

## **Committee on Culture – 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

### **Buenos Aires**

**April 4th, 2019**

**16:15 – 17:00**

### **REPORT**

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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#### **SUMMARY**

The 16th meeting of the United Cities and Local Governments Committee on Culture (UCLG) was held in Buenos Aires on April 4th, 2019 as part of the 3rd UCLG Culture Summit, which took place at the Usina del Arte in Buenos Aires from April 3rd - 5th.

The meeting was held to present and discuss the status of the Committee's 2019 work programme, its implementation, and its planned medium-term projects.

In addition, an important part of the discussion focused on reflection and the development of proposals that can enrich and strengthen the regular work carried out by the Committee on Culture. Some of these include the transfer of knowledge, good practices, training, or any impacts on the role of culture in sustainable development strategies.

## 1. BACKGROUND

The UCLG Committee on Culture is a **unique authority**: there is no other global meeting point that brings cities, organizations, and networks together to work on the relationship between local cultural policies and sustainable development.

The UCLG Committee on Culture is **equally open to participation from** cities on all continents. Additionally, UCLG has established its reputation by developing clearly-defined activities and issues.

**Agenda 21 for Culture** was the first global document on cultural development to establish actions by cities and local governments. By January 2018, more than 750 cities, local governments, and organizations around the world were involved with Agenda 21 for Culture.

**United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)** adopted Agenda 21 for Culture as a reference document in October 2004 (Executive Bureau of Sao Paulo) and established its Working Group on Culture in June 2005 (Beijing World Council). This was followed by the Committee on Culture in October 2007 (Jeju World Congress) which was ratified in 2010 (Mexico World Congress), and the subsequent Rabat World Congresses (2013) and Bogotá (2016). Together these increased consideration for culture worldwide.

The **UCLG Committee on Culture was created to**:

- Analyze local contexts and send key messages on global cultural issues to specific cities
- Raise awareness, as well as help with lobbying and policy development
- Improve the sharing of experiences and mutual learning
- Support networking and project development

The **goal of the UCLG Committee on Culture** is "to promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development through international dissemination and implementation of Agenda 21 for Culture at the local level". This approach was adopted at the World Congresses in Mexico (2010), and later expanded in Rabat (2013) and Bogotá (2016).

The current programme has 7 areas of action, which correspond to the Committee's priorities. (1) Implementation (including the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21 and the UCLG Culture Summit). (2) Representation / Institutional Relations / Network and cooperation strengthening. (3) Development and follow-up (4) Learning and cooperation (which includes the "Leading Cities", "Pilot Cities" and "Culture 21 Lab" programmes). (5) Strengthening the UCLG Network.

At its **previous meeting** held in Mexico City on October 20th, 2018 to present the 3rd edition of the International Award – UCLG Mexico City – Culture 21, the City of Mexico Declaration, "Culture and Peace", was formally adopted and the Committee's governing team was renewed.

## 2. Summary of the Meeting

### Opening Remarks

Enrique Avogadro, Minister of Culture for the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires and co-chair of the UCLG Committee on Culture, welcomed all attendees and officially opened the 16th meeting.

Jordi Pascual, Coordinator for the Committee on Culture, thanked the Minister of Culture and the City of Buenos Aires for the "spectacular reception and organization of the 3rd UCLG Culture Summit." He emphasized that as the 16th meeting of the Committee on Culture, this was a turning point in a "path that began in 2004 with the adoption of Agenda 21 for Culture".

## Governance of the Committee

Jordi Pascual went over the Committee's current administration, which was elected at the 15th meeting in Mexico City in October 2018 and read the request by the City of Paris to leave its vice presidency position.

The governing body of the Committee on Culture was elected on April 4th, 2019. It is comprised of three co-chairs and six vice chairs.

Co-Chairs: Mexico City, Lisbon, and Buenos Aires

Vice Chairs: Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Porto Alegre, and Rome.

