Outcome Document MONDIACULT 2025
Culture Minister's Commitment MONDIACULT 2025

MONDIACULT 2025 World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development
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We, the Ministers and Authorities responsible for Culture of UNESCO Member States and Associate Members, meeting in Barcelona on September 29, 30, and October 1, 2025, in response to the urgent and complex challenges of our time and based on the shared vision established in the Final Declaration of MONDIACULT 2022, reaffirm our collective commitment to firmly anchor culture as a component and pillar of just, peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable development, both as the human right of everyone to take part in cultural life and as a global public good. We collectively commit to strengthen cultural policies and institutions, and the cultural and creative sectors in their entirety, as well as to ensure their interconnection with other areas of development. Culture contributes to the well-being of all, to cultural diversity and cultural expressions, to the preservation of knowledge and heritage, and to the shared care of our planet.

1. Shared Vision

We reaffirm the recognition of the right to take part in cultural life as a human right, inherent to dignity and identity. Culture contributes to the full exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, peacebuilding, inclusive economic growth, climate resilience, wellbeing and sustainable development. It is a global public good, with intrinsic value, whose transformative power must be fully mobilized to address today's challenges and to shape more just, equitable, peaceful, intercultural, inclusive and sustainable societies.

2. Strategic Foundations

This document builds on an inclusive, multi-stakeholder process, including regional consultations, global surveys, and contributions from multiple stakeholders, as well as reflections arising from UNESCO's six cultural conventions. Grounded in the six priority domains of MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration and with an ethical, human rights-based and human-centred approach, it incorporates two focus areas from the preparatory process: culture for peace, and artificial intelligence (AI) and culture. These pillars provide a common foundation for collective action in favour of integrating culture in the post-2030 United Nations (UN) development framework.

3. Culture and Sustainable Development beyond 2030

We recognize that in a future development framework to be decided by Member States through the United Nations mechanisms, culture should be considered as an independent goal in its own right. Here are the areas we consider a priority for cultural policies and practices at all levels.

1. Cultural Rights as Human Rights

- Recognizing, protecting, and promoting the human right to participate in cultural life, and fostering access to, enjoyment of, and benefit from culture and cultural heritage, including in the digital environment, as an ethical, social, and economic imperative.
- Protecting, promoting, and safeguarding artistic freedom and freedom of expression.
- Promoting, preserving, and safeguarding cultural and linguistic diversity and cultural expressions with special recognition of the cultures and languages of Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent, and those belonging to local communities, minorities, and vulnerable groups.
- Increasing efforts to ensure the equitable distribution of opportunities to access, contribute to, and benefit from culture in the face of persisting inequalities.
- Encouraging effective and constructive bilateral and multilateral dialogue, cooperation and actions on the return and restitution to countries of origin of their cultural property, including those with spiritual, ancestral, historical, and cultural value, as appropriate.
- Ensuring the meaningful participation of concerned groups in the countries of origin, including Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and local communities, in the efforts related to the protection, return and restitution of cultural property, including through enhanced collaboration with museums.

2. Culture and Education

- Systematically integrating and strengthening culture, cultural and natural heritage, cultural expressions, and the arts in, through, and with all types of formal, non-formal, and informal education settings.
- Fostering equitable access to lifelong and life-wide learning as a fundamental tool to continuously update and further develop cultural and artistic knowledge and skills.
- Supporting interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to foster innovative synergies between culture, the arts, science, and technology in teaching, learning, and research.
- Forging learning experiences that contribute to the realization of human rights, the appreciation of traditional knowledge, and the promotion of cultural diversity, while strengthening linguistic skills, critical and creative thinking, intercultural understanding, as well as the preservation and safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage for present and future generations.
- Supporting technical and vocational education and training as well as adult learning in the cultural and creative sectors through structural investment in public policies to foster relevant skills, career pathways, and critical cultural competencies in a rapidly changing world.
- Empowering institutions involved in culture to become active educational spaces that promote learning, community engagement, wellbeing, and access to all forms of culture, including arts, heritage, knowledge, and practices.

