



**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE OF  
UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS – UCLG**

# **REPORT 2023**



The UCLG Committee on Culture is co-chaired by Buenos Aires, Lisbon and Mexico City, and vice-chaired by Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Porto Alegre and Rome.

# PRESENTATION

**The Committee is the global leader of “Culture in Sustainable Cities”. Our narrative is based on human rights, good governance, people-centered development and the co-creation of the city.** The Committee on Culture of UCLG is a unique meeting point. There is no other structure at the global level that gathers cities, organizations and networks that foster the relation between local cultural policies and sustainable development.

**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”.

**Main activities.** The UCLG Committee on Culture leads the organisation of the [biennial International Award "UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21"](#), the database [“OBS” of good practices](#) on culture in sustainable cities, as well as the [UCLG Culture Summit](#). It offers learning and capacity-building programmes on cultural policies (15 [Leading Cities](#), 24 [Pilot Cities](#), 5 [Culture 21 Labs](#), and 10 [Seven Keys](#)) and participates in [international advocacy campaigns](#) (such as the [#Culture2030Goal](#) campaign), advocating with other global cultural networks for an explicit place of culture in the UN 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UCLG considers that cultural dimension plays a key role as the fourth pillar of sustainable development, due to its capacity to promote the dialogue and debates on the values of society and, at the same time, to place memory, heritage, creativity, indigenous peoples, diversity and knowledge at the heart of public policies.

**Leadership.** The Committee on Culture is co-chaired by Buenos Aires, Lisbon and Mexico City, and vice-chaired by Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Porto Alegre and Rome. These cities are the “Board” or governance team of the Committee.

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

## The year 2023, in one page!

- [Culture 21 PLUS](#), our global toolkit on Cultural Rights in Sustainable Development: draft and call of expressions to “test” the toolkit.
- UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin: [Website](#), [Programme](#), [Final Statement and videos](#).
- Launch of [the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21](#).
- [UCLG Decalogue](#) “Towards cities, governments and a multilateral system that care for people, democracy, and our planet. High-impact coalitions, commitments, and calls to localise the 2030 Agenda.”
- [The OBS of good practices: new good practices in 2023](#).
- [Culture2030Goal campaign: Statement on the need to implement Mondiacult and to advocate for a Culture Goal](#).
- [Global advocacy on Culture Goal: clear mention to Culture Goal \(or to culture and sustainable development\) in key statements: the UN SDG Summit \(September 2023\), the BRICS Statement \(August 2023\) and the G20 Leaders Declaration \(September 2023\), among others](#).
- The report [“A Cultural Boost in the implementation of the SDGs”](#) which includes synergies (positive interactions) and trade-offs (negative interactions) between cultural policies, programmes and actions and the achievement of the SDGs.
- The [report](#) that summarises the [Seven Keys](#) workshops implemented in Bulawayo, Burgos, Concepción, Izmir, Lilongwe, Lisbon, el Puerto de la Cruz, Saint-Louis, Yoff and Xi’an.
- CHN and partners at the COP 28: [Venice Call to Action on Culture and Climate Change](#).
- The Urban 20 White Paper on [“Championing 'Local' Culture and Economy”](#) (CLCE).
- MOOC: [Culture and Gender Equality](#).
- MOOC: [Culture and Climate Resilient Development](#).

# 1. ACTIVITIES

**KEY:**

**In bold, name of the activity**, as written in the annual programme agreed in January 2023.  
**In blue, IMPLEMENTATION** of the activity.

## Main activities of the Committee in 2023

(Organised according to UCLG’s strategic priorities)

### A. Implementation

#### A.1 UCLG Culture Summit

- To organise the 5th edition of the UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin.

The 5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit was held in Dublin (Republic of Ireland) from 28 November to 1 December 2023, hosted by the Dublin City Council and the Dublin City Council Culture Company. The Summit evidenced the Power of We, the Power of Local Voices: this is why the 5th UCLG Culture Summit was named “Culture. Future. Goal. We Act to Bring Local Visions to Global Tables”.

The four axes of the Summit were: (a) Capacity Building: Reinforcing the messages, building capacities and promoting peer-learning on the role that culture plays in sustainable development at the local level with concrete examples of policies, programmes and projects. (b) Showcasing city experiences: Putting our members on the spotlight showcasing extraordinary cultural rights initiatives that manage to expand freedoms and improve the lives of people. (c) Content co-creation: Promoting a cultural boost at the global tables now, discussing the components of a possible dedicated Culture Goal in the UN post-2030 Agenda, and preparing the UN Summit for the Future (2024). (d) Linking Culture with the UCLG Pact for the Future: Introducing the draft “Culture 21 PLUS”, which will be offered to UCLG members for “local tests” in 2024.

The Summit recognised the outstanding work of Dublin on the relationship between culture, sustainable development, trust and caring societies. Dublin is implementing a pioneering model of connecting people with culture through Accessibility, Wellbeing and Evidence, putting the people of Dublin at the centre of cultural policy.





## A.2. International Award UCLG - Mexico City – Culture 21

- To improve visibility of the Award, involving partners and networks in social media and promotion of good practices.
- To launch the sixth edition of the Award (November 2023).

In 2023, the Committee has widely disseminated the winners of the Award in 2022, that is:

- In the category "Cities / Local governments": Buenos Aires and Dublin.
- In the category "Individuals": Lourdes Arizpe and Daisy Fancourt.
- Special mentions of the Jury: Bandung, Busan, Izmir, Jinju, Ouagadougou and Teveragh Zeina.



In each one of the newsletters of the Committee (sent twice a month), two good practices are included.

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award was launched, on 29 November 2023, at the UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin. The deadline for final applications was set on 3 April 2024.



