

---

## **Committee on Culture – 21<sup>st</sup> meeting ONLINE**

Wednesday, 8 May 2024  
15.00 – 16.30 CEST

### **REPORT**

11 June 2024

#### **SUMMARY**

The 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Culture Committee of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was held online on 8 May 2023, on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Agenda 21 for Culture. The meeting took place after the webinar celebrating: ["20 Years of Agenda 21 for Culture"](#).

This session presented the status of the Committee's 2024 work plan and its implementation. It focused on the 5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin, the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21 and its Award Ceremony, the new toolkit "Culture 21 Plus" and the workshops to test this new frame, as well as the work towards achieving a stand-alone Culture Goal led by the #Culture2030Goal campaign.

The meeting also discussed and decided upon some changes in the Governance team of the Committee: Porto Alegre and Rome left, and Brazzaville was welcomed as new vice-president.

## 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 and develops action-oriented activities. Around 1050 cities, local governments and organisations around the world are connected and involved in this work.

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. As the newest toolkit for cultural rights in cities and communities, the **Culture 21 Plus** is a cocreation process that is currently in a "testing" phase and that will be adopted in 2025.

The current 2024 annual programme of the UCLG Committee on culture has 6 areas: (1) Strengthening the UCLG network; (2) Implementation; (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.

The **previous official meeting** was held on 1 December 2023 in Richmond Barracks in the City of Dublin (Ireland). This meeting went through the 5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin, the presentation of the draft new toolkit "Culture 21 Plus", the work undertaken by the #Culture2030Goal campaign, 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. Moreover, the meeting also approved the work programme for 2024 and addressed its forthcoming initiatives, such as the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the International 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.

## 2. The meeting

The 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Culture Committee of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was held online on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024, on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Agenda 21 for Culture. The meeting took place after the webinar celebrating: "[20 Years of Agenda 21 for Culture](#)".

The session started with the opening words of **Jordi Pascual**, who provided an overview of the main elements of the Committee's work programme of 2024. He shared a video recap of the [5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin](#) "Culture. Future. Goal. We Act to Bring Local Visions to Global Tables". After this brief introduction, he gave the floor to other members of the Secretariat of the UCLG Culture Committee

- **Agnès Ruiz**, explained that the [6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award](#) had 88 candidacies from all over the world and that the Award Ceremony would take place on 25 July 2024 in Mexico City.
- **Antoine Guibert** introduced the "[Culture 21 Plus](#)", to be approved in 2025, as the new global toolkit on cultural rights and sustainability, useful for self-

assessment through a cultural perspective and for the design local policies, programmes and actions.

- **Marta Lobet** explained that the Culture 21 Plus had been tested in Jinju, Mexico City, Lisbon, Elefsina and Esch-sur-Alzette, and that the Committee would hold webinars to provide more details on this tool to other cities interested in holding a workshop to further test it in 2024.
- **Sarah Vieux** concluded by explaining the Culture Goal, underlining the zero-draft Culture Goal Proposal "[A Culture Goal is Essential for Our Common Future](#)" as a key milestone with 10 specific targets that will be improved in 2025 with a version 2 of the document.

Jordi Pascual then proceeded to give the floor to cities with a leading role in the co-presidency and vice-presidency of the Committee:

**Claudia Curiel**, Secretary of Culture of Mexico City and co-president of UCLG Culture Committee, recalled Mondiacult 2022 (which took place in Mexico City), thanked all the cities that have participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award, and invited everyone to the Award Ceremony at the Mexico City on 25 July 2024, expressing their wish and commitment to exchange and debate on cultural rights.

**Gonzalo Olabarría**, Councillor for Culture of Bilbao and vice-president of the UCLG Culture Committee, shared that in 27 September 2024, the City of Bilbao, together with UCLG, will hold a seminar on Culture as a future stand-alone Goal. Olabarría also underlined how the lack of a dedicated Culture Goal implies the loss of capacity and transformative power in the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

**Ana María Boada**, Assistant Secretary for Culture of Bogotá, alongside **Natalia Sefair**, Advisor for International Affairs and International Cooperation of Bogotá, representing **Santiago Trujillo**, Secretary for Culture of Bogotá, highlighted the commitment of Bogotá to the Governance Team of the Committee, and their will to actively and decisively contribute to local government commitments on culture, with cultural rights and communities as protagonists, especially focusing on cultural governance from the neighborhoods and through neighborhood co-creation.

