



High-level Event on Culture and Sustainable Development

on the occasion of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background

The transformative power of culture for social inclusion, resilience and development is increasingly recognized as a key enabler for Sustainable Development. Culture is an essential component of human development, representing a source of identity, innovation and creativity for all. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development marked a major turning point in global efforts to address development challenges and opportunities. In the fourth year of implementation, local authorities and communities are taking an increasingly important role in this global momentum alongside international and national actors and other relevant stakeholders. Culture can serve as a strong catalyst for these efforts.

In accordance with General Assembly Resolution 72/229 on “Culture and Sustainable Development”, the President of the General Assembly will convene a one-day high-level thematic debate on this important topic, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The debate will focus on the contribution of culture to the achievement of the sustainable development goals from the national, regional and international perspectives, building on national experiences, existing policies and frameworks and cooperation. The debate will also mark two important United Nations milestones, which acknowledge the importance of cultural diversity and recognize the critical contribution of indigenous cultures to sustainable development: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (21 May); and the International Year of Indigenous Languages (2019).

Objectives

1. Highlight the connection between culture and biological diversity, with particular relation to local solutions to climate change and environmental challenges;
2. Demonstrate the role of culture in providing opportunities for decent work, poverty reduction, social resilience, gender equality and other aspects of Agenda 2030; and
3. Illustrate how culture, artistic education, and creative industries contribute to development, providing innovative solutions in urban, rural, national / local contexts.

Format:

The High-level Event will consist of an opening segment, a roundtable, two panel discussions and a closing segment. An interactive format will be encouraged, and there will be no formal speakers list. Seating arrangements will also be informal. The event is open to countries, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, organizations of the United Nations system, and relevant non-governmental organizations.

Programme

10-10:20 am	Pre-opening: Jazz performance by “Sounds of A & R”
10:20 – 11:00 am	<p><u>Opening Segment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the UN General Assembly- H.E. Mr. Ernesto Ottone R., Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO- H.E. Hon. Mr. Ralph Regenvanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vanuatu- H.E. Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of SEGIB <p><u>Performance by Cicely Tyson Choir, East Orange, New Jersey</u></p>
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	<p><u>Dialogue: Cultural diversity as the common heritage of humanity</u></p> <p>This roundtable discussion will discuss the power of culture and cultural heritage in mobilizing people and communities around sustainable development. It will address the importance of safeguarding cultural and natural heritage, the role of traditional knowledge and skills to foster environmental action and resilience (including for climate change) and the impact of cultural heritage on sustaining identity and peace.</p> <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In what ways does culture and cultural heritage engage people and communities towards sustainable development?- What are today’s main challenges for the preservation, safeguarding and conservation of cultural and natural heritage?- In what ways does indigenous knowledge inform the cultural diversity and biological diversity nexus? What is the impact on the preservation of ecosystems? <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Moderator: Ms. Nina-Maria Potts, Director, Feature Story News- H.E. Ms. Olivia Grange, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Jamaica- H.E. Mr. Abdoul Karim Sango, Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism, Burkina Faso- H.E. Ms. María Julia Muñoz, Minister of Education and Culture, Uruguay- H.E. Mr. Raul Pérez Torres, Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ecuador- H.E. Ms. Sheikha Al Mayassa Al-Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, Qatar- H.E. Ms. Kamola Akilova, Vice-Minister of Culture, Uzbekistan <p><u>Interactive Discussion</u></p>
1:00-3:00pm	Break
3:00- 4:15 pm	<p><u>Panel I: Culture and education: the foundations of sustainability</u></p> <p>This panel will focus on the culture and education nexus. Education is a key to social change, and a catalyst for achieving most of the SDGs when curricula are adapted to local environments. When mainstreamed in education, culture builds confidence and encourages dialogue; it equips youth to engage in a multicultural society, helps them to achieve better educational results, and leads them to acquire a broader and more diverse range of skills and competences. Culture is also a powerful agent fostering non-formal education and lifelong learning.</p> <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In what ways does culture interplay with education?- How do culture and arts education foster social equality and inclusion?- How does culture-empowered education enhance economic opportunities?

Panel 1 Speakers:

- **Moderator:** Ms. Nina-Maria Potts, Director, Feature Story News
- H.E. Mr. Abdoul Karim Sango, Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism, **Burkina Faso**
- H.E. Mr. Abel Prieto, Director, El Centro de Estudios Martianos, **Cuba**
- Mr. Teanau Tuiono, Project Coordinator, **Māori** Medium Publishing at CORE Education
- Ms. Cecilia Guidote-Alvarez, Director, Earthsavers DREAMS, **Philippines**
- Mr. Richard Armstrong, Director, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, **USA**

Discussants:

- H.E. Mr. Juerg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN
- Ms. Tamara Richardson, Founding Director PACE 48, **Australia**
- Mr. Nigel Encalada, Director at Institute for Social and Cultural Research, **Belize**

Interactive Discussion

4:15-5:30 pm

Panel II: Culture as a lever of change, innovation, empowerment, equality

This panel will discuss ways in which culture helps eradicating both the social and economic aspects of poverty, increasing the impact on local development by adapting to local realities and needs. It will also illustrate examples of cultural innovation, diversifying and expanding the economy. The discussion will further highlight ways in which culture provides economic opportunities, helping achieving women's empowerment and furthermore transforming public spaces into places of dialogue- reducing inequalities and fostering social inclusion.

Guiding Questions:

- In what concrete ways does culture contribute to poverty reduction?
- Does culture have an impact on innovation? In what ways?
- How does culture inform societal change? How might we build a culture of sustainable development for present and future generations?

Panel 2 Speakers:

- **Moderator:** Ms. Nina-Maria Potts, Director, Feature Story News
- H.E. Mr. Pablo Avelluto, Secretary of Culture, **Argentina**
- H.E. Mr. Felipe Buitrago Restrepo, Presidential Advisor on Economic and Strategic Affairs, **Colombia**
- Mr. Edo Hozic, Founding Director of artistic Project Biennale, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea, Founding President of CHIRAPAQ, **Peru**
- Ms. Kate Arthurs, Director Arts, British Council, **United Kingdom**

Panel 2: Discussants:

- Mr. Sergey Chutkov, Director of Bactria Cultural Centre, **Tajikistan**
- Ms. Anan Al Terhi, Project manager at Theatre Day Productions, **Canada / Palestine**
- Ms. Dieynaba Sidibe, Focal Point for DigitELLES programme - Africulturban, **Senegal**
- Ms. Ayoko Judith Mensah, artistic programmer, BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts, **Belgium**

Interactive Discussion

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Closing Segment

- H.E. Mr. Ernesto Ottone R., Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO
- H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the UN General Assembly