



izmir '21

UCLG Culture Summit

SUMMIT: 9-11 SEPTEMBER 2021

CULTURE: SHAPING THE FUTURE

FINAL REPORT



CREDITS

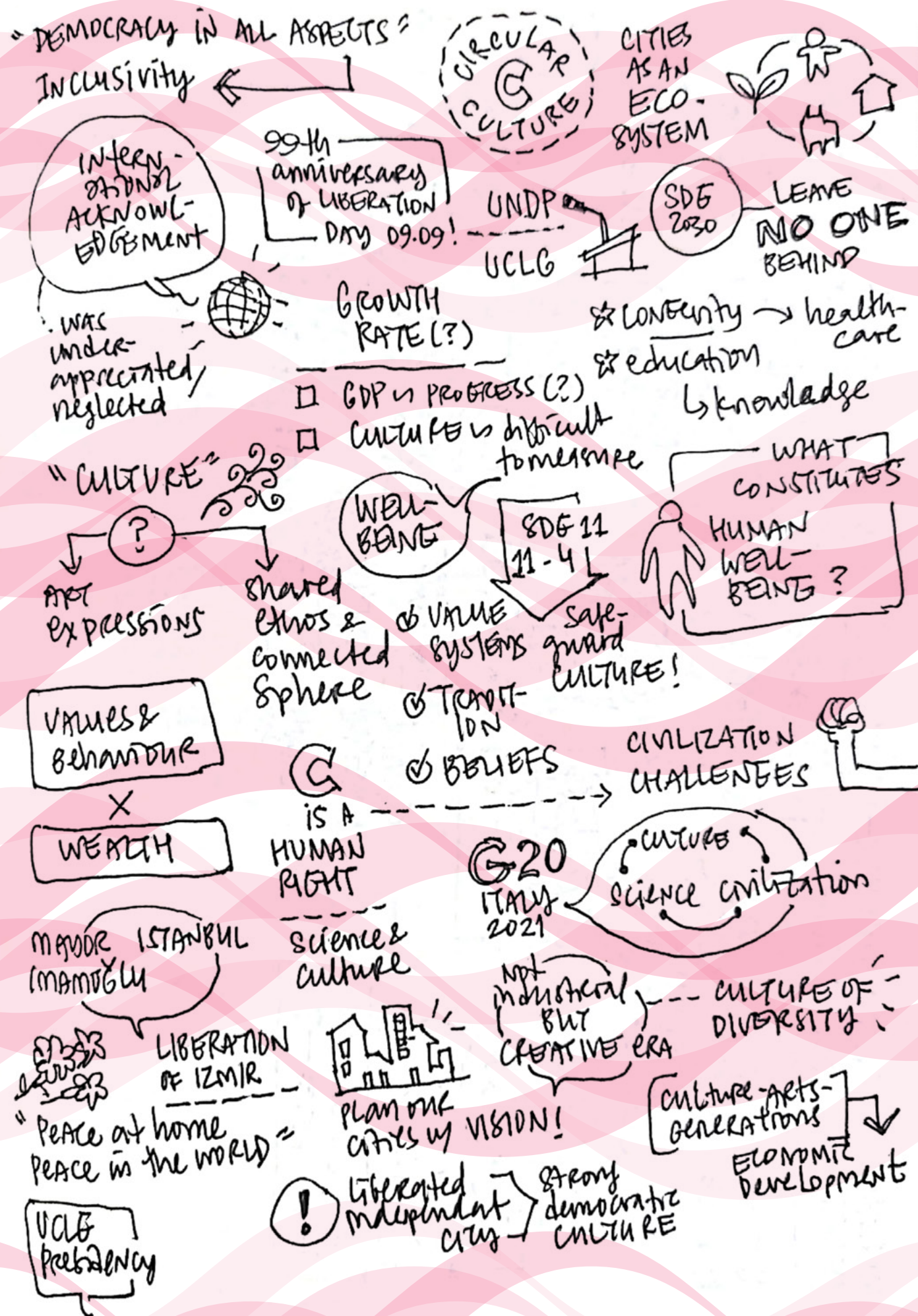
THE TEAMS OF THE SUMMIT

The Presidential Team of UCLG: Mohamed Boudra (President), with Thembisile Nkadimeng (Mayor of Polokwane and President of SALGA), Uğur İbrahim Altay (Mayor of Konya), Johnny Araya (Mayor of San José), Anne Hidalgo (Mayor of Paris), Li Mingyuan (Mayor of Xi'an), and Jan Van Zanen (Mayor of The Hague), as Co-presidents, as well as Ilсур Metshin (Mayor of Kazan and President of the United Nations Advisory Committee for Local Authorities – UNACLA), Ada Colau (Mayor of Barcelona and Special Envoy of the Presidency to the United Nations) and Carlos Martínez (Mayor of Soria and Envoy of the Presidency for the New Urban Agenda).

The Presidential Team of UCLG Culture Committee: The Co-Presidents Catarina Vaz-Pinto (Deputy Mayor of Lisbon), José Alfonso Suárez del Real y Aguilera (Chief of Mayor's Office) and Vannesa Bohórquez (Councillor for Culture) of Mexico City, and Enrique Avogadro (Minister for Culture, City of Buenos Aires), as well as the Vice-presidents WON Hee-ryong (Governor of the Special Self-Governing Province of Jeju), Jordi Martí (Deputy Mayor of Barcelona), Gonzalo Olabarria (Councillor for Culture, Bilbao), Nicolás Montero (Councillor for Culture, Bogotá), Gunter Axt (Councillor for Culture, Porto Alegre), and Lorenza Fruci (Councillor for Culture, Rome).

The UCLG World Secretariat Team: Emilia Saiz (Secretary General), Serge Allou, Jose Alvarez, Saul Baldeh, Pere Ballester, Edgardo Bilsky, Natalia Bonilla, Jean Baptiste Buffet, Anna Calvete, Valeria Carrión, Adrià Duarte, Ainara Fernández, Fátima Fernández, Pablo Fernández, Amanda Fléty, Claudia García, Sara Hoeflich, Paloma Labbé, Rodrigo Messias, Prachi Metawala, Carole Morillon, Carolina Osorio, Firdaous Oussidhoum, Mathilde Penard, Massimo Perrino, Federico Poitier, Jaume Puigpinós, María Alejandra Rico, Cécile Roth, Alessandra Rutigliano, Antònia Sabartés, Alejandra Salas, Fátima Santiago, Fernando Santomauro, Eli Silva, Mariola Szek, Juan Carlos Uribe and Rosa Vroom, as well as the Culture team mentioned below.

The team of UCLG-MEWA: Mohamed Saadieh (President), Mehmet Duman (Secretary General), Salim Korkmaz (General Coordinator), Melis Şahin (Coordinator of Committees and Projects Department), Nidai Güngördü (Mayor of Kyrenia, President of Culture and Tourism Committee), Osman Çorumlu (Project Officer, Committee on Culture and Tourism) and the whole UCLG-MEWA team, who provided support.



CREDITS

THE TEAMS OF THE SUMMIT

Executive Board of the UCLG Culture Summit Izmir: M. Tunç Soyer (Mayor of Izmir and Head of the Executive Board), Buğra Gökçe (General Secretary of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality), Ertuğrul Tugay (Izmir Metropolitan Municipality Deputy General Secretary, Eser Atak (Izmir Metropolitan Municipality Deputy General Secretary), Onur Eryüce (Advisor of the Mayor), Güven Eken (Advisor of the Mayor), Serenç İnel (General Director of TARKEM), Canan Karaosmanoğlu Alıcı (General Director of IZFAS), Serhan Ada (Associate Professor, Head of Arts and Cultural Management Department and Director of the Cultural Policy and Management Research Center at the İstanbul Bilgi University), Hatice Gökçe Başkaya, Kadir Efe Oruç, Funda Erkal Öztürk and Prof. Dr. Suat Çağlayan.

Advisory Board of the UCLG Culture Summit Izmir: Prof. Dr. Suat Çağlayan (Head of the Advisory Board), Prof. Dr. Fikret Türkmen, Ahmet Güzelyağdöken, Mehmet Yavuz, Valerio Giorgio, Sunay Akın, Gökçen Kaya, Görgün Taner, Murat Abbas, Ömer Faruk Sorak, Yücel Erten, Macit Şaşzade, Ege Yıldırım, Ali Nail Kubalı, Zeliha Toprak, Murat Karaçanta, Deniz Sipahi, Filiz Eczacıbaşı Sarper, Hamdi Akatay and Şamil Sinan An.

Izmir Metropolitan Municipality – Directorate of Foreign Relations: Hatice Gökçe Başkaya (Head), Semin Solak, Erhan Ayaz, Pinar Okutan, Şelale Dalgan Bayır, Mehtap Yıldız, Müge Akçipek, Buse Umdü, Heval Zeynep Akyol, Ozan Sümerkan, Sami Serkan Nebioğlu, İrem Balçioğlu, Cansu Pelin Aksakoğlu, Ezgi Yazıcı, Alper Karagağ, Dilan İrençin, Gökçe Pişkin Önal and Erdem Özbaran.

Izmir Metropolitan Municipality – Directorate of Mediterranean Academy: Ayşegül Sabutkay, Ece Aytekin Bükür, Şervan Alışen, Mustafa Demiröz, Melek Damir, Kadriye Türk and Bahar Arat Yama.

Izmir Metropolitan Municipality – Department of Culture and Arts: Kadir Efe Oruç (Head), Arzu Utaş, Tayfun A. İçsel, Onur Eryeşil, Fulden Bak and Emel Akçay.

Izmir Metropolitan Municipality – Department of City History and Publicity: Funda Erkal Öztürk (Head).

Izmir Metropolitan Municipality – Directorate of Tourism: Melih Kayacık, Yasemin Atabay, Gülümcan Örs, Sinem Soygöl, Kardelen Özbay, Merve Gülcü, Furkan Erhat, Hüdanur Gün, Aydin Sevin Başçıftçi and Ömer Faruk Kayıran.

