
Committee on Culture – 19th meeting

ONLINE

14 December 2022
16.30 – 17.30 CET

REPORT

10 January 2023

SUMMARY

The 19th meeting of the United Cities and Local Governments Committee on Culture (UCLG) was held online on December 14th, 2022. The session was preceded by a webinar on the initiative “Abasto Cultural Neighbourhood: economic boost and urban regeneration” in Buenos Aires”, winner of the 5th edition of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City - Culture 21.

The meeting was held to present and discuss the status of the Committee’s 2022 work plan, its implementation and its planned medium-term projects, as well as forthcoming initiatives in 2023, with the UCLG Culture Summit to be held in November 2023 in Dublin (Ireland) as one of the major events for the upcoming year.

Among the issues discussed, the 5th edition of the International Award “UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21” and the #culture2030goal campaign advocacy work towards a specific Culture Goal were covered. The Committee’s endeavours on peer-learning and capacity building were also reflected in the session, especially those focused on the 7 Keys Programme, and other thematic issues, such as gender equality, climate change, and anti-racism.

1. Context

The UCLG Committee on Culture is a **unique platform**: there is no other global meeting point that brings cities, organisations, and networks together to work on the relationship between local cultural policies and sustainable development.

The UCLG Committee on Culture is **equally open to participation from** cities on all continents. Additionally, UCLG has established its reputation by developing clearly-defined activities and issues.

Agenda 21 for Culture was the first global document on cultural development to establish actions by cities and local governments. By December 2022, more than 970 cities, local governments, and organizations around the world were involved with Agenda 21 for Culture and Culture 21 Actions. The **UCLG Committee on Culture was created to:**

- Analyse local contexts and send key messages on global cultural issues to specific cities
- Raise awareness, as well as help with lobbying and policy development
- Improve the sharing of experiences and mutual learning
- Support networking and project development

The **goal of the UCLG Committee on Culture** is “to promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development through international dissemination and implementation of Agenda 21 for Culture at the local level”. This approach was adopted at the World Congresses in Mexico (2010), and later expanded in Rabat (2013), Bogotá (2016), Durban (2019), and Daejeon (2022).

The current programme has 6 areas of action, which correspond to the Committee’s priorities for 2023. (1) Strengthening the UCLG network; (2) Implementation, with special focus on the UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin; (3) Advocacy, and in particular, the work towards achieving a “Culture Goal”; (4) Capacity Building and Learning with cities; (5) Monitoring and follow up; and (6) Governance and budget.

In the **previous official meeting**, held online on 16th December 2021, the Committee approved the work programme for 2022. The discussion focused on some of the major events for the upcoming year, first and foremost: the adoption of the Pact for the Future in the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon (Republic of Korea). Moreover, the meeting included the main outcomes from the UCLG Culture Summit held in Izmir in September 2021, and covered the relationship between culture and gender equality, and culture and climate action. Part of the discussion also focused on the advocacy task of the Committee to strengthen the role of culture in sustainable development strategies in the post-pandemic era.

2. Meeting Summary

The 19th meeting of the Culture Committee of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was held online on December 14th 2022. The session was preceded by the webinar “Culture and Regeneration: the experience in the neighbourhood of Abasto, in Buenos Aires”, the winning project (ex-æquo) of the 5th edition of the International Award “UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21”. The webinar offered in-depth details about the initiative and provided a space to exchange with other cities and cultural actors. Enrique Avogadro, Minister for Culture of the City of Buenos Aires, delivered the closing words of the seminar and subsequently opened the 19th official meeting of the UCLG Culture Committee.

Opening Remarks

Enrique Avogadro, Minister for Culture of the City of Buenos Aires and co-president of UCLG Culture Committee, officially opened the session by welcoming all the participants, and celebrating the endeavour of the UCLG Culture Committee in 2022. Avogadro underlined the value of reuniting again in Mexico City to celebrate the Award Ceremony of the 5th edition of the International Award "UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21", and highlighted the sessions organised by the Culture Committee in the frame of UNESCO's Mondiacult 2022. Finally, Avogadro envisaged new roadmaps for the future through the learnings and good practices arisen from the pandemic.

Claudia Curiel, Secretary for Culture, Government of Mexico City and co-president of the UCLG Culture Committee, highlighted four aspects to strengthen culture sustainability and its capacity to create wellbeing, social justice and citizen participation, namely: sustainability in the management of heritage, knowledge and cultural diversity; cultural use and appropriation of public space as a community driver; stronger governance processes for culture and sustainable development at a territorial and city level; and the promotion of cultural sustainability and artistic practices through cultural incubators.

Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG, defined culture as a key ally for human dignity, recognition, identity and resilience, and underlined the need to continue advocating towards the SDG Summit for the inclusion of culture, not only in a transversal manner throughout all the objectives but also towards achieving a stand-alone Culture Goal. Emilia Saiz also emphasised the importance of the Pact for the Future, and urged to unfold this collective vision to find the space for commitment and concrete actions, also through culture and the work carried out by the Committee.

Work Programme

Jordi Pascual, Coordinator of the Committee on Culture of UCLG, thanked the co-presidency and the UCLG Secretary General, and delivered a presentation to introduce the key elements of the Committee's programme undertaken in 2022.

1. The 5th edition of the International Award "UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21", with Buenos Aires and Dublin as winners in the category "City / Local or Regional Government", and Lourdes Arizpe and Daisy Fancourt, in the "Individual" category. The Award Ceremony was organised in Mexico City on 27 September 2022 in the framework of the Mondiacult 2022 Conference by UNESCO, and more than 80 programmes were recommended as good practices under the labels "Innovative sparks" and "Planning with care".
2. The Seven Keys, peer-learning and capacity-building
Sarah Vieux, Communications Officer of the Committee on Culture of UCLG, presented the Seven Keys programme as a unique and participatory workshop to locally integrate the cultural dimension in the localisation of the SDGs, cocreating seven actions for the cultural development of a specific city or territory. The Committee is currently working with local partners and UCLG sections to adapt this workshop to the contextual diversity.
3. The "Culture Goal" document of the #culture2030goal campaign, and the outcomes of our presence in UNESCO's Mondiacult 2022
On 28 September 2022, the Culture Committee convened two side events within the official Mondiacult 2022 Conference. The most important contribution of the Committee in this regard was a proposal for a Culture Goal

"A Culture Goal is Essential for our Common Future", published alongside all the networks of the campaign #culture2030goal.

4. Coorganisation of Culturopolis – International Days on Cultural Rights, with Barcelona City Council and Culture Action Europe (CAE), from the 16-19 November in Barcelona.
5. The work undertaken on Culture and the Climate Emergency through webinars, the contribution to the Manifesto towards COP27 (Climate Heritage Network - CHN), as well as the Town Hall "Culture and Climate", which culminated in the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon with the policy paper "The Culture for Climate Agenda".
6. The work carried out through peer-learning sessions, webinars and MOOCs. In 2022, the UCLG Culture Committee has increased the number of webinars convened (including sessions with Buenos Aires, Montreal, UCLG Africa, and Leeds, among others). Also, many peer-learning activities have been organised, such as the Jeju GYCR Global Young Creatives Residency, entitled "Islands in Flow 2", or a peer-learning visit to Malmö as part of the Leading City programme.

Fiona Winders, Development Coordinator, Department of Culture of the City of Malmö, highlighted the work undertaken by the city of Malmö to combat anti-Muslim and anti-black racism through cultural policies. Moreover, Winders explained the peer-learning visit on Culture and Anti-racism in September 2022, which became a successful exercise to gain knowledge and inspiration, and evidenced that cities around the world have begun taking action in this field.

Following this line of capacity building, in 2022 the Committee has also innovated by producing two Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) on Culture and Climate, and Culture and Gender Equality.

Agnès Ruiz, Officer of the Committee on Culture of UCLG, presented these online courses based on the reports "The Role of Culture in Climate Resilient Development" and "Cultural Actions Supporting Gender Equality in Cities and Territories", and expressed the will of the UCLG Culture Committee to offer these learning materials to the members as tools for formative purposes or, for instance, deliver specific sessions on these issues in different cities in the future.

7. UCLG World Congress in Daejeon (October 2022) and the Pact for the Future of the Humanity. The Pact was approved in the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon, and shows political leadership of UCLG through priorities and commitments based on three principles: people, planet, and government. In 2023, the UCLG Culture Committee will take the responsibility to deliver the Pact to its members, as well as to initiate, in close co-creation, the process of collectively unfolding the Pact with them.

Subsequently, the 2023 work programme of the Committee was presented by **Jordi Pascual**, who listed its main areas: (1) "Strengthening the UCLG network", contributing to unfolding the Pact for the Future as well as increasing the work with the UCLG sections (for instance, through reaching more cities for the Seven Keys workshop); (2) "Implementation", including the 5th UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin (27 November to 1 December 2023), the launch of the 6th edition of the UCLG – Mexico City Award – Culture 21, and the dissemination of the OBS of good practices; (3) "Advocacy": continuing the work with the #culture2030goal campaign, and

including the voice of culture and cities at the SDG Summit in 2023 and the Future Summit in 2024; (4) "Learning" and capacity building by scaling up the "Seven Keys" workshop, and continuing and strengthening the bilateral work with all Pilot and Leading Cities; (5) "Monitoring and follow up" with a narrative renovation through the creation of a new frame document on "cultural rights and sustainability", potentially for 2024-2025, as well as preparing new key briefings and research issues and increasing the number of webinars, talks and workshops; and finally, (6) "Governance and budget".

