



United Cities and Local Governments
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos

UCLG COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

UCLG COMMITTEE ON CULTURE

21 MAY: WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT

CIRCULAR 19

Dear members of the Committee, dear friends,

Further to the adoption of UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in November 2001, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 21 May as "World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development" (resolution 57/249). The day is an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to "live together" better. This is why UNESCO wishes to celebrate this World Day by involving as many actors and partners as possible. A message from the Director-General of UNESCO for 21 May 2008 can be found here: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001592/159253e.pdf>

At its second world congress held in Jeju (2007), UCLG issued an initial invitation "to the United Nations and its member states to support local governments in the implementation of a global action to promote dialogue between civilisations on 21 May, the World Day for Cultural Diversity".

Meanwhile, one of the aims of UCLG's Committee on culture for 2008-2010 is "a joint celebration by cities each 21 May, World Day for Cultural Diversity, in partnership with UNESCO".

A public consultation, coordinated by UCLG's Committee on culture is launched today, in order to prepare together a joint celebration of the World Day for Cultural Diversity, in 2009 and the years to come. Some indicative activities to take place around 21 May 2009 could already be suggested:

- To organise a conference or seminar fostering a public debate on the principles of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue
- To organise an artistic event or a cultural programme that reflects the principles of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, in its content and its audience
- To adopt Agenda 21 for culture at a city council plenary, as a commitment by the local government to make culture a key dimension of local policies
- To involve civil society organisations in the field of culture, the arts and human rights in local initiatives connected with cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue organised around 21 May

We wish you a wonderful day and a prosperous work during the next months.

Sincerely yours,

UCLG's Committee on culture