3. Cultural Economy and Decent Work

- Recognizing the cultural and creative sectors and industries as a fundamental driver of inclusive and sustainable economic development, enabling innovation, and contributing a significant share to national, regional, and global economies.
- Supporting decent work for artists, creators, and cultural workers, including fair remuneration and adequate social protection, building on relevant international labour standards, upholding their economic and social rights, reinforcing the protection of intellectual property, supporting transition to the formal economy, if applicable, and addressing systemic gender-based and other inequalities.
- Strengthening, to the extent possible within national and international frameworks, national, regional and international mobility for artists, and cultural professionals, especially from developing countries, fostering opportunities for professional growth, collaboration, cultural exchange, and access to international markets.
- Supporting cultural institutions and infrastructure as key enablers of the cultural economy, fostering creative ecosystems, innovation, and inclusive community development.
- Promoting access to cultural markets and cultural entrepreneurship, while addressing global and regional imbalances in the circulation of cultural goods and services, and the unequal distribution and visibility of cultural content on all platforms including digital platforms.

4. Culture for Peace

- Promoting culture as an essential element for intercultural, intergenerational and interreligious dialogue, resilience, conflict prevention and resolution, and post-crisis recovery.
- Struggling against all forms of racism, discrimination, and prejudice that threaten artistic freedom, freedom of expression, as well as cultural diversity and heritage.
- Advancing international cultural policy based on human rights, as a tool for promoting international and cross border security, peaceful coexistence, as well as mutual respect and understanding.
- Promoting culture, as well as natural and cultural heritage -both tangible and intangible-, as a vector of memory, identities, reconciliation and social cohesion, strengthening resilience, and the realization of human rights.
- Promoting cultural spaces as safe and accessible environments that foster dialogue, social cohesion, a sense of belonging, and contribute to reducing violence and building lasting peace.

5. Culture, Heritage and Climate Action

- Integrating cultural aspects in discussions on climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, to tackle the impacts of climate change, and biodiversity loss on the cultural and creative sectors, industries, and heritage, and to help shape innovative and equitable climate solutions, recognizing the mandate of relevant organizations, frameworks and mechanism, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

- Acknowledging, valuing, and safeguarding the knowledge, sciences, practices, and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples, local and traditional communities, and people of African descent, as part of climate solutions, in collaboration with concerned groups.
- Developing solutions to safeguarding natural and cultural heritage –both tangible and intangible and protecting the diversity of cultural expressions, from the adverse impacts of climate change, desertification, biodiversity loss, and disasters, considering the disparities in impacts and capacities within and across countries.
- Harnessing the potential of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and the interconnectedness between cultural and biological diversity, as resources for resilience, adaptation, and mitigation, including for disaster preparedness, post-disaster and post-crisis recovery.
- Mobilizing the transformative capacity of the cultural and creative sectors, industries and institutions, to inspire and empower societies for meaningful climate action, while encouraging all cultural stakeholders to actively contribute to regional, national, and local commitments and efforts to address global environmental challenges and advance sustainable development goals.

6. **Culture, Heritage, and Crisis Situations**
   - Safeguarding natural and cultural heritage –both tangible and intangible, as well as the diversity of cultural expressions, in times of crises linked notably to armed conflict, disasters or forced displacement.
   - Integrating provisions related to culture and cultural heritage, in disaster preparedness, crisis management, as well as post-crisis reconstruction and recovery processes.
   - Sustaining the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property through integrated and adequate policies and financing, while fostering cooperation, and supporting the ratification and effective implementation of the UNESCO 1970 Convention.
   - Protecting artists, cultural workers, and institutions in situations of conflict, disaster, or forced displacement, by providing support mechanisms that safeguard their security and ensure the continuity of cultural expressions.
   - Supporting the development of knowledge and data on culture in situations of crisis by engaging academic and research institutions and networks.

