CULTURE IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

A GUIDE FOR LOCAL ACTION

UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments

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United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage, regardless of the size of the communities they serve. Headquartered in Barcelona, the organisation's stated mission 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.

The Committee on Culture of UCLG is the platform of cities, organizations and networks that foster the relation between local cultural policies and sustainable development. It uses the Agenda 21 for culture as its founding document. It promotes the exchange of experiences and improves mutual learning. It conveys the messages of cities and local governments on global cultural issues. The Committee on Culture is co-chaired by Buenos Aires and Mexico City, and vice-chaired by Angers, Barcelona, Belo Horizonte, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Paris and Porto Alegre.

This guide was written in the framework of the implementation of the Agenda 21 for culture and Culture 21 Actions, and it contributes to the activities of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments.

Following a draft version circulated in mid2017 and a consultation period thereafter, this final version of the guide is published in May 2018. UCLG wishes to express a sincere gratitude to all those who have participated in this process.

CULTURE IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A GUIDE FOR LOCAL ACTION

Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2015, *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* is the global agenda on sustainable development until 2030. Building on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the global agenda that was pursued from 2000 to 2015, the new 2030 Agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 specific targets. This is, indeed, a global agenda, the aims and themes of which should be taken into account in all world regions, countries and cities.

The 2030 Agenda amounts to a minor step forward in the consideration of cultural aspects in sustainable development. In the years leading to the adoption of the SDGs, several global networks campaigned, under the banner 'The Future We Want Includes Culture', for the inclusion of one specific goal devoted to culture, or for the integration of cultural aspects across the SDGs. Four documents, including a manifesto, a declaration on the inclusion of culture in the 2030 Agenda, a proposal of possible indicators for measuring the cultural aspects of the SDGs, and an assessment of the final 2030 Agenda, were produced between 2013 and 2015. The Committee on Culture of UCLG was one of the lead networks of the campaign.

Although none of the 17 SDGs focuses exclusively on culture, the resulting Agenda includes several explicit references to cultural aspects. The following elements are particularly worth noting:

- **Target 4.7** refers to the aim to ensuring that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for global citizenship and the appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.
- **Target 8.3** addresses the promotion of development-oriented policies that support productive activities as well as, among others, creativity and innovation.
- **Targets 8.9 and 12.b** refer to the need to devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism, including through local culture and products, and to the need to develop suitable monitoring tools in this area.
- **Target 11.4** highlights the need to strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Furthermore, as this document will aim to demonstrate, cultural aspects will play a pivotal role for the overall 2030 Agenda to be successful, including in areas where connections may only be implicit. In practice, as evidence collected over the years has amply demonstrated, cultural aspects, including active participation in cultural life, the development of individual and collective cultural liberties, the safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritages, and the protection and promotion of diverse cultural expressions, are core components of human and sustainable development. They can also have positive effects in other areas of sustainable development. As the Preamble of the 2030 Agenda indicates:

"We acknowledge the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognize that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development."

Cultural aspects play a pivotal role for the 2030 Agenda to be successful. Cultural rights, heritage, diversity and creativity are core components of human and sustainable development.

For more than a decade, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) has been an active advocate of the integration of culture in all approaches to sustainable development. The Agenda 21 for culture, adopted in 2004, has become a key reference for local governments, civil society activists and experts committed to the integration of culture in local sustainable development. This was further strengthened in 2015 with Culture 21: Actions, a practical toolkit that outlines 100 actions through which culture contributes to making cities more sustainable. A Policy Statement adopted by the 3rd World Congress of UCLG in 2010 also recognizes culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development and calls on cities and local and regional governments around the world to develop a solid cultural policy and to include a cultural dimension in all public policies.

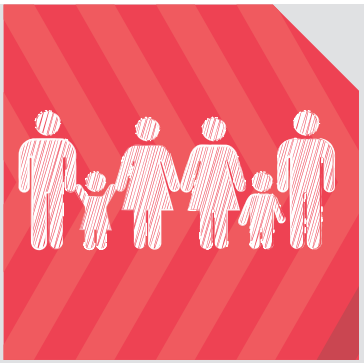
As UCLG has also explained, all of the SDGs have targets that are directly or indirectly related to the daily work of local and regional governments. The 2030 Agenda devotes Goal 11 to 'Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable', thus marking a major step forward in the recognition of the transformative power of urbanization for development. Yet all SDGs should be 'localized' – localizing development means taking into account subnational contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, from the setting of goals and targets, to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitoring progress. It is also putting the territories and the people's priorities, needs and resources at the centre of sustainable development. The Localizing the SDGs portal developed by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, UN-Habitat and the United Nations Development Programme and the practical guide *The Sustainable Development Goals: What Local Governments Need to Know* provide excellent starting points to understand and put into practice the localization of sustainable development.

At the crossroads of sustainable development, culture and cities, this publication aims to provide practical guidance to local and regional governments, civil society organisations, private organisations, culture and development professionals, and other stakeholders interested in strengthening partnerships, policies, projects and practices around the place of culture in the achievement of the SDGs. The document builds on the work of the UCLG Committee on Culture, as well as on many relevant policies, programmes and projects implemented by cities around the world, and contributions made by several other organisations, networks, communities and individuals that have addressed and demonstrated the cultural dimension of sustainable development.

DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

The following section is structured on the basis of the 17 SDGs that make up *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* adopted in 2015. Under each Goal, the document presents information that helps to understand why culture is relevant, and how this connection can be made effective at local level. In particular, the following sections will be found:

- An initial summary of the key themes addressed by each Goal, based on the text of *Transforming Our World*.
- A section entitled **How is culture relevant?**, describing why cultural aspects are significant for the achievement of the relevant role. This section takes into account the explicit references to culture made in the 2030 Agenda, but also builds on evidence existing elsewhere.
- Under **What can cities do?**, recommendations aimed at cities and local governments to explore the links between culture and other policies, programmes and practices related to the achievement of the relevant role are presented. This draws on some previous documents and policy guidelines, as well as on observations made in cities around the world.
- Finally, **How cities make this effective – some examples** presents evidence from cities which have proven the importance of culture to achieve the relevant Goal. Examples have been collected via UCLG's existing policy monitoring tools (including the Agenda 21 for culture's good practice database) as well as from other sources, and also include contributions made by experts and partners. UCLG is aware that the set of examples presented in this document is non-exhaustive and will continue to collect relevant practices addressing culture and sustainable development.



