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## **Committee on Culture – 20<sup>th</sup> meeting**

### **DUBLIN**

Friday, 1 December 2023

9.30 – 10.15 GMT

### **REPORT**

22 January 2024

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#### **SUMMARY**

The 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on Culture of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was held in Dublin on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The session was carried out in Richmond Barracks within the framework of the 5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit, held in Dublin from 28<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

This session presented the status of the Committee’s 2023 work plan and its implementation. Among the main issues discussed, the 5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin, the presentation of the draft new toolkit “Culture 21 PLUS”, and the work undertaken by the #Culture2030Goal campaign were covered. Moreover, the meeting also addressed the progress on the localisation of SDGs through culture, the presence of the Committee in the HLPF, and the current process of unfolding the UCLG Pact for the Future of the Humanity.

The meeting also went through the planned medium-term projects of the Committee, as well as forthcoming initiatives for 2024, such as the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21, the advocacy towards a stand-alone Culture Goal, and the tests of the “Culture 21 PLUS” in cities around the world.

## 1. Context

The UCLG Committee on Culture is a **unique platform**: there is no other global meeting point that brings cities, organisations, 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, the Committee has established its reputation by developing clearly-defined activities and issues.

The **mission 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 mission was adopted at the UCLG World Congress in Mexico (2010), and confirmed in the UCLG World congresses of Rabat (2013), Bogotá (2016), Durban (2019) and Daejeon (2022).

Approved in 2004, **Agenda 21 for Culture** was the first global statement on cultural rights and sustainable development, while the toolkit **Culture 21 Actions**, approved in 2015, focused on nine specific commitments and 100 concrete actions. By December 2023, more than 1050 cities, local governments and organizations around the world were involved with Agenda 21 for Culture and Culture 21 Actions.

The current annual programme of the UCLG Committee on culture has 6 areas: (1) Strengthening the UCLG network; (2) Implementation, with special focus on the UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin; (3) Advocacy, and in particular, the work towards achieving a “Culture Goal”; (4) Capacity Building and Learning with cities; (5) Monitoring and follow up; and (6) Governance and budget.

In the **previous official meeting**, held online on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022, the Committee approved the work programme for 2023, and discussed the 5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit in November 2023 in Dublin (Ireland), the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21 and the #Culture2030Goal campaign advocacy work towards a specific Culture Goal. The Committee’s endeavours on peer-learning and capacity building were also reflected in this meeting, especially those focused on the Seven Keys programme, as well as other thematic issues, such as gender equality, climate change, and anti-racism.

## 2. The meeting

The 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Culture Committee of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 in Richmond Barracks, within the framework of the 5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit, celebrated in Dublin from 28<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

The session started with the opening words of **Enrique Avogadro**, Minister for Culture of the City of Buenos Aires and co-president of UCLG Culture Committee. In his speech, Avogadro acknowledged the leading efforts that the UCLG Committee on Culture is making in various international events and actions, facilitating mutual inspiration from cities around the world, and celebrated the high representation of the Global South.

The coordinator of the Committee, **Jordi Pascual** presented the main elements of the Committee’s work programme undertaken in 2023, starting with the [5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin](#) “Culture. Future. Goal. We Act to Bring Local Visions to Global Tables”, as the main meeting point at global level of cities, local governments

and organisations committed to the effective implementation of policies and programmes on culture and sustainability.

The draft new global toolkit on cultural rights and sustainability was presented: "[Culture 21 PLUS](#)". The UCLG Culture Committee has begun the preparatory work to approve this document in 2025, which will contain options for (a) a complete self-assessment on the state of local policies through a cultural perspective, and (b) the design of concrete local policies, programmes or actions. The toolkit has been already tested in 3 cities in 2023 (Jinju, Mexico City and Lisbon), and in order to further co-create it with members, the Committee pointed out that it is looking for 8-10 cities willing to host a workshop to further test it in 2024.