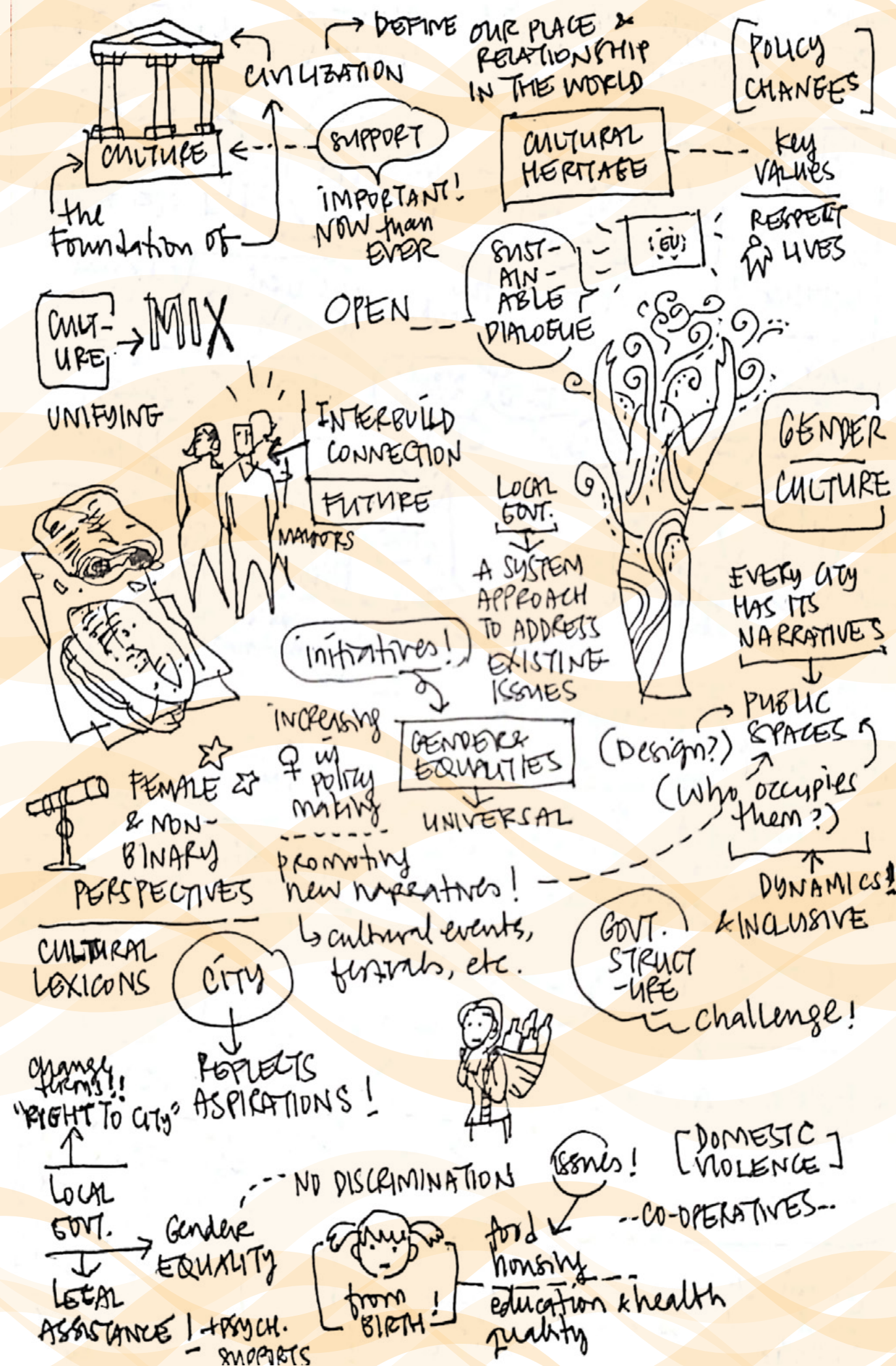
Izmir Metropolitan Municipality – Directorate of Historical Sites and Cultural Assets: Gülben Özsoy, Çağlayan Deniz Kaplan, Özden Coşkun Öner, Barış Aylaz, Kenan Doğan, Serdar Ona, Tuna Sinan Derbentoğulları, Murat Mazeci, Mehmet Yasa, Mustafa Kuyudeşen, Berkan Açarlar, Mustafa Meraklı, Ali Osman Kurtuluş, Cansu Pelin İşbilen Gençkal, Merve Çalışkan, Emine Gonca Özen, Gizem Akyıldız, Tutku Aytürk, Nihal Berivan İlter, Çağır Ergin, Hatice Nur Özkan, Taylan Kızıldağ, Arzu İnanç, Ayşegül Güngören, Sibel Yücel, Serkan Doldur, Ozan Girgin, Ceylan Engüzel, Bülent Yıldız, Yusuf Erdel and Süleyman Akpınar.

IZFAS (Fair Company of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality): Uğur Ege Ayhan, Buse Cirit, Merve Kıyak, Fikriye Yeltetik, Zariye Kalindamar, Şebnem Şendil, Emre Şimşek, Uğur Çördükler, Emrah Erözel, Ali Kol, Faruk Özsönmez and Samet Öztürk.

UNIBEL (Software Company of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality): Bugra Çalim, Elif Kapar Bayhan, and Süheyla Şen Sever.

Izmir Cultural Platform: Hale Eryılmaz, Ali Kemal Ertem, Gökçe Süvari and Sarp Keskiner.

Communication Advisors: Gülfem Saydan Sanver, Günter Soydanbay and Onur Yazıcıoğlu.



CREDITS

THE REPORT

Rapporteurs

José Álvarez, Jordi Baltà, Sara Hoeflich, Ainara Fernández, Fátima Fernández, Marta Llobet, Firdaous Oussidhoum, Massimo Perrino, Maria Alejandra Rico, Agnès Ruiz, Fernando Santamauro, Juan Carlos Uribe and Sarah Vieux.

The team of UCLG Culture Committee

Jordi Pascual, Sarah Vieux, Marta Llobet and Agnès Ruiz.

Drawings

Tita Larasati is the author of the drawings in pages 2, 4, 6, 35, 60, 67. We are grateful for her generosity in allowing us to illustrate this report.

PHOTO CREDITS

© United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
© Izmir Metropolitan Municipality

CULTURE SHAPES THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

INTRODUCTION

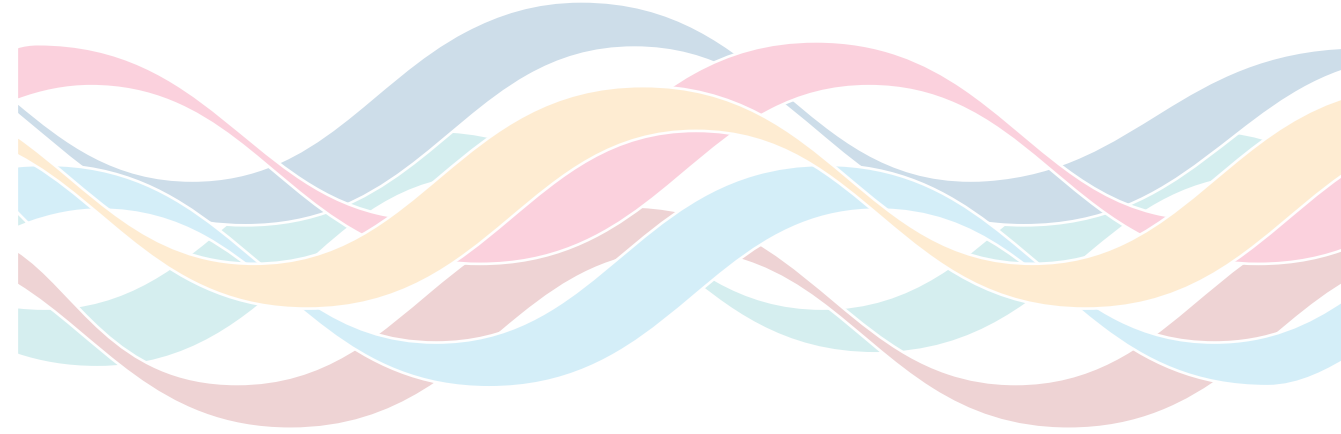
From the 9th to the 11th of September of 2021, the city of Izmir held the **4th UCLG Culture Summit** at the Kültürpark, one of the main landmarks of the city. The UCLG Culture Summit is the main meeting point at global level of cities, local governments and other stakeholders that are committed to the effective implementation of policies and programmes on culture and sustainability. This Culture Summit in Izmir was built on the results of the previous three editions, held in the City of **Bilbao** (Basque Country, Spain, March 2015), the **Jeju** Special Self-Governing Province (Jeju-do, Republic of Korea, May 2017), and the Autonomous City of **Buenos Aires** (Argentina, April 2019). However, for the first time, the Summit was also inevitably and significantly influenced by the global pandemic of COVID-19, especially in terms of sanitary measures and travelling restrictions. Therefore, the format of the Summit had to be reinvented into becoming a hybrid event, enabling physical participation for those who could travel to Izmir, and receiving virtually the people that could not be there physically but still wanted to take part in the Summit. In other words, COVID-19 filled the situation with uncertainty but after all, and as a result a combination of technological tools to virtually connect from any corner of the world and the eagerness to gather and exchange knowledge, practices and experiences, culture prevailed.

The format of the Summit had to be reinvented into becoming a hybrid event.

The Summit considers the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, which have made evident the profound need for culture that cities and communities have: people have turned to culture to reinforce their sense of belonging in communities and cities, inventing new forms of participation, recognising what brings us together and creating meaning and solidarity. The pandemic has also shown that cultural actors need better working conditions, which were already precarious and difficult in the old normality. Life after pandemic will have to place culture at the centre of development. The time is now to think beyond the present circumstances, to be brave enough to imagine different, better and more sustainable ways to live together. The place is Izmir, a Mediterranean metropolis that is a wonderful crossroad of peoples, knowledges and dreams.

The Summit showed that cities are leading the way in recognising the absolute necessity of cultural factors as a key dimension of sustainable development. **This is why the fourth UCLG Culture Summit was called “Culture: Shaping the Future”.**





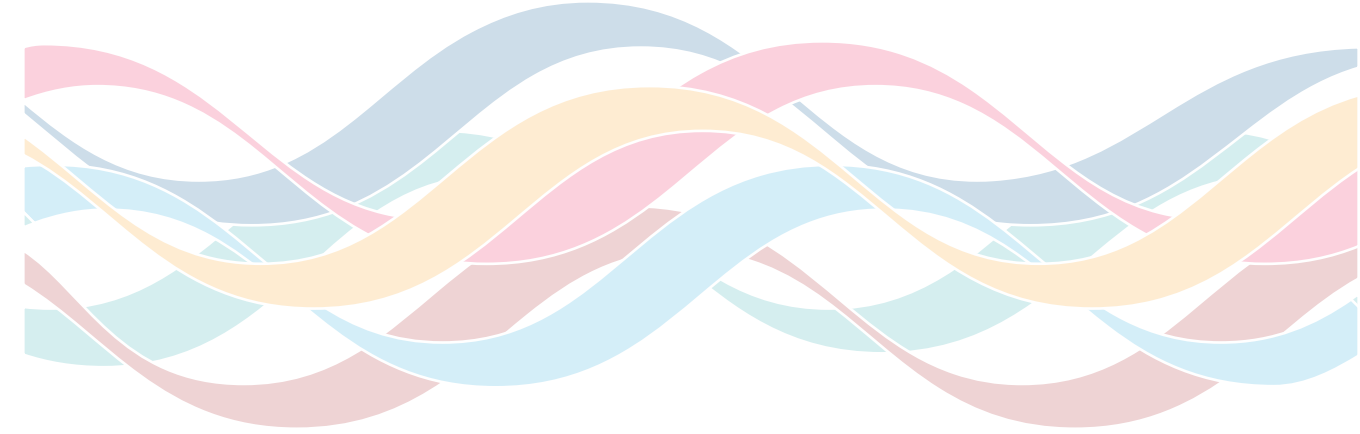
The Summit had two main goals. The first was to reinforce the messages about the role that culture plays in sustainable development at the local level, with concrete examples of policies, programmes and projects. In all cities, in the whole world, there are extraordinary initiatives that manage to expand freedoms and improve the lives of people through cultural processes, whether in the field of heritage, creativity or diversity. Also, **the COVID-19 pandemic has made more evident the importance that those initiatives play in sustainable development**, and reinforces the claims of our toolkit Culture 21 Actions (approved in 2015) to fully integrate cultural factors into local sustainable development. On the other hand, the Summit aimed to give visibility to international debates on culture, cities and sustainable development, which are shaped by the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs (we are already in the Decade of Action), the New Urban Agenda (which celebrates its 5th anniversary in 2021) and the UCLG acquis on the place of culture in local development (with the **Bogotá Action Plan** and the **Durban Political Declaration**), reinforced in 2020 by the **Presidential Decalogue for the COVID-19 aftermath** and the announcement of a new **UCLG “Pact for the Future of Humanity**: for People, for the Planet, for the Government”, to be shaped during 2021 and 2022, and to be powered by solidarity, equality, culture, and accountable institutions that leave no one and no place behind.