GOAL 01

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

This goal calls for an end to poverty in all its manifestations by 2030. It also aims to ensure social protection for the poor and vulnerable, increase access to basic services and support people harmed by climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

How is culture relevant?

Cultural services are basic services and equal access to them should be guaranteed for all men and women, including the poor and the vulnerable.

Cultural expressions, services, goods and heritage sites can contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic development.

What can cities do?

Ensure that minimum service standards for basic cultural services exist (for example, a minimum number of libraries or books per inhabitant, and the adoption of programmes fostering decentralisation of cultural services), so that everyone has access to culture.

Integrate cultural aspects, and the preservation of cultural resources and capacities, in local economic and resilience strategies, which should also engage local communities.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Pekalongan, which recognizes itself as the 'City of Batik', local strategies giving priority to this traditional textile sector have contributed to generating employment. Batik is the main economic sector in the city and 60% of the employees in the sector are women.

In Porto Alegre, the local government has adopted policies and programmes to decentralise opportunities to access culture, making citizens' cultural rights effective and strengthening collaboration with NGOs and community groups.

In Ouagadougou, the Reemdoogo Music Garden, a cultural infrastructure that provides training, performance and recording facilities, has broadened opportunities for young people and contributed to the emergence of several small businesses.

The cultural policies of Lille-Métropole have contributed to increasing access to culture for everyone, through the enhancement of cultural infrastructure at neighbourhood level, the development of cultural education opportunities and the promotion of specific programmes for disadvantaged groups.

GOAL 02

END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

This goal aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. It also commits to universal access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food at all times of the year. This will require sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices, equal access to land, technology and markets, and international cooperation on investments in infrastructure and technology to boost agricultural productivity.

Target 2.5 refers to the need to maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

How is culture relevant?

Traditional knowledge related to the preservation of existing genetic resources, including the genetic diversity of seeds, should be recognized and maintained, and the fair sharing of the relevant benefits should be promoted.

What can cities do?

Integrate cultural factors, including the knowledge, traditions and practices of all people and communities, into local strategies on environmental sustainability.

Establish programmes to preserve and spread traditional knowledge and practices that contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Seferihisar, the Seed Swap Festival has enabled local producers to maintain traditional, low-cost agricultural practices and raised awareness of the need to preserve sustainable food production and consumption.

GOAL 03

ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

This goal seeks to ensure health and well-being for all, at every stage of life. The Goal addresses all major health priorities, including reproductive, maternal and child health; communicable, non-communicable and environmental diseases; universal health coverage; and access for all to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines. It also calls for more research and development, increased health financing, and strengthened capacity of all countries in health risk reduction and management.

How is culture relevant?

Health policies and programmes need to be culturally-relevant, taking into account local customs, as well as integrating traditional health systems and practitioners where appropriate.

Participation in cultural life can contribute to improved health and well-being, as recognised by an increasing number of studies and examples.

What can cities do?

Include explicit references to cultural factors in local policies in the areas of health and well-being.

Regularly analyse the relationship existing between personal welfare, health and active cultural practices at local level.

Ensure that capacity-building programmes are available to enable health and social service professionals to identify and tackle the cultural factors that prevent people from accessing these services.

Provide support to programmes and projects that foster access to and participation in culture within health settings (hospitals, health centres, etc.).

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Vaudreuil-Dorion, the “Je suis…” cultural engagement project involves a wide-range set of local actors, including health centres, and has generated positive results in areas including perinatal health and mental health.

A range of strategic documents adopted by Malmö, including the Action Plan for the Culture Strategy 2016-2018, identify health as a key factor in local sustainable development and plan to increase access to culture in healthcare, social care and support activities.

Located in a disadvantaged neighbourhood of Montevideo, the Sacude Civic Centre has broadened access to health, culture and sports for local citizens, involved them in priority-setting and management, and contributed to the integration of a cultural dimension in local healthcare programmes.

GOAL 04

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

This Goal aims to ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development and can complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education. It also aims to ensure that equal access for all women and men is available to tertiary education, and that the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills for employment increases. Other aspects addressed include the elimination of gender disparities in education and an increase in the achievement of literacy and numeracy among all youth and a substantial proportion of adults.

Target 4.7 aims to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

How is culture relevant?

Educational programmes at all levels need to integrate contents related to cultural diversity, arts education, languages, and the role of cultural aspects in sustainable development.

A cultural approach, including recognition of local languages and locally-relevant abilities, and the involvement of cultural stakeholders, needs to prevail in the design of curricula at all levels – this is in line with human rights, and can contribute to educational objectives, including students' motivation and community connections.

What can cities do?

Adopt a local strategy linking educational policy and cultural policy.

Work to ensure that the curricula in primary and secondary education include the acquisition of cultural skills and knowledge, intercultural dialogue, diversity, tangible and intangible heritage, and cultural rights.

Provide educational activities for formal and informal environments within cultural facilities (e.g. cultural centres, museums, libraries, theatres, etc.), sites (heritage buildings, archaeological sites, etc.) and programmes (festivals, cultural initiatives, etc.).

Foster the involvement of artists and cultural professionals in education, training and other learning contexts, in order to foster access to and participation in cultural life for citizens of all ages.

Recognise the important role of libraries in fostering inclusive and equitable education and lifelong learning, through their support of literacy programmes, provision of safe spaces for learning, etc.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Barcelona, the "Creators in Residence" project has enabled secondary schools to develop partnerships with artists and creative groups in a range of art disciplines, involving students in creative processes and fostering access to culture for all.

The Arena da Cultura – Open School for the Arts in Belo Horizonte, has provided access to quality arts education in a wide range of disciplines for thousands of citizens and has paved the way for new professional careers in the cultural field.

In Bogotá, a range of initiatives have contributed to enabling access to culture for tens of thousands of children and young people through school and out-of-school activities, with positive social and educational results.

