



# Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guide for Local Action

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The Committee on Culture of the world association of United Cities and Local Governments (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, Milano, Paris and Porto Alegre.

This guide was commissioned 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.

This is a draft version of a document that will be published in late 2017. A consultation period is open, and contributions can be sent to [info@agenda21culture.net](mailto:info@agenda21culture.net). The document should not be reproduced until the final version is available.

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.

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.”**

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 can contribute to making cities more sustainable. A Policy Statement adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of UCLG in 2010 also [recognizes culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development](#). In this context, the Committee on Culture of UCLG was one of the lead networks of the aforementioned campaign 'The Future We Want Includes Culture'.

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 contributions made by several other organisations, networks, communities and individuals that have addressed and demonstrated the cultural dimension of sustainable development.

# GOAL 1 | 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?

By exploring the potential of cultural expressions, services, goods and heritage sites to contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic development.

By ensuring that local economic and resilience strategies engage local communities, recognize cultural assets and are adapted to specific cultural contexts

By guaranteeing equal access for all men and women, including the poor and the vulnerable, to cultural services.

## How cities make this effective

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 [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.

## What else can cities do?

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

Integrate cultural aspects, and the preservation of cultural resources and capacities, in local resilience strategies.

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## GOAL 2 | 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.

### How is culture relevant?

By taking advantage of existing genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in order to maintain the genetic diversity of seeds and promote fair sharing of the relevant benefits.

### How cities make this effective

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.

### What else 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.

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## GOAL 3 | 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?

By ensuring that health policies and programmes are culturally-relevant, taking into account local customs, as well as integrating traditional health systems and practitioners where appropriate.

By exploring the potential of participation in cultural life to contribute to improved health and well-being.

### How cities make this effective

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.

### What else 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 public services.

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

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## GOAL 4 | 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?

By integrating contents related to cultural diversity, arts education, languages, and the role of cultural aspects in sustainable development within educational programmes at all levels.

By ensuring that a cultural approach, including recognition of local languages and locally-relevant abilities, and the involvement of cultural stakeholders, prevails in the design of curricula at all levels.

### How cities make this effective

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.

In [Belo Horizonte](#), the Arena da Cultura – Open School for the Arts 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.



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## What else can cities do?

Adopt a local strategy linking educational policy and cultural policy.

Provide educational activities for formal and informal environments within cultural facilities, sites and programmes.

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.

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.

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## GOAL 5 | 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 and 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.

### How is culture relevant?

By broadening the opportunities for women and girls to take active part in cultural life and lead their own projects and organisations in this area.

By fostering the visibility and recognition of cultural practices carried out predominantly by women and girls.

By facilitating the emergence of narratives that address gender discrimination or which show the important role of women and girls in cultural life.

### How cities make this effective

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.

### What else can cities do?

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.

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## GOAL 6 | 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?

By recognizing traditional knowledge and practices that ensure an appropriate, sustainable use of water-related ecosystems.

### How cities make this effective

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.

### What else can cities do?

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

## GOAL 7 | 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?

By fostering an understanding of the cultural factors that underpin energy production and consumption.

By involving creative voices in the design of educational and awareness-raising activities on energy production and consumption.

### How cities make this effective

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.

### What else can cities do?

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

## GOAL 8 | 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?

By exploring the potential of the cultural and creative sectors to create inclusive, sustainable and fair employment.

By integrating cultural aspects 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.

### How cities make this effective

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.

## What else can cities do?

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 and skills 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.

## GOAL 9 | 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?

By ensuring that quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient cultural infrastructures exist in cities, providing citizens with affordable and equitable access to and opportunities to participate in cultural life.

By involving artists and creative professionals in processes aimed at research, development and innovation in a wide range of industrial areas.

### How cities make this effective

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.

### What else 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.

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.

## 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?

By exploring the potential of cultural participation to empower and promote the inclusion of all people, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

By involving artists and creative professionals in the design and presentation of narratives which give voice to developing countries.

By inserting a cultural dimension and intercultural dialogue in approaches to migration.

### How cities make this effective

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.

### What else can cities do?

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



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.

## 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.

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

By adopting measures to protect and safeguard tangible and intangible cultural heritage and explore its role in sustainable local development.

By ensuring that green and public spaces are accessible and allow for the development of cultural activities.

### How cities make this effective

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.

## What else can cities do?

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

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.

## 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?

By fostering an appreciation of local, traditional products that are suited to sustainable consumption and production.

### How cities make this effective

In [Chefchaouen](#), 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.

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.

### What else 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.

## 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?

By involving creative professionals in awareness-raising activities on climate change.

By exploring the links between cultural activities, traditional knowledge, and environmentally-sustainable practices.

### How cities make this effective

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.

### What else can cities do?

Explicitly recognise in their 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

## 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 from the sustainable use of marine resources.

### How is culture relevant?

By identifying and reinforcing cultural traditions related to the sustainable preservation of marine and coastal ecosystems.

### How cities make this effective

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.

### What else can cities do?

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

## 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?

By strengthening cultural factors in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes related to the preservation of terrestrial ecosystems, including relevant local and traditional knowledge.

### How cities make this effective

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.

### What else can cities do?

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

## 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, and Target 16.10 demands the enhancement of public access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms.

### How is culture relevant?

By ensuring that stolen cultural assets be returned to the relevant communities.

By fostering citizens' participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of cultural policies and programmes.

By fostering access to information in cultural facilities, including libraries and knowledge centres.

By integrating a cultural component in strategies aimed at the alleviation of violence and the promotion of peace.

### How cities make this effective

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.

## What else can cities do?

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

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

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

Establish public forums, involving public, private and civil society participants (e.g. local councils on culture), 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.

# 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?

By integrating a cultural dimension in international, national and local strategies for sustainable development.

By strengthening capacity-building of cultural stakeholders, enabling them to address other sustainable development challenges, and integrating cultural aspects in capacity-building actions aimed at other groups involved in sustainable development.

By enhancing the capacity of cultural stakeholders to produce and distribute cultural goods and services, particularly those that represent lesser-known cultural expressions.

## How cities make this effective

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 [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.

## What else 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.

# 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 are inspired by the 100 actions included in Culture 21: Actions, whereas the majority of city examples presented are part of the [Agenda 21 for culture's good practice database](#), which collects over 100 relevant experiences from cities around the world.

# 'THE FUTURE WE WANT INCLUDES CULTURE': THE #CULTURE2015GOAL CAMPAIGN

"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.culture2015goal.net](http://www.culture2015goal.net)

## REFERENCES: OTHER USEFUL SOURCES ON CULTURE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE 2030 AGENDA

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# agenda21culture.net

The Committee on Culture of UCLG is co-chaired by Buenos Aires and Mexico City, and vice-chaired by Angers, Barcelona, Belo Horizonte, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Paris and Porto Alegre.



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**culture 21**

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