The 4th UCLG Culture Summit successfully came to an end with the release of the Izmir Declaration entitled “Culture shapes the Future of Humanity”.

The Summit is the place to share and discuss. We brought all stakeholders in the room, not only those that have already worked together, but also new voices and champions to ensure a future for the younger generations. A world that leaves no one and no place behind is impossible without culture. The Summit is a forum for knowledge-sharing, peer-learning and networking among cities and local governments. Over three days, the Summit received almost 400 physical participants from all world regions, and over 600 attended the Summit online. The Summit combined Plenary and Parallel sessions, as well as Workshops and Hub Talks aimed at favouring the proximity with the attendees so as to encourage their participation, networking spaces, and finally, cultural routes for the physical participants to discover the extraordinary cultural heritage of Izmir.

The 4th UCLG Culture Summit successfully came to an end with the release of the Izmir Declaration entitled **“Culture shapes the Future of Humanity”**, which is not only the main outcome of the very important debates and strong messages that were shared and sent all along the three days of the Summit, but also a substantial contribution to the UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity: for People, for the Planet, for the Government, which is to be adopted in the second half of 2022, and will be underpinned by the values of culture, care and solidarity.

This document presents a summary of the discussions and sessions held during the 4th UCLG Culture Summit.





THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER



PARALLEL SESSION 1.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

In 2015, the role of culture and heritage in sustainable development was recognised by the United Nations in the Agenda 2030 and its SDGs, namely in target 11.4. Over the last years, cities and local governments have developed a wealth of experiences in the preservation and presentation of cultural heritage (including natural, tangible and intangible heritage), and its integration in sustainable development strategies. But the COVID-19 pandemic, the crisis and the climate emergency are testing resilience at a global scale and are causing



significant negative impacts to activities related to heritage. This session reflected on the challenges raised in the post-COVID era and provided opportunities for future development and collaboration among local and regional governments and cultural stakeholders.

Mehmet Duman, **UCLG-MEWA** Secretary General, inaugurated the first day of the 4th Culture Summit and celebrated that, as a result of the COVID precautions and vaccination, Izmir could welcome both physical and online participants. Duman subsequently highlighted that culture and heritage do not belong to the past, but are a living active concept, which management needs to be multi-layered and may be used to achieve a sustainable future.

Zeynep Gül Ünal, Vice President of **ICOMOS International**, raised the issue of the disasters and conflicts happening around the world, also recalling that some of them are forcing to displace a great number of people. Ünal also stated that cultural heritage is an evidence of resilience due to the preservation of traditional architecture, rituals, ancient teachings, among others, in harmony with all conditions of nature, thus forming a collective memory of our past.

Recep Gürkan, Mayor of **Edirne Municipality**, pointed out that it is crucial to protect and value intangible cultural heritage and assets, since these are also an important part of cultural heritage. **Evgenia Lodvigova**, Deputy Mayor of Kazan, mentioned the need to revitalise cultural areas and underlined the importance of not only preserving culture and heritage, but also promoting their use for all. **Navin Piplani**, President of **ICOMOS India** and director of **INTACH**, stressed that cities need to promote and preserve cultural heritage and the cultural dimension of development. **Carles Sanchez**, director of the candidacy of the Seu d'Ègara, in





Terrassa (one of the Pilot Cities of Agenda 21 for Culture), as World Heritage, detailed how the “Seu d’Ègara” transformed the city’s cultural reality and promoted the development of education, social cohesion and exchange. Speaking on behalf of the Department of Culture of **Malmö**, **Rena Baledi** highlighted the contribution of an antiracist monument to the debate and the memory of racialised victims, while creating a common place in the city. **Zhasur Azimov**, Vice-mayor of Osh, underlined the importance to protect cultural heritage sites to develop the identity of communities and connect different facets of society. Finally, **Marc Villarubias**, Director of Culture Objectif 18, offered a new perspective by putting forward the consideration of digitalisation and big data to take a bit further the concept of cultural heritage.

The session finalised with the signature of the MoU between UCLG and ICOMOS.



PARALLEL SESSION 1.2 CULTURE IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS): IMPLEMENTING THE SEVEN KEYS

The **Seven Keys** is the newest peer-learning and capacity building programme that UCLG offers to its members. The programme helps cities and local and regional governments all around the world to integrate the cultural dimension in the localisation of the SDGs. This session brought together cities and experts that participated in the programme, who presented and discussed their own seven keys and explained their main outcomes.

The chair of this session was the Director and Founder of **Creative City South**, **Zayd Minty**, expert on Culture and Sustainable Cities of the UCLG Culture Committee, who advocated that the Seven Keys workshop creates a baseline for evidence-based mapping and planning, helps to develop visionary approaches to territorial realities, and opens doors towards more inclusive and sustainable cities.



Antoine Guibert, also expert on Culture and Sustainable Cities of the UCLG Culture Committee, explained that the Seven Keys programme is able to relate, in a simple and very effective way, municipal challenges with cultural assets, activities and policies under the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. He pointed out that an explicit cultural policy is essential for SDGs implementation and that the Seven keys is a very practical and useful option.

An explicit cultural policy is essential for SDGs implementation.

The Mayor of **Concepción**, **Álvaro Ortiz**, argued that the city of Concepción identifies as key the promotion of an open city, the environment, health, human rights and youth. **Catarina Vaz-Pinto**, Deputy Mayor of **Lisbon**, highlighted on her turn that that co-creation is key main concern in developing the link between cultural policies and SDGs implementation in the city. **Dr. Wang Chenjia**, Dean of the Cross-cultural Research Institute of Northwest University in Xi'an, projected a future built on citizen trust, cultural diversity, learning from others and with a common agenda to promote culture and SDGs. **Marco Antonio González-Mesa**, Mayor of **Puerto de la Cruz**, outlined participation, environment, circular tourism, cultural connection and common vision as sustainable development opportunities offered through the Seven Keys. To conclude the session, **Serhan Ada**, Associate Professor, Head of Arts and Cultural Management Department and Director of the Cultural Policy and Management Research Centre at the Istanbul Bilgi University, reported that the process in Izmir included the promotion of participation, awareness raising on the SDGs and cultural links, as well as co-creation of future programmes and projects.



THE HUB TALKS CULTURE AND PARTICIPATORY POLICIES

The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply impacted participation in cultural life. Although new cultural expressions and means for exchange have emerged, inequalities have been exacerbated, preventing the full and free exercise of cultural rights to vulnerable groups and minorities. This Hub Talk reflected on the role of local and regional governments, alongside cultural organisations, networks and actors, to promote stronger participatory policies in future sustainable societies.

Catherine Cullen, Special Adviser of the UCLG Culture Committee, was the facilitator for this first Hub Talk of the Summit. She stated that if citizens are taken on board, sustainable





development has a chance of becoming possible; otherwise, once again it will be topped down, semi-mandatory and an impossible task.

Meta Štular, from the Rog Centre Creative Hub in Ljubljana, shared the experience in the new Rog Centre Creative Hub, and described the creation of a pilot project aimed at prototyping the future users and ways of managing, as well as the future partnerships of the Rog Centre. Also, speaking on behalf of Çanakkale 2010, **Deniz Erbaş** explained that the project was a one year long participatory cultural programme facilitated by the local government, where civil society actors provided participatory tools for the involvement of broader audiences.



PARALLEL SESSION 2.1 THE CULTURAL POWER OF UCLG SECTIONS

UCLG is a world organisation composed of regional sections covering diverse geographical areas, with policy, programming and administrative roles. This session, hosted by UCLG MEWA, invited representatives from UCLG-Africa, UCLG-Eurasia and UCLG-ASPAC to present an overview of the cultural programmes and activities being developed, and their challenges for the post-COVID Era. However, the secretariat of UCLG-ASPAC could not be present due to the celebration of their own regional Congress. This session became an occasion to align the work of the sections, the UCLG Culture Committee and the UCLG Policy Councils, as well as to exchange on good practices and create opportunities for further collaboration.



The facilitator of the session, **Salim Korkmaz**, General Coordinator of **UCLG MEWA**, opened the discussion stating that culture transcends borders, being a global asset, a co-created product of the collective effort of the humanity that, at the same time, is also local and is shaped by local realities, experiences and identities.

Mustapha Moufid, Director of the Culture, Migration, Peace and Security Task Force of **UCLG-Africa**, highlighted the **African Capital of Culture** as a way to reflect African culture and offer diverse cultural events. **Rassikh Sagitov**, Secretary General of **UCLG-Eurasia**, underlined the importance of cultural identity, recognisability, and tourism as a result of cultural heritage. **Dmitry Polyanin**, Chairman of the Culture Committee of Volgograd, claimed that cultural heritage increases tourism and creates conditions for sustainable development, and **John Smithies**, Director of **Cultural Development Network** (CDN), explained the TAKSO platform and compared it to a flight recorder which captures cultural action and policies. Finally, **Eunhae Jung**, General Director of the Jeju's **Global Young Creatives Residency programme**, emphasised the integration of the GYCR programme within the context of the island and the use of isolation to connect with the identity and the environment.



PARALLEL SESSION 2.2

THE PLACE OF CULTURE IN THE VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS

Culture is seen by cities as a crucial component in the achievement of the SDGs. This is acknowledged in many Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR), with explicit contributions that can be found in almost all goals. Nevertheless, several factors are preventing a more thorough reporting by cities of the role of culture in the achievement of the SDGs. This session explored the contribution of culture to VLRS and the next generation of VLRS, focusing on the report "**Culture in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A report by the Culture 2030 Goal Campaign**", and discussed the need to further mobilise local stakeholders related to cultural policies in the 'formal' framework of the Goals during the Decade of Action.



As author of the [#Culture2030Goal campaign](#) report on “Culture and the VLRs”, **Dr. A. Ege Yıldırım**, urban planner and member of [ICOMOS](#), presented some of the findings and stated that the acknowledgment of cultural factors of development are better recognised in the VLRs than in the VNRs. She also affirmed that culture is mentioned in the VLRs as a social mobiliser and enabler of sustainability, and can also boost accountability and participation.

The acknowledgment of cultural factors of development are better recognised in the VLRs than in the VNRs. |

Dr. Shipra Narang Suri, Chief of the Urban Practices Branch and Global Solutions Division of [UN Habitat](#), advocated that culture enhances participation and social inclusion in cities; has a link in the reduction of poverty; is an enabler for a good local governance, good citizenship and peace; and additionally, is a pillar of the SDG localisation process.