Under the banner *L'Art pour grandir* ('Arts to grow up'), the City of Paris provides a wide range of opportunities to access arts opportunities in schools, libraries, cinemas, conservatories, museums and other cultural venues, aimed at children and young people.

In the context of its Traditional Culture City project, Jeonju has integrated an appreciation of traditional culture in education and lifelong learning programmes, helping children and adults to understand the importance of traditional buildings, intangible heritage and other cultural assets.

Experiences of several cities that have integrated an intercultural approach in their educational policies and programmes, including **Cascais, Getxo, Haifa, Limassol, Neuchâtel, Patras, Portimão, Reykjavik** and **Donostia/ San Sebastian**, have been promoted in the context of the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities programme.

GOAL 05

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

This Goal aims to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere, and eliminate all forms of violence against them, and other harmful practices against women and girls, in the public and private spheres. The Goal also aims to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. Furthermore, it sets the target of ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

UNESCO published the report on gender equality and culture "Gender Equality: Heritage and Creativity" in 2014, in the context of preparations for the 2030 Agenda. The document responds to the urgency of a deeper debate, research and awareness on gender equality and the need for equal cultural rights, responsibilities and opportunities for every person to develop his or her full potential.

The report highlights UNESCO's approach to promoting gender equality, underpinned by the international human rights framework. The report is based on a commitment to cultural rights and cultural diversity, with emphasis on heritage and creativity as enablers for all people, despite the recurring use of traditions, religions or social norms to justify the infringement on human rights or their limitation, for girls and women specially.

Heritage is associated to social values developed over time, so heritage identification, preservation and transmission are the result of a choice, which is most often biased. Gender should be taken into account in order to ensure a plural and diverse representation of sites and practices across the world. As the report shows, the lack of gender awareness demonstrated in safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage at a local and a global level —for instance, within the framework of the lists derived from the 1972 World Heritage Convention and the 2003 Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage Heritage— leads to big challenges that have to be addressed by all local, regional and national governments and the international community.

Similarly, high priority should be accorded within sustainable development to the situation of women and girls in the field of creativity: this must include the recognition of the cultural and historical discrimination women face in fully engaging in creative processes, across different cultural disciplines such as film, theatre or live performance. And along with the stereotypes, stigma and sexism, another invisible barrier for women to be fought is the lack of gendered information, data and analysis.

As the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights at that time, Farida Shaheed, points out: “It is time for a paradigm shift: from viewing culture as an obstacle to women’s rights to one of ensuring women’s equal enjoyment of cultural rights.” And this can only be achieved when culture is completely perceived as an inherent component of society which permeates all kinds of human relations in life, including those based on power, whether this is visible and acknowledged, or not.

How is culture relevant?

Gender equality should also be achieved in cultural life: opportunities for women and girls to take active part in cultural life and lead their own projects and organisations in this area need to be broadened.

Further visibility and recognition needs to be given to cultural practices carried out predominantly by women and girls.

Narratives that address gender discrimination or which show the important role of women and girls in cultural life are needed.

What can cities do?

Integrate a gender dimension in cultural policy and a cultural dimension in policies fostering gender equality and addressing gender discrimination.

Take measures to eliminate gender discrimination and all forms of violence and harmful practices against women and girls in cultural activities.

Ensure that the voices of women receive equal space and profile in the local media.

Ensure that cultural programmes and organisations that receive public support practice gender equality.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Ramallah, the decentralisation of cultural policy, which has fostered an understanding of the importance of culture in local governance and sustainable development, has paid particular attention to the involvement of women and girls in participatory activities and in cultural activities.

In Rosario, the ‘Workshop’ arts centre provides creative opportunities to vulnerable groups and has developed a range of programmes enabling women to produce their own works and narratives.

The work of the Women’s Education for Advancement and Empowerment (WEAVE) organisation in Myanmar includes the provision of safe employment opportunities for women based on traditional craft-making skills.

GOAL 06

ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

This Goal aims to ensure universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, as well as access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene to all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations. The improvement of water quality, the increase in water-use efficiency, and the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes, are also addressed.

How is culture relevant?

Some elements in traditional knowledge can provide lessons towards fostering an appropriate, sustainable use of water-related ecosystems.

What can cities do?

Explicitly recognise in local cultural policies the connections between culture and environmental sustainability, including the sustainable use of resources.

Explore the potential of cultural facilities, events and activities as contexts where to raise awareness of water scarcity and sustainable uses of water-related ecosystems.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Puno, a city located along the shores of Lake Titicaca, the Hamuy Cocha Festival fosters respect and compromise for the world's water resources, including the preservation of ecosystems that create rivers, lakes and lagoons.

In Val-de-Marne, the H2-OH! Festival aims to regain an area of rivers and creeks, foster respect for natural resources and common goods, and raise citizens' awareness on the impacts of their behaviour on the preservation and sustainability of the water ecosystem.

The Nile Project is an international initiative involving universities, policy-makers and musicians, among others, that fosters an understanding of the Nile as a shared ecosystem among communities across the 11 countries that make up its basin, through, among others, a musical dialogue.

GOAL 07

ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

This Goal aims to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, and double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. International cooperation and upgraded technology are also identified as steps servicing this Goal.

How is culture relevant?

Cultural factors, often inadvertently, underpin energy production and consumption patterns.

Creative actors can be involved in the design of educational and awareness-raising activities on energy production and consumption.

What can cities do?

Explore the potential for creative processes to foster new approaches to energy production and consumption.

Ask cultural organisations that receive public support to evaluate their environmental impact and carry out awareness-raising activities on environmental sustainability.

How cities make this effective - some examples

A report produced by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) describes how libraries in Croydon, Derby and other cities in the UK enable users to borrow energy monitors to find out which electrical appliances use a lot of energy, enabling them to change and reduce their energy use.

The Newton Machine is a participatory, artistic intervention developed in Eday, leading to a prototype for storing energy produced in an environmentally sustainable way.

GOAL 08

PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

This Goal involves the achievement of sustained per capita economic growth, with higher levels of economic productivity and development-oriented policies that support decent job creation and entrepreneurship. Other issues addressed include the achievement of full and productive employment and decent job for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, equal pay for work of equal value, the reduction of the proportion of youth who are not in employment, education or training, the eradication of forced labour and the protection of labour rights.