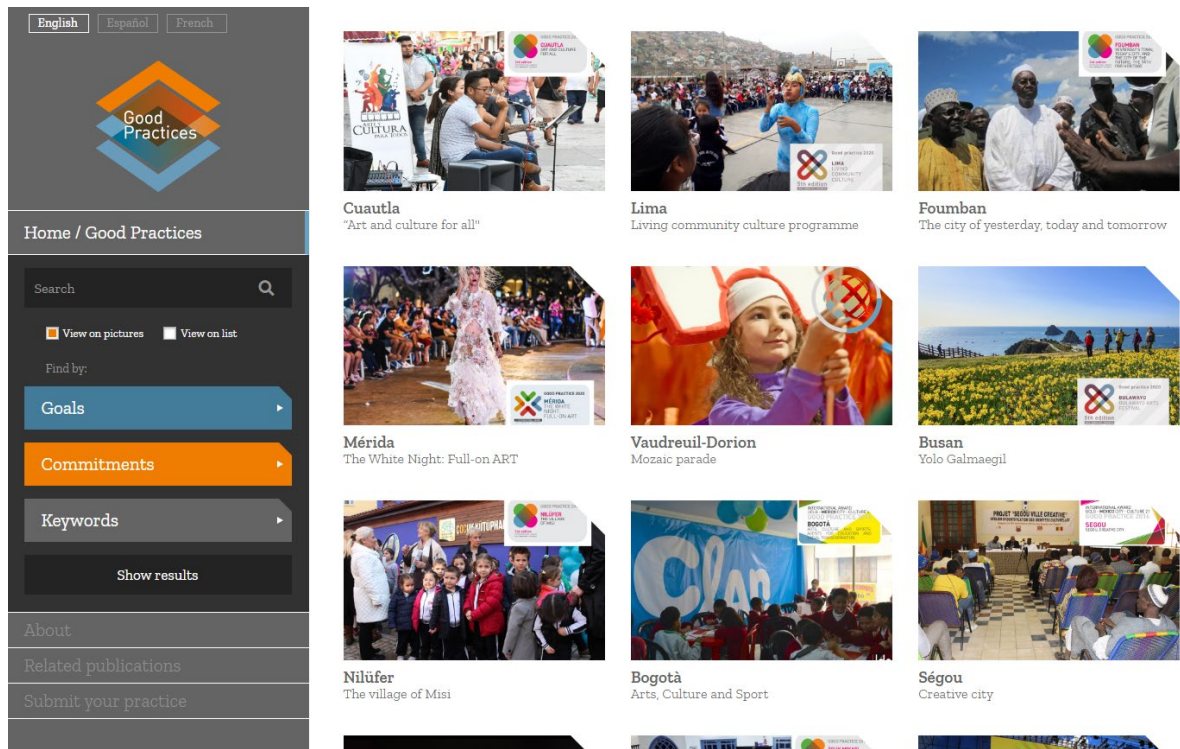
### A.3. Database of good practices – the OBS

- To consolidate the dedicated website "OBS" presenting our more than 300 good practices, searchable per 17 SDGs, the 9 Commitments of Culture 21 Actions and 105 keywords.
- To align the OBS with the #Local4ActionHub.
- To consolidate partnerships (example: British Council, Metropolis' USE platform,

and CHN), to explore a connection with UNESCO Creative Cities Network – UCCN and to analyse possible specific “sponsorship” for the database.

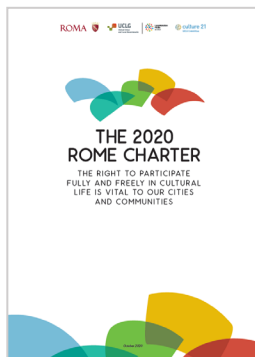
[The OBS](#) is a unique open database of good practices on “Culture in Sustainable Cities”. It is searchable per 17 SDGs, the 9 Commitments of Culture 21 Actions and 105 keywords.

On 31 December 2023, the OBS hosts 365 good practices from cities and local governments from across the world, available online in English, French and Spanish. In 2023, 78 new good practices have been added to the database; most of them generated in the frame of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award.



#### A.4. The Rome Charter

- To promote the Rome Charter and to use it as reference for the new possible frame document of the Committee (2024-25).



The [Rome Charter](#) was elaborated through a consultation process, and presented in a Hybrid International Conference held in Rome and online in October 2020. The Charter was later approved in November 2020 as an official UCLG document at the World Council, held in Guangzhou and online on 9-13 November 2020.

The Rome Charter has been used as one of the fundamental references in the first draft of Culture 21 PLUS, the new frame document of the Committee, to be approved in 2025.

## B. Advocacy

### B.1. UN 2030 Agenda, SDGs and New Urban Agenda

- To capitalise on the UNESCO Mondiacult+40 Conference, which took place in Mexico City on 28-30 September 2022 and promote a strong place for cities and culture in the post-2030 frameworks.
- To participate in the HLPF (July 2023), in several formats, including the dissemination of the "Culture in the VLRs" report published in 2021 and the "Culture Goal" document published in 2022 both by the #Culture2030Goal campaign.
- To be visible and active in global initiatives that relate culture and sustainable development



In 2023, the Committee on Culture contributed to the [UCLG Decalogue](#) "Towards cities, governments and a multilateral system that care for people, democracy, and our planet. High-impact coalitions, commitments, and calls to localise the 2030 Agenda". This document was released in the SDG Summit, organised by United Nations in September 2023. This document explains the 12 global coalitions or campaigns in which UCLG is involved. One of these campaigns is the "Culture2030 Goal" campaign, and the exact wording of the title is "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".

In the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), in July 2023, the UCLG Culture Committee participated at the side-event "[The missing goal? The place of culture in SDG implementation today and tomorrow](#)", organised by the #Culture2030Goal campaign.



