



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

Ajuntament  de Barcelona

Institut de
cultura ■

Working Group on Culture
16 February 2006 – Circular 2
Subject: **Agenda 21 for culture**

Dear members,

The purpose of this Circular is to invite all the members of UCLG's Working Group on Culture to take contact with the Agenda 21 for culture. Please find the PDF file attached, edited by the World Secretariat of UCLG and the Institut for Culture – Barcelona City Council.

As **Elisabeth Gateau** and **Ferran Mascarell** state, "culture has become an indispensable dimension for development. Nowadays, culture lies at the heart of urban strategies, not just due to its intrinsic vocation of promoting human rights, shaping the knowledge society and improving quality of life for all, but also on account of its role in the creation of employment, urban regeneration and social inclusion. Furthermore, culture also constitutes one of the major subjects of today's globalisation. Inter-cultural dialogue and promoting cultural diversity are some of humankind's greatest challenges.

The **Agenda 21 for culture** is the first document with worldwide mission that advocates establishing the groundwork of an undertaking by cities and local governments for cultural development. It was approved by cities and local governments from all over the world on 8 May 2004.

United Cities and Local Governments adopted the Agenda 21 for culture in October 2004 as a reference document for its programmes on culture and assumed the role of coordinator of the process subsequent to its approval. UCLG's Working Group on Culture was constituted at the statutory meetings held in Beijing in June 2005. The Programme 2005-2007 of the Working Group on Culture has set the objective to: "Promote the role of culture as a central dimension of local policies through the dissemination and implementation of the Agenda 21 for culture".

The document attached presents the Agenda 21 for culture, describes how your city or local government can best make use of this document and reproduces the text of Agenda 21 for culture, in its entirety.

A growing number of cities and local governments the world over have adhered to the Agenda 21 for culture in their local councils. We invite your **municipal Plenary** to consider adhering to the document. This adherence has a major symbolic importance. A "standard" statement form is available on the website: www.agenda21culture.net. We also invite you to consider the Agenda 21 for culture as a document of reference in the development of your cultural strategies.

We remain at your disposal to receive **your comments and contributions**. With our best wishes for cooperation,

Jordi Pascual
Coordinator - UCLG's WG on Culture
agenda21cultura@mail.bcn.es – Tel. (+34) 933 161 262