Jon Finch, Head of Culture and Creative Industries of the [Bristol City Council](#), expressed that creativity engages individuals, institutions and companies in a way that policy and activism do not. **Samira Dhayyat**, General Manager of Cultural Action Group for Arab Towns in the Amman Municipality, affirmed that the cultural dimension contributes to shape the city’s personality, enhance its identity and link all parties of society. **Gerald Leitner**, Secretary General of the [International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions](#) (IFLA), emphasised the contribution of culture to health and wellbeing and its potential key role in changing mindsets for the better. **Nicolás Barbieri**, researcher on Cultural Policies and author of the article on culture and inequalities for the UCLG “GOLD VI”, spoke about the importance of the realisation of cultural rights, acknowledging inequalities and the need of transversal policies. Finally, **Rosanna Lewis**, Creative Commissions and Culture and Development Lead of the [British Council](#), suggested to see the VLRs as a process, acknowledging the value of bringing sectors and people together.



THE HUB TALKS THE CULTURAL DIMENSION OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

There is policy evidence on the need to address climate challenges from a cultural perspective, integrating both the sustainable development and climate action agendas. Cultural assets must be protected against climate threats, and, at the same time, some cultural processes and activities can be accelerators of environmental responsibility and support the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. This session provided insights on the role of cultural actors in the face of the climate emergency and presented the latest developments in this regard.

The Special Advisor of the UCLG Committee on Culture, **Catherine Cullen**, facilitated the talk and highlighted that in the last decades we have witnessed a rising awareness of the importance of culture and the cultural dimension in issues of climate emergency.

Yunus Arıkan, Director of Global Advocacy at [ICLEI](#), emphasised that in the last 200-300 years we have been the victims or proponents of the fossil era, which is becoming a “culture”. Arıkan advocated for a cultural change, giving up, for instance, addictions to those models of unsustainable consumption such as private cars. As the Coordinator of the [Climate Heritage Network](#), **Andrew Potts** claimed that culture is too often missing at the table of climate action despite it promotes diversity of knowledge systems and social networks, shows how societies adapted to challenges, holds the wisdom and knowledge of living, and is a source of social cohesion and identity. **Ahmet Aras**, Mayor of [Bodrum](#), raised issues such as not taking scientists seriously, construction and projects that destroy nature, effective policies on agriculture which are not being implemented, and the steps claimed to be had taken, which remain a theory and are not put into practice.



The opening plenary was facilitated by **UCLG** Secretary General, **Emilia Saiz**, who highlighted that culture helps us get through the worst and the best of times of the pandemic, and therefore should be integrated in every single policy and solutions to global challenges. Saiz put forward the proposal of letting culture shape our future, as the backbone of our Pact for the Future and a key in the UN global common agenda. **Tunç Soyer**, Mayor of **Izmir**, welcomed all participants to the city, a crossroads of ideas, knowledge and innovation. His inspiring speech introduced the idea of “circular culture” as a new concept, emphasising the power of culture as a cement that teaches us how to live in harmony with the past, with the change, with nature, and between ourselves.

This opening session also counted with the physical presence of **Louisa Vinton**, Resident Representative, **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP) in Turkey, who stressed that we need a commitment not only to culture but to cultural pluralism because culture can be misused and twisted to be exclusive and create a false sense of superiority. **Rosanna Binacchi**, Director of International Relations, Ministry of Culture of Italy, representing the Chair of **G-20**, participated in the discussion through an online intervention stating that cities are champions of culture experimentations, forging ideas for the future. **Ekrem İmamoğlu**, Mayor of **Istanbul**, declared that the creative sectors constitute the proper fora to go over the challenges that humanity is currently facing. **Uğur İbrahim Altay**, Mayor of **Konya** and UCLG Co-president, identified social and gender equality, solidarity, climate and health as key aspects to bring into the Izmir Declaration and advocated for taking culture

PLENARY SESSION 3

OPENING PLENARY. CULTURE, CARE, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE POSTCOVID19 ERA

Culture has been identified 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 and as part of the solution to the challenges of humanity. This opening session welcomed all the participants, physical and online, and introduced this main topic, setting the tone for the debate on how culture defines the future of communities in the post Covid-19 era, and deepening the role of heritage, creativity and diversity in building societies that care for all, with strong linkages between cultural policies, public health services and environmental action, as well as other key priorities.





into account to design and promote solutions for current challenges. **Mehmet Nuri Ersoy**, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, promoted culture as the 4th pillar of sustainable development and emphasised the importance of culture as a means to foster local democracy, support diversity and prevent conflicts.

It is crucial to overcome the separation which we, as a society, tend to do between culture and nature, and between us and the others.

The session ended with two keynote speeches delivered by ecofeminism activist **Vandana Shiva**, Director of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy, and **Associate Professor Serhan Ada**, Head of Arts and Cultural Management Department and Director of the Cultural Policy and Management Research Center at the İstanbul Bilgi University. Shiva defined biodiversity as the organising principle of both nature and culture, and stressed the crucial need to overcome the separation which we, as a society, tend to do between culture and nature, and between us and the others, embracing diversity and fostering democracy. Ada reinforced this latter statement, declaring that working on deepening the connections between culture and, not only wealth and environment, but also health and ecology, must be the new priority for cities, and emphasised the concepts of survival and resilience, also in the field of culture.



PLENARY SESSION 4 THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CREATIVE ECONOMY

Culture and creative sectors are progressively engaging in the global conversation on cities' resilience, especially in the context of the pandemic and the crisis. There has been a global call to cultural and creative sectors to join efforts, particularly in developing and strengthening digital resilience initiatives for cultural ecosystems, in order to guarantee access and participation in cultural life for all. This session discussed the challenges in the post-COVID era and provided examples on innovative initiatives undertaken by cities and cultural actors, especially in the framework of the International Year of Creative Economy 2021.



This plenary session was chaired by **Valeria Marcolin**, Co-Director of **Culture et Développement**, who reinforced the idea that cultural activities need to be marketed and that, in order to promote cultural development and the improvement of human capital, we need to increase the number of cultural events.

Nicolas Buchoud, President of **Grand Paris Alliance for Metropolitan Development**, emphasised the idea that creative economy agenda is yet to be set, and stated that there are solutions emerging through the perspective of recovery which may be more interesting and substantial than what was on the table prior the pandemic.

As Councillor for Culture of Bogotá, **Nicolás Montero** argued that cultural diversity is what allows us to meet, and it is from where we strengthen the bonds that sustain us. **Tita Larasati**, Chair of **Bandung's Creative Cities Forum** and focal point of Bandung City of Design for UNESCO Creative Cities Network, underlined that creative economy provides skills that are needed by younger generations to face the future in a resilient way. **Prof. Dr. Alim Işık**, Mayor of Kütahya, stressed the importance of keeping traditions alive, asserting that as long as cultures live and endure, life will continue to exist; and **Angharad Cooper**, Project Lead, Center for Music Ecosystems, and member of **Sound Diplomacy**, highlighted that there is an exciting, shared responsibility to be curious and connected, and to learn from international best practices. Finally, **Cangül Kuş**, Head of Blue Growth Policies Unit, **İzmir Development Agency**, pointed out how creative industries offer us a new story for the economic growth, prosperity and innovation by prioritising cultural diversity and interaction.



PARALLEL SESSION 5.1 COVID-19 AND CULTURAL POLICIES: IMPACT + INNOVATION

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent crisis have made evident the profound necessity for culture that cities and communities have and the urgency to improve the working conditions of cultural actors, which were already precarious and difficult in the old normality. This session was devoted to discussing the effects of the crisis and highlighted some of the ideas that connect the needs of the cultural sector with the recovery, at a policy level. The focus was placed in innovation to build a better future with a renewed engagement of all cultural actors.

Gabriele Rosana, Policy Director at **Culture Action Europe** and chair of this session, stressed the need to be creative and innovative in terms of solutions and policies for the challenges we face, not only in terms of funding schemes, but also in terms of policy and regulations.



Sylvia Amann, Policy adviser and EU expert, director of **Inforelais**, stated that during the pandemic, artists and cultural operators developed new formats to make arts and culture accessible and enhance social cohesion, which created a momentum to demonstrate the societal value of culture.

Through a video message, **Yuri Grishan**, Mayor of Magadan, pointed out how the pandemic originated a shift towards online culture and internal tourism in the city of Magadan. **Laia Gasch Casals**, Senior Advisor for Culture and Creative Industries, **London**, and Director of Partnerships of **WCCF**, highlighted the role of culture on the reform, thus taking this opportunity to help to improve our cities and contribute to urgent urban agendas. Also through an online intervention, the Director for Culture, **Esch-sur-Alzette**, ECOC 2022, **Ralph Waltmans**, claimed that we must add culture and environment, and culture and health and well-being to our local strategies. **Christian Sénéchal**, Director of **Les Arts et la Ville**, emphasised that we talk about the value of culture for the economy, but we should not forget its societal value; and **Maciej W. Hofman**, **EU Commission. Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture** (DG-EAC) - Unit D1 - Cultural Policy, spoke about how COVID-19 shed light on the beneficial effects of culture in terms of social inclusion, cohesion and health. The session also counted with the online presence of **Nathalie Guay**, Secretary General of the **International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity** (IFCCD), who declared that in some countries, the measures to protect the creators during the pandemic were not enough, which strongly affected the sector. As a local artist and creator of **"Balconnection"**, **Azadeh Ramezani** finished the session comparing culture and art with seeds, which need to be cultivated and watered all the time.



PARALLEL SESSION 5.2

CULTURE AND THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY TOWARDS COP 26

The world cannot afford divergent "sustainable development" and "climate action" agendas but rather these two must be fully integrated. The UCLG Culture Committee is promoting a **report on 'The Role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development'**, in partnership with the Climate Heritage Network's Working Group 5, providing ground-breaking policy evidence for the role that culture and heritage can play in integrating the sustainable development and climate action agendas. This session introduced this report, written by Andrew Potts, and deepened the role of cultural actors in the Climate Summit – COP26 (Glasgow, November 2021).



Jordi Baltà, Expert of the **UCLG Culture Committee**, declared that sustainable development is not only about thinking about future generations but experiencing the transformations of the today, considering our present responsibilities and actions, and highlighted the connection between culture and the environment as one of the nine thematic areas of **Culture 21 Actions**.

The world cannot afford divergent “sustainable development” and “climate action” agendas but rather these two must be fully integrated.

In his keynote speech, the Coordinator, of the **Climate Heritage Network** (CHN) and author of the report on ‘The Role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development’, **Andrew Potts**, stressed that climate action needs culture, and that tackling climate change demands circular economy approaches, information, creativity, inspiration, and cultural capital. Potts finished his intervention urging: “when it comes to climate emergency, please count culture in”.