Target 8.3 refers to the promotion of development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

Meanwhile, **Target 8.9** addresses the need to devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

How is culture relevant?

The cultural and creative sectors have the potential to be areas for inclusive, sustainable and fair employment, insofar as the appropriate labour conditions, in accordance with international human rights, are guaranteed.

Cultural aspects can be integrated in tourism strategies, while ensuring that this does not imply decontextualisation of cultural identities, activities and assets and that relevant benefits are reinvested in cultural activities.

What can cities do?

Explore the potential of the cultural and creative sectors to contribute to inclusive, sustainable and fair employment.

Ensure that the local tourism model is sustainable, balanced across the city or region, connected to the local communities and interactive with the cultural ecosystems.

Include cultural knowledge, skills and jobs in employability programmes.

Support the international mobility of artists and culture professionals, thus enhancing employment opportunities for them.

Regularly analyse the contributions made by the public, civil and private cultural sectors to the local economy, including their direct and indirect impact on the creation of employment, as well as how young people, men and women, and disadvantaged sectors are represented therein.

Take measures to ensure adequate working and remuneration conditions for cultural professionals.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Cēsis, the "Culture for a Sustainable Growth" strategy aimed to improve the quality of life of local citizens via culture, capitalising on local cultural heritage, including the links between community-building, sustainable cultural tourism, and social and economic innovation.

In the region of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, the CULTURAT project is a participative process, involving local governments and civil society, including Indigenous communities, which involves citizens in the definition of priorities and has contributed to enhance quality of life through the promotion of sustainable cultural tourism.

In Bilbao, local development strategies have recognised the importance of cultural activities, infrastructures and stakeholders in order to contribute to better quality of life and to social and economic transformation, with clear impacts in terms of employment and tourism attractiveness.

A long-term vision of culture and local sustainable development has enabled Yarra Ranges to foster economic opportunities for local artists and creative businesses and to strengthen the area as a tourism destination, while taking into account the preservation of cultural and natural heritage and involving local communities.

In the 'Sensitive Urban Zone' of Hautepierre, Strasbourg, a venue specialised in digital technology provides young people with expression and digital creation skills and contributes to broadening their employment opportunities.

The promotion of tourism around cultural heritage in Nevşehir relies on the active involvement of the local community, including volunteer cultural and history researchers, teachers and elderly citizens who share their own experiences and knowledge.

Ségou has developed a range of initiatives under the banner of 'creative city', which have contributed to strengthening the local economy through decent jobs in the cultural and creative sectors, as well as increasing local self-esteem and identity.

In Kanazawa, policies have fostered synergies between local artisans and other creative areas, thus combining tradition, innovation and the new technologies and strengthening economic development around traditional culture.

Several local and regional governments, including **Marseilles**, **Île-de-France**, **Puglia and Valletta**, have contributed to schemes facilitating the international mobility of artists, in partnership with the Roberto Cimetta Fund.

International platform Sound Diplomacy provides research and advice to cities in order to explore the potential of local music ecosystems for economic and cultural development.

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network promotes cooperation among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development and which can exchange expertise around 7 creative fields (crafts and folk art; design; film; gastronomy; literature; music; and media arts).

GOAL 09

BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

This Goal addresses the development of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, ensuring affordable and equitable access for all; inclusive and sustainable industrialization; as well as the encouragement of innovation and the increase in the number of research and development workers.

How is culture relevant?

Cultural infrastructures, providing affordable and equitable access to and opportunities to participate in cultural life, are part of the quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure that should be available to everyone.

Artists and creative professionals can be involved in processes aimed at research, development and innovation in a wide range of industrial areas.

What can cities do?

Guarantee the existence and accessibility of a range of cultural facilities, spaces and venues dedicated to training, creation, and production of culture, e.g. art schools, music schools, museums, heritage centres, cultural centres, festivals, dance houses, auditoriums, libraries, etc.

Ensure the availability of a variety of financing mechanisms for for-profit cultural projects, such as microcredits, venture capital, and sponsorship programmes.

Promote partnerships between people active in the cultural sector and businesses, e.g. through residencies and other systems of innovation and knowledge transfer.

Analyse and promote an understanding of the relationship existing between grassroots cultural processes and social innovation.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Mexico City, the Factories of Arts and Jobs (FAROs) are a new generation of cultural infrastructures in the outskirts of the city, linked to strategies of education, citizen participation, social inclusion and the creation of jobs.

In Roeselare, ARhus is an open knowledge centre, a new kind of library that is linked to a wide range of local strategies, including the promotion of innovation and knowledge via, among others, cooperation with local businesses.

In Linz, the Open Commons Linz project gives citizens responsible, open access to data, including cultural assets, on the understanding that knowledge can be multiplied when shared, and that innovation can emerge through collaboration between businesses, science, cultural and other organisations.

The Municipal Cultural Centre in Byblos provides access to a range of cultural and educational services for children, young people and adults, ultimately guaranteeing lifelong learning that meets the needs of residents and allows them to increase their knowledge. Thanks to its dynamic, good-quality services, it has been rated the second best centre in Lebanon.

The investment made by Kazan in improving the local cultural environment and the availability of cultural facilities has contributed to an increase in trends of participation in cultural life, particularly among children and young people.

The 'Cultural Metropolis programme' in Wuhan involves significant investment in the improvement of libraries, museums, arts centres and other cultural facilities, and places emphasis on broadening opportunities for children, young people, elderly people and disadvantaged people, among others.

GOAL 10

REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

This Goal calls for reducing inequalities in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status within a country. This involves eliminating discriminatory legislation, policies and practices, and adopting and promoting others that contribute to achieving greater equality. The Goal also addresses inequalities among countries, including those related to representation (e.g. enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in global decision-making), migration (e.g. planned and well-managed migration policies) and development assistance.

How is culture relevant?

Cultural participation can contribute to empowering and promoting the inclusion of all people, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

Artists and creative professionals can be involved in the design and presentation of narratives which give voice to developing countries.

All approaches to migration should include a cultural dimension and intercultural dialogue.

What can cities do?