In 2023, the global conversation on development evolved in a positive direction, with these high-level, cross-governmental declarations:

- First of all, on 23 August 2023, the leaders of the [BRICS group](#) committed to integrate culture into their national development policies as a driver and an enabler for the achievement of the SDGs.
- Second, on 9-10 September 2023, G20 heads of state and government released their [G20 Leaders Declaration](#) including a whole heading on culture as a



transformative driver of the SDGs. In particular, they called to advance the inclusion of culture as a standalone Goal in future discussions on a possible post-2030 development agenda.

- Third, all UN Member States, meeting at the [SDG Summit](#) on 18 September 2023, reaffirmed the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development, contributing to more effective and sustainable development policies and measures at all levels.
- Finally, the Ministers of Culture of the European Union adopted the [Caceres Declaration](#) on 26 September 2023, committing to work for culture to be recognised in and of itself as a new Sustainable Development Goal.

## **B.2. G-20 and U-20**

- To promote the presence of culture as a key dimension of sustainable development in the debates generated by these networks.

The Committee on Culture has been active in the writing of the Urban 20 White Paper on "[Championing 'Local' Culture and Economy](#)" (CLCE), led by the National Institute for Urban Affairs of India (NIUA).

## **B.3 Global civil-society networks**

- To support the #Culture2030Goal global campaign.
- Work with the Climate Heritage Network and its "Race to Resilience" process, reinforcing the presence in the COPs
- 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.
- To explore new partnerships: UNESCO 2005 Convention Group of Experts or Harvard's "cultural agents" initiative.

On the Culture 2030 Goal, see below.

In 2023, UCLG supported the "[Venice Call to Action on Culture and Climate Change](#)", released by the Climate Heritage Network (CHN) in September 2023. This Call was a contribution to the COP 28, held in Dubai. It is also important to note two important outcomes of the COP 28: the creation of a "[Group of Friends of Culture-Based Climate Action](#)" (announced by the United Arab Emirates and Brazil, as an international coalition of UN Member States aimed at building political momentum for the recognition of culture as a uniquely powerful force in climate change policy).

In 2023, UCLG has consolidated an operational connection with IFLA (MoU signed in November 2023, in the frame of the UCLG Culture Summit).

Also in 2023, the Committee on Culture was invited to the annual [Beyond the Obvious Conference](#), organised by Culture Action Europe, which took place in Elefsina (Greece), back to back the [Culture Next](#) annual meeting and the organisation of a [workshop on Culture and the SDGs](#).

## **B.4. Partnerships**

- To consolidate long-term partnerships with the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, the UNESCO and the EU.

In 2023, the UCLG Committee on Culture has worked with UNESCO on the following issues: (a) the activities related to the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities; (b) the statutory meetings of the 2005 Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and (c) the work of UNESCO in the preparation of Mondiacult 2022 (see above). In this frame, the UCLG Committee on Culture was invited to take part in these two high-level conferences:

- The Dialogue "Bringing Forward Cultural Rights: What's next after Mondiacult?", organised by UNESCO and the Swiss Commission, in April 2023.
- The conference "Towards More Sustainable Development - Multilateral organizations and cultural relations in the 2030 agenda and beyond", organised by the German ifa and the ICRRA - the International Cultural Relations Research Alliance.

In 2023, the UCLG Committee on culture worked with the European Union on the "Capitals of Culture Working Together" programme, which will connect the several initiatives (European, African, Iberoamerican) among them, and with the global conversation on culture in sustainable development.

The UCLG Committee on Culture is in close contact with the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights, Alexandra Xanthaki. In 2023, the Committee: (a) invited Alexandra Xanthaki to be the keynote speaker in the Summit held in Dublin (29 November 2023) and (b) has contributed to the reports on "Development and cultural rights: the international governance".



### **B.5. City networks**

- 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, or European Network of Cultural Centres ENCC and Ibercultura Viva, as well as INTACH, CDN and LAV. Also include UNCC and its annual meeting in September 2023 in Istanbul.

The Committee's interest in placing culture in any international debate on sustainable development, especially in relation to the SDGs, involves a close cooperation with networks:

- The partnership with Culture Action Europe (CAE) successfully continues on the Pilot Cities programme and within the #Culture2030Goal campaign.
- The partnerships with the Cultural Development Network (CDN) and Les Arts et la Ville (LAV) have MoUs, signed in 2019; the implementation is ongoing.
- Cooperation with INTACH is ongoing.
- Cooperation with World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF) and Eurocities is ongoing.

#### **B.6. Towards a Culture Goal**

- To continue the work to achieve a Culture Goal in the post-2030 Development Agenda, with the #Culture2030Goal campaign; possibly with a v2 of the Culture Goal proposal.
- To circulate and consolidate the "Culture Goal" proposal among partners, members, experts and all relevant possible contributors; possibly with national seminars in key cities.

The [global campaign #Culture2030Goal](#) is composed by the Arterial Network, Culture Action Europe (CAE), the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD), the International Music Council (IMC), the International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Federation of Libraries and Library Associations (IFLA) and the UCLG Committee on Culture. The campaign is the continuation of the #Culture2015goal campaign, active in 2013-2015. In 2021, the campaign had released a "Strategy document" which includes clear wording on the need of a Culture Goal in the SDGs and the need of a Global Culture Forum. In 2022 the campaign released a "[zero-draft](#)" of the Culture Goal in the frame of Mondiacult (Mexico City) on 27 September 2022.

In 2023:

- As a follow-up of Mondiacult 2022, and as a vehicle to push for cultural rights and the Culture Goal, the campaign published the Statement "[Commitment to an explicit Culture Goal in Mondiacult Declaration welcome: Now is the Time to Deliver](#)" and organised a webinar as the launch on 1 February 2023.
- Before the SDG Summit, and considering that the initial drafts (April and May 2023) overlooked the important role that culture plays in the delivery of the SDGs, the campaign advocated for the presence of culture in its final Statement, especially with the publication of "[The Missing Link: Still time to Correct the Failure of the SDG Summit Declaration to Mention Culture](#)", launched on 7 June 2023.
- After the [SDG Summit](#), the campaign celebrated the existence of a paragraph devoted to culture in the Policy Declaration of the SDG Summit ("We reaffirm the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development that provides people and communities with a strong sense of identity and social cohesion and contributes to more effective and sustainable development policies and measures at all levels"), and published the Statement "[Culture 2030 Goal Campaign Applauds Growing Government Recognition of the Role of Culture in Development](#)", published on 24 October 2023.