After this, Jordi Pascual explained the "acceleration" of the Culture 2030 Goal campaign. In 2022 the campaign had published "[A Culture Goal is Essential for Our Common Future](#)", a clear proposal of a concrete Goal with 10 specific targets. This pioneer and bold proposal inspired MONDIACULT+40 (a clear paragraph refers to the Culture Goal) and convinced many UN member states that a stand-alone Culture Goal makes full sense. In 2023, the campaign released the communiqué "[Commitment to an explicit Culture Goal in Mondiacult Declaration Welcome: Now is the time to deliver](#)", organised the side-event "[The Missing Goal? The place of culture in SDG implementation today and tomorrow](#)" in the HLPF, actively promoted coherent wording in the G20 Leaders Declaration and in the UN SDG Summit, and published "[Culture in the Voluntary National Reports: an Overview of the 2023 Reports](#)", which highlights some of the different ways in which culture is addressed in these reviews, celebrates good practices, and indicates areas for further focus. In the words of Pascual, in 2023 the campaign experienced an "acceleration", with several key actors (such as UNESCO or the G20) explicitly endorsing the need of a Culture Goal; this acceleration was shown in the statement "[Growing Government Recognition of the Role of Culture in Development](#)".

Another example of this acceleration was the UN SDG Summit in September 2023: the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Mr. Daithí de Róiste, spoke at its Local and Regional Governments Forum, organised by UCLG and partners at the United Nations Headquarters in the "Mobilisation Day", in the frame of the UN SDG Summit. He highlighted culture-based high-impact localisation policies and presented the work of the #Culture2030Goal campaign.

In 2023, the UCLG Culture Committee published two important documents on the cultural localization of the SDGs: the chapter "[A cultural boost in the achievement of the SDGs](#)", included in the 7<sup>th</sup> GTF report on "Towards the Localisation of the SDGs", presented at the 2023 HLPF in New York (this document includes an exhaustive analysis of the relationship between culture and all the SDGs, using the innovative "analysis of the interaction") and the report "[Localising the SDGs with a Cultural Perspective. Initial results of the Seven Keys programme](#)" which explains the results and experiences of the ten cities that have completed the Seven Keys programme. Finally, Pascual mentioned the work undertaken on Culture and Climate Action, related to [the Venice Call to Action and COP 28](#). As a conclusion, Pascual affirmed that all the work of the UCLG Culture Committee is fully coherent with the current process of unfolding the [UCLG Pact for the Future of the Humanity](#), approved in 2022 in Daejeon, and a very visible illustration is the [UCLG Decalogue](#) presented at the UN SDG Summit in September 2023, which mentions (point 6) that "We promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development, we connect culture, creativity and transformation, and we support the global advocacy for a Culture Goal".

Jordi Pascual then proceeded to briefly present [the Committee's programme for 2024](#) in the areas of (i) Implementation, with special focus on the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21; (ii) Advocacy, with new actions focused on the advocacy for

the "Culture Goal"; (iii) Strengthening the UCLG network: preparing the UN Summit of the Future of September 2024; (iv) Capacity Building and Learning with cities: tests of the "Culture 21 PLUS" and second wave of the Seven Keys workshops; (v) Monitoring and follow up; and (vi) Governance and budget.

After this, the floor was opened for questions and comments from members and partners, with the following interventions from the floor:

**Enrique Avogadro**, Minister for Culture of the City of Buenos Aires and co-president of UCLG Culture Committee, reminded us about the pandemic and celebrated the way the Committee and the cities dealt with it, placing culture at the centre while learning from each other. Avogadro also suggested strengthening the constituency in order to move forward, helping each other on a practical level with a self-critical spirit, and highlighted the need to bring civil society on board.

**Catalina Valencia**, Councillor for Culture of Bogotá and vice-president of the UCLG Culture Committee, shared the work done by the City of Bogotá on its Culture Plan for the next 15 years, and declared that the city would bring forward the efforts needed to make the Culture Goal a reality, including a meeting with the Minister of Culture of Colombia to report on the Summit.

**Isabel Macie**, Councillor for Culture and Tourism of Maputo City Council, identified UCLG as a champion in its role as a platform for culture, which she said is not often prioritised by some countries when it comes to budget and planning. Macie expressed appreciation for the many lessons learned at the Summit, and hoped for one of the next Summits to take place in Africa.

**Serhan Ada**, President of the Izmir Mediterranean Academy, applauded the UCLG Culture Committee for organising this event jointly with the Dublin, and highlighted that the Committee needs to keep on liaising with current members and partners, while also exploring collaborations with new actors (such as the group of Arab cultural offices which were already gathering in Brussels).