Integrate within cultural policy aims related to people's ability to create, produce and disseminate their own cultural expressions, paying special attention to the most vulnerable groups and individuals.

Recognise and celebrate cultural diversity as a goal in cultural policies.

Integrate intercultural dialogue and active participation in cultural life as elements in policies and programmes addressing migration, refuge and internal displacement.

Require cultural institutions that receive public support to carry out programmes that include disadvantaged groups and conduct them in neighbourhoods with high levels of poverty and exclusion.

Ensure that cultural facilities and spaces are accessible to all, including people with disabilities.

Promote inter-generational cooperation through culture.

Regularly analyse the obstacles to citizens' access and participation in cultural life.

How cities make this effective - some examples

The Cultural Cooperation Charter adopted by the City of Lyon and a wide range of local stakeholders has contributed to enabling active participation in cultural life for everyone, ultimately resulting in the reduction of social inequalities, increased social cohesion, the visualisation of cultural diversity and better adaptation of public services.

In Medellín, the local cultural policy has among its specific objectives the promotion of respect for difference and the inclusion of everyone in cultural life, with specific programmes addressing gender equality and the recognition of the cultural rights of vulnerable groups (e.g. Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities, children, elderly people, internally-displaced people, etc.).

Angers' Culture and Solidarity Charter brings together cultural and social actors, with the joint aim of enabling people with financial difficulties or suffering from isolation or disadvantage to feel like real citizens, through the discovery of different forms of art and culture.

In Rio de Janeiro, the 'Local Actions' programme has provided for the enhanced availability of cultural activities in areas that had traditionally received less governmental support, and contributed to strengthening peripheral neighbourhoods and their local development.

The House of the Exchange of Populations in Nilüfer provides a space for the preservation, visualisation and exchange of the memories and heritages of the different communities that make up the city.

The 'cultural mediation' approach developed by Montreal fosters an engagement of artists and cultural professionals in encouraging access and active participation in cultural life for all citizens.

The festival of *La Carrera del Gancho* in Zaragoza promotes an integral approach to neighbourhood renewal, through the active engagement of citizens in cultural activities and a space for intergenerational and intercultural collaboration.

GOAL 11

MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

This is the main Goal dedicated to sustainable development in cities. The Goal aims to ensure access to adequate, safe and affordable housing, basic services and transport systems for all. It also addresses the need to enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization, improve urban resilience in the context of disasters and reduce the environmental impact of cities.

Target 11.4 states the aim to strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Target 11.7 refers to the provision of universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

How is culture relevant?

Many relevant sites and elements of tangible and intangible cultural heritage are found in cities and play a role in sustainable local development – indeed, cultural aspects are fundamental to foster local sustainable development.

Green and public spaces can allow for the development of cultural activities and need to be accessible to everyone.

Traditional construction techniques and related knowledge and materials can inform approaches to the renovation of existing buildings and the design of new ones.

Cultural factors inform behaviour in cities, in areas including transport and mobility, uses of the environment, etc.

What can cities do?

Adopt policies regarding the protection of cultural heritage in all its dimensions, both tangible and intangible.

Promote an understanding that culture plays a role in sustainable local development, through appropriate capacity-building, policy design, implementation and evaluation, etc.

Allocate appropriate human, technical and financial resources to local cultural policies, in line with the understanding that culture is fundamental to achieve local sustainable development.

Keep an updated inventory of local natural and cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, and establish mechanisms for its preservation and conservation according to international standards.

Foster the use of a reference guide on 'cultural impact assessment' within urban planning policies.

Adopt measures to promote the role of culture in the renovation of historic centres and in neighbourhood, district and regional development plans.

Recognise public spaces, including streets, squares and other places, as key resources for cultural interaction and participation.

Ensure that capacity-building programmes addressing sustainable urban planning, transport and mobility, and other related areas integrate a cultural dimension, e.g. training activities devised by local government associations and development agencies.

Be aware of the risk that cultural facilities and actors reinforce gentrification process, and take measures to control this.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Beit Sahour, the revitalisation of the historic Old City and its related heritage have been the basis of policies contributing to local identity, sustainable tourism, the promotion of the cultural industries, and community participation in cultural life.

The City of Cuenca has adopted very effective policies for the protection and promotion of all dimensions of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, and integrated this in other approaches to local sustainable development, including urban planning policies.

In Buenos Aires, local cultural policies have explored in depth the implications of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, with measures adopted to protect it, innovate in management models, identify new forms of heritage, and link this with other areas of sustainable urban development.

In Lisbon, a range of measures including the 'Urban Art Gallery' have contributed to the improvement of public space, its acknowledgement as an environment for cultural expression and participation, and the transversal recognition of cultural expressions emerging from cities, including urban art.

In Regensburg, the World Heritage City's management plan matches the inherited urban landscape with contemporary demands, actively involves citizens and has contributed to integrating cultural heritage in urban planning, economic development, tourism and other areas.

The Makati Poblacion Heritage Conservation Project builds upon the local area's historical and cultural heritage assets to heighten the sense of pride and to address the social and economic challenges and opportunities of urban development.

The 2030 Master Plan of the Seoul Metropolitan Government and its related Urban Planning Charter embrace history, culture and landscape, including the preservation of heritage, the promotion of creative uses of the city's tangible and intangible heritage and the enhancement of cultural facilities.

The Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy of Cape Town provides a framework that connects cultural aspects with a wide range of areas of policy, including economic development, harmonious coexistence between communities and urban planning.

In Hoi An, local cultural policy has sought to integrate heritage preservation in broader local aims, including those that seek to protect the natural environment, foster integrated urban planning and ensure that tourism is inclusive and sustainable.

For over a decade, cultural policies in Surakarna (Solo) have sought to integrate culture in all aspects of public life and this has led to an increasing recognition and preservation of cultural expressions, performers and craftspeople.

The cultural policy of Tunis has placed emphasis, among others, on the preservation of tangible and intangible heritage, incorporating a cultural dimension in all urban regeneration processes and revitalising the image of the old city as Tunis' urban centre.

In **England and Wales**, Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act provides for establishing agreements among local governments and private developers, for the provision of contributions to offset impacts caused by construction and other urban developments. These contributions can be used, among others, to establish or improve cultural facilities.