- The UCLG Culture Summit of Dublin Had “Culture. Future. Goal” as its main title, and devoted a full plenary session to discuss the contents and the approach (see above).
- Finally, the campaign began the preparation of the UN Summit for the Future (to be held in New York in September 2024) with a submission to the dedicated questionnaire prepared by the co-facilitators of the Summit (Germany and Namibia); this submission was publicly uploaded [here](#).



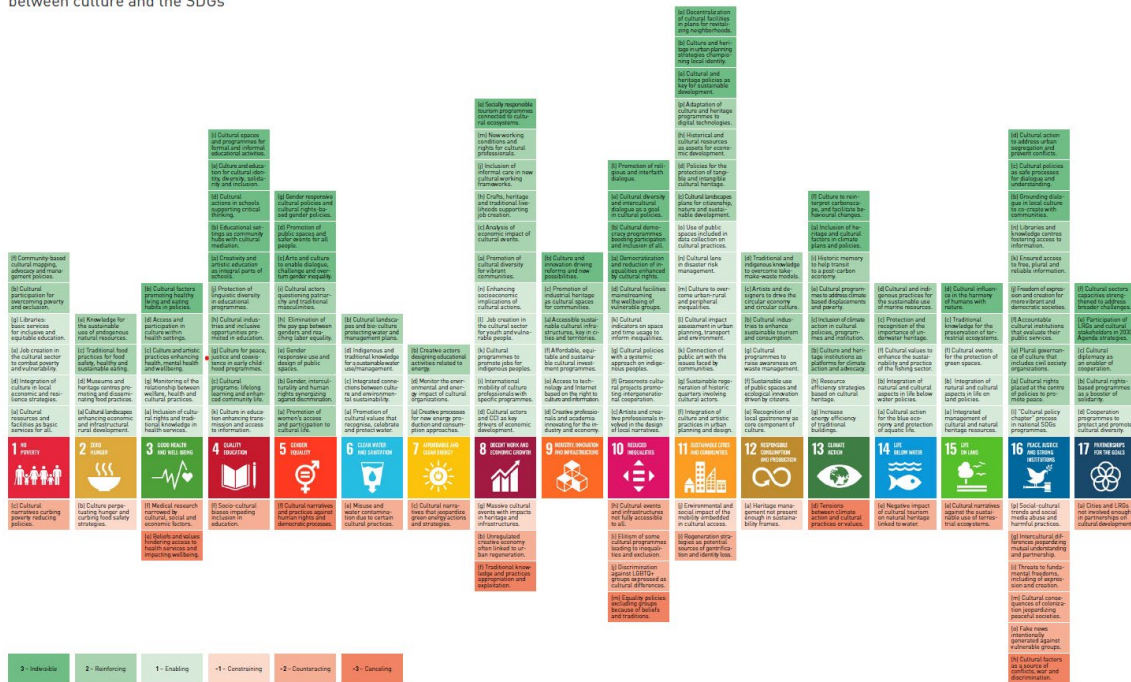
# C. Monitoring and follow-up

## C.1. Key narrative

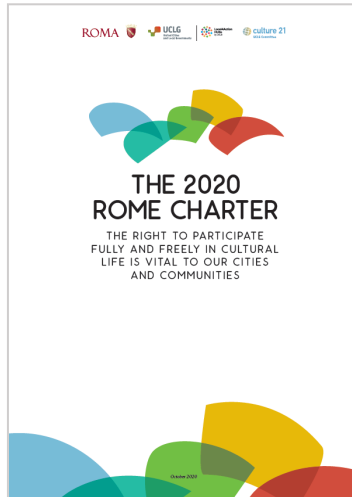
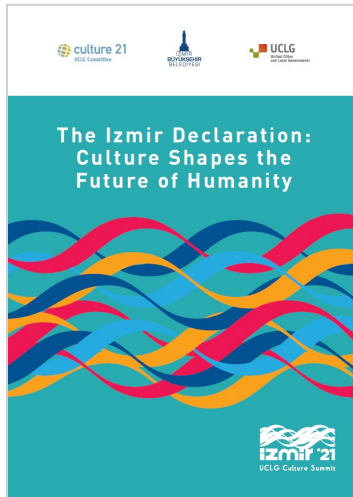
- To be self-critical and analyse weak / strong points of the narrative and methodologies.
- To disseminate the UCLG Pact for the Future published in October 2022.
- To elaborate key briefings / new research on issues related to culture and sustainable cities, for example (a) the relation culture-migration, (b) the cultural dimension of metropolitan policies, or (c) "Culture in the implementation of the SDGs: synergies (positive interactions) and trade-offs (negative interactions)"
- To explore the elaboration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the Report on Culture, cities and the COVID-19 pandemic
- To consider a new Cultural Rights-based frame document for 2024-25 ("launch 2023" in Mexico City).

In 2023, the Committee on Culture published the report "[A Cultural Boost in the implementation of the SDGs](#)" which includes synergies (positive interactions) and trade-offs (negative interactions) between cultural policies, programmes and actions and the achievement of the SDGs. The report was launched in the frame of the HLPF, in July 2023.

**Evidencing the potential of culture.**  
An analysis of the interactions between culture and the SDGs



During 2023, [the Izmir Declaration](#) (main outcome document of the 4<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit, which introduces the concept of "Circular Culture", with the harmonies with the past, the other, the nature and the change as its components) was widely promoted. The Committee also promoted [the Rome Charter on the Right to Participate Fully and Freely in Cultural Life](#), which had been approved in November 2020. Both documents guided the writing of the first draft of Culture 21 PLUS, and also informed the analysis in the report "[A Cultural Boost in the implementation of the SDGs](#)" (see above).



