



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



**culture 21**

Agenda 21 for culture  
Agenda 21 de la culture  
Agenda 21 de la cultura

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## Committee on culture

# REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2008-2010

*This document is the final report of the activities undertaken by the Committee on Culture during the mandate 2008-2010. The Committee was constituted by the World Congress of Jeju (October 2007). This document follows the guidelines provided by the World Secretariat, as conclusions of the Executive Bureau of Chicago (26-27 April 2010), communicated by the Secretary General of UCLG to the president of the Committee on 1 June 2010*

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## Summary

The Committee on Culture has reached almost all the objectives of the **programme 2008-2010**.

Culture has definitely become an important element in **international governance**. Local governments play a strong role in the cultural dimension of international governance. The voice of local governments is well articulated, partly thanks to the impact of Agenda 21 for culture and the involvement of UCLG.

The Committee has become **a hub of information and expertise** on the relation between cultural policies and local development.

The Committee on culture aspires to have **a renewed mandate**.

In the future, the activities on culture within UCLG should not be restricted solely to the Committee on culture. A leap of legitimacy is needed, and some **institutional innovation** within UCLG (World Secretariat and sections) is required to meet the challenges.

# A. Presentation

*This chapter briefly presents the context of UCLG's Committee on Culture, and its Programme 2008-2010*

## 1. Background

The **Agenda 21 for culture** is the first worldwide document establishing an undertaking by cities and local governments for cultural development. 409 cities, local governments and organisations from all over the world were linked to Agenda 21 for culture on 1 September 2010.

**United Cities and Local Governments – UCLG** adopted Agenda 21 for culture as its reference document in October 2004 (Executive Bureau of Sao Paulo), constituted its Working Group on Culture in June 2005 (World Council of Beijing) which was succeeded by the Committee on culture in October 2007 (World Congress of Jeju), upgrading the consideration of culture within the World organisation.

## 2. Why a Committee on culture was created?

Intergovernmental organisations have promoted culture as one of the emerging areas of international governance. UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity (2005), the Alliance of Civilisations (2006), the European Agenda for culture (2007)... Approved in 2004, Agenda 21 for culture has become the main (original and multilateral) contribution of cities to global cultural governance. **The Committee on culture was created to convey the messages of cities and local governments on global cultural issues. Advocacy, lobby and policy development.**

Local policies for development are usually based on the triangle of sustainability: economic growth, social inclusion, environmental balance. Today, this triangle is judged as old. Culture is seen as the fourth pillar of sustainable development at a local level. Local cultural policies, based on the intrinsic values of culture (creativity, critical knowledge, diversity, memory, rituality...) are becoming more important for democracy and citizenship. **The Committee on culture was created to allow cities to exchange experiences and improve mutual learning. Networking and project development.**

The Committee on culture has become a **unique meeting point**. There is not another structure at a global level that gathers together cities, organisations and networks that foster the relation between local cultural policies and sustainable development.

## 3. The programme of the Committee on culture for 2008-2010

The **programme** had 1 main aim, 5 objectives and 31 actions.

- **Main aim.** To promote the role of culture as a central dimension of local policies, fostering the relation between culture and sustainable development and the processes of intercultural dialogue, through the international dissemination and local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture
- **Objectives.** (1) Governance. (2) Development of projects. (3) Policy development. (4) Development of alliances and partnerships. (5) Resources.

## B. Detailed explanation of progress

*This chapter presents in detail the activities undertaken to implement the 31 actions listed in the Programme 2008-2010 of the Committee on culture*

1. **Governance.** A committee with active members with shared responsibilities and very dynamic within UCLG.