Through a video message, **Katja Dörner**, Mayor of **Bonn**, **ICLEI** GexCom member and Co-Lead of Climate Action, reinforced the commitment of the city of Bonn to climate neutrality by 2035 and noted the evolution of the culture of innovation, crucial to tackle climate change. **Fatma Kaplan Hürriyet**, Mayor of **Izmit Municipality**, spoke about their commitment to look how



tangible and intangible cultural heritage can contribute to ecological and environmentally sensitive industries and economies. From the California’s State Historic Preservation Office, **Julianne Polanco** declared that the Office is identifying areas to increase ambition through collaborative efforts where culture can change public behaviours. The Counsellor to the Mayor and Chairman of the Executive Board of **İZDOĞA Inc**, **Dr. Güven Eken**, brought into the discussion the need to have a common wish and work together to recover the world that we made sick. On his turn, **Assoc. Prof. Koray Velibeyoğlu**, Izmir Institute of Technology, Department of City and Regional Planning, explained the “Ruritage” project in Izmir, focused on geological heritage, bioeconomy, music, a forest school, mobility, tourism and the aim to help others. This workshop session also had online interventions from **Ann Wishart** and **Lisa Broadest**, Arts Development Managers **Leeds City Council**. Wishart identified “equality and inclusion”, “environmental and sustainability”, and “maximising our impact” as cross-cutting themes for the Culture strategy framework 2021-25; and Broadest distinguished making the global local and relevant, and to inspire social action as part of their approach. **Rainer Kern**, Representative of the Mayor of Mannheim and Senior Advisor Global Parliament of Mayors, argued that to solve the climate disaster we must understand that art, innovation and technology need to be combined. Finally, as founder and CEO of **Julie’s Bicycle**, **Alison Tickell** emphasised the need to make way for new voices, creative communities and economies, as well as to restore indigenous local and community knowledge.



THE HUB TALKS

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Intercultural dialogue is key to fostering plural, open and democratic cities where diversity is celebrated and cultural rights are fully exercised. Increasing global mobility and the current cultural complexity of urban environments accentuated by migration and forced displacement, among other factors, are evidencing the need to build more solid spaces for exchange and co-creation among cultures, as well as to facilitate the collective transformation of imaginaries and cityscapes, addressing controversial issues such as colonialism and gender equality at conceptual and policy level. This Hub Talk addressed new perspectives aimed at strengthening intercultural dialogue and reshaping local intercultural policies in the face of current global challenges.

As a chair of this session, **Catherine Cullen**, Special Adviser of the **UCLG Culture Committee**, started the discussion emphasising that behind all the subjects that have been discussed in the first day of the Summit, intercultural dialogue is the underlying condition for a successful cultural sustainable development.

Nesim Bencoya, Izmir Jewish Heritage Project, described culture as a history of intercultural dialogue where heritage is often a mixture of cultures influenced by intercultural diversity, and stated that their aim is to revive this dialogue and be an example for other cities in Turkey and the world. **Marlene Fautsch**, Head of International Cultural Relations of **Mexico City**, spoke about the new Constitution of Mexico City, highlighting how Mexico City is a city of refugees that recognises the exodus that came and nurtured their culture, and where interculturality is the heritage of the civilisation.





FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER



PLENARY SESSION 6 CULTURAL DIPLOMACY. THE ROLE OF CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL COOPERATION

Cities and local and regional governments play a major role in the development of cultural bonds across borders and they have increasingly established themselves as essential international cultural policy actors. Despite the mobility restrictions put in place to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis, UCLG members, sections and partners are driving innovative knowledge sharing and peer-learning cultural initiatives to boost international cooperation, solidarity and new impulse for sustainable development. This session covered the important work of cultural diplomacy that local and regional governments are undertaking alongside communities, agents and cultural actors, allowing the enhancement of local heritage, fostering cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, and improving the well-being of all.



The second day of the Summit started with a powerful statement: “we are here to discuss how our cultures make our cities and our world more resilient to disasters and challenges”. It was made by the facilitator of this session, **Onur Eryüce**, Counsellor to the Mayor of **Izmir**, who also stated that our challenges are borderless and, therefore, we need to share experiences and work together to overcome them.

We are here to discuss how our cultures make our cities and our world more resilient to disasters and challenges.

This session also counted with a special address of **Sana Ouchtati**, Director of **More Europe**, who recalled that non-state actors have played an important role in mitigating risks and alleviating the negative economic and social impact of the crisis, and also advocated on an enhanced cultural diplomacy in cities with different spheres of government and beyond usual actors.

The discussion counted with an online intervention by the **UCLG Africa** Secretary General, **Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi**, who recalled the need to correct injustice and place cultural diversity at the forefront for the prosperity of our communities. The Secretary General of the **Council of European Municipalities and Regions** (CEMR), **Frédéric Vallier**, underlined





Gender equality has been one of the main priorities of UCLG since its foundation. As an equality driven movement committed to feminist municipalism, UCLG devotes many efforts to empowering women's leadership and promoting women's participation in decision-making processes. Taking forward this commitment, the UCLG Culture Committee has promoted a [research on 'Cultural Actions Supporting Gender Equality in Cities and Territories'](#), as a contribution from the cultural perspective to address women's rights and gender-responsive policies for sustainable development. This research work has been led by Farida Shaheed, former UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights. This plenary presented the outcome report, which has been informed by the contributions of UCLG member cities and local and regional governments, as well as partners and other cultural actors.



The session was a full plenary moderated online by **Bernadia Tjandradewi**, Secretary General of **UCLG-ASPAC**, who declared that in order to address gender equality, we need a big support related to finance and institutional strengthening. She also underlined the importance of capacity building and the need to build partnerships with different actors.

In her keynote speech, **Farida Shaheed**, Director of the Shirkah Ga Women's Resources Centre and former UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights, emphasised that gender inequalities exist everywhere, but the cultural parameters differ. She advocated for approaches to gender equality that include new urban narratives to support women's self-expression in public space as well as enhancing their presence in decision-making and cultural policy-making to strengthen democracy.

Şeniz Doğan, Mayor of **Merkezefendi Municipality**, noted that the pandemic aggravated inequalities in terms of education and socioeconomic situation, leading to increased inequalities in food and housing, and reinforced by gender equality. **Nicola Khamis**, Mayor of **Beit Jala** and Co-chair of the **UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality**, stated that tradition and culture must not be a barrier for women empowerment, and **Carine Roland**,



Approaches to gender equality need to include new urban narratives to support women's self-expression in public space as well as enhancing their presence in decision-making and cultural policy-making.

Deputy Mayor of **Paris** for Culture and the 15-minute city, claimed that in terms of cultural actors, it is important to observe, make everything better, and encourage instead of imposing sanctions. **Luciana Blasco**, Director of Cultural Policies of the Autonomous City of **Buenos Aires**, spoke about how the local Ministry of Culture has organised the work around an agenda with the aim to promote women's rights, employment and diversity and reinforce a change of mentality. **Sybilla Britani**, **EUNIC** Network Manager, highlighted the "Altavoz" project in Bolivia, aimed to promote and reflect on gender equality and sexual diversity, and empower Bolivian artistic and cultural sectors. The plenary concluded with an online intervention by **Gabriel Caballero**, **ICOMOS** Focal Point for the SDGs, who raised the issue of the misrepresentation of the LGBTQ+ sites in world heritage and remarked on the role of heritage against discrimination.





PARALLEL SESSION 8.1 CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

The tourism industry has been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Global mobility restrictions and many other measures implemented to mitigate the spread of the virus, including the closure of cultural facilities and heritage sites in most cities around the world, hit the tourism sector at all levels and put heritage assets and organisations in a vulnerable position. This session examined the impact of the pandemic on cultural tourism, and provided key lessons to be considered for a green recovery with care at the centre, placing the focus in innovation and suggesting new ways in which the cultural dimension of sustainable development can reshape public policies after the crisis. The discussion also went through the key issues identified in the [Cities Are Listening experience “Towards a Future Tourism Strategy”](#) held on 13 April 2021, as well as the priorities of the UCLG Policy Councils on [“Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities”](#) and [“Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy”](#).

Dr. Ali Nail Kubalı, President of NCM Consulting Company and Former Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Denmark in Izmir, welcomed all the participants and started the session with an inspiring and amusing personal anecdote related to culture and the length of speeches in conferences and meetings, also confirming the crucial importance of the relation between culture and tourism and identifying the UCLG Culture Summit as a very important global event.

Jyoti Hosagrahar, Deputy Director for the [World Heritage Centre at UNESCO](#), stated that issues affecting historic cities, such as climate change, changes in livelihoods, demography, new construction, development and mass tourism, need to be treated taking all the layers and dimensions intertwined. Subsequently, Hosagrahar also outlined the [“World Heritage City Lab”](#) and its 5 pathways for recovery and resilience.

Nidai Güngördü, Mayor of [Kyrenia Municipality](#) and President of [UCLG MEWA Committee on Culture and Tourism](#), advocated for more activity from local governments against local injustice and stressed the need to ensure a strong link between culture and tourism. **Francisco Mugaburu**, Deputy Director of International Relations and Cooperation, Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities (UCCII), underlined the need to cooperate and implement innovative and more sustainable projects, which also enhance their resilience. The session carried on featuring Izmir as a city that works to guarantee the cooperation between all sectors, generating partnerships to ensure a transversal approach, an example given by [TARKEM](#) General Director, **Sergenç İneler**. On her turn, **Nancy Duxbury**, Senior Researcher and Co-coordinator Cities, Culture and Architecture Research Group at the Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra, pointed out the 4 dimensions of “Culture sustainability, Tourism and Development”: care for culture, enabling culturally sensitive modes of tourism, empowering community, and improving place.





PARALLEL SESSION 8.2

THE VISION 2021-2030 OF THE #CULTURE2030GOAL CAMPAIGN

The **#Culture2030Goal** is the campaign of global cultural networks that advocate for the role of culture in sustainable development. The story of the campaign began when they united in 2013 to launch **#culture2015goal**. This called for culture to be included in what would become “**Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**”, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. With the implementation of the Agenda underway, the campaign evolved into **#culture2030goal**. At the 4th UCLG Culture Summit, this session introduced the **strategy** and members of the campaign, and invited them to explain how they wish “cultural policies” to become more robust in the global conversation on development, imagine how a “Culture Goal” could be in the post-2030 development agenda, and suggest possible outcomes of the Mondiacult+40 conference to take place in 2022.

This workshop was chaired by **Glòria Pérez-Salmerón**, from the **Diputació de Barcelona**, who contextualised the session by briefly defining the **#Culture2030goal** campaign, welcomed all the speakers and invited the participants to imagine how a Cultural Goal could be in the post-2030 Development Agenda.

Gerald Leitner, Secretary General of the **International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions** (IFLA), affirmed that libraries must be provided with tools for effective advocacy and they must be seen as essential for policymaking at all levels. The President of **Culture Action Europe**, **Inês Câmara**, brought into the discussion the idea of continuity when talking about heritage, art and culture, discussing a common future, challenges and embracing complexity. Also online, **Pierre Claver Mabiala**, President of **Arterial Network**, stated that their programmes are meant to help art and artists express themselves, thus allowing to share perspectives with the world. **Silja Fischer**, Secretary General of the **International Music Council** (IMC), declared that the IMC embraces the intrinsic value of music which enriches and inspires those who engage in it; and **Nathalie Guay**, Secretary General of the **International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity** (IFCCD), stated that we need to talk about rights and freedom of art, and advocated for the inclusion of culture in the Agenda. **Gabriel Caballero**, Focal Point for the SDGs for **ICOMOS**, declared that we all need to bond together and think about how cultural actors can support climate action. To conclude this workshop, **Catherine Cullen**, Special Adviser of the **UCLG Culture Committee**, reinforced the outcome messages of the session on climate change, and asserted that the world needs culture, hence we must keep the momentum and bring new partners on board.