**Carola Gunnarsson**, Councillor of Sala, Vice-President of UCLG for Europe and UCLG Special Envoy for Freedom, Solidarity and Fighting Violence against Local Political Leaders, described culture as a common language and underlined how the UCLG Culture Summit of Dublin can be seen as an eye-opener on the importance of culture in local development, also for the attainment of the SDGs. Gunnarsson highlighted the analysis undertaken by the Committee in the report "[A Cultural Boost in the Achievement of the SDGs](#)" as a clear evidence of the impact of culture on the SDGs, and pledged to do everything possible to achieve a Culture Goal.

To conclude the session, **Jordi Pascual** thanked all the participants for their participation and contributions in the meeting. He thanked the leadership of the cities that are at the head of the Committee, namely Mexico City, Lisbon and Buenos Aires as co-presidents, as well as Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Porto-Alegre and Rome as vice-presidents, and explicitly mentioned the names of Enrique Avogadro and Catalina Valencia, because this was their last meeting. He also emphasised the great work undertaken by the core team of the Committee, namely Sarah Vieux, Marta Llobet, Agnès Ruiz and Antoine Guibert. After these closing words, a group picture was taken and the session came to an end.

### **3. Annexes:**

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

## **Contact**

### **UCLG Committee on Culture**

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## Annex 1

# Agenda

**Languages:** English.

**Registration and place:** Richmond Barracks, Dublin.

### **09.15. Opening by Enrique Avogadro, Minister for Culture, City of Buenos Aires.**

**09.20. Presentation of the main elements of the Committee's programme undertaken in 2023.** Initial presentation by Jordi Pascual, coordinator of the UCLG Culture Committee, and specific presentations on:

- a) The UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin.
- b) The draft "Culture 21 PLUS" and the tests.
- c) Acceleration of the "Culture Goal" campaign.
- d) Culture in the SDGs: "A Cultural Boost in the Achievement of the SDGs" article and the "Seven Keys" report.
- e) The work undertaken on Culture and Climate Action (Venice Call to Action and COP 28).
- f) Unfolding the Pact for the Future of the Humanity. UCLG Decalogue at the UN SDG Summit.

### **09.35. Presentation of the Committee's programme for 2024:**

- i. Implementation, with special focus on the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21.
- ii. Advocacy, with special focus on the advocacy for the "Culture Goal".
- iii. Strengthening the UCLG network: preparing the UN Summit of the Future.
- iv. Capacity Building and Learning with cities: tests of the Culture 21 PLUS and second wave of the Seven Keys workshops.
- v. Monitoring and follow up.
- vi. Governance and budget.

### **09.50 Comments and discussion.**

### **10.15 Concluding words, picture and end of the meeting.**

## Annex 2

List of participants to the meeting

### Official members

<i>City, local government or organisation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname(s)</i>	<i>Position</i>
Barcelona	Eva	Soria	Director of Cultural Initiatives and Sectors, Institute for Culture of Barcelona
Bilbao	Iñaki	López de Aguilera	Director for Culture
Bogotá	Catalina	Valencia	Councillor for Culture
Braga	Joana	Miranda	Director for Culture
Buenos Aires	Enrique	Avogadro	Minister for Culture
Donostia / San Sebastián	Imanol	Galdós	Responsible of the International Affairs
Dublin	Iseult	Dunne	CEO, Dublin City Council Culture Company
Dublin	Tracy	Geraghty	Director of Strategic Development & Research, Dublin City Council Culture Company
Dublin	Linda	Devlin	Director of Creative Engagement, Dublin City Council Culture Company
Izmir	Serhan	Ada	President, Izmir Mediterranean Academy
Izmir	Çiçek	Tezer	Director, Izmir Mediterranean Academy
Lisbon	Alexandra	Sabino	Adviser, Department for Culture
Maputo	Isabel	Macie	Councillor for Culture and Tourism
Terrassa	Rosa	Boladeras	Councillor for Culture
Terrassa	Anna	Farràs	Head of International Affairs
Terrassa	Carles	Sánchez	Director of Heritage
Trois-Rivières	Nancy	Kukovica	Director, Culture Department