Action	Implementation
1.1. To strengthen our governance (membership, vice-chairs and chair), agreeing upon specific responsibilities on particular issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Committee has 63 official members and 40 observers</li> <li>- Membership to the committee has increased by 15% during the period 2008-2010.</li> <li>- Contacts have been established with the regional sections, as well as with relevant cities, so that the committee would have a vice-president from Africa, Asia-Pacific and North America in the mandate 2011-2013.</li> <li>- We have recalled cities and local governments on the list of "observers" to consider becoming "official members".</li> <li>- We believe it is important that the membership keeps a category of "observers" which is a transitional category for cities and local governments, and also a suitable way to facilitate the exchanges with international organizations, networks and civil society.</li> </ul>
1.2. To continue the partnership with the networks of cities for culture, such as Interlocal, Eurocities – Culture Forum, les Rencontres and Mercociudades – Unidad Temática de Cultura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- These networks are members of the Committee and partnership has continued during the period 2008-2010.</li> </ul>
1.3. To promote the participation to the Committee of national associations of municipalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress has not been achieved,</li> </ul>
1.4. To foster the relation between our work and the main topics of the world agenda: Millennium Development Goals, Development Cooperation, City Diplomacy...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The committee elaborated its Report 2 on Millennium Development Goals (see below, action 3.1)</li> <li>- The committee elaborated its Report 4 on Culture and Sustainable Development (see below, action 3.1)</li> <li>- The Committee has been instrumental to launch the Fund on International Cultural Cooperation (AECID-UCLG-Barcelona).</li> </ul>
1.5. To establish a close cooperation with the UCLG Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular exchanges have occurred with the committees on Social Inclusion, Local Development Strategies and Peripheral Cities.</li> <li>- Interest to work closely with City Diplomacy and International Cooperation have been mutually expressed</li> <li>- Initial contacts with the WG on Alliance of Civilizations did not continue.</li> </ul>

1.6. To consolidate a close cooperation with the regional sections and the Metropolitan section of UCLG	- Regular exchanges have occurred with the following sections: ASPAC, FLACMA, Metropolis, MEWA and UCLG-A.
1.7. To analyse the creation of an external advisory board of experts	- Progress has not been achieved,

**2. Development of projects.** UCLG and its Committee on culture are locally, nationally and internationally well-known, and develop specific projects in the field of exchanging experiences and good practices on the local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture.

Action	Implementation
2.1. To continue the communication through the website <a href="http://www.agenda21culture.net">http://www.agenda21culture.net</a> and its corporate image	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The website has been very much improved technologically and in content.</li> <li>- The software is open source. It is hosted by Barcelona City Council, and it could be easily transferred to another host in the future (World Secretariat or Chair of the Committee in 2014-2016).</li> <li>- The website has become a portal of local cultural policies</li> <li>- The connection between the website and UCLG's website needs to be improved</li> <li>- The corporate image of Agenda 21 for culture is very useful, and is widely used by cities and local governments.</li> </ul>
2.2. To periodically update the database of all the cities and local governments implementing activities under the framework of the Agenda 21 for culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The lists have been updated on 1 January 2008, 1 April 2009 and 1 September 2010.</li> <li>- 409 cities, local governments and organisations from all over the world were linked to Agenda 21 for culture on 1 September 2010.</li> <li>- A map of the Imaginary city of Agenda 21 for culture was published on 8 May 2009 to mark the fifth anniversary. It includes all cities, local governments and organizations connected to Agenda 21 for culture.</li> </ul>
2.3. To reinforce the external visibility of Agenda 21 for culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The new website, as well as bulletins and newsletters have contributed to a better visibility.</li> </ul>
2.4. To improve the internal circulation of information (newsletter or bulletin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Committee has produced 25 circulars.</li> <li>- The Committee has produced 11 bulletins.</li> <li>- Circulars are sent (World Secretariat) to official members, and immediately forwarded (Secretariat of the Committee) to observers and other stakeholders.</li> <li>- Bulletins are sent by the Secretariat of the Committee.</li> </ul>
2.5. To increase the number of translations of Agenda 21 for culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 8 new translations. New languages are Arabic, Bulgarian, Japanese, Persian, Russian, Serbian, Swedish and Ukrainian. They were added to previously existing: English, French, Spanish, Catalan, Galician, German, Italian, Portuguese and Turkish.</li> <li>- All translations were undertaken by local partners.</li> <li>- New translations to Albanese and Polish are being elaborated.</li> </ul>