After the presentation of the work programme, Jordi Pascual gave the floor to **Gonzalo Olabarría**, Councillor for Culture, Bilbao, who underlined the need to jointly develop the SDGs around culture and to localise them within the institutions, and also informed about the progress of the strategic plan for Bilbao, which hoped to share with the UCLG network for further inputs and exchange. In her turn, **Parul Munjal**, INTACH, explained the launch and development of the Cities for Culture programme (based on the UCLG toolkit Culture 21 Actions), and expressed the wish to connect with other cities and learn from and support the work undertaken by UCLG. Then, **Daniel Granados**, Commissioner for Cultural Rights of Barcelona, celebrated the success of Culturopolis and expressed gratitude to the involvement of UCLG, mentioned the pioneer character of the local Cultural Rights Plan and stressed the need to support the connection between culture and innovation, science and employment, and to co-create policies alongside a proactive and diverse community. **Catalina Valencia**, Secretary of Culture of Bogotá, shared the commitments of the city towards 2023, such as strengthening local creative districts or to promote the Integrated Heritage Strategy, and finished her speech by advocating for a specific Culture Goal as the SDG 18. Representing the winning project of the 5th edition of the International Award "UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21", **Iseult Dunne**, CEO of the Dublin City Council Culture Company, explained their work, aimed at growing the impact of cultural inclusion and participation in wellbeing, which has been supported by evidence, and invited the audience to the UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin in November 2023. After this, **Professor Wang Youqun**, Dean of School of International Education, Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology, celebrated the work carried out in 2022 and expressed enthusiasm to develop further collaborations in the upcoming year. The professor suggested to facilitate the access of number of good practices in Chinese at the OBS, and raised the idea of organising an event on Culture and the SDGs in Xi'an. In her turn, as culture and finance officer at PLATFORMA and the CEMR, **Chine Venturi** expressed their wish to continue and strengthen the collaboration with the Committee to further advocate for culture and sustainable development in the global Agendas in 2023. Finally, **Sally Bakr**, Head of Social and Cultural Affairs in the municipality of Ramallah, reinforced the need to achieve a clear and specific Culture Goal in the SDGs and highlighted the advocacy endeavour of the UCLG Culture Committee in this regard.

To conclude the session, **Jordi Pascual** thanked all the participants for their contributions and their participation to the meeting. The closing words were followed by a group picture and after this, the session came to its end.

3. Annexes:

- Annex 1 includes the agenda of the meeting.
- Annex 2 includes the list of participants to the meeting.

Contact

UCLG Committee on Culture

UCLG

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Annex 1

Agenda of the meeting

Languages. English, French and Spanish. Simultaneous translation.

15.00 **Webinar “Culture and Regeneration: the experience in the neighbourhood of Abasto, in Buenos Aires”**, winner of the 5th edition of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City - Culture 21.

- Initial message, and context of the programme, by Enrique Avogadro, Minister for Culture of Buenos Aires
- Presentation by the leaders of the programme “Abasto, cultural neighbourhood”
- Questions and comments, by cities with similar experiences: Sao Paulo, Montreal, Malmoe, Bilbao (TBC)
- Answers to the questions by the leaders of the programme
- Questions and comments, by participants to the webinar
- Concluding words and end of the webinar

16.30 **Official meeting of the UCLG Culture Committee**

- Opening by Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General and the Co-Presidents of the Culture Committee: Enrique Avogadro, Minister for Culture, City of Buenos Aires, Claudia Curiel, Secretary for Culture, Government of Mexico City; and Diogo Moura, Deputy Mayor on Culture of Lisbon.
- Presentation of the main elements of the Committee’s programme undertaken in 2022. Initial presentation by Jordi Pascual, coordinator of the UCLG Culture Committee, and specific presentations on:
 - a) The 5th edition of the Award “UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21”, by Claudia Curiel, Secretary for Culture, Mexico City (TBC)
 - b) The programme “Seven Keys” and the Capacity Building and Learning programmes with cities
 - c) The cooperation with UCLG sections
 - d) The “Culture Goal” document of the #culture2030goal campaign, and the outcomes of our presence in UNESCO’s Mondiacult 2022
 - e) The Culturopolis – International Days on Cultural Rights
 - f) The work undertaken on Culture and the Climate Emergency
 - g) The Jeju GYCR Global Young Creatives Residency
 - h) Webinars and MOOCs
 - i) UCLG World Congress in Daejeon (October 2022) and the Pact for the Future of the Humanity
- Presentation of the Committee’s programme for 2023:
 - i. Strengthening the UCLG network.
 - ii. Implementation, with special focus on the UCLG Culture Summit in Dublin.
 - iii. Advocacy, with special focus on the advocacy for the “Culture Goal”.
 - iv. Capacity Building and Learning with cities.
 - v. Monitoring and follow up.
 - vi. Governance and budget.
- Concluding words