**Esteve Caramés**, Director of Cultural Programmes of Barcelona, underlined the relevance of Culture 21 Plus as a tool for further progress in the recognition of cultural development and cultural rights, and highlighted Barcelona's permanent commitment to the Committee. He also informed that Mondiacult 2025 will take place in Barcelona, and expressed their wish that the voices of cities and the Culture 2030 Goal campaign will be present at the event.

After this section, **Jordi Pascual** thanked the co-presidency and vice-presidency, and proceeded to discuss the current situation of the Governance of the Committee, with Porto Alegre and Rome leaving their positions as vice-presidents of the Committee. He also explained the letters received early 2024 from Mayor of Brazzaville, Dieudonné Bantsimba, as well as of the Mayor of Izmir, Tunç Soyer to join the Governance team of the Committee. While the willingness of Brazzaville was fully confirmed in written in the days before this official meeting, the willingness of Izmir was still pending. Then, Jordi Pascual asked the City of Brazzaville to take the floor to explain the position and interest of Brazzaville with regard to the governance of the UCLG Culture Committee.

Representing the Mayor of Brazzaville, **Hugues Ondaye**, Socio-cultural Councillor to the City of Brazzaville, celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Agenda 21 for culture and acknowledged the work carried out since then. He then conveyed the wish of Brazzaville to participate in the governance team of the Committee on Culture of UCLG:

*"The designation of Brazzaville by the leaders of UCLG-Africa to chair its recently created Culture Committee encourages us to play an active role at a global level. This leads us to join a global dynamic to promote the contribution of African local authorities to the development of culture, in synergy with all the stakeholders in its eco-system, of which the world Committee on Culture of UCLG, which you co-chair, is the pioneering and reference platform [...]. This context is why we are requesting to join, as vice-presidents, the group of cities in the Governance Team of the Committee on Culture of UCLG. This proposal is an endorsement of Brazzaville's efforts to work in Africa to promote the recognition of the role of culture in the development of our cities, our countries and the whole of humanity" - **Dieudonné Bantsimba**, Mayor of Brazzaville*

Following this intervention, Jordi Pascual asked the members of the Board to express their views on the new composition of the Governance Team. They unanimously approved the changes and welcomed Brazzaville as the new vice-president of the Committee on Culture of UCLG.

**As of 8 May 2024, the Governance Team of the Committee on Culture is comprised of three co-presidents and five vice presidents.**

**Co-Presidents: Mexico City, Lisbon and Buenos Aires.**

**Vice Presidents: Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Brazzaville and Jeju.**

The co-presidents took the floor for the final words. **Maria Victoria Alcaraz**, on behalf of the Minister of Culture of Buenos Aires, **Gabriela Ricardes**, underlined that culture is what makes us human; what facilitates the expression and exchange of common values, crucial for life and peace, especially in times of crisis. Claudia Matos, Advisor to the Councillor for Culture, representing the Secretary for Culture of Lisbon, **Diogo Moura**, reinforced that culture must occupy a central role in promoting our mental and economic sustainability through the joint design of local cultural policies. **Claudia Curiel**, Secretary for Culture of Mexico City, mentioned the success of the Culture 21 Plus workshop held in Mexico City, which helped to plan public policies, promoted coordination between different spheres of government and civil society, and empowered all participants through capacity building. The three co-presidents encouraged all members of the Committee to be as active as possible and to keep high the level of ambition of the annual work programme.

After these closing remarks, 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**

Carrer Avinyó, 15  
08002 Barcelona

Email [culture@uclg.org](mailto:culture@uclg.org)

Web [www.agenda21culture.net](http://www.agenda21culture.net)

Twitter [@agenda21culture](https://twitter.com/agenda21culture)

## Annex 1

# Agenda

**Languages:** English, French and Spanish.

**Registration and place:** Online.

### **16.15. The development of our programme for 2024**

Initial presentation by Jordi Pascual, coordinator, UCLG Culture Committee:

- The Culture Summit in Dublin
- The International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21
- Culture 21 PLUS
- A Culture Goal in the SDGs
- Mondiacult 2025

Messages from:

- Claudia Curiel, Secretary for Culture, Mexico City
- Gonzalo Olabarría, Councilor for culture, Bilbao
- Santiago Trujillo, Councilor for culture Bogotá
- Esteve Caramés, director of Cultural Programmes, ICUB, Barcelona
- Tracy Geraghty, Dublin City Council Culture Company

