



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

Ajuntament  de Barcelona

Institut de  
cultura ■

---

**First meeting of the Working Group on Culture**  
Barcelona, 23-24 October 2006

**Report**

---

**The Working Group on Culture held its first meeting on 23 and 24 October 2006, in Barcelona. The meeting approved new impulses to the dissemination and implementation of the Agenda 21 for culture.**

The **Agenda 21 for culture** is the first document with worldwide mission establishing an undertaking by cities and local governments for cultural development. It consists of 67 articles, distributed in three blocks: "Principles", "Undertakings" and "Recommendations". Today, 168 cities, local governments and organisations from all over the world are linked to Agenda 21 for culture.

**United Cities and Local Governments – UCLG** is the largest association of local governments in the world. Founded in May 2004, UCLG acts as the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government. It adopted Agenda 21 for culture as a reference document for its cultural programmes in October 2004 and constituted its Working Group on Culture in June 2005.

**UCLG's Working Group on Culture** is the meeting point for the cities, local governments and networks that place culture at the heart of their development processes. Chaired by Barcelona City Council, and vice-chaired by the cities of Stockholm and Buenos Aires, it consists of fifty cities, local governments and organisations from all over the world. The main objective of the Programme for 2005-2007 is:

"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 Working Group on Culture held its **first meeting** on 23 and 24 October 2006, in Barcelona, with the participation of the following cities, local governments and organisations: Aide aux Musiques Innovatrices – AMI (Fr), International Association of Educating Cities - AICE (Int), Aubagne (Fr), Ajuntament de Barcelona (Es), Diputació de Barcelona (Es), Bilbao (Es), Bogotá (Co), Buenos Aires (Ar), UCLG – World Secretariat (Int), CGLU – Commission on Social Inclusion (Int), Consejo Nacional de la Cultura y las Artes (Chile), Córdoba (Es), Council of Europe (Int), Creative City Network of Canada (Ca), Cultural Development Network - Victoria (Au), EFAH - European Forum for the Arts and the Heritage (Int), European Cultural Foundation (Int), FEMP - Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias (Es), Genova (It), Lille (Fr), London (Uk), Lyon (Fr), Metropolis (Int), Ministério da Cultura – Funarte - Brazil (Br), Ministerio de Cultura - España (Es), Montréal (Ca), Porto Alegre (Br), Reading (Uk), les Rencontres (Int), Rete Italiana Agenda 21 Locali (It), Provincia di Roma (It), Sevilla (Es), Stockholm (Sw), Territoires et Cinema (Fr), UNESCO - Social and Human Sciences Sector (Int), Zaragoza (Es) / Interlocal network (Int).

The **main agreements** reached at this meeting are:

1. *To develop the institutional framework of cities and local governments*
  - To obtain the participation of cities and associations from the less represented regions.
  - To carry out an intense lobbying campaign to make culture one of the priorities of UCLG after the congress in 2007.
  
2. *To guide the development and implementation of services to cities*
  - To update the database of all the cities and organisations developing Agenda 21 for culture
  - To continue to publicise Agenda 21 for culture, and increase the number of translations of the document into other languages. It is available at present in English, French, Spanish, Catalan, Galician, German, Italian and Portuguese.
  - To publish the two documents approved in Barcelona, called "Cultural indicators and Agenda 21 for culture" and "Advice on local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture"
  - To improve the circulation of information among members and other interested people through a bulletin.
  - To distribute the report done at the request of UNESCO on "Local policies for cultural diversity".
  - To update and maintain the website [www.agenda21culture.net](http://www.agenda21culture.net).
  - To disseminate the corporate image of the Working Group.
  
3. *To develop institutional partnerships in culture*
  - To continue the relation with national and international associations and networks engaged in cultural policies.
  - To deepen the relation with the Culture Sector of UNESCO
  - To promote the ratification by states of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted by UNESCO in October 2005, and to associate the local governments in its implementation.
  - To explore the feasibility of a joint celebration by cities each 21 May, World Day for Cultural Diversity, from 2008.
  - To explore new alliances with the private sector and NGOs
  - To promote the presence of Agenda 21 for culture in international forums.
  
4. *To promote research and development in culture*
  - To promote research work on the following subjects: "Culture and sustainability", "Creative industries and local development" and "Culture and social corporate responsibility".
  - To hold a seminar on "Agenda 21 for culture and local cultural management", in Lyon, in February 2007.

#### **Contact**

UCLG Working Group on Culture - Chair  
Institut de Cultura, la Rambla 99, E-08002 Barcelona  
[agenda21cultura@bcn.cat](mailto:agenda21cultura@bcn.cat)  
Tel. (+34) 933 161 262  
Fax (+34) 933 161 060

<http://www.agenda21culture.net>  
<http://www.cities-localgovernments.org>