The new frame document of the Committee on culture will be approved in 2025, and has “[Culture 21 PLUS](#)” as working name. It will include a series of areas and actions that explore the connections between culture, cultural rights, care, sustainability and the transitions. A first draft was published in July 2023 and outlines 6 blocks, with 30 key areas and 200 actions. It is useful (1) to carry out a self-assessment of the state of play of the cultural policies of a territory; and (2) to design local cultural strategies based on cultural rights and sustainability.

The draft is being “tested”, in a process of experimentation, debate and shared cocreation with UCLG members, until its adoption in 2025. So far, these tests have taken place in:

- Jinju (Republic of Korea), July 2023
- Mexico City (Mexico), September 2023
- Lisbon (Portugal), November 2023
- Workshops at the UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin (28 November – 1 December 2023).



The document "[Culture in the SDGs: A Guide for Local Action](#)" is still seen as the most in-depth source of information on this issue.

The report "[Culture in the Implementation of the Agenda 2030](#)" is still the reference source for those in need of a realistic analysis of the consideration of culture by UN member states in the implementation of the SDGs. The #Culture2030Goal campaign published [a brief report analysing the place of culture in the VNRs in 2023](#) submitted to the HLPF by UN member states in 2023.

These documents illustrate the pioneer role undertaken by the UCLG Committee on Culture to provide evidences on the crucial role that culture plays in local development.

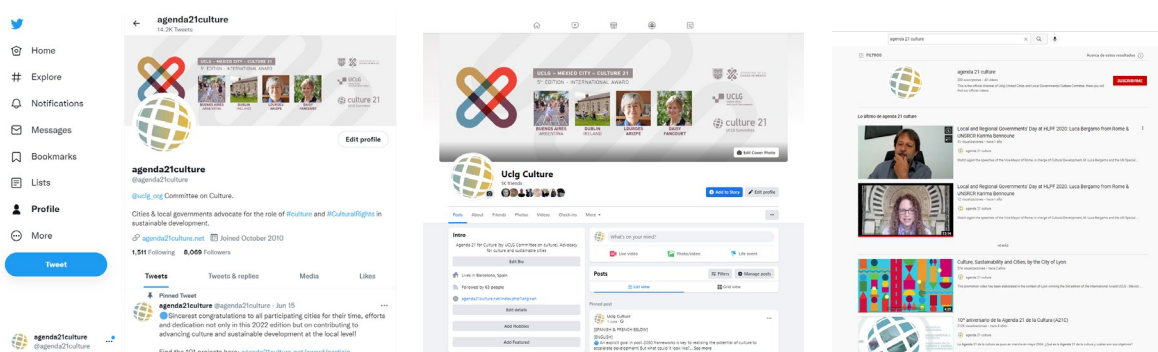
## C.2 Communication

- To improve the website as a true portal to knowledge on "culture in sustainable cities".
- To consolidate the existing work on social media (X, FB, Flickr, Instagram, Youtube) and explore presence in new social media (LinkedIn).
- To continue publishing the Info twice a month, and the biennial Culture 21 Review (4<sup>th</sup> edition 2020-2021, and 5<sup>th</sup> edition 2022-2023 to be published in late 2023).
- To align the communication programmes with the #Local4ActionHub
- To continue supporting UCLG major initiatives and activities towards our networks and audiences.

The [website](#) continues to be the key reference for "culture in sustainable cities". Within the main site, a dedicated web page is available for each one of the [Leading](#) and [Pilot Cities](#), for those participating in the [Culture 21 Lab](#) and the [Seven Keys](#) programmes, and for the cities that are very active with the activities of the Committee.

A [newsletter](#) is sent every two weeks to our partners, friends and all people interested in our work. In 2023, 24 newsletters were sent.

The interaction with some of the cities and partners is constant on [X](#), [Youtube](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).



## C.3. Governance

- To ensure the full involvement of all members of the Governance Team in the leadership of the Committee.
- To invite new cities to become active in the Committee.

The [20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UCLG Committee on Culture](#) was held on 1 December 2023, in Dublin. The meeting provided an opportunity to present and discuss the state of implementation of the Committee's work programme for 2023 and discussed the programme for 2024.

The Board members of the Committee received periodical update, approximately every 15 days, of the activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the Committee.

In all cities that are Board members of the Committee, we try to be in close relation with both relevant municipal teams for the development of this work programme, that is, the teams of International Relations, as well as the Department for Culture.

As of 1 December 2023, the governing body of the UCLG Committee on Culture is comprised of three co-presidents and six vice presidents. Co-Presidents: Mexico City, Lisbon and Buenos Aires. Vice Presidents: Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Porto Alegre and Rome.

#### **C.4. Budget**

- To consolidate a balanced budget.

The Committee has consolidated a balanced budget. The Committee's learning programmes that have taken place since 2015, as well as the five editions of the Award and the five editions of the Culture Summit, are part of the activities of the UCLG World Secretariat. The contributions of the Co-presidencies are fundamental, as well as those from the Leading and Pilot Cities programmes.

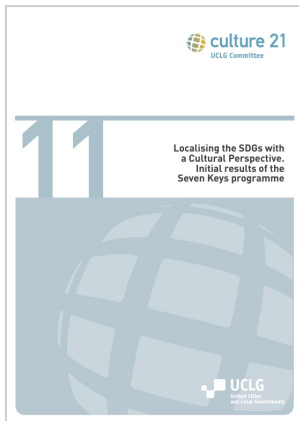


# D. Learning

## D.1. The Seven Keys

- To consolidate the capacity-building programme “Seven Keys” on culture in the SDGs, in close cooperation with UCLG Sections and UCLG partners.