7. **Digital Transformation and Equitable Access**
   - Promoting a human-centric and human rights-based approach to a digital environment that respects cultural rights, fosters equity and accessibility, promotes diversity of cultural expressions, including through the discoverability of national and local content on digital platforms, and ensures multilingual content and systems.
   - Advancing the digital transformation of culture by supporting equitable access to digital technologies - including infrastructure and connectivity- funding, and skills building.
   - Developing integrated policies that advance equitable investment in inclusive digital infrastructure and access, to address digital divides and foster digital inclusion, media literacy, and freedom of expression.
   - Protecting the rights of artists and creators, including authors, performers, interpreters, and rightsholders in digital environments, including appropriate payment, safeguarding their intellectual property rights, such as copyright and related rights.
   - Fighting against abuses in digital environments affecting culture, including cyberattacks, disinformation, discriminatory practices, and unethical uses of AI.

8. **Artificial Intelligence and Culture**
   - Using AI to support the safeguard and dissemination of cultural heritage and to broaden access to culture.
   - Promoting the responsible use, development, and governance of AI systems that are human rights-based, trustworthy, ethical, transparent, secure, sustainable, and inclusive addressing bias, including those affecting gender equality.
   - Advancing AI to foster human creativity and support the creation, discoverability, availability, accessibility, cultural preservation, and exchange of diverse and multilingual cultural content of human creation, including digital cultural heritage.
   - Promoting the meaningful participation of culture in AI policy and system development at national and international levels.

- Ensuring recognition and appropriate protection of the artists, creators, bearers, communities, and cultural professionals, in the context of AI, while also safeguarding cultural diversity, intellectual property rights, including copyright and related rights.
- Supporting an approach to AI in culture that empowers human agency through education, research, and innovation, is transparent and protects the human right to take part in cultural life, including for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, people of African descent, persons with disabilities, minorities, and vulnerable groups.

9. **Cultural Data, Evidence, and Research**
- Strengthening inclusive, transdisciplinary, open and sovereign systems for the regular collection, standardization, analysis, and comparison of quality data on culture, both qualitative and quantitative, to supporting policy development and evaluation.
- Advancing a global framework of cultural indicators, based on previous related efforts, to measure the impact of culture, including its contribution to sustainable development, and promote shared cultural data infrastructures to enable interoperability, collaboration and innovation across countries.
- Promoting interdisciplinary research and collaboration, nationally and internationally, among actors of cultural and creative ecosystems and research-related institutions.
- Ensuring the ethical use of data on culture, respecting the human right to enjoy and benefit from culture and protecting privacy and personal data, and traditional knowledge.
- Improving knowledge of the status and evolutions related to pressures and cumulative impacts affecting culture and heritage -tangible, intangible and natural- to better preserve them in the face of global challenges.

Between MONDIACULT of 2022 and 2025, ongoing discussions have stressed that culture is both an indispensable driver and an enabler of sustainable development, and must be included as an integral component and pillar of it. This message is carried by institutions, professionals, communities and civil society around the world. There is no future without culture. We call for urgent action to address challenges that are common to all countries as well as those that are similar, in particular within the multilateral framework. Only through collective action can we advance coherently and effectively in forging more resilient and inclusive futures, where culture is an integral part of human development.

We, the Ministers and Authorities responsible for Culture, gathered in Barcelona, affirm our commitment to strengthened multilateralism, in which culture stands as a cornerstone of global cooperation, solidarity, and respect for human rights. We commit to implementing the measures, policies, resources and mechanisms necessary to make culture a pillar of sustainable development. We build on the foundations of the MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration and encourage UNESCO to continue working alongside Member States, Associate Members, and stakeholders to strengthen and adapt their cultural policies to contemporary challenges and to fully integrate culture into peaceful and sustainable development and forthcoming agendas.