



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



Working Group on Culture
31 January 2006 – Circular 1
Subject: **Working Group on Culture – Activities 2006**

Dear members,

This presentation is written on behalf of **Councillor Ferran Mascarell**, President of the Commission for Culture, Education and Social Welfare of Barcelona City Council, and Chair of the **Working Group on Culture of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**.

The **constitution** of the Working Group on Culture was approved by UCLG's Executive Bureau and ratified by UCLG's World Council at the statutory meetings held on 8 to 10 June 2005 in Beijing. During the period October 2004 to June 2005 many cities and local governments participated in the preparation of our Working Group's Programme 2005-2007. The Programme was also prepared in close coordination with the World Secretariat of United Cities and Local Governments.

We suggest UCLG's Working Group on Culture to become **the meeting point for cities, local governments and networks that place culture at the heart of their development processes**. We believe in the exchange of information among cities. We want to promote a greater presence of culture in international cooperation programmes. We think it is necessary to consolidate a message: the cultural development of cities is just as crucial as economic, social and environmental development. We are convinced that Agenda 21 for culture is a highly valuable tool for advancing towards these objectives.

The **2005-2007 Programme** of the Working Group on Culture aims **"To promote the role of culture as a central dimension of local policies through the dissemination and implementation of the Agenda 21 for culture"**, and unfolds as four sub-objectives: (1) To develop the institutional framework of cities and local governments, (2) To guide the development and implementation of services to cities, (3) To develop institutional partnerships in culture, and (4) To promote research and development in culture. Full details of the Programme are available at the website www.cities-localgovernments.org.

The Presidency proposes the following **activities** for 2006:

- To organise a meeting of the Working Group, as well as a preparatory seminar.
- To prepare and to approve a "guidance" for cities and local governments wishing to use the Agenda 21 for culture in local cultural development processes.
- To prepare and to approve a proposal of indicators of local cultural development.
- To advocate for a greater presence of culture in local development schemes and in international cooperation programmes.
- To participate in the research proposed by the UNESCO on "cities and local cultural diversity".
- To identify new sources of funding for the Working Group on Culture.

We remain at your disposal to receive **your comments and contributions**. Please, do not hesitate to contact us in order to complement this proposal and to make the activities of the Working Group on Culture a success.

With our best wishes for cooperation,

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