The [Seven Keys](#) is a programme for cities and territories, prepared during 2019 and launched in 2020. It aims at the explicit integration of the cultural dimension in the localisation of the SDGs. The workshop relates municipal challenges with cultural assets, activities, and policies with the lenses of the [Guide for Local Action on Culture in the SDGs](#) and [the OBS](#). The participants discuss until reaching a manageable number of "Keys" (ideally, seven) that they can commit to localising the SDGs through culture policymaking. The most essential and concrete objective of the programme is that the seven keys are locally identified: each city / territory will have their own seven keys.



In 2023, the Committee published the report "[Localising the SDGs with a Cultural Perspective. Initial results of the Seven Keys programme](#)" that summarises the workshops implemented in Bulawayo, Burgos, Concepción, Izmir, Lilongwe, Lisbon, el Puerto de la Cruz, Saint-Louis, Yoff and Xi'an.



## D.2. Leading Cities

- To consolidate the Leading Cities as a prestigious label that recognises the work of the most advanced cities in specific areas, with contents adapted to each city.

The programme of [Leading Cities](#) is open for UCLG members that have the expertise and the experience to implement local actions that explicitly contribute to the global conversation on culture and sustainable development. Some of the highlights of our work in 2023 are the following:

- Support to Mexico City in raising local awareness on culture in the SDGs, including a Culture 21 PLUS workshop, in the frame of the long-term cultural policy of the city.
- Support to Malmö in the dissemination of cultural policies and Anti-racism as well as the elaboration of a good practice on "Forbidden Culture".
- Support to Barcelona in the research on "Cultural heritage and mediation", including a report on the "State of the art and new perspectives on cultural mediation Barcelona".
- Support to Lisbon in raising local awareness on culture in the SDGs, including a Culture 21 PLUS workshop.
- Support to Bilbao in its local cultural strategy.
- Support to Abitibi-Témiscamingue with the organisation of a peer-learning visit to Portugal and with the participation in the UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin.
- Support to Jinju in the launch of the Jinju Leading City programme.
- Support to Concepción in the elaboration and dissemination of a local Charter of Cultural Rights.
- Support to Esch-sur-Alzette with focus on governance and the post-ECOC long-term cultural policy.

### **D.3. Pilot Cities and Culture 21 LAB**

- To promote the Culture 21 Lab workshop as the entrance to local cultural policies and sustainable development.
- To evaluate and analyse the next steps of the Pilot Cities programme.

The programmes [Pilot Cities](#) and [Culture 21 Lab](#) are open for UCLG members that wish to begin the relation between cultural policies and sustainable development. Some of the highlights of our work in 2023 are the following:

- Ongoing contacts with Baie-Mahault and Leeds.
- Organisation of Culture 21 Lab in Santo André.
- Organisation of the final conference in Escazú.
- Organisation of the closing activity of the Jinju Pilot City programme.
- Organisation of a peer-learning visit to Elefsina, and preparation of the final steps and conference.

### **D.4. Online seminars**

- To participate in a wide number of online seminars, webinars, and meetings on the role of culture in people-centred sustainable development.

In 2023, the UCLG Committee on Culture was involved in around 20 different online seminars, webinars and meetings.

### **D.5. Peer-learning and capacity-building**

- To facilitate more peer-learning exchanges among cities and local and regional governments.
- To consolidate a group of experts that work with the learning and capacity-building programmes.
- To promote and disseminate the MOOCs designed in 2022 on culture and climate resilient development and culture and gender equality.
- To explore specific webinars / MOOCs on the Rome Charter and cultural rights, with the UCLG Learning team.
- 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.

- To widely promote the practical toolkit "Culture 21 Actions" and the self-assessment Guide.

In 2023, the Secretariat of the UCLG Culture Committee has analysed all the activities undertaken under the lens of peer-learning exchanges, in order to multiply the opportunities for online and physical discussion among members and partners.

In 2023, the Secretariat of the UCLG Committee on Culture together with the Learning Team of UCLG organised a webinar to promote the MOOCs among new cities and local or regional governments of the network.

#### **D.6. Seminars and events**

- To actively take part in initiatives organised by our members and partners, such as the Global Young Creatives Residencies of Jeju, or the Creative Mobilities seminar.

The [Climate Heritage Network](#) (CHN) is a mutual support network of city, state/provincial, regional and tribal culture, heritage and historic preservation offices (together with related NGOs, universities and other organisations). In 2023, the CHN organised several events, including the release of the [Venice Call to Action on Culture and Climate Change](#) and the creation of a "[Group of Friends of Culture-Based Climate Action](#)".

The [Global Youth Creative Residency \(GYCR\)](#) is a process and an event that relates culture to the sustainable development of Jeju. It is hosted by the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, organised by UNITAR CIFAL Jeju / Jeju International Training Center, and supported by the Committee on Culture of UCLG.



The 5th edition of the GYCR took place from 14 to 20 September 2023 in Jeju Island. Entitled "Rooted, Growing Island", the Residency brought together young cultural and artistic experts from around the world in Jeju to collectively explore the intersection between the arts and sustainability for the present and future.

The Iberoamerican Capital Cities Union (UCCI) is a municipal international organisation which purpose is to promote model of peaceful coexistence and solidarity-based development, as well as raise awareness for a better understanding and cooperation between the peoples of the Ibero-American sphere. In 2023, UCCI organised the Iberoamerican Seminar on Cultural and Creative Companies in Mexico City.

## **E. Strengthening the UCLG network**

### **E.1. Within UCLG**

- To actively disseminate and promote the UCLG Pact for the Future, for the People, for the Planet, for the governments.
- To actively participate in the annual Retreat, the Executive Bureau and the World Council, as well as to contribute to UCLG Policy Councils.
- To support all UCLG World Secretariat initiatives, including the Town Halls and the Policy Councils (especially the one on "Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy").
- 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+40.
- Support the Charter-Agenda on Human Rights in the City, whose renewal process is coordinated by the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Human Rights and Participatory Democracy.

