




UCLG CULTURE SUMMIT

Culture. Future. Goal.

DUBLIN STATEMENT



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We Act to Bring Local Visions to Global Tables

We are living in a change of age, in which culture needs to be at the centre of the way humanity understands development and distributes power.

Today, a marginal place of culture in the global conversation on development is no longer acceptable. Denial of the climate crisis, existence of war, worsening inequalities, and threats to democracy around the world, are simply no longer acceptable.

Culture is what makes us humans. Culture is the expression of values, “a common, renewable resource in which we meet one another, learn what can unite us and how to engage with differences in a shared space” (as the Rome Charter affirms). Our relationship with nature, the past, each other and with change are cultural assumptions (as the Izmir circular culture approach explains). Development is only sustainable and human if the cultural dimension is explicit: heritage in all forms, diversity, creativity, education, transmission of knowledge and intercultural dialogue (UCLG already recognised culture as the fourth pillar of Sustainable Development in 2010, and advocate today for the full recognition of culture in the local and global agendas).

The fifth UCLG Culture Summit was held in Dublin (Republic of Ireland) from 28 November to 1 December 2023, hosted by Dublin City Council and Dublin City Council Culture Company. The Summit has witnessed hundreds of great projects, programmes and policies developed by local and regional governments, and their associations, all around the world. They are already unfolding the UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity approved in Daejeon in October 2022, and they are local incarnations and examples for the global commitments that the UN will discuss in the Summit of the Future (September 2024).



These projects, programmes and policies express why cultural rights are an integral part of UCLG's Pact for the Future. They exemplify the connections between cultural policies and the future of the social contract with care at its core. They bring back hope and solidarity, across all local communities and social groups, governments, territories, and regions; they build a broader consensus around the shared values that guide us, based on human rights and equality, and they expand the spaces that allow us to dream, plan, vision, and organise together.

The Summit has been a place of learning and has built new capacities, to improve local action and to boost international connectivity in several areas:

- Culture, Climate and Eco Transitions: the need to connect the climate emergency with cultural policies.
- Keys to Gender Equality in Cultural Policies: the promotion of the fundamental role that gender equality has begun to play in cultural policies.
- Culture, Health and Wellbeing: new cultural programmes that implement the scientific evidence of the correlation between wellbeing, good health and active cultural practice.
- Public Spaces and Communities: the importance of the cultural use of public space and the engagement of communities.
- Tourism and Cultural Sustainability: the balance between people's ownership of local culture while it has also become one of the main sources of attractiveness of a territory.
- Localizing the SDGs with culture: the examples of cities that have held the UCLG "Seven Keys" workshop.
- Heritage for Today and Tomorrow: the testament to human creativity, as well as a resource for the construction of the identities of people and communities.
- Measuring the Impacts of Cultural Policies: the contribution of research to improve the capacities of local governments.
- Capitals of Culture, Working Together: the emerging collaboration among the various Capital of Culture initiatives around the world, in Europe, Africa and the Americas.



Two very concrete outputs of the Summit.

- First, the new global toolkit “21 PLUS”, on Cultural Rights and Sustainable Development, based on the analysis of needs and challenges of cities on the implementation of cultural rights. This guide will be tested by cities around the world in 2024, with a view to its adoption in 2025.
- Second, the unanimous claim for a dedicated Culture Goal in the UN post-2030 Agenda. Based on the proposal of the #Culture2030goal campaign, the Summit discussed the contents of the Goal and possible Targets, as well as the next steps needed to convince all stakeholders that are not yet aware or still hesitate.

Dublin won the UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21 Award in 2022 and has been the perfect place to hold the 5th UCLG Culture Summit in 2023. As the city of Dublin brilliantly demonstrates: sustainable development will only happen in cities and territories if we listen to people, consider their vision and experience and connect with their needs and aspirations. The policies of Dublin, connecting people with culture through Accessibility, Wellbeing and Evidence, and putting the people of Dublin at the centre of cultural policy, are an example for all the cities around the world.

Global challenges can only be addressed by dealing with local challenges, and we, local and regional governments, are the holders of this change.

#UCLGCultureSummit

www.uclg-culturesummit2023.org

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Statement

culturesummit@uclg.org

development@dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL
CULTURE COMPANY
COMHLACHT CULTÚIR
CHOMHÁIRLE CATHRACH
BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH



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