THE HUB TALKS ARTS MAP PROJECT

The Hub Talk on the Arts Map Project presented this initiative as “a digital platform for the fields of arts and culture that aims to develop sustainable dialogues between artists, institutions, non-governmental organisations, public and individuals by using the unifying power of arts and culture”.

Ipek Sur Van Dijk, from the General Consulate of the Netherlands in Turkey, delivered a presentation about Arts Map, exposing the context, aims and outcomes of the project, and also emphasised how with this initiative global connections between cultural actors, different networks, and world funds have been established, as well as collaboration with different municipalities and partners has taken place.



PLENARY SESSION 9 CULTURAL RIGHTS AND COMMUNITIES: THE ROME CHARTER

The [Rome Charter on the Right to Participate Fully and Freely in Cultural Life](#) was created at an uncertain time, amidst the pandemic and the crisis, reflecting the commitment of Rome and UCLG, together with global partners, to develop a vision for the future focused on cultural rights and democracy. This session presented the Rome Charter as an original and forward-looking document that aims to influence the present and future cultural policies at local and regional level and as one of the main components of the UCLG Pact for the Future, and offered a substantial contribution to the new [Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City](#). In the session, cities and cultural stakeholders showcased initiatives to illustrate how to make the Charter operational, and jointly reflected on the progress of its implementation as well as on cultural rights in the city in times of crisis and beyond.



This plenary was facilitated by **Luca Trifone**, Diplomatic Advisor to the Mayor of **Rome**, who welcomed the participants and opened the session providing context about the Rome Charter through a strong message: “I am not afraid actually to say that the Rome Charter is extremely important: it is a milestone in the protection of cultural rights because it enshrines and widens the UN Declaration of Human Rights”. Trifone also added that since the Charter was approved, its contents have been recalled in every single document that came after.

The Rome Charter is a milestone in the protection of cultural rights because it enshrines and widens the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

The session included a keynote conversation between **Karima Bennoune**, **UN Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights**, and **Luca Bergamo**, former Vice Mayor in charge of Cultural Development of the **Rome City Council**, and initiator of the Rome Charter. Bennoune argued that the cultural dimension is critical to address crises such as Afghanistan, and that the Rome Charter reminds us about the duty to ensure the right to take part in cultural life for everyone without discrimination, this not being a luxury, but a legal obligation as well as a human necessity. On his side, Bergamo reaffirmed that the Rome Charter, just like the **U20 Declaration**, underpins the fact that the responsibility to guarantee the accountability and implementation of cultural rights fall on the shoulders of local and regional governments, and reinforced the idea that the decisions we make now determine the future of the XXI century, which is why it is critical to adopt rights-based approaches based on values such as solidarity and diversity.



Carlos Martinez, Mayor of **Soria** and Envoy of the Presidency for the **New Urban Agenda**, emphasised the need to change the development model, facilitating access to culture in small and medium-sized cities, and rural environments. **Vannesa Bohórquez**, Councillor for Culture in **Mexico City**, declared that it is crucial to assume intercultural diversity, promote the creation of cultural spaces and support the development of creativity of all people. The discussion continued with the intervention by **Jordi Martí**, Deputy Mayor on Culture at the **Barcelona City Council**, who outlined interculturality, feminism, transversality and decentralisation as axis of the Cultural Rights Plan of Barcelona. On behalf of the city of **Malmö**, as Chair of the Cultural Board, **Frida Trollmyr** stated that every Swedish citizen has the right to access culture in all forms in the same way they have the right to access nature. Finally, **Prof. Dr. Asu Aksoy**, Istanbul Bilgi University, Arts and Cultural Management Department, reported how unsustainable urbanisation and tourism, and economic development extractive policies take away rural territories, which are crucial to generate knowledge and ways of life.



PARALLEL SESSION 10.1 PUBLIC SPACES, URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN

Online and digital technology, as well as live culture experienced in physical urban spaces, have witnessed huge development since the COVID-19 outbreak. Amidst the crisis, culture and creative sectors are engaging in the global conversation on resilience and new meanings, values and uses of public space, and artists and creative professionals are seen as key agents in the evolution of urban planning and the innovative design of the cities of the future. This session analysed the role of cultural and creative sectors and actors in new approaches to urban planning and the reconfiguration of public space in sustainable cities beyond the crisis, as spaces for encounter, exchange, diversity, enjoyment, well-being and freedom, and introduced the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and the work developed by some of the cities in the field of design.

Ricardo Klein, Professor at the University of València, opened the session and underlined the great development that technology and culture in urban physical spaces have undergone since the COVID-19 crisis, and added that in this context, cultural and creative sectors are participating in the global conversation about resilience and the new meanings, values and uses of public space.

Speaking on behalf of **UNESCO Creative Cities Network**, **Denise Bax** delivered a keynote speech through a video message, where culture and creativity were highlighted as building blocks for the future of cities. Bax also emphasised that throughout the pandemic, the sector has proven its essential nature, providing an opportunity to shape a better future for cities that will further benefit all inhabitants for generations to come.

Dr. Buğra Gökçe, Secretary General of **İzmir Metropolitan Municipality**, identified culture for sustainable development, public spaces, urban planning and design as key for the cultural strategy of Izmir, alongside 3 principles: creativity, participation and resilience. **Álvaro Narvaez Díaz**, Councillor for Culture of **Medellín**, described how with the pandemic, the city became a stage with an artistic approach through rooftops and terraces, to give life to art and culture. Then, **Lorenza Fruci**, Deputy Mayor for Cultural Development in **Roma Capitale**, declared that after facing the COVID limitations, the squares, streets and parks of Rome have become locations for performances and culture. The session also counted with the physical presence of **Iñaki López de Aguilera**, Director for Culture of the **Bilbao City Council**, who stated that public space is the city's mirror where residents and tourists look into, and reinforced their commitment to protect it to the utmost. To continue the discussion, **Khaled Tadmori**, Member of the City Council of **Tripoli Municipality**, highlighted the importance of culture to rebuild societies, foster economic development, and contribute to communities' resilience and to a post-crisis recovery; and **Prof. Dr. Şebnem Yücel**, Head of Architecture Department, MEF University, School of Art, Design and Architecture, advocated for the necessity to have equal access to public spaces, since these are places where people feel free to experience and use human and cultural rights. **Leonid Kondrashev**, Chief Archaeologist of **Moscow City Council**, pointed out the paradox related to the fact that archaeological sites should symbolise a certain cultural gap, but now they are becoming the drivers of urban development.





PARALLEL SESSION 10.2 CITTASLOW METROPOLIS

The **CittaSlow movement** was born in 1999 as an initiative of Paolo Saturnini, Mayor of Greve in Chianti (Tuscany), inspired by the Slow Food movement to reclaim “the serenity of daily life” in a society driven by haste and immediacy. In a short time, the movement spread internationally, and today towns and cities all over the world adhere to the movement. The **CittaSlow Metropolis Working Group** was created in June 2020 as a technical, political and scientific permanent workshop with the aim to develop a new way of engaging large cities to the CittaSlow model. The Izmir Metropolitan Municipality became a CittaSlow supporter and is currently hosting the first pilot project of CittaSlow Metropolis. This session presented the CittaSlow movement and the CittaSlow Metropolis Working Group, and enabled the participants to exchange on the role of culture in sustainable “Slow” cities and metropolises.

The chair of the last workshop of the Summit was **Octavi de la Varga**, Secretary General of **Metropolis**, who provided information about the CittaSlow Metropolis Movement and paid especial attention to the scientific permanent workshop working on the issue of slow cities and metropolises, emphasising that the latter are usually, and paradoxically, connected to noise, hustle and unrest, fast movement and cultural vibrancy.

Pier Giorgio Oliveti, Secretary General of CittaSlow International, claimed that to be slow today is not a choice but a global need, and urged that we respect ourselves and the next generations. **Prof. Bon Sohn**, Coordinator of **CittaSlow Korea Network**, reaffirmed the importance to create a new downtown lifestyle aligned to ecological nature and vitality. As a researcher of **Cittaslow International**, **Andrea Calori** presented the **Cittaslow Metropolis project** as a jump between the experience of small and medium cities and the discovery of big cities; and **K. Bülent Köstem**, Coordinator of **CittaSlow Metropolis İzmir Project**, affirmed that the model can be applied in every corner of the world and highlighted the need to involve local people. Before closing the session, Octavi de la Varga gave the floor to **Tunç Soyer**, Mayor of Izmir, who stated that we have to find the balance between economy and ecology, with change, modernism, the future, and our past, and concluded that this is why we need culture to be in the essence of our life today.





THE HUB TALKS

BOOK LAUNCH: PUBLICATIONS OF MEWA ON CULTURAL HERITAGE

Learning activities are key to achieving our goals in cultural heritage as in all spheres of life. A sound theoretical background will help enhance advocacy works, draw the attention of non-professionals, contribute to the literature, and guide local governments and professionals in their activities. UCLG-MEWA and its Committee on Culture and Tourism aim to provide an academic basis for local cultural action through publications.

The last of the Hub Talks of the 4th UCLG Culture Summit offered the presentation of two publications. The session was chaired by **Melis Şahin**, Coordinator of Committees and Projects of UCLG-MEWA. **Ege Yıldırım**, as co-author, introduced the context and the contents of the Turkish-English Cultural Heritage Glossary, while **Osman Çorumlu**, Project Officer of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and Tourism, introduced the book “The Role of Local Governments in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage”.



PLENARY SESSION 11

CLOSING PLENARY. TOWARDS A CULTURE GOAL

The 4th UCLG Culture Summit concluded with a closing plenary straightforwardly entitled “Towards a Culture Goal”, also devoted to the presentation of the Izmir Declaration. The session gathered the main outcomes of the Summit, emphasising the need to think beyond the present circumstances, to imagine different, better and more sustainable ways to live together, and also reinforced the message that cities are leading the way in recognising the absolute necessity of cultural factors as a key dimension of sustainable development. Moreover, the discussion enhanced the consolidation of a dialogue between global cultural civil society networks and local and regional governments in the frame of the UCLG Pact for the Future: for people, for the Planet, for the Government, to build back better with care at the centre of our societies.



The closing plenary was opened with a video-message from **Ernesto Ottone**, Assistant Director-General for Culture Sector of **UNESCO**, who reaffirmed that cities play a critical role as engines of innovations and underlined the evolution of the patterns of production and consumption towards more people-centred models due to the measures implemented by cities. Ottone also pointed out the role of culture in climate action, the protection of biodiversity, and, alongside education, the reduction of inequalities and capacity-building.

The Izmir Declaration is a central contribution to the “UCLG Pact for the Future: for People, for the Planet, for the Government”, to be adopted at the 7th UCLG World Congress in 2022.