In 2023, the UCLG Committee on Culture has widely supported and contributed to the unfolding of the UCLG Pact for the Future, for the People, for the Planet, for the governments.

The UCLG Committee on Culture supports UCLG's activities and teams (Statutory, Policy, Research, Learning and Communication) on a permanent basis. In the annual UCLG Retreat & Campus (Barcelona, February 2023) the representatives of Dublin City Council, and the team of the Secretariat, presented the work of the Committee, with emphasis in the UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin.

### **E.2. UCLG sections**

- To guarantee new areas of cooperation, with joint (advocacy and "on-the-ground") specific projects with all UCLG Sections.
- To hold periodical meetings with UCLG Sections (especially important for those sections with an active Culture Committee)

The UCLG Committee on Culture is in close contact with UCLG sections on the implementation of Culture 21 Actions in Africa, MEWA, Eurasia, Asia-Pacific and Europe; ideally specific programmes in partnership with each one of these UCLG Sections could be implemented (see above).

Moreover, specific contacts exist with UCLG-MEWA (on the activities of its Committee devoted to Culture and Tourism), with UCLG-ASPAC (on the organisation of Jeju's GYCR and on the activities of its Committee on Culture and Tourism) and UCLG-Africa (partnerships on the African Capital of Culture programme).

## 2. LEARNING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Following the adoption of [Culture 21 Actions](#) in 2015, the UCLG Committee on Culture has established a set of capacity-building and peer-learning programmes. In particular, a wide range of cities in different world regions are currently participating in the following programmes:

- **Pilot Cities** is a learning programme based on the 9 commitments and 100 actions included in Culture 21 Actions. Lasting for approximately 30 months, it includes local awareness-raising, international peer-review, capacity-building, pilot local projects, public seminars and elaboration of good practices. As of December 2023, the Pilot Cities programme has been developed in Baie Mahault, Chignahuapan, Concepción, Córdoba, Cuenca, Elefsina, Escazú, Esch-sur-Alzette, Gabrovo, Galway, Jinju, Konya, La Paz, Leeds, Mérida, Muriaé, Namur, Nova Gorica, Santa Fe, Sinaloa, Swansea, the island of Tenerife, Terrassa and Timisoara.
- The **Leading Cities** programme gives support to cities that have experience in the implementation of culture and sustainability, through measures in the areas of Cooperation and Learning (technical assistance, capacity-building, good practices), Leadership and Advocacy (participation in international events and processes) and Communication (website, social media). As of December 2023, the Leading Cities programme includes Abitibi-Temiscamingue, Barcelona, Bilbao, Belo Horizonte, Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Concepción, Esch-sur-Alzette, Izmir, Jeju, Lisbon, Malmö, Mexico City, Porto Alegre, Rome, Vaudreuil-Dorion and Washington DC.
- **Culture 21 Lab** is a short workshop on "Culture in Sustainable Cities". It enables cities to self-evaluate their work in this field. It provides key basic information on the place of culture in sustainable development, and it is a useful way to raise awareness of this field among local stakeholders. As of December 2023, the programme has been completed in Greater Dandenong, Kaunas, Makati, Santo André and Sant Cugat del Vallès.
- **The Seven Keys** is a workshop to integrate the cultural dimension in the localisation of the SDGs. Participants learn the cultural relevance of the SDGs, share knowledge and agree on a concrete list of achievable actions, the local "Seven Keys", that will contribute significantly to the localisation of the SDGs through culture policymaking. As of December 2023, the programme has been developed in Bulawayo, Burgos, Concepción, Izmir, Lilongwe, Lisbon, el Puerto de la Cruz, Saint-Louis, Xi'an and Yoff.

The Committee on Culture of UCLG also works with other cities, local and regional governments and the UCLG regional sections in order to tailor specific capacity-building and peer-learning programmes to their needs.

Detailed information on these programmes is available on our website and upon request.