## Work Programme

Jordi Pascual reviewed the activities carried out by the Committee under its annual work programme, highlighting the following core focuses:

- **Learning.** The training and learning programmes “Leading Cities”, “Pilot Cities”, and “Culture 21 Lab” have been developed based on the guiding principle that culture is the fourth pillar of sustainable development, along with the objectives and commitments outlined in the founding documents Agenda 21 for Culture and Culture 21 Actions. These documents helped adapt the projects to needs of each participating city. The Committee also supports its members and partner organizations on specific projects, such as the Jeju Global Forum on Culture and Youth.
- **Implementation.** There are two noteworthy programmes in this area. First, the UCLG Culture Summit at the end of 2019 will launch a call to all cities that wish to host the fourth summit. Second, José Alfonso Suárez del Real, Secretary of Culture for Mexico City on behalf of the Mayor of Mexico City, Claudia Sheinbaum, announced that the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21 would be given for the next 3 summits. Participants erupted with applause upon the announcement of this decision. Jordi Pascual shared the happiness felt by all of those at UCLG following this news. He then announced the launch of an open discussion from May to September 2019 to suggest any changes or improvements to the next summit. The call for these suggestions would be formally opened at the UCLG Congress in Durban from November 11-15th, 2019.
- **Monitoring.** The Committee has promoted a website on good practices related to local culture and sustainable development. The site, *Obs*, has a listing of 200 existing good practices. It is the only website for an international organization that recognizes the relationship between culture and the SDGs, which is an important issue that should be made more widely known. Another noteworthy document is *Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals: A Practical Guide to Local Action*, with tips and examples.
- **Cooperation.** Jordi Pascual highlighted the Committee's interest in making culture part of any international discussion of sustainable development, especially in relation to the SDGs. Among other initiatives, this has translated into many collaborative efforts with a number of civil society networks (IFACCA, ICOMOS, Arterial, Culture Action Europe, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions [IFLA], etc.) and with other organizations (the Cultural Development Network, WCCF, Eurocities, INTACH, etc.).
- **Communication.** In addition to the website and social media presence, the Committee on Culture sends out a biweekly newsletter as well as its other specialized information channels.
- **Strengthening the UCLG Network.** The Committee aims to provide continuous support for UCLG's activities, using the SDGs as a key benchmark.

Finally, Jordi Pascual drew special attention to current collaborators and experts of the Committee on Culture, several of whom were present.

Enrique Avogadro shared his appreciation for the speech and highlighted the progress of the Committee's work. He suggested that the meeting should serve to improve current and future initiatives, and subsequently invited all attendees to participate and provide feedback. He then raised the following three questions. First, he noted the possibility of establishing regional subsections within the Committee. Second, he suggested that projects make better use of good practices, thereby lending them greater visibility. Third, he suggested expanding the network to include non-institutional actors, incorporating independent cultural bodies, for example.

The next speaker was Luca Bergamo, Deputy Mayor for Cultural Development in Rome and Vice Chair of the Committee. He suggested connecting the Committee's work with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly Article 27, and not only the SDGs. Focusing on the Declaration of Human Rights reinforces the Committee's political approach, and underpinning the principle that culture is a fundamental right in addition to education, while simultaneously promoting cross-sectoral dialogue. He also suggested looking for ways to extend the Committee's membership to areas where its influence is weaker.

Montserrat Tello, Secretary of Culture for Cuenca, called for smaller spaces for cities to engage in fruitful dialogue. For example, this referred to Pilot Cities that have completed their programmes and other cities in their region that may be interested in participating in the same initiative.

Andrés Zaratti, Secretary of Culture for La Paz, offered his perspective as chair of the Mercosur Cities Network, suggesting that UCLG's information be shared more with other city networks. He also offered to develop technical training for the Committee's cities, drawing on the experience of Pilot Cities and contributing to the sustainability of ongoing processes despite inevitable changes in government. Finally, he emphasized the need to jointly address what is not working and to seek solutions to these problems. The Mercosur Cities Network has proposed changes to legislation to promote the exchange of cultural goods between cities in the region.

On behalf of the Island Council of Tenerife, Tomás Afonso, an expert on Management and Planning of Cultural Service, mentioned the unique approach of Tenerife as an island or territory, rather than a city. He suggested a change in the style of communication of the Committee to better reflect the diversity of realities. He also suggested creating a network of ambassadors for the Pilot Cities, to allow those who have participated in the projects to contribute to the use of Culture 21 Actions elsewhere. However, he noted it was important to continue to have external experts, in addition to trainers and attendees, as they add value to the process.

Enrique Avogadro pointed out the need to continue encouraging debate on culture outside the cultural spheres themselves, such as among institutions responsible for sustainable development or the economy: "There must be an exchange of information and a way to measure impact, in order to help culture gain ground in other areas."