### **Governance of the Committee**

Message from:

- Dieudonné Bantsimba, Mayor of Brazzaville

### **Conclusions**

- Gabriela Ricardes, Minister for Culture, Buenos Aires.
- Diogo Moura, Secretary for Culture, Lisbon
- Claudia Curiel, Secretary for Culture, Mexico City

### **16.59. Picture and end of the meeting.**

## Annex 2

### 2.1 All the participants to the meeting

#### Official members

<i>City, local government or organisation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname(s)</i>	<i>Position</i>
Barcelona	Esteve	Caramés	Director of Cultural Programmes, ICUB
Barcelona (Diputació)	Laia	Gargallo	Director, CERC
Bilbao	Gonzalo	Olabarría	Councillor for Culture
Bilbao	Yasmin	Hawari	Bilbao Internacional
Bogotá	Ana	Boada	Assistant Secretary of Governance, Department of Culture, Recreation and Sports
Bogotá	Natalia	Sefair	Advisor for international affairs and international cooperation, Department of Culture, Recreation and Sports
Brazzaville	Dieudonné	Bantsimba	Mayor, and vice-president of UCLG Culture Committee
Brazzaville	Hugues	Ondaye	Socio-cultural Councillor
Buenos Aires	Maria Victoria	Alcaraz	Director of International Cultural Cooperation, Ministry for culture
Buenos Aires	Maria Eugenia	Santar	Ministry for culture
Dublin	Tracy	Geraghty	Director of Strategic Development & Research, Dublin City Council Culture Company
Lisbon	Diogo	Moura	Secretary for Culture, and co-president of UCLG Culture Committee
Lisbon	Claudia	Matos	Advisor to the Councillor for Culture
Malmoe	Fiona	Winders	Cultural Development
Mexico City	Claudia	Curiel	Secretary for Culture, and co-president of UCLG Culture Committee
Mexico City	Jainité	Rueda	Adviser and Planning Coordinator, Culture Department
Mexico City	Keila	Castrejón	Institutional Relations Coordinator, Culture Department
Montreal	Elsa	Marsot	
Ramallah	Sally	Abu Bakr	Director of Culture and Social Development Department

Rio de Janeiro	Douglas	Resende	International Affairs, Culture Department
São Paulo	Karine	Alves	Head of Technical Advisory and Cultural Policy of Culture Department
Terrassa	Anna	Farràs	Head of International Affairs
Segou	Kéba	Daffé	Segou Creative City

## Observers

<i>City, local government or organisation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname(s)</i>	<i>Position</i>
Centre of Social Studies, University of Coimbra	Nancy	Duxbury	Head of Research
Culture Action Europe	Lars	Ebert	Secretary General
IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)	Stephen	Wyber	Director, Policy and Advocacy
ICOM (International Committee for the Collections and Activities of Museums of Cities)	Patricia	Brignole	Board Member
ICOMOS	Gabriel	Caballero	Focal Point on the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda
ICOMOS	Ege	Yildirim	Former focal Point on the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda
IMC (International Music Council)	Silja	Fischer	Secretary General
Ministry for culture, Kingdom of Spain	Jordi	Martí	Secretary of State for Culture of Spain, and former Deputy Mayor, Barcelona
Ministry for culture, Peru	Maria	Almestar	Contraloria
Ministry for Culture, Ireland	Sheela	Deegan	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media
UN Etxea	Begoña	Guzmán	Culture Officer
UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights	Alexandra	Xanthaki	Special Rapporteur
UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights	Johanne	Bouchard	OHCHR, Special Procedures
UNESCO	Oriol	Freixa	Office of UNESCO in the EU
Universidad Nacional de Avellaneda	Mónica	Guariglio	UNESCO chair "Cultural diversity and social inclusion
Universidad de Chile	Andrés	Muñoz Cárcamo	Researcher
Universidade Minas Gerais	Jose	Oliveira Jr.	Researcher, and former head of Research, Cultural Department of Belo Horizonte