2.6. To support the local implementations of Agenda 21 for culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Secretariat of the Committee on culture offers detailed advice to all cities wishing to implement locally the Agenda 21 for culture</li> <li>- The Committee has been instrumental to launch the Fund on International Cultural Cooperation (AECID-UCLG-Barcelona).</li> </ul>
2.7. To develop specific projects in the field of exchanging experiences and good practices on the local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture, by local governments or civil society agents, mainly through peer-review tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A peer review exercise took place in 2009-2010, involving the cities of Medellin, Buenos Aires and Quito. Representatives from the province of Barcelona, and th4e cities of Porto Alegre and México were involved in this scheme. Peer-reviewers assisted the development of local cultural strategies in the above-mentioned cities of Medellin, Buenos Aires and Quito (see Circular 36).</li> </ul>
2.8. To explore the realisation of specific actions in the fields of training and capacity building, in partnership with international and national funding agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seminar in Quito, March-April 2008 on "Urban policies and cultural development: planning as strategy", in partnership with the city of Quito, the iberoamerican network Interlocal, and the Spanish Agency for Development (AECID). See Circular 18.</li> <li>- Seminar in Dakar, July 2008, on "Agenda 21 for culture and local strategies for culture", organized with the city of Dakar, the Ministry of culture of Senegal, the UEMOA, and the Spanish Agency for Development - AECID. See Circular 20.</li> <li>- Seminar in Barcelona, June 2009, on "Culture, sustainable development and local governments, what challenges for the next decade", in cooperation with UNESCO and the French <i>Observatoire des Politiques Culturelles</i>. See Circular 29.</li> <li>- Workshop in Maputo, July 2009, on "Culture and local development", organized with the city of Maputo, the Ministry of culture of Mozambique, the Spanish Agency for Development - AECID and the Foundation Interarts, in the framework of the Euro-African Campus for cultural cooperation. See Circular 30.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
2.9. To explore, and eventually agree, on a joint celebration by cities each 21 May, World Day for Cultural Diversity, from 2008 onwards, in partnership with UNESCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exploration took place in 2008-2009, with an internal report produced in May-October 2009, with consultation to members of the committee (Circular 19 and World Council of Istanbul).</li> <li>- The report did not support a joint celebration by cities of the World Day 21 May.</li> </ul>
2.10. To explore the creation of a emblematic action, label or award that recognises cities and/or projects related to Agenda 21 for culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explicit progress has not been achieved, although it could be said that the Report 5 on "Cities, cultures and developments" (see below) recognizes the involvement of some cities and local governments.</li> </ul>
2.11. To explore the elaboration of a glossary of concepts related to Agenda 21 for culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress has not been achieved,</li> </ul>

**3. Policy development.** Research and development as the engine of key documents on local cultural policies that are widely disseminated.

Action	Implementation
3.1. To continue the work of Research and Development, with new reports on issues related to Agenda 21 for culture; possible topics could be: culture and sustainable development, culture and local governance, culture and decentralised cooperation, and creative industries and local development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Four reports have been published in 2009: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Culture, local governments and Millennium Development Goals".</li> <li>- "The Agenda 21 for culture in France - State of affairs and outlook", in cooperation with of the French <i>Observatoire des Politiques Culturelles</i>.</li> <li>- "Culture and sustainable development: examples of institutional innovation and proposal of a new cultural policy profile", written for the Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue of UNESCO in the framework of the process "Towards a new cultural policy profile".</li> <li>- "Cities, cultures and developments. A report that marks the fifth anniversary of Agenda 21 for culture".</li> </ul> </li> <li>- The report "Local policies for cultural diversity" had been published in 2006, commissioned by UNESCO</li> <li>- We have now a collection of five reports, edited and translated. They can be downloaded from our website.</li> </ul>
3.2. To analyse the production of new policy papers, and to analyse suitable approval: UCLG Committee on culture, Executive Bureau or World Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The UCLG Executive Bureau at its meeting in Chicago (April 2010) mandated the Committee on Culture to develop a Policy Statement for adoption at the Mexico meetings. The proposal provides background information and develops the notion of culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development. See circular 129 of UCLG to all members of Executive Bureau of UCLG.</li> </ul>
3.3. To analyse the feasibility of elaborating a document on "Cultural indicators and Agenda 21 for culture" that further develops the document approved on this issue in October 2006.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress has not been achieved.</li> </ul>

**4. Development of alliances and partnerships.** Networking and advocacy that establish the basis of shared projects, allowing cities an active presence in the international debates on culture and sustainable development.

Action	Implementation
4.1. To deepen on the strategic relation with UNESCO, establishing specific partnerships on concrete issues, such as the Convention on Cultural Diversity, the Network of Creative Cities, and others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UCLG has been officially accepted as an observer to the Organs of the Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of UNESCO.</li> <li>- Appointed by UNESCO, the Committee on culture participates in the process of evaluation of the bids of cities wishing to join the programme "Network of Creative Cities".</li> <li>- The Committee has been involved in the process "Towards a new framework for cultural policies", convened by the Division on Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue.</li> </ul>

