuil-Dorion	Guy	Pilon
Xi'an	Chenjia	Wang
Xi'an	Qi	Shi
MERCOCIUDADES	Eva	Ramírez
UCLG-Africa	Mustapha	Moufid
UCLG-Africa	Thierry	Sanzhie Bokally
UCLG-CEMR	Chine	Venturi
UCLG-MEWA	Salim	Korkmaz
UCLG-MEWA	Abdurrahman	Kahyaoğlu
UCLG-MEWA	Muhammed	Furkan Çalışan
UCLG-MEWA	Ayşe	Umay Akçayır
UCLG-MEWA	Mert	Turkben
UCLG-MEWA	Melis	Sahin
<b>Observers</b>		
Climate Heritage Network	Andrew	Potts
Culture Action Europe	Tere	Badia
European Network of Cultural Centres (ENCC)	Piotr	Michalowski
ICOMOS-UK	Richard	Hughes
IFLA	Stephen	Wyber
Johns Hopkins University	Ge	Bai
Les Arts et la Ville	Christian	Sénéchal
Les Arts et la Ville	Stéphanie	Chaumont
Shirkat Gah Centre - Lahore	Farida	Shaheed
<b>Interpreters</b>		
	Maryam	Ansari
	Pilar	García
	Thaer	Taher
<b>Experts of the Committee on Culture</b>		
	Antoine	Guibert
	Catherine	Cullen

	Clymene	Christoforou
	Jordi	Baltà Portolés
	Serhan	Ada
	Zayd	Minty
<b>UCLG</b>		
UCLG Secretary General	Emilia	Saiz
UCLG Committee on Culture	Jordi	Pascual
UCLG Committee on Culture	Sarah	Vieux
UCLG Committee on Culture	Marta	Llobet
UCLG Committee on Culture	Agnès	Ruiz
OIDP	Alessandra	Rutigliano
UCLG World Secretariat	Jean-Baptiste	Buffet
UCLG World Secretariat	Saul	Baldehy
UCLG World Secretariat	Carolina	Osorio
UCLG World Secretariat	Mireia	Lozano Carbassé
UCLG World Secretariat	Paloma	Labbé
UCLG World Secretariat	Cécile	Roth