Universidade UFRGS	Vanessa	Marx	Former director of International Affairs,
University Tottori	Kunihiro	Noda	Department of Regional Culture
	Vitor	Ortiz	Cultural Producer, former Secretary for Culture, Porto Alegre, and former Executive Secretary, Ministry for Culture, Brazil
	Alvaro	Santi	Cultural Producer, former Director Cultural Observatory, Porto Alegre
	Catarina	Vaz-Pinto	Former Co-president of the UCLG Culture Committee as Councillor for Culture of Lisbon
	Clarisa	Ruiz-Correal	Former vice-president of the UCLG Culture Committee as Councillor for Culture of Bogotá
	Christine	Merkel	Senior Adviser, Expert UNESCO-EU Facility and EU OMC Group Cultural dimension of Sustainable Development

## UCLG

<i>City, local government or organisation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname(s)</i>	<i>Position</i>
UCLG	Carola	Gunnarsson	Councillor of Sala, Vice-President of UCLG for Europe and UCLG Special Special Envoy for Freedom, Solidarity and Fighting Violence against Local Political Leaders
UCLG Committee on Culture	Jordi	Pascual	Coordinator
UCLG Committee on Culture	Sarah	Vieux	Communications
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 Committee on Culture	Martí	Capdevila	Translator, interpreter
UCLG World Secretariat	Loane	Alonzeau	Communications
UCLG World Secretariat	Adrià	Duarte	IOPD Coordinator
UCLG World Secretariat	Viviana	Herrera	Communications
UCLG World Secretariat	Elisa	Vachon	IOPD
UCLG World Secretariat	Antònia	Sabartés	Forum of Regions Coordinator
UCLG Africa	Rahmatouca	Sow	Political affairs and international relations advisor
UCLG – MEWA	Junaid	Rafiq	International Relations

## 2.2. Apologies

### Official members of the Committee

<i>City, local government or organisation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname(s)</i>	<i>Position</i>
Baie-Mahault	Chantal	Lauriette	Culture Department
Bilbao	Iñaki	López de Aguilera	Director for Culture
Bogotá	Santiago	Trujillo	Secretary for Culture
Buenos Aires	Gabriela	Ricardes	Minister for Culture
Bulawayo	Josh	Nyapimbi	Nhimbe Trust
Concepción	Mauricio	Castro	Director, Culture Department
Dublin	Iseult	Dunne	CEO, Dublin City Council Culture Company
Izmir	Serhan	Ada	President, Izmir Mediterranean Academy
Izmir	Çiçek	Tezer	Director, Izmir Mediterranean Academy
Izmir	Özden	Coşkun	Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Directorate of the Historic Environment and Cultural Assets
Jeju	Heehyon	Kim	Vice-Governor of the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province
Jinju	Kyu-il	Cho	Mayor
Jinju	Byung-Hoon	Jeong	Emeritus Professor of the Gyeongsang National University
Konya	Selim	Yücel Güleç	Director, International Affairs
Lyon	Christine	Tollet	Director, Culture Department
Makati	María Concepción	Yabut	Councillor in charge of Culture
Mashhad	Hamid	Isfahanizadeh	Director of City Diplomacy Center
Porto Alegre	Henry	Ventura	Secretary on culture
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
São Paulo	Aline	Torres	Councillor for Culture
Strasbourg	Mohamed	Achab	Department for Culture
Tenerife	Tomás Antonio	Afonso González	Culture Department Officer
Terrassa	Rosa	Boladeras	Councillor for Culture

Vaudreuil-Dorion	Vincent	Bastien	Director of Leisure and Culture
Xi'an	Shi	Qi	Xi'an Municipal Foreign Affairs Office

## UCLG sections

<i>City, local government or organisation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname(s)</i>	<i>Position</i>
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

## Partners and civil society

<i>City, local government or organisation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname(s)</i>	<i>Position</i>
Cultural Development Network	John	Smithies	Director
Culture pour Tous	Michel	Vallée	Director
Culture et Développement	Valeria	Marcolin	Co-director
Culture et Développement	Francisco	D'Almeida	Co-director
ENCATC	Giannalia	Cogliandro	Secretary General
Foundation Interarts	Mercedes	Giovinazzo	Director
European Network of Cultural Centres (ENCC)	Piotr	Michalowski	Secretariat
International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD)	Guillaume	Prieur	President
International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD)	Marie-Julie	Desrochers	Secretary General
On the Move	Marie	Le Sourd	Secretary General
	Rafael	Mesa	Researcher, former Head of Research, Department for Culture, Mexico City Council