Related to this, the Director of Culture for the Municipality of Montevideo, Mariana Percovich, presented the example of her city, where an agreement between the local government and the CAF Development Bank of Latin America served to generate new cultural infrastructure. This contributed to the development of the city's historic centre.

In addition to this, Patricia Pieragostini, Secretary of Culture for the City of Santa Fe noted the case of the French Development Agency, which has planned support for developing the cultural and creative sectors. Santa Fe is considering collaborating with the Agency, a partnership that could serve as an example to other cities.

The Director of Cooperation for Escazú, Freddy Montero, offered the suggestion that since some of the cities that participated in the first phase of the Pilot Cities programme had already completed their projects, it might be interesting to carry out a retrospective analysis, standardize knowledge, and propose possible modifications for a new stage.

Secretary of Culture for Quito, Pablo Corral, reiterated the need to foster dialogue with other sectors, harnessing the power of culture to spark change. He also proposed making use of the existing network so that the Committee on Culture can take collective action, such as a festival to celebrate cultural diversity that isn't based on a specific territory.

Cho Sangbum, Director-General of Culture, Sports, and International Relations for the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, and Eunjoo Chae, a cultural expert for the Province, recalled that Jeju had hosted the 2nd UCLG Culture Summit and had promoted the Global Forum on Culture and Youth in 2018. They also proposed that the Committee annually choose a common working issue and promote the exchange of ideas focused on it, mainly among similar cities.

Catarina Vaz Pinto, Secretary of Culture for Lisbon and Co-Chair of the Committee on Culture presented the challenge of creating a larger assessment of culture by those responsible for other areas of government. This underscored the need to strengthen the impact of culture as a priority action area, so as to help culture become a key issue at the tables where sustainable development is discussed.

Iñaki López de Aguilera, Director of Culture for Bilbao, congratulated the Committee on Culture team on the work programme's momentum thus far, and highlighted the progressive development of the Committee's activities over the years.

Finally, Enrique Avogadro thanked attendees for their contributions and proposals before ending the session. He encouraged all participants to continue enjoying all that Buenos Aires has to offer.

### **3. Appendices**

- Appendix 1 includes the meeting agenda
- Appendix 2 includes the list of participants at the meeting

### **Contact**

**UCLG Committee on Culture**  
UCLG  
Carrer Avinyó, 15  
08002 Barcelona

Email [info@agenda21culture.net](mailto:info@agenda21culture.net)  
Web [www.agenda21culture.net](http://www.agenda21culture.net)  
Twitter [@agenda21culture](https://twitter.com/agenda21culture)

## Appendix 1 Programme

**Languages:** Spanish, English, and French, with simultaneous translation.

**Location:** Usina Del Arte, Buenos Aires

16:00 **Opening of the meeting**, by Mr. Enrique Avogadro, Minister of Culture for the City of Buenos Aires and co-chair of the UCLG Committee on Culture.

16:05 Presentation and debate on the state of implementation of the Committee's 2019 **work programme**, which includes:

1. **Learning**, including the capacity-building programmes Leading Cities, Pilot Cities, and Culture 21 Laboratory, as well as topical seminars
2. **Monitoring**, including OBS on good practices, new areas of research, as well as the key narrative
3. **Strengthening the UCLG network**, including participation in UCLG activities (World Secretariat, Political Councils, and regional sectors)
4. **Cooperation**, including the global impact on the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as partnerships
5. **Communication**, including the website, newsletters, and social media
6. The **3<sup>rd</sup> UCLG Culture Summit** (Buenos Aires, April 3-5th, 2019) and ideas for future Summits (2021 and 2023)
7. Preparation for the upcoming **International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21** (2020)

