

# CULTURE AS A GLOBAL PUBLIC GOOD

Towards a  
Culture Development Goal beyond 2030

Wed 12 July 2023, 6.30-7.30pm

UN Headquarters, Conference Room 3

The Event will be followed by a Reception at the  
United Nations Headquarters



Register here

For those with access to UNHQ  
kindly RSVP by 11 July

If you do not have access to UNHQ  
please RSVP by 10 July, 12pm

## Concept Note

The **UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022** marked a turning point for global policy dialogue and paved the way to shape a renewed vision on culture for sustainable development. The unanimous and historic adoption of the MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration by one-hundred and fifty States affirmed **culture as a global public good** and called for its inclusion as a stand-alone goal in the post-2030 international development agenda.

Building on this momentum, the 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development represents a key opportunity to advance global advocacy on the **inclusion of culture as a stand-alone goal in the post-2030 international development agenda**, in the run-up to the SDG Summit in 2023, Summit of the Future in 2024 and MONDIACULT 2025.

While SDG 11 represented the main entry point for culture (target 11.4) in the 2030 Agenda, looking forward it is important to ensure a more systemic inclusion of culture as a standalone goal post 2030. At a midpoint towards 2030, due recognition of the role of culture for sustainable development can provide an innovative shift to help fill persistent gaps in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

In this context, UNESCO and Greece are organizing a high-level discussion, in the margin of the HLPF on the role of culture as a global public good and as a driver of sustainable development. Moderated by the Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO, high-level speakers and panelists will reflect on the key need to **guarantee the right of everyone to access, participate in, and enjoy culture.**

Cultural rights encompass the right to cultural heritage and identity; intellectual property, fair remuneration; and artistic freedom, including the right to create without censorship or intimidation, the right to the protection of socio-economic rights, and the right to freedom of movement. It also comprises the right of communities in the practice and transmission of intangible cultural heritage.

In light of the impact of the climate crisis on the culture sector, of growing economic inequalities, intentional destruction of cultural heritage, including of monuments and sites of cultural or religious significance, as well as growing displacement of populations following conflicts and disasters, **efforts to integrate culture within humanitarian responses to crisis situations must be upscaled.** The UNESCO legal framework on culture emphasizes the need to ensure universal respect for cultural rights within the protection, restoration, and preservation of cultural heritage, in line with the corresponding UN Resolutions on Culture and Development adopted in the past decade.

In addition, the issue of the **return or restitution of cultural property to its countries of origin** will be discussed, recalling the unanimously adopted General Assembly Resolution 76/16 of 2021 on the “Return or Restitution of Cultural Property to the countries of origin” introduced and coordinated by Greece, which gathered the unprecedented number of 111 co-sponsors Member States.

**Culture must be part of the integrated approach required to promote effective multilateralism at the UN level.** This requires bold investment in knowledge, foresight, and renewed governance arrangements, in all fields of public policy. The support of Member States is essential in securing the integration of culture in the Declaration of the SDG Summit to be adopted in September 2023, as a stepping-stone towards a culture goal post-2023 for the benefit of future generations.