

## WORK OF CONSULTATION MECHANISMS IN 2026

### COMMITTEE ON CULTURE

#### Mission

The mission of the Committee on Culture, approved in Mexico (2010) and extended in Rabat (2013), Bogotá (2016), Durban (2019) and Daejeon (2022) is “to promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development through the international dissemination and the local implementation of Agenda 21 for Culture”.

#### The work programme for 2026

<b>A. Implementation</b>	
<b>International Award UCLG - Mexico City – Culture 21</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To organise the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award, including the Award ceremony (November 2026, Mexico City) and the peer-learning programme.</li> <li>- To consolidate the Award as an initiative that excels in terms of conceptual foundation, evidence-based analysis, engagement of UCLG members and direct communication tools.</li> <li>- To promote the “best” initiatives (good practices) on the local promotion of cultural rights that can be replicated or transferred to other cities, contexts or territories.</li> </ul>
<b>UCLG Culture Summit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To disseminate the results of the 6<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit, which took place in Barcelona (26 - 28 September 2025).</li> <li>- To invite the city of Jeonju to schedule the 7<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit (to take place in 2027).</li> </ul>

<b>B. Advocacy</b>	
<b>Towards a Culture Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To continue the work to achieve a Culture Goal in the post-2030 Development Agenda, with the #Culture2030Goal campaign; disseminating the Culture Goal proposal with targets and detailed indicators presented in Mondiacult 2025 in Barcelona, with the option of publicly setting a date for prospective publication of a revised and updated Culture Goal (autumn 2026).</li> <li>- To continue to boost the voluntary adoption of the Culture Goal as a policy framework by cities, provinces and other territorial entities, and to create the conditions for its intergovernmental adoption, thus producing direct benefits both for culture and for inclusive and sustainable development.</li> </ul>
<b>UN 2030 Agenda, SDGs and New Urban Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To capitalise on the UNESCO Mondiacult 2025 Conference, which took place in Barcelona on 29 September – 1 October 2025, and to promote a strong place for cities and culture in the post-2030 frameworks and development agendas.</li> <li>- To participate in the UN HLPF (July 2026) in several formats, including the dissemination of the “Culture in the VLRs and VNRs” reports published in 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, and the Culture Goal proposal with targets and indicators presented in Mondiacult 2025.</li> </ul>

	- To be visible and active in global initiatives that relate culture and sustainable development.
<b>G-20 and U-20</b>	- To reinforce and promote the presence of culture as a key dimension of sustainable development in the debates generated by these networks.
<b>Global civil society networks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To continue our committed membership in the #Culture2030Goal global campaign.</li> <li>- To work with the Climate Heritage Network and its "Race to Resilience" process, reinforcing the presence at the COPs.</li> <li>- To consolidate an operational connection with the most relevant global civil society networks in the field of culture, such as ICOMOS, IFLA, IMC, IFCCD and Culture Action Europe.</li> <li>- To contribute to the Mayor Paweł Adamowicz Award.</li> <li>- To explore new partnerships.</li> </ul>
<b>Partnerships</b>	- To consolidate long-term partnerships with the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, UNESCO and the EU.
<b>City networks</b>	- To consolidate an operational connection with all global / regional networks concerned by "culture in sustainable cities", including WCCF, Eurocities, ICLEI, GPM, World Heritage Cities – OWHC, European Network of Cultural Centres (ENCC), Culture Next and Ibercultura Viva, as well as INTACH, CDN and LAV.

<b>C. Monitoring</b>	
<b>Key narrative</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To boost the implementation of the UCLG global framework document "Culture 21 Plus" on Cultural Rights, the Transitions and Care, approved in the Executive Bureau of Seville in April 2025 and launched in the UCLG Culture Summit of Barcelona in September 2025.</li> <li>- To continue to prepare thematic modules of Culture 21 Plus, so that this toolkit offers a wide range of options for UCLG to engage (examples of modules: heritage, climate change, gender equality, the Rome Charter, etc.) and to respond to specific circumstances (e.g. smaller cities, rural areas or metropolises).</li> <li>- To elaborate key briefings / new research on issues related to culture and sustainable cities, for example (a) the relation culture – migration - anti-racism, (b) the cultural dimension of metropolitan policies, (c) culture, emergencies and eco-transition.</li> <li>- To explore the elaboration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the report on Culture, Cities and the COVID-19 Pandemic.</li> </ul>
<b>AI at the service of cities</b>	- To develop and disseminate an AI-based tool that enables cities to quickly determine the suitability of Culture 21 Plus modalities and modules, according to their needs, interests, and contexts.