## **3. AGENDA in 2023**

**20-24 February 2023, Barcelona.**

UCLG Annual Retreat & Campus

**3-5 May 2023, Stockholm.**

IFACCA Global Summit of Arts and Culture

**25-26 May 2023, Rabat**

Forum of Mayors, African Capital of Culture

**7-9 June 2023, Elefsina.**

Culture Action Europe Beyond the Obvious Conference

**12-15 June 2023, Brussels.**

UCLG Executive Bureau and Metropolis Congress

**27-30 June 2023, Bogotá.**

UCLG Cities for Peace

**10-20 July 2023, New York.**

HLPF – High Level Political Forum

**18-21 September 2023, New York.**

United Nations SDG Summit

**25-27 October, Sao Paulo.**

WCCF Congress

**28-30 October, Konya**

UCLG World Council

**6-17 November 2022, United Arab Emirates.**

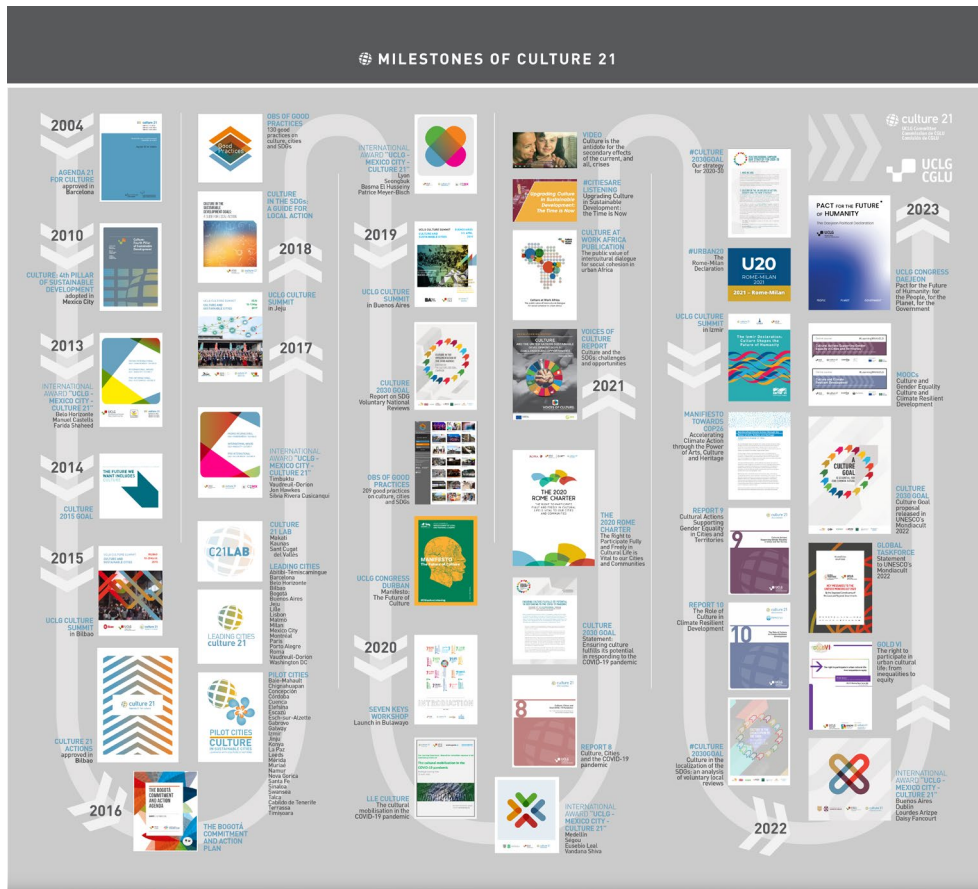
UN Climate Change Conference – COP28

**28 November – 1 December 2023, Dublin.**

5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit

**A list of all events organised by the UCLG Committee on Culture since 2004 is available in [this page](#).**

# 4. CULTURE IN UCLG: BACKGROUND



The mission of the world association of [United Cities and Local Governments – UCLG](#) is to be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through **cooperation between local governments**, and within the wider international community.

UCLG has played an important role since 2004 in promoting the role of culture in sustainable cities:

- > In 2004, UCLG adopted the [Agenda 21 for culture](#), a declaration with 67 articles that describes the relationship between local cultural policies and human rights, governance, sustainable development, participatory democracy and peace. In 2015, UCLG approved [Culture 21 Actions](#), a toolkit with 9 Commitments and 100 Actions: it is the most complete and practical document on the relation between culture and sustainable development in cities and allows self-evaluation, policy innovation and peer-learning.
- > In 2010, the Executive Bureau of UCLG approved the document [“Culture: Fourth Pillar of Sustainable Development”](#) in its World Congress held in Mexico City. This document engages local governments to explicitly include culture in a development model that ‘meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.
- > Since March 2013, UCLG’s role as facilitator of the [Global Taskforce](#) has included Culture in local and regional governments’ inputs to the UN 2030 Agenda on

Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda. The [Statement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments](#) resulting from this work, adopted in Quito in October 2016, establishes a commitment to 'Integrate culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development and take action to foster heritage, creativity, diversity and peaceful co-existence'. In 2022, the GTF adopted a [Statement](#) calling UNESCO's Mondiacult global conference on cultural policies to call for a dedicated Culture Goal in post-2030 global development agendas.

- > The document "[Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals. A Guide for Local Action](#)", published by UCLG in 2018, presents information on each one of the 17 Goals, helps to understand why cultural issues are important and provides relevant examples.
- > The [OBS](#). The Committee has developed a database containing almost 300 good practices on culture and sustainable development. The tool allows searches according to 3 criteria: the SDG, the Commitments of Culture 21 Actions, and keywords.
- > The [#Culture2030Goal campaign](#) includes global cultural networks. It advocates for a stronger place for culture throughout the current global development agenda (the UN 2030 Agenda), and for the adoption of culture as a stand-alone goal in the post-2030 development agenda. In 2022, the campaign launched a concrete proposal for the Goal.
- > The 6<sup>th</sup> UCLG World Congress, held in Durban in November 2019, adopted the manifesto "[The Future of Culture](#)". It defends a fair cultural globalisation, based on the full exercise of cultural rights by peoples, communities, and individuals. It promotes cultural policies at a local, national and global scale to be explicit and operational.
- > The [UCLG Presidency Decalogue for the COVID-19 aftermath](#), launched on 22 April 2020, identifies culture as one of the key priorities to guide the advocacy of UCLG in the coming years, as an "antidote for the secondary effects" of the crisis.
- > The [2020 Rome Charter](#) was adopted by the UCLG World Council in November 2020 as a contribution to the global conversation on culture and development. The Charter describes the right to participate "fully and freely" in cultural life as vital to cities and communities, and promotes the cultural capabilities: Discover, Create, Share, Enjoy and Protect.
- > The [Culture Goal proposal](#) was launched by the #Culture2030Goal campaign in Mondiacult, UNESCO's global conference on cultural policies, held in Mexico City in September 2022. The necessity of a Culture Goal for post-2030 sustainable development agendas was recognised and included in the Mondiacult final declaration.
- > The [UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity: for the People, for the Planet, for the Government](#), was adopted by the UCLG World Congress celebrated in October 2022 in Daejeon (Republic of Korea), as a key contribution towards the UN SDG Summit, held in 2023, and the UN Summit for the Future to be held in 2024. The Pact embeds local and regional governments visions and aspirations and serve as the strategic vision for the World Organization in the coming years. It promotes a sustainable local development based on communities and cultural rights, and advocates for cultural policies at a local, national and global scale to be explicit and operational.





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