### Observers

<i>City, local government or organisation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname(s)</i>	<i>Position</i>
Asamblea Nacional Política de Mujeres Indígenas ANPMI	Zenaida	Pérez	Member of the Generation Equality
Belskie Centrum Kultury	Rafal	Sakowski	Director
Budweis 2028	Anna	Horejsi	Head of Partnerships
Culture Action Europe (CAE)	Kornelia	Kiss	Head of Partnerships
Culture pour Tous	Michel	Vallée	Director

Culture pour Tous	Anastasia	Vaillancourt	Research
ENCATC	Dea	Vidović	Vice-president
Finnish Heritage Agency	Elisa	Kraatari	Head of Research
International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD)	Guillaume	Prieur	President
University of Groningen	Quirijn	van den Hoogen	Professor Arts Culture and Media Studies

## UCLG

UCLG	Carola	Gunnarsson	Councillor of Sala, Vice-President of UCLG for Europe and UCLG Special Envoy for Freedom, Solidarity and Fighting Violence against Local Political Leaders
UCLG	Heléne	Lundberg	Advisor to Carola Gunnarsson
UCLG Committee on Culture	Jordi	Pascual	Coordinator
UCLG Committee on Culture	Sarah	Vieux	Communication
UCLG Committee on Culture	Marta	Llobet	Advocacy and Learning
UCLG Committee on Culture	Agnès	Ruiz	Learning
UCLG Committee on Culture	Antoine	Guibert	Capacity-building
UCLG Committee on Culture	Catherine	Cullen	Special Adviser on Culture and Sustainable Cities
UCLG Committee on Culture	Jordi	Baltà	Expert
UCLG World Secretariat	Carole	Morillon	Statutory Affairs
UCLG World Secretariat	Jose	Álvarez	Policy and Communication
UCLG World Secretariat	Ainara	Fernández	Research

## Apologies

Baie-Mahault	Chantal	Lauriette	Culture Department
Bulawayo	Josh	Nyapimbi	Nhimbe Trust
Concepción	Mauricio	Castro	Director, Culture Department
Culture et Développement	Valeria	Marcolin	Director
Cultural Development Network	John	Smithies	Director
European Network of Cultural Centres (ENCC)	Piotr	Michalowski	Secretariat
Jeju	Heehyon	Kim	Vice-Governor of the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province
Jinju	Byung-Hoon	Jeong	Emeritus Professor of the Gyeongsang National University
Konya	Selim	Yücel Güleç	Director, International Affairs
Lisbon	Diogo	Moura	Deputy Mayor on Culture of Lisbon, co-president of UCLG Culture Committee



Lyon	Christine	Tollet	Director, Culture Department
Makati	María Concepción	Yabut	Councillor in charge of Culture
Malmoe	Fiona	Winders	Cultural Development
Mashhad	Hamid	Isfahanizadeh	Director of City Diplomacy Center
Mexico City	Claudia	Curiel	Councillor for Culture, and co-president of UCLG Culture Committee
Porto Alegre	Gunter	Axt	Secretary on culture, Prefeitura de Porto Alegre
Rabat	Hayat	Sami	Head of Cooperation and Partnerships
Ramallah	Issa	Kassis	Mayor
Rio de Janeiro	Marcelo	Calero	Councillor for Culture and Tourism
Rome	Miguel	Gotor	Councillor in charge of cultural development, Rome City Council
São Paulo	Aline	Torres	Councillor for Culture
Strasbourg	Mohamed	Achab	Department for Culture
Tenerife	Tomás Antonio	Afonso González	Culture Department Officer
Vaudreuil-Dorion	Vincent	Bastien	Director of Leisure and Culture
Xi'an	Shi	Qi	Xi'an Municipal Foreign Affairs Office
<b>UCLG</b>			
UCLG – Africa	Rahmatouca	Sow	Advisor on Policy and International Relations
UCLG – Africa	Najat	Zarrouk	Director, ALGA
UCLG – ASPAC	Ramona	Lissa Villegas	Institutional Governance Coordinator
UCLG – CEMR	Chine	Venturi	Project Officer
UCLG – Eurasia	Rasikh	Sagitov	Secretary General
UCLG – MEWA	Junaid	Rafiq	International Relations