16:35 **Governance of the Committee.**

16:45 **Other topics**

17:00 **End of meeting** and group photograph

## Appendix 2

### List of participants

<i>City, local government or organization</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Last Name(s)</i>	<i>Position</i>
<b>Official members</b>			
Bilbao	Iñaki	López de Aguilera	Director of Culture
Bilbao	Leandro	Ardanza	Advisor, Bilbao International
Bilbao	Yasmin	Hawari	Project Coordinator, Bilbao International
Buenos Aires	Enrique	Avogadro	Minister of Culture
Mexico City	José Alfonso	Suarez del Real	Secretary of Culture
Mexico City	Mariana	Flores	International Relations Coordinator
Cuenca	Montserrat	Tello Astudillo	Councillor of Culture
Cuenca	Andrea	Malquin	Head of the Pilot Cities Programme
Concepción	Álvaro	Ortiz	Mayor
Concepción	Mauricio	Castro	Cultural Advisor
Donostia / San Sebastián	Imanol	Galdós	Management Support Expert, Donostia Kultura
El Carmen de Viboral	María Eugenia	García Gómez	Director of the Institute of Culture
Escazú	Freddy	Montero	Director of Cooperation
Strasbourg (City and Eurometropolis)	Julien	Chiappone-Lucchesi	Head of International Relations for the Mayor's Office
Jeju (Special Self-Governing Province)	Sangbum	Cho	Director-General of Culture, Sports, and International Relations
Jeju (Special Self-Governing Province)	Eunjoo	Chae	Special expert, Culture
Jeju (Special Self-Governing Province)	Sujin	Kim	Technical expert JITC (UNITAR CIFAL)
La Paz	Andrés	Zaratti	Secretary of Culture
Lisbon	Catarina	Vaz-Pinto	Secretary of Culture
Lisbon	Alexandra	Sabino	Advisor to the Secretary of Culture
Lisbon	Manuel	Veiga	Municipal Director of Culture
Lyon	Loïc	Graber	Council of Culture
Montevideo	Mariana	Percovich	Director of Culture
Neuquén	Jorge	Onofri	Director-General of Culture
Porto Alegre	Leonardo	Maricato de Mello	Deputy Secretary of Culture
Quito	Pablo	Corral Vega	Secretary of Culture
Rome	Luca	Bergamo	Deputy mayor
Santa Fe	Patricia	Pieragostini	Secretary of Culture
Tenerife (Island Council)	Tomás	Afonso	Expert in Cultural Planning and Management
<b>Experts from the Committee on Culture</b>			
	Catherine	Cullen	Special advisor to the Committee on Culture and expert on Agenda 21 for Culture
	Beatriz	García	Director of the Liverpool Institute of Cultural Capital and expert on Agenda 21 for Culture
	Enrique	Glockner	Expert on Agenda 21 for Culture
	Antoine	Guibert	Expert on Agenda 21 for Culture
<b>UCLG</b>			
Committee on Culture	Jordi	Pascual	Coordinator
Committee on Culture	Jordi	Baltà	Advisor
Committee on Culture	Marta	Llobet	Advisor

Committee on Culture	Sarah	Vieux	Director of Communications
<b>Attendees</b>			
Les Arts et la Ville ( <i>Arts and the City</i> )	David	Pépin	Project expert
	Ricardo	Klein	Consultant. UCLG Committee on Culture Collaborator
<b>Absentees</b>			
Barcelona	Esteve	Caramés	Director of Cultural Sector Promotion at the Barcelona Institute of Culture
Barcelona	Montserrat	Tort	Director of Studies at the Barcelona Institute of Culture
Belo Horizonte	Marcelo	Bones	Director of Development and Institutional Partnerships, Municipal Department of Culture
Belo Horizonte	Janine	Avelar	Municipal Culture Foundation
Bogotá	María Claudia	López	Secretary of Culture
Dakar	Abdoulaye Elimane	Kane	Mayor's personal advisor on culture and development
Konya	Mücahit Sami	Küçüktiöli	Director of the Department of Culture
Métropolis Europea de Lille (MEL) [ <i>European Metropolis of Lille</i> ]	Paulo	Pais	Director of International Cooperation
Makati	Dwayne	Samarista	Project Manager
Malmö	Magnus	Metz	Cultural Strategy expert
Malmö	Fiona	Winders	Coordinator for Cultural and Community Centre Development
Panama	Alexandra	Schjelderup	Director of Culture
Paris	Karin	Fouledeau	Head of International Relations, Council of Culture
Rosario	Guillermo	Ríos	Secretary of Culture and Education
Saint-Denis	Didier	Coirint	Director of Culture
Vaudreuil-Dorion	Céline	Chartier	City Councilwoman and Chair of the Culture Committee
Vaudreuil-Dorion	Michel	Vallée	Director of Culture
UCLG - Africa	Jean-Pierre	Elong Mbassi	Secretary-General
Culture21.fr Network	Christelle	Blouët	Coordinator
South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA)	Xolile	George	Executive Director
UCLG - Technical Office of Lebanese Cities	Béchir	Odeimi	President and director of the Technical Office of Lebanese Cities
UCLG-MEWA	Mehmet	Duman	Secretary-General