<b>The "OBS" database of good practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To consolidate the dedicated website "OBS" presenting our more than 400 good practices, searchable per 17 SDGs, the 9 Commitments of Culture 21 Actions and more than 100 keywords, including new good practices coming from the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Award (2025-2026).</li> <li>- To consolidate partnerships (examples: British Council, Metropolis' USE platform and CHN), to explore a connection with the UNESCO Creative Cities Network – UCCN and to analyse possible specific sponsorship for the database.</li> </ul>
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<b>D. Learning and capacity-building</b>	
<b>Leading Cities</b>	- To use the Culture 21 Plus tool with its new modules in the work of the "Leading Cities", as this is the prestigious label that recognises the work of the most advanced cities in specific areas, with contents adapted to each city.
<b>Pilot Cities and Culture 21 LAB</b>	- To use the Culture 21 Plus tool with its modules in the work of the Pilot Cities, both for self-evaluation of the current "state of affairs" in a place (Culture 21 LAB) or for the design of new policies for a local government.
<b>The "Seven Keys"</b>	- To launch a new series of workshops of our programme "Seven Keys" on the localisation of SDGs with a cultural perspective, in cooperation with UCLG Sections and partners.
<b>Online seminars</b>	- To organise or participate in a wide number of online seminars, webinars and meetings on the role of culture in people-centred sustainable development.
<b>Peer-learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To continue to deliver the programme "Capitals of Culture, together" that relates the European, African and other regional initiatives among them, and with the global conversation on development (with funding from DG-INTPA).</li> <li>- To facilitate more peer-learning exchanges among cities and local and regional governments.</li> <li>- To consolidate a group of experts that work with the learning and capacity-building programmes.</li> <li>- To promote and disseminate the MOOCs designed in 2022 on culture and climate resilient development and culture and gender equality, connecting them to Culture 21 Plus and its modules.</li> <li>- To design and implement specific learning activities with local government associations and key regional or national civil society networks on cultural policies, in cooperation with UCLG Sections.</li> </ul>
<b>Seminars and events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To actively take part in initiatives organised by our members and partners, such as the Global Young Creatives Residencies of Jeju, the IN SITU initiative or the Creative Mobilities seminar.</li> <li>- To promote meetings between cities that share similar objectives or commitments in order to create "portfolios" or "portfolios of evidence" to enhance action plans implemented in each city.</li> </ul>

<b>E. Strengthening the UCLG network</b>	
<b>Within UCLG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To actively disseminate, promote and contribute to unfold the UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity.</li> <li>- To actively participate in the annual Retreat, the Executive Bureau, the World Council and the World Congress of 2026 (in</li> </ul>

	<p>Tangiers), as well as to contribute to UCLG Policy Councils and institutional processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To support all UCLG World Secretariat initiatives, including the Policy Councils and initiatives coming from other parts of the network such as Committees or communities of practices.</li> <li>- To develop the cultural component of the Local Social Covenant ensuring inputs of cultural stakeholders in UCLG Town Halls.</li> <li>- To actively participate in the Global Taskforce, and to strengthen its role in the current global debates on culture and sustainable development.</li> <li>- To support the campaign 10, 100, 1000 on Human Rights in the Cities and the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in The City, coordinated by the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Human Rights and Participatory Democracy.</li> <li>- To support the OIDP annual Award on Participatory Democracy.</li> </ul>
<b>Governance and budget of the Culture Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To ensure the full involvement of all members of the Governance Team in the leadership of the Committee.</li> <li>- To invite new cities or regions to become active in the Committee.</li> <li>- To consolidate a balanced budget.</li> </ul>
<b>UCLG partnerships and programmes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To contribute to reinforce UCLG specific and global partnerships</li> <li>- To contribute to programmes led or endorsed by UCLG, such as the Youth Climate Action Fund (YCAF) by Bloomberg Philanthropies, or the WYDE Women's Leadership initiative supported by the European Union and UN Women.</li> </ul>
<b>UCLG sections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To guarantee new areas of cooperation, with joint (advocacy and "on-the-ground") specific projects with all UCLG Sections.</li> <li>- To hold periodical meetings with UCLG Sections (especially important for those sections with an active Culture Committee).</li> </ul>

## 2. Updates on the leadership of the consultation mechanism and any relevant information

The UCLG Committee on Culture is jointly chaired by Buenos Aires, Lisbon and Mexico City, and vice-chaired by Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Brazzaville, Izmir and Jeju. The list of members of the Committee is available on [this website](#).

Our narrative is based on human rights, good governance, people-centred development and the co-creation of the city. Our narrative is aligned with the UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity: for the People, for the Planet, for the Governments.

We are a unique meeting point: the global platform that unites cities, organisations and networks that foster the relation between local cultural policies and sustainable development. We are seen as the global leader of "Culture in Sustainable Cities".

The Committee on Culture has a Secretariat located at the premises of the UCLG World Secretariat in Barcelona.

### 3. Key outcomes or policy documents in 2025

- UCLG Culture Summit in Barcelona (September 2025): [Statement "Culture is Always in the Answer"](#) and [Final Report](#).
- [Culture 21 Plus](#), our global toolkit on Cultural Rights in Sustainable Development: frame approved in UCLG ExBu, drafts of the thematic modules and AI-based tool to identify the suitability of Culture 21 Plus modalities and modules.
- "Culture Capitals Working Together": [Seven Keys workshops](#).
- Launch of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21.
- The [OBS of good practices](#): new good practices in 2025.
- Culture2030Goal campaign: launch of the documents "[Easy Guide](#)", "[The Culture Goal, from Necessity to Reality](#)" and "[The Analytical Report on the Culture Goal, its Targets and Indicators](#)", at the UCLG Culture Summit on 27 September 2025. Also, implementation of the "[Roadmap 2025](#)" and publication of the report "[Culture in the 2025 Voluntary National Reviews: Culturally informed, culturally grounded, culturally powered](#)".
- Global advocacy on the Culture Goal: #Culture2030Goal side-events in the context of the UN HLPF 2025 and UNESCO's Mondiacult 2025.

## CONTACT

Email [culture@uclg.org](mailto:culture@uclg.org)  
Web [www.agenda21culture.net](http://www.agenda21culture.net)  
X [@agenda21culture](https://twitter.com/agenda21culture)  
IG [@agenda21culture](https://www.instagram.com/agenda21culture)