Representing **UN-Habitat**, **Shipra Narang Suri**, Chief of the Urban Practices Branch of the Global Solutions Division, reaffirmed the commitment of UN-Habitat to propel the inclusion of culture in the global conversation on sustainable development, together with UCLG. The President of **UCLG-MEWA**, **Mohamed Saadie**, reinforced the importance of culture as a cornerstone of global solidarity, the 4th pillar of development and a means to combat racism and extremism, and renewed their commitment to keep transforming the cultural vision into concrete actions. **Ilsur Metshin**, Mayor of Kazan and President of **UNACLA**, identified the



pandemic as a catalyst for culture and creative industries, accelerating emerging trends and opening new directions for the development of cities, and emphasised the role of culture in individual and collective wellbeing. The Co-Presidency of the UCLG Committee on Culture also addressed the Summit. Speaking from **Mexico City**, **José Alfonso Suárez del Real y Aguilera**, Chief of Mayor's Office, recalled the fundamental role of culture in the UCLG Pact for the Future, as a vital human necessity that defines life today and the future of tomorrow, and recalled that we must support this collective space of cooperation, in the fraternal network of collaboration that is UCLG and that will lead us to new models of sustainability. **Catarina Vaz-Pinto**, Deputy Mayor on Culture in **Lisbon**, thanked the work done by the Culture Committee throughout the years and recalled one of the essential elements of the Izmir Declaration: the need to have a stand-alone Culture Goal in 2030, to ensure that the forthcoming development agendas are really for People, for the Planet and for the Government. **Enrique Avogadro**, Minister of Culture of the **Autonomous City of Buenos Aires**, stated that today our duty is to get to people who are not yet convinced that culture is a priority realising the potential of culture for transformative change, and pointed out the importance of cooperation between cities, as well as the need to achieve a more solid cultural sector.

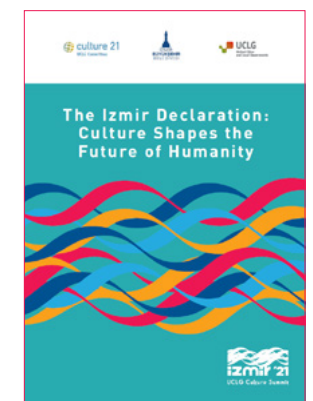


Finally, **Tunç Soyer**, Mayor of **Izmir** put an end to the session declaring that “without culture there is no science, there is no economy, and there will be inequalities. There is no politics. Without culture there is no urban development, and there will be disasters. Without defining a new culture, we cannot define the future.” He also mentioned an important paragraph of the Izmir Declaration, the concept of “circular culture”, composed by Harmony with nature, Harmony with the past, Harmony with each other and, last but not least, Harmony with change.

The main output of the 4th UCLG Culture Summit is the “Izmir Declaration: Culture Shapes the Future of Humanity”.

The Summit ended with the performance Gypsy Fever Dance Performance, a choreography that integrates Balkan and Roman dances, which are the colours of Anatolian culture, and modern dance.

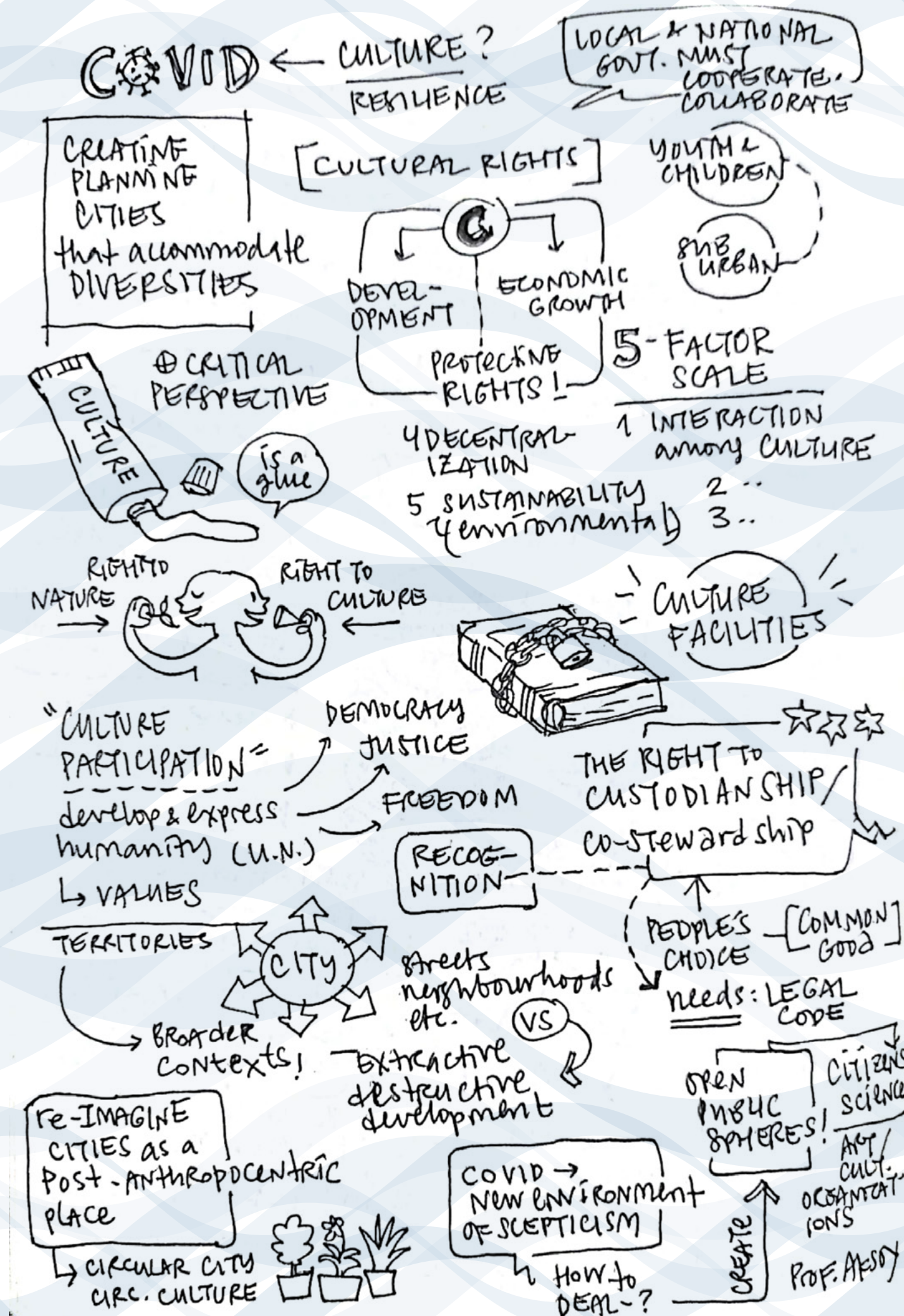
The 4th UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir has the **Izmir Declaration: Culture Shapes the Future of Humanity** as its main output. This document is a central contribution to the elaboration process of the UCLG Pact for the Future to be adopted at the 7th UCLG World Congress in 2022; for People, for the Planet, for the Government.



The concept of “circular culture” is composed by harmony with nature, harmony with the past, harmony with each other and harmony with change.

The President of **UCLG**, **Mohamed Boudra**, underscored the idea that culture speaks to all, and stressed the need to direct local and territorial policies, driving them through culture. Boudra also declared that the central role of culture is showing us who we are and how we can work together in a context of transformations and a change of era. **Emilia Saiz**, **UCLG** Secretary General, affirmed that UCLG considers culture as the 4th pillar, dimension or sphere of development, and addressed the audience stating that those who are not seeing it are losing the train of reality. Saiz concluded her speech with a powerful message: “we can make a difference. Culture is on our side”.





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:



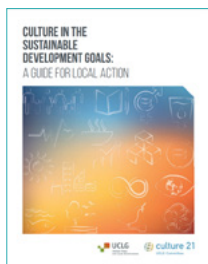
In 2004, UCLG adopted the **Agenda 21 for culture**, a declaration with 67 articles that describes the relationship between local cultural policies and human rights, governance, sustainable development, participatory democracy and peace. In 2015, UCLG approved **Culture 21 Actions**, a toolkit with 9 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 2nd 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'.



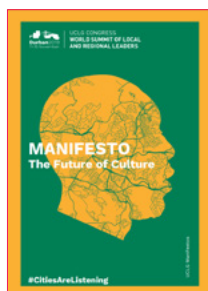
The document **“Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals. A Guide for Local Action”**, published by UCLG in 2018, presents information on each one of the 17 Goals, helps to understand why cultural issues are important and provides relevant examples.



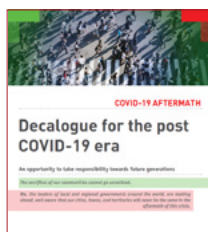
The **OBS**. The Committee has developed a database containing more than 200 good practices on culture and sustainable development. The tool allows searches according to 3 criteria: the SDG, the Commitments of Culture 21 Actions, and keywords.



The **#culture2030goal campaign** includes global cultural networks. It advocates for a stronger place for culture throughout the implementation of 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.



The 6th UCLG World Congress, held in Durban in November 2019, adopted the manifesto **“The Future of Culture”**. It defends a fair cultural globalization, 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 UCLG Committee on Culture is a unique platform, which gathers cities, associations and networks that foster the relationship between local cultural policies, and sustainable development. The Committee is co-chaired by Buenos Aires, Lisbon and Mexico City, and is vice-chaired by Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Porto Alegre and Rome. It has members and partners across all continents.