4.2. To deepen on the strategic relation with the European Union, establishing specific partnerships on concrete issues	- The Committee on culture has been active in the elaboration and the implementation of the European Agenda for Culture, and the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008).
4.3. To deepen on the strategic relation with the Council of Europe, establishing specific partnerships on concrete issues, such as the Intercultural Cities programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Committee on culture has disseminated the information on the Intercultural cities programme, and it has been associated to its Secretariat (<a href="http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/cities/default_en.asp">http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/cities/default_en.asp</a>).</li> <li>- We have supported the organisation of two seminars in Liverpool, in May 2008, and in Barcelona in October 2008</li> <li>- This is probably the best programme on local policies and intercultural dialogue, very well managed, with committed cities, with a high capacity to disseminate good practices, a programme which has become very inspirational for many cities, inside and outside our Committee.</li> </ul>
4.4. To explore contacts and develop a relation with other UN agencies and programmes: UN-Habitat, UNDP, UN-Sustainable Development	- Progress has not been achieved.
4.5. To establish a close cooperation with the Alliance of Civilisations.	- Progress has not been achieved, despite the existence within UCLG of a WG on "the local dimension of Alliance of Civilisations" whose activities clearly overlap ours...
4.6. To continue the relation with civil society organisations and networks devoted to international cultural cooperation, and to explore the realisation of specific projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Committee has cooperated with (i) the Platform for an Intercultural Europe, in the elaboration of the Rainbow Paper, and (ii) the campaign "We are more" (launched by Culture Action Europe in October 2010).</li> <li>- The Committee has a close contact with the IFACCA – International Federation of Art Councils, the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity, and the European networks on the governance of culture (Culture Action Europe, ENCATC...).</li> </ul>
4.7. To explore the establishment of contacts with OWHC – Organisation of World Heritage Cities and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability	- Progress has not been achieved.
4.8. To explore the establishment of contacts with the international thematic cultural networks (IFLA, ICOM, ICOMOS...).	- Progress has not been achieved.

**5. Resources.** Funds to support the implementation of specific projects and allow the long-term sustainability of the Committee.

Action	Implementation
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<p>5.1. To obtain resources from national and international agencies and donors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Committee launched of a call for proposals on the local governance of culture with a strong involvement of AECID – Spanish Agency for International Cooperation. This call for proposals will grant economic support to cities and local governments (members of UCLG in Africa, Iberoamerica or the Mediterranean) aiming to develop Agenda 21 for culture locally.</li> <li>- See <a href="http://www.bcn.cat/cooperacio/eng/bcn_solidaria/subvencions_cooperacio_cultural.html">http://www.bcn.cat/cooperacio/eng/bcn_solidaria/subvencions_cooperacio_cultural.html</a></li> <li>- Results of the first Call will be announced in October 2010.</li> </ul>
<p>5.2. To establish sponsorship agreements with private corporations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preliminary contacts have been established, but substantial progress has not yet been achieved.</li> </ul>



## C. Main achievements

*This chapter summarizes the activities undertaken by the Committee on Culture during the period 2008-2010. It follows the "List of recommended review criteria, adopted by the Executive Bureau on 26-27 April 2010 in Chicago.*

### 1. Progress

- a. *Implementation of the Work Plan.* The Work Plan 2007-2010 has been implemented. The Committee on Culture has reached almost all the objectives of the programme 2008-2010. See details above, in chapter "B" of this document.
- b. *Impact: Policy contributions and technical tools.* The Secretariat of the Committee has coordinated the implementation of the programme with the World Secretariat. (i) A Policy Statement has been just launched, aligned with the priorities of the world organization. (ii) The Secretariat of the Committee on culture offers detailed advice to all cities wishing to implement locally the Agenda 21 for culture. (iii) Agenda 21 for culture itself (2004) and the 2 complementary documents (2006) are "toolkits" for local cultural development.
- c. *Activities in the field.* A peer-review scheme was organized. Four reports were published. Four seminars were organized. A Fund on International Cultural Cooperation (AECID-UCLG-Barcelona) was launched. Partnerships with UNESCO, European Union, Council of Europe and international networks on culture and development.

### 2. Structure

- a. *Membership.* The Committee has an active political involvement.
- b. *Regional representation.* The Committee has members in almost all regional sections of UCLG, although a better balance is needed, and will be sought with the secretaries of sections.
- c. *Coordination with Committees and Regional sections.* The Secretariat of the Committee has coordinated the implementation of the programme 2008-2010 with relevant committees and with regional sections.

### 3. Operations: Communication and Lobbying

- a. *Communication and dissemination.* A new website was launched and is periodically updated. 25 circulars and 11 bulletins were sent. 8 new translations of Agenda 21 for culture.
- b. *Lobbying / advocacy.* UCLG's Committee on Culture is a unique meeting point: there is not another structure at a global level that gathers together cities, organizations and networks that foster the relation between local cultural policies and sustainable development. It largely contributes to the visibility of UCLG.

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