17.30 **Picture and end of the meeting**

Annex 2

List of participants to the meeting

<i>City, local government or organisation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname(s)</i>
Official members		
Barcelona	Daniel	Granados
Belo Horizonte	Bernardo	Ribeiro
Bilbao	Gonzalo	Olabarria
Bogotá	Catalina	Valencia Tobón
Bogotá	Mayra	Nuñez
Bogotá	Sandra	Pineda
Bogotá	Yully	Ramirez
Buenos Aires	Enrique	Avogadro
Buenos Aires	Magdalena	Suarez
Buenos Aires	Emiliano	Michelena
Buenos Aires	Melina	Berman
Concepción	Mauricio	Castro
Concepción	Johann	Borquez Bohn
Cuenca	Tamara	Landívar Villagomez
Cuenca	María	Ochoa Arguello
Dublin	Iseult	Dunne
Dublin	Linda	Devlin
Dublin	Tracy	Geraghty
Escazú	Freddy	Montero
Granollers	Gemma	Roquet
Jeju	Seung-young	Hong
Jinju	Byung-Hoon	Jeong
La Paz	Virginia	Piérola
Leeds	Pam	Johnson
Lisbon	Alexandra	Sabino
Mannheim and GPM	Rainer	Kern
Malmö	Fiona	Winders
Mashhad	Hamid	Isfahanizadeh
Medellín	Álvaro	Narváez Díaz
Mérida	Irving	Berlín
Mexico City	Claudia	Curiel de Icaza
Mexico City	Jainite	Rueda Ramos
Mexico City	Jorge	Muciño
Mexico City	Roberto Josué	Rodríguez Santiago
Peñalolén	Gladys	Sandoval
Peñalolén	Roberto	Garcia Yevenes
Quilmes and Mercociudades	Eva	Ramírez
Ramallah	Sally	Bakr
San Luís Potosí	Gerardo Daniel	Padilla
San Luís Potosí	José Luis	Pérez Castillo
Strasbourg	Mohammed	Achab
Terrassa	Anna	Farràs
Trois-Rivières	Nancy	Kukovica

Xi'an	Chenjia	Wang
Xi'an	Qi	Shi (aka Will)
Xi'an	Zhenyu	Shao
UCLG-Africa	Thierry	Sanzhie Bokally
UCLG-CEMR	Chine	Venturi
UCLG-MEWA	Muhammed	Furkan Çalışan
Observers		
Conecta Cultura	Victoria	Contreras
Culture pour Tous	Michel	Vallée
European Network of Cultural Centres (ENCC)	Piotr	Michalowski
FNP - Frente Nacional de Prefeitos	Aline	Andrade
ICCN	Felencia	Hutabarat
ICORN	Helge	Lunde
INTACH	Parul	Munjal
Universidad de Cuenca	Andrea	Malquin
Sushant University	Navin	Piplani
	Youqun	Wang
	Yuansheng	Cheng
Interpreters		
Mariam Chaïb and her team		
Experts of the Committee on Culture		
	Catherine	Cullen
	Jordi	Baltà Portolés
	Serhan	Ada
UCLG		
UCLG Secretary General	Emilia	Saiz
UCLG Committee on Culture	Jordi	Pascual
UCLG Committee on Culture	Sarah	Vieux
UCLG Committee on Culture	Agnès	Ruiz
UCLG World Secretariat	Carole	Morillon
UCLG World Secretariat	Mireia	Lozano Carbassé
UCLG World Secretariat	Cécile	Roth
UCLG World Secretariat	Fátima	Santiago
Apologies		
Deputy Mayor on Culture of Lisbon, co-president of UCLG Culture	Diogo	Moura
Secretary on culture, Prefeitura de Porto Alegre	Gunter	Axt
Councillor in charge of cultural development, Roma City Council	Miguel	Gotor
Councillor in charge of Culture, Makati	María Concepción	Yabut