The international forum Creative Mobilities contributes to fostering an understanding of how cultural factors shape and can transform mobility patterns in cities, including uses of public transport and usage of public spaces.

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) has developed a range of tools and recommendations to contribute to the implementation of **Target 11.4** on strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

GOAL 12

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

This Goal aims to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, and the environmentally sound management of chemicals. Other relevant measures include the reduction of waste and information, and awareness-raising on sustainable behaviours and practices.

Target 12.b addresses the development and implementation of tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

How is culture relevant?

Local, traditional products that are suited to sustainable consumption and production need to be recognized and appreciated.

What can cities do?

Include history and culture in guidelines and initiatives that promote the production and consumption of local products.

Recognise gastronomy, based on local produce, as a constituent element of local culture.

Facilitate and promote citizen initiatives for the sustainable use of public spaces, especially those linked to new gardening practices, and other examples of socio-ecological innovation.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Chefchauen, one of the cities that promoted the recognition of the Mediterranean diet as an element in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list, local policies highlight the importance of the culinary arts, helping citizens come to terms with their identity, strengthening inclusive economic development linked to local products, and bolstering sustainable tourism.

In the context of its Municipal Culture Plan, the city of Florianópolis has adopted measures to foster reinterpretation of traditional cuisine, recognising the value of local produce while integrating contemporary elements, and contributing both to economic development and to inclusive social development.

The Sunday Cultures Fair of La Paz aims to democratize access to locally-produced cultural expressions and events, including crafts, gastronomy and the arts, while broadening opportunities for local creative initiatives and businesses, and promoting the recovery of urban public spaces for citizens' uses, healthy recreation, and community enjoyment.

The MUSEM Culinary Centre in Gaziantep contributes to keeping local gastronomy alive, understanding it as part of intangible heritage, and introducing it to a largest audience. In doing so, it also strengthens local identity and social cohesion.

GOAL 13

TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

This Goal aims to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries, integrate climate change measures into all policies and strategies, and improve education, awareness-raising and capacity in this field.

How is culture relevant?

Links exist between cultural activities, traditional knowledge, and environmentally-sustainable practices, which should be explored and fostered.

Creative professionals can be involved in awareness-raising activities on climate change.

What can cities do?

Explicitly recognise in cultural policies the connections between culture and environmental sustainability, including concerns about climate change, resilience and the sustainable use of resources.

Establish a working group or task force to link the work of local government departments of culture and environment.

Involve artists and cultural professionals when devising strategies and programmes to foster adaptation to climate change.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Dakar, the School of the Commons project aims to use collective creativity to address urban problems, including through the renovation of public spaces in the form of urban gardens, citizen engagement, and the creation of jobs in the field of ecology.

In Banda Aceh, efforts following the 2004 tsunami addressed cultural heritage, including research and conservation, as well as capacity-building and public awareness, in order to ensure that valuable buildings and urbanism were not destroyed in the reconstruction process.

In Chicago, the 'Environmental Sentinel' project was a climate-monitoring artwork of 453 temperature-sensitive, native, flowering trees to engage citizens and scientists in understanding local microclimates and the effects of climate change.

Some organisations, including Julie's Bicycle and COAL, provide advice, support and practical tools to cultural organisations, cities and other stakeholders interested in reducing emissions and fostering adaptation to climate change within the cultural sector.

GOAL 14

CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

This Goal aims to contribute to the prevention and reduction of marine pollution, the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, and the reduction of ocean acidification. It also addresses the need to end overfishing, to conserve coastal and marine areas, and to increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries form the sustainable use of marine resources.

How is culture relevant?

Some cultural traditions relate to the sustainable preservation of marine and coastal ecosystems and need to be identified and reinforced.

What can cities do?

Explicitly consider the notion of 'landscape' in their policies, integrating both natural and cultural aspects of development.

Recognise and preserve cultural practices, traditions and stories related to sustainable uses of oceans, seas and marine resources, including through the establishment of specialised institutions (e.g. ecomuseums, maritime museums, etc.) and other initiatives.

How cities make this effective - some examples

The Ha Long Ecomuseum, based in a unique area because of its geomorphic features, natural characteristics, ecosystems and biodiversity, brings together an appreciation of the landscape and heritage and measures to protect the natural environment, and has established a Floating Cultural Centre in a small fishing village.

In the province of Jeju, the culture of *haenyeo* (women divers) can be seen as an eco-friendly method of maintaining sustainable fishing practices, rooted in traditional knowledge, as well as a practice which has contributed to the advancement of women's status in the community.

GOAL 15

PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

This Goal aims to ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems, including forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, combat desertification, and reduce the degradation of natural habitats. Other targets refer to the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources, the need to end poaching and trafficking of protected species, and the integration of ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning.

How is culture relevant?

Cultural factors related to the preservation of terrestrial ecosystems, including relevant local and traditional knowledge, needs to be integrated in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes in this area.

What can cities do?

Recognise the cultural importance of natural spaces, with specific programmes.

Develop initiatives which foster the preservation and transfer of traditional knowledge and intangible heritage practices related to the sustainable management and use of terrestrial ecosystems.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Gabrovo, several measures have been adopted to foster the transfer of knowledge from local rural communities to urban areas, including the 'Welcome to the Village' project, which enables children to learn from elderly people living in rural areas.

Baie-Saint-Paul, an 'art and heritage town' crossed by two rivers and part of the Biosphere Reserve of Charlevoix, has adopted an Agenda 21 that brings together the four pillars of sustainable development, including an understanding of the links between cultural vitality and environmental preservation.

In Kaunas, the Šančiai Cabbage Field Project has made cultural rights effective by reclaiming a parcel of land through a participative, citizen-led process, in which the arts and culture contribute to transform the territory and raise awareness of the richness of the plant and tree life in the area, among other aims.

GOAL 16

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

This Goal focuses on the reduction of all forms of violence and related death rates, the ending of abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children, the promotion of the rule of law of access to justice for all, and the reduction of illicit financial and arms flows. It also aims to substantially reduce corruption, to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions, and strengthen the participation of developing countries in global governance.

Target 16.4 calls for the return of stolen assets.