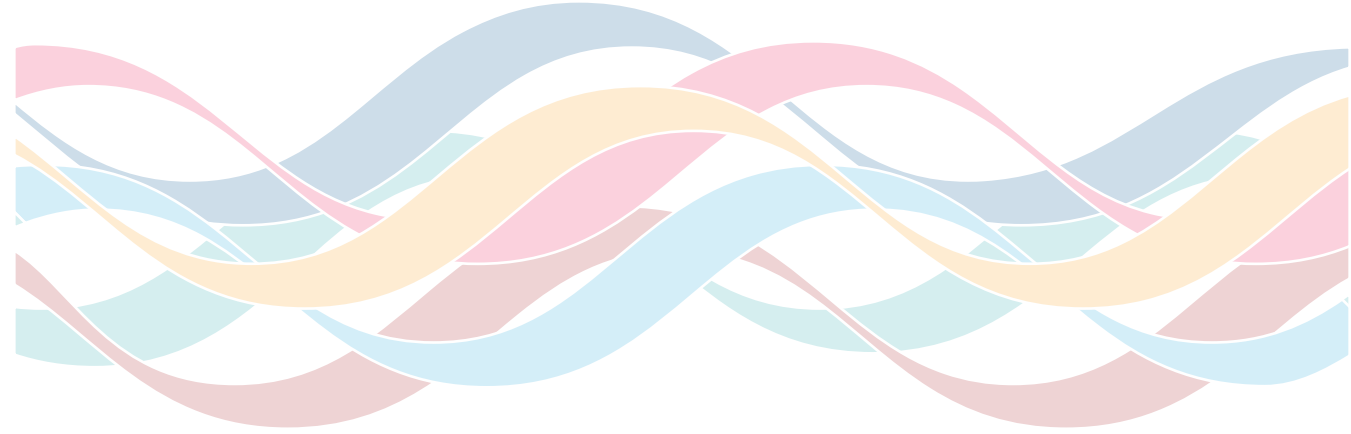
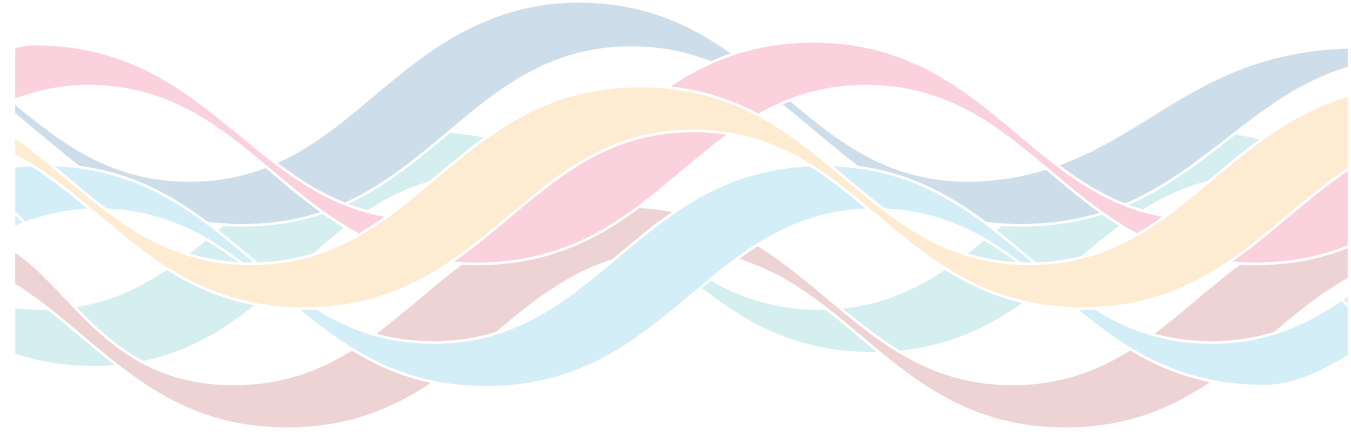


PEER-LEARNING ON CULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE CITIES

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 2020, the Pilot Cities programme includes 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 2020, the Leading Cities programme includes Abitibi-Temiscaminge, Barcelona, Bilbao, Belo Horizonte, Bogotá, Buenos Aires, 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 2020, the programme has been completed in Greater Dandenong, Kaunas, Makati 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 localization of the SDGs through culture policymaking. As of March 2021, the programme is being developed in Bulawayo, Izmir, Lisbon, Mexico City, el Puerto de la Cruz and Xi’an.

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.



THE CITY OF IZMIR

Izmir, the City of Culture and Nature

Located on the west coast of Turkey by the Aegean Sea, Izmir belongs to the broader region of Southeast Europe, and is one of the major port cities in the Mediterranean. Izmir province stretches over an area of 12.000 km² and comprises 30 districts, 11 of which are situated in the metropolitan area.

Historically, the port has been at the core of Izmir's identity and the city has long been a hub of dense networks of maritime connections. Through these connections people, goods, ideas and thoughts have flowed into the city. The port has long facilitated cultural exchanges and served as a nexus where people from different parts of the Mediterranean and Asia met, mixed and inspired each other. Thanks to its favorable geographical location, climate, water resources and fertile lands, the 8500-year-old city has been the home of many civilizations and cultures. Homer, the author of the legendary Iliad and Odyssey, whose works have had an enormous effect on Western culture, was born and lived in İzmir. The city was one of the prominent cities of the Hellenistic period and the Roman Empire. In the modern era, during the 17th century, Izmir became an important port attracting notable overseas trade owing to the Silk Road. With its well-protected bay, Izmir was closer to the Italian ports than the city of Istanbul. Venetian, Dutch, English and French merchants settled in Izmir, opening export factories and consulates. Dutch, English, French, Venetian and Ottoman subjects socialized with each other. Calvinists, Catholics, Sephardic Jews, Muslim Turks, Orthodox Greeks and Armenians worshipped almost shoulder to shoulder.


Commercial relations developed thanks to the port and this further led to deeper cultural ties. In the course of the eighteenth century, Izmir became the leading Mediterranean port. The



town's cultural, religious and linguistic diversity, its openness, and its growing international trade constituted an open society. The city did not only connect Mediterranean ports, but also acted as a strong bridge between the Orient and the Western world. Izmir long served as the gateway to the Orient, to China, for the traders, entrepreneurs, scientists and artists of Europe, through the paths of the ancient Silk Road. Izmir blossomed during the late nineteenth century when free trade increased the significance of Mediterranean ports. Therefore, for a long time, Izmir was described as the capital of the Near East in western literature.

Alongside its cultural diversity, the city has impressively high biodiversity. Coupled with terrestrial biological diversity, İzmir embraces rich wetlands. 10% of the world's flamingo population lives in İzmir's largest wetland, the Gediz Delta. İzmir's rural communities preserve crucial ecological knowledge. Izmir is the heir to ancient indigenous production landscapes where local agricultural practices protect rare biological diversity. Rural Izmir shelters unique anthropogenic landscapes that reflect a singular harmony between culture and nature. This precious cultural knowledge protects and helps manage lands, water and other natural resources. Traditional practices, techniques and ways of living in harmony with nature are vital at a time when biodiversity and cultural diversity are globally threatened.





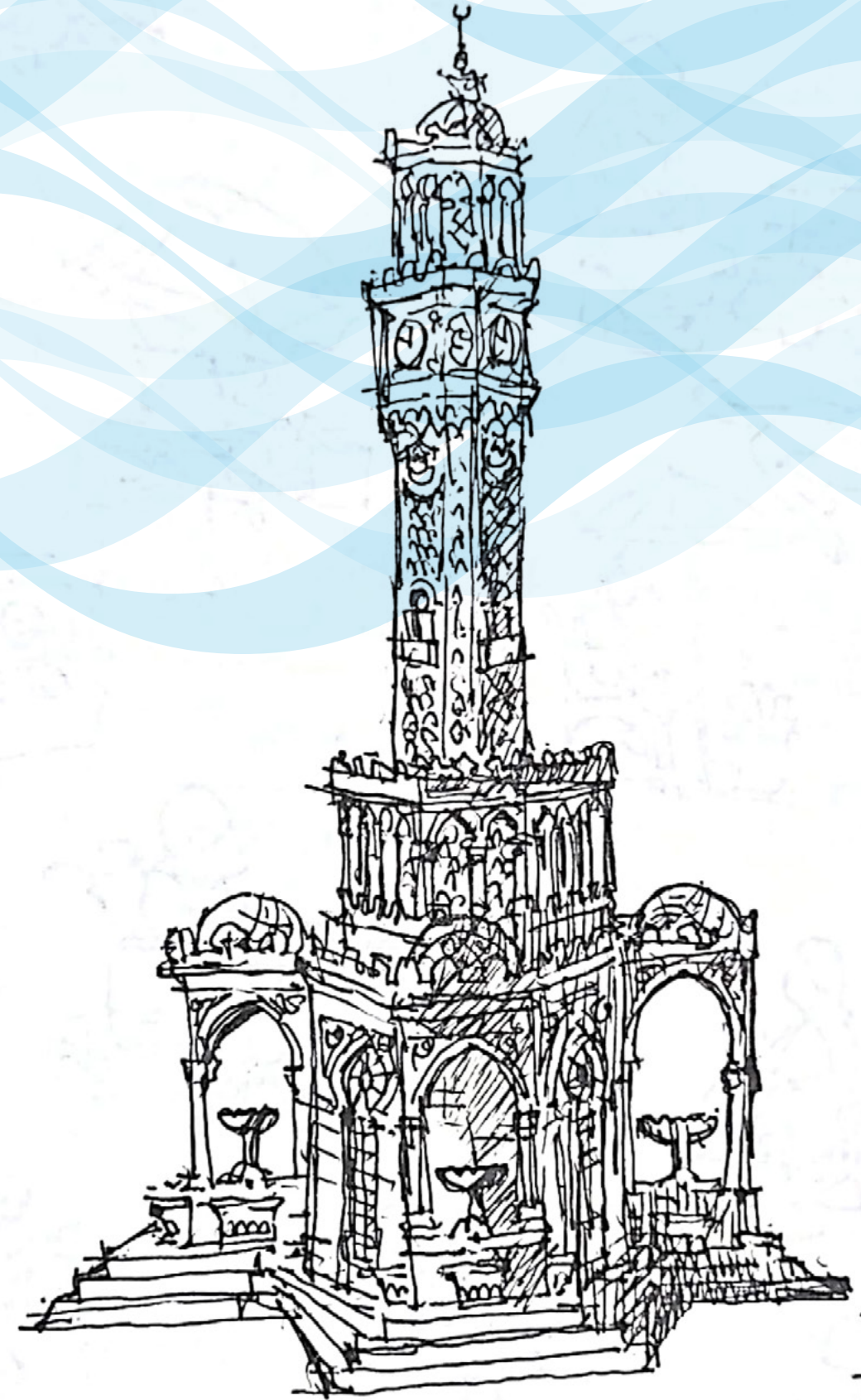
There are many ancient settlements within the boundaries of present-day Izmir such as Smyrna, Klazomenai, Ephesus and Pergamon. Pergamon and its multi-layered cultural landscape (2014) and Ephesus (2015) are catalogued in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Historic Port City of Izmir, Historic Town of Birgi; Foça, Çandarlı and Çeşme Castles are currently on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List.

Today, the city celebrates its unique culture, which stems from its heritages, cuisine and cosmopolitan lifestyle where the sea and the agriculture play an influential role. 4.500.000 residents of Izmir enjoy many festivals dedicated to arts, culture, ecology and gastronomy, numerous museums, art centers, and independent cultural activities. The crystal-clear Aegean Sea, accompanied by sun and golden sandy beaches are a major part of Izmir's cultural life. The city is also known for its international fair and Kültürpark, which is a landmark dating back to the early years of the Republic of Turkey. Kültürpark is a vast green public space in the city center which has played an important role in connecting Turkey to the world, in the economic and cultural domains, since the 1930s.

Izmir's cultural vision is to evolve into a city of arts, design and innovation, ensuring biodiversity, and eco-friendly production and distribution models. Another aspect of this vision involves developing trans-border relations and making Izmir a node in major city networks by promoting interactions and diversity. The municipality aims at making Izmir more prosperous, democratic, inclusive, just, equal, safe and sustainable with its cultural policies.

The Izmir Metropolitan Municipality implemented the pilot city program of the Committee on Culture of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). Upon the UCLG's invitation, Izmir embarked on the “**Leading City**” program in 2020. Through these programs, the city has participated in a process of learning, capacity building and connectivity based on the principles and values of UCLG's guide, Culture 21 Actions.

Much more, here: www.visitizmir.org/en/Home.



12.09.2021
THE CLOCK TOWER
OF IZMIR





#IzmirCultureSummit

#UCLGmeets

#UCLGculture

#Culture21Actions

#Listen2Cities

www.uclg-culturesummit2021.org

UCLG Culture Summit 2021

Report

culturesummit@uclg.org



Supported by



The European Union

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



Sweden
Sverige

This document has been financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida. Sida does not necessarily share the views expressed in this material. Responsibility for its content rests entirely with the author.