

2ND UCLG CULTURE SUMMIT
COMMITMENTS AND ACTIONS FOR
CULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE CITIES
JEJU (REPUBLIC OF KOREA)
10-13 MAY 2017

OPENING PLENARY
10 MAY 2017

MR. JOSEP ROIG, SECRETARY GENERAL OF
UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCLG)





We would like to welcome you all in this 2nd Culture Summit of UCLG.

It is a pleasure for us to be back in Jeju. As you may know, the Province of Jeju hosted the Second World Congress of UCLG ten years ago, back in 2007, so this is a place where the history of our organisation has been written. And we've always felt very well treated here. I would like to thank especially Governor WON Hee-ryong and the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province for their very important role in UCLG, both at global level and in the Asia-Pacific region.

I am also very happy to see so many local governments from the Asia-Pacific region. The section of UCLG in Asia-Pacific, UCLG-ASPAC, is the largest regional section of UCLG, and this Summit is a very good opportunity to learn from your diverse experiences and to strengthen the participation of cities from this region in our global programmes. I know that the Culture Committee of UCLG is very keen to collaborate with cities in Asia and the Pacific. I would like to thank again Governor WON Hee-ryong, as President of UCLG-ASPAC, as well as the Secretariat led by Bernadia Tjandradewi.

This is the second Culture Summit of United Cities and Local Governments, after the first Summit, that the City of Bilbao hosted two years ago. UCLG meets often to discuss our global agendas and to exchange experiences and knowledge among cities. And it is important that this is done also for specific areas of interest, generating communities of knowledge and practice.

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Here, let me express my congratulations to the cities that are leading the Committee on culture of UCLG.

- With the co-presidents: Buenos Aires and Mexico City
- and the vice-presidents: Angers, Barcelona, Belo Horizonte, Bilbao, Bogota, Jeju, Paris and Porto Alegre.

Keep active and carry on!

Culture has always been in our agendas, since UCLG was established in 2004. At the time, we started working with the Agenda 21 for culture, which has become the leading document on culture and local sustainable development around the world, used by many cities. UCLG has stressed that culture should be seen as one of the core dimensions of sustainable development. We approved a document in 2010, in the third World Congress of UCLG, with a clear title: "Culture is the fourth pillar of sustainable development". Perhaps, if we had to approve this document again, this document should be named: "Culture is the first dimension of sustainable development".

In coherence with the ambition of our founding documents on culture, that I just mentioned, UCLG has engaged with global campaigns in this area, asking for culture to be part of the Sustainable Development Goals (2015) and the New Urban Agenda (2016).




Only last October, our 5th World Congress, in Bogotá, adopted the Bogotá Commitment and Action Agenda, which includes one area of Action entitled “Promote Local Heritage, Creativity and Diversity through People-Centred Cultural Policies”. We believe that the place of culture in cities is fundamental, on the one hand because we want cities where every person can exercise their human rights, and all citizens have the right to culture, to express themselves creatively, to live in a context of diversity, to have heritage recognised.

And on the other hand, because culture is part of many other areas that contribute to quality of life: public space is better when it provides a space for cultural activities, economic development can be more inclusive and sustainable when it integrates the cultural industries, and we can develop more sustainable ways of living when we combine traditional knowledge and contemporary creativity.

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Our work goes beyond the statements, important as they are, and this Summit will be proof of this. Since our first Summit in Bilbao, there are over 40 cities in different parts of the world that are implementing new approaches to culture and sustainable development with support from the practical toolkit Culture 21: Actions.





We want to generate communities of knowledge and practice, and this Summit is a fantastic opportunity to do this. You are all here: the local governments, the experts, the networks, the artists, the international organisations, the citizens. So we can all take stock of what has happened since Bilbao, take advantage of this meeting and strengthen our community.

We have been working lately with the notion of 'Waves of Action', understanding that there are areas in which we can innovate, involve a circle of cities and partners, test new approaches and generate models that will influence broader communities. And I believe that what some of you are already doing in the field of culture fulfils this idea – you have identified the needs, developed new ways of addressing them and in Summits like this we have an excellent chance to make this visible, learn from one another and involve others.

»» WE WANT TO GENERATE COMMUNITIES OF KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE

And of course, it is not only work – the programme will also allow you to enjoy the island of Jeju in all of its richness, to meet its people, and to see several performances and cultural expressions. We're very much looking forward to it.

Thank you very much.