Target 16.7 promotes responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

Target 16.10 demands the enhancement of public access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms. All of these targets have specific implications in the field of culture, as explained below.

How is culture relevant?

Stolen cultural assets should be returned to the relevant communities.

Citizens should be able to participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of cultural policies and programmes.

Cultural facilities, including libraries and knowledge centres, foster access to information.

Strategies aimed at the alleviation of violence and the promotion of peace should integrate a cultural component.

What can cities do?

Place cultural rights at the centre of local policies, informing the design, implementation and evaluation of policies, programmes, facilities, etc.

Take into account and recognise the potential of culture in local conflict prevention and resolution strategies.

Ensure access to free and plural information, including through plural local media.

Commit to protecting and promoting freedom of artistic expression, both at local and at international level, e.g. by providing shelter to artists and culture professionals under threat.

Establish public cultural policy forums (e.g. local councils on culture), involving public, private, civil society bodies and citizens, with the aim of discussing, setting-priorities for and monitoring local cultural policy.

Guarantee that cultural institutions that receive public support are transparent, accountable and evaluate the public services that they provide.

Recognise the important role of civil society organisations and networks as part of a plural governance of culture, and guarantee the existence of an enabling environment for its development.

National associations of municipalities and individual cities should also ask their respective national governments to create a "cultural policy" chapter, and include a "cultural impact assessment" process, in national programmes to implement the SDGs.

How cities make this effective - some examples

In Concepción, an extensive consultation process including debates and individual interviews, involving over 3000 people, led to the adoption of the city's Cultural Strategic Plan, in the context of the city's aim of establishing a new, joint vision for long-term sustainable development. Participatory spaces have remained thereafter, so as to oversee and contribute to the implementation of activities.

A major railway disaster in 2013 led to the need to 'rebuild' and 'reinvent' Lake Mégantic. Citizens and local institutions took this as an opportunity to establish a new, horizontal and participatory model of governance, with a strong engagement of citizens and associations, and which has recognised culture as a fundamental aspect of quality of life.

In Busan, the TOTATOGA Creative Village Project is a community initiative which aims to make the city a place where culture is part of daily life and contributes to prosperity, with a strong component of citizen engagement and public-private collaboration. It has transformed traditional models of policymaking and has been seen as a model to follow by other cities.

In Timbuktu, a range of measures aimed at reinvigorating the socio-economic and urban fabric of the city following the occupation of 2012-13 involved the strengthening of cultural heritage, the defence of citizens' freedom to maintain their cultural practices, and the promotion of culture as a strategy for resilience and sustainable cohabitation.

Facing an increase in violence, Tamaulipas promoted a network of community culture groups involving in particular young people, training them to work as volunteers and contribute to the coexistence of their communities.

Involving a strong participatory component, the Cultural Sustainability Framework of Galway, strongly inspired by Culture 21 Actions, has enabled local stakeholders to map cultural resources and explore how they relate to other areas of local governance.

The first Cultural Plan of Washington DC has been developed through a strong consultation process, is inspired by Culture 21 Actions and places emphasis on all residents' ability to take active part in cultural life.

Cultural policies in Izmir have a strong component of collaboration and plural governance of culture, notably through the work of the Izmir Mediterranean Academy and the Izmir Culture Platform Initiative, which brings together cultural actors.

The International Federation of Libraries Associations and Institutions (IFLA) has developed a range of tools and recommendations to help libraries and library authorities implement the 2030 Agenda, with particular emphasis on Target 16.10 (public access to information) but also addressing other Goals and Targets.

The International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN) gathers cities and regions offering shelter to writers and artists at risks, advancing freedom of expression, defending democratic values and promoting international solidarity.

GOAL 17

STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

This Goal involves, among other issues, the strengthening of national and international efforts to contribute to sustainable development objectives, including through official development assistance and other financial resources, improved technology development and transfer, capacity-building, and stronger international partnerships in all areas. References are also made to trade issues, including the significant increase in the exports of developing countries.

How is culture relevant?

International, national and local strategies for sustainable development, including those that aim to implement the 2030 Agenda, need to integrate a cultural dimension.

Capacities of cultural stakeholders should be strengthened, enabling them to address other sustainable development challenges, and capacity-building should also enable other groups involved in sustainable development to understand the importance of cultural aspects.

The capacity of cultural stakeholders to produce and distribute cultural goods and services, particularly those that represent lesser-known cultural expressions, should be strengthened.

What can cities do?

Establish international cultural cooperation programmes, with a particular emphasis on the protection and promotion of cultural diversity.

Support capacity-building programmes that contribute to an understanding of the place of culture in local, national and international sustainable development strategies, targeting all relevant development actors (local governments, civil society organisations, private actors, etc.).

Promote the participation of local government associations and cultural stakeholders in national and local strategies meant to implement the 2030 Agenda, as well as addressing sustainable development more broadly.

How cities make this effective - some examples

The city of Hannover's "Twinning for a Culture of Sustainability" programme, involving partners from Ghana, Malawi, Palestine, Poland and Turkey, has explored the potential of international cooperation to contribute to an awareness of global sustainable development challenges and the promotion of responsible citizenship, in areas including fair trade.

In Yopougon, a range of measures has been adopted to foster youth cohesion and engagement in local initiatives, including in the cultural field. A local Youth Council has been established, which provides technical and financial support to strengthen and build the capacities of youth associations.

The World City Forum of Milan brings together over 600 associations representing approximately 120 communities resident in Milan, with the aim of sharing ideas, projects and proposals for the development cultural policies in the area.

The resolution "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Building Sustainability at the Local Level", promoted by the Association of German Cities and the German Section of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, calls municipalities to link existing or new local measures or strategies for social, environmental, economic, political or cultural sustainability with the SDGs. The resolution has been adopted by 65 German municipalities at the last count.

In Australia, the National Local Government Cultural Forum, instigated by the Cultural Development Network (CDN), brings together local and federal authorities as well as local government associations, providing a multi-level governance framework to discuss cultural policies and their linkages with broader sustainable development.

