Report on Culture and Development

The present UN Secretary-General report on C&D was prepared by UNESCO and generally aims at feeding the discussions on the 3rd Resolution on C&D (A/68/266) by covering 2 main aspects:

1) Substantial report on C&D: the report presents the progress made in the implementation of the Resolution 66/208, adopted by the General Assembly in 2011, while outlining the work and initiatives undertaken by Member States and UN Organizations

2) Process towards 2015: as requested by the 2011 Resolution, the report includes a feasibility assessment of a possible UN Conference

1. On the substance: There has been a growing recognition of the role of culture for sustainable development

- 2000: Culture was not included in the MDGs


- 2010 and 2011: Two Resolutions of the UN General Assembly on “Culture & Development”, which called for the mainstreaming of culture into development policies and strategies, and underscored culture’s intrinsic contribution to sustainable development.

- Recent developments: 2012:
  
  ➢ Rio+20: Made clear references to culture: The Outcome Document referred to the importance of cultural diversity for sustainable development, recognized the relationship between people, their ecosystems and their cultural heritage, the importance of investing in cultural tourism, the need for conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of human settlements, for the revitalization and rehabilitation of historic districts, and acknowledged the relationship between culture and biodiversity, and the sustainable use of resources by indigenous peoples and local communities.

  ➢ UN System Task Team Report to the UNSG: included, amongst many references to culture, referred to the fact that:

  “71. It is also critical to promote equitable change that ensures people’s ability to choose their value systems in peace, thereby allowing for full participation and empowerment. Communities and individuals must be able to create and practice their own culture and enjoy that of others free from fear. This will require, inter alia, respect for cultural diversity, safeguarding cultural and natural heritage, fostering cultural institutions, strengthening cultural and creative industries, and promoting cultural tourism.”


Recent developments: 2013:

- May (China): Hangzhou International Congress (China) has gathered some 500 experts and adopted the Hangzhou Declaration, which recommends that a specific goal focused on culture be included as part of the post-2015 UN development agenda, to be based on heritage, diversity, creativity and the transmission of knowledge.

- June 2013 (New York): UN General Assembly Thematic Debate on “Culture and Development” brought together some 250 participants. It was opened by UNSG Ban Ki-moon, together with the President of the UN General Assembly, with the participation of UNESCO DG, UNDP Administrator, the President of the AoC, and 14 government ministers, who all stressed the role of culture in achieving development goals. During the debate the G-77 plus China, the EU and the CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) called for culture to be explicitly recognized as an enabler of sustainable development in the post-2015 global development agenda.

- In June 2013, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals held its 4th session, which was notably dedicated to education and culture. This important forum of discussion amongst Member States allowed to deal with the importance of the role culture for development, which a number of Member States supported in view of the elaboration of the Post-2015 agenda.

- In July 2013, the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review was on “Science, technology and innovation, and Culture” (Geneva).