CULTURE 21: ACTIONS

Adopted at the first UCLG Culture Summit held in Bilbao in March 2015, *Culture 21: Actions* is a practical toolkit enabling cities to integrate culture in their approaches to sustainable development. The document presents 100 specific actions, grouped under nine thematic Commitments. The latter include those aspects that contribute to reinforcing the cultural dimension of quality of life in cities (heritage, diversity, creativity, opportunities to exercise cultural rights for all, and suitable governance arrangements), as well as a set of areas of interaction with other dimensions of sustainable development, as follows:

1. Cultural rights
2. Heritage, diversity, and creativity
3. Culture and education
4. Culture and environment
5. Culture and economy
6. Culture, equality, and social inclusion
7. Culture, urban planning, and public space
8. Culture, information, and knowledge
9. Governance of culture

Culture 21: Actions operates as a tool for self-assessment, policy innovation and peer-learning for cities, the use of which is open to local governments, civil society organisations, citizens, experts and other interested stakeholders. Collaboration among different agents when using it is strongly encouraged. The toolkit is currently available in seven languages, with more translations foreseen.

Following the adoption of Culture 21: Actions, the Committee on Culture of UCLG has established a range of capacity-building and peer-learning programmes, including Culture 21 Lab, Pilot Cities and Leading Cities, which allow cities to implement and monitor the 100 actions in their own contexts.

Culture 21: Actions builds on the principles of the Agenda 21 for culture (2004), updating it and making it more practical. It also responds to UCLG's understanding of culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development. Several of the specific actions outlined in the present document under the headings "What can cities do?" are inspired by the 100 actions included in Culture 21: Actions.

OVER 120 EXAMPLES OF CULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE CITIES COLLECTED

Many of the examples presented in this document are drawn from the good practice database of the Agenda 21 for culture, which collects over 120 relevant experiences from local and regional governments around the world.

The good practice database has indexed these good practices on the basis of three key criteria:

- The **Sustainable Development Goals**, thus facilitating an understanding of how culture can contribute to the achievement of each of the 17 SDGs;
- The **9 commitments included in UCLG's Culture 21 Actions** toolkit;
- A range of **75 keywords** providing a comprehensive approach to how cultural aspects are essential in sustainable development.

The good practice database of the Agenda 21 for culture remains a dynamic tool, which is regularly updated. These good practices also enable the Committee on Culture of UCLG to develop research activities and foster peer-learning and capacity-building among cities.

“THE FUTURE WE WANT INCLUDES CULTURE”: THE #CULTURE2015GOAL CAMPAIGN

In 2013, in the context of preparations for what was to become the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (then commonly referred to as ‘Post-2015 Agenda’), several global networks in the field of culture launched the #culture2015goal campaign. This initiative called for the inclusion of a specific goal on culture in the 2030 Agenda, aware that the international community’s failure to recognise culture in the Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000 had reduced the attention paid to cultural factors over the previous decade and could be seen as one of the factors that limited its effectiveness.

Between 2013 and 2015, promoters of the campaign published the following documents:

- Declaration “Culture as a Goal in the Post-2015 Development Agenda” (September 2013)
- Manifesto: “Declaration on the Inclusion of Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals” (May 2014)
- Proposal of Indicators: “Recognizing the Role of Culture to Strengthen the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda” (February 2015)
- Communique: “Culture in the SDG Outcome Document: Progress Made, but Important Steps Remain Ahead” (September 2015)

The latter document, published on the occasion of the Special Summit on Sustainable Development that was due to adopt the 2030 Agenda, included an initial analysis of the cultural aspects contained in the 2030 Agenda, as well as the shortcomings identified. It also indicated network partners’ belief that global efforts connecting culture and sustainable development would continue to be necessary.

The Committee on Culture of UCLG was one of the networks involved in the “The Future We Want Includes Culture” campaign. Other key networks included the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA), the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD), Culture Action Europe, the International Music Council, Arterial Network, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Red Latinoamericana de Arte para la Transformación Social. Several other cultural organisations, artists, culture professionals and citizens joined the campaign by signing its manifesto and spreading its activities and documents.

For additional information about the campaign, please visit www.culture2030goal.net

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE LOCALIZATION OF SDGS

Local and regional government play a vital role in the achievement of all 17 SDGs. Because of this, UCLG advocates for the 'localization of the SDGs', namely, for distinct local challenges and opportunities to be taken into account in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. UCLG's work in this area is done in partnership with the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, a coordination and consultation mechanism set up in 2013 to bring the perspectives of local and regional governments to the SDGs, the climate change agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

Among the tools developed in this context is the *Localizing the SDGs portal*, a toolbox developed by the Global Taskforce, UN Habitat and UNDP with the purpose of supporting local and regional implementation of the SDGs, raising awareness of the SDGs among local and national actors and creating an enabling environment for the localization process.

Ultimately, local and regional ownership of the 2030 Agenda and effective implementation and delivery at local and regional level should rely on the active involvement of local and regional governments and other local stakeholders (e.g. local government associations) in the design, monitoring and evaluation of national sustainable development strategies and related policies.

From a cultural perspective, the "localization" of the SDGs is a challenge, mainly because of the fact that the content related to culture in the Agenda 2030 is weak. The purpose of this publication is to provide suitable tools to local actors to overcome this situation. Actors implementing the SDGs need to be aware of the tension between the "cold" description of the SDG and the "warm" local histories, context and realities; in other words, "localization" needs recognition and reinterpretation. Also, cities and local governments need to involve and empower citizens, actors and networks related to culture in any local process related to the "localization". Whenever possible, national cultural networks and the culture committees of local government associations should also be involved in national processes, in order to ensure that cultural aspects are integrated in national strategies and in the localization of the SDGs.

The localization of the SDGs has been integrated across UCLG's policies, including its learning activities, where a set of tools to raise awareness and support policy development are being produced. Likewise, UCLG's research activities continue to analyse the role of local and regional governments in the implementation of global agendas, including the SDGs. In this respect, following the publication of the report *National and Sub-National Governments on the way towards the Localization of the SDGs* (2017), UCLG's Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD) continues to prepare new documents on SDG localization and the recognition of the role of local and regional governments at global level.

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The UCLG Committee on Culture remains interested in collecting views and examples on the place of cultural aspects in the achievement of the SDGs, as well as in exploring possible collaborations in this area. Please use the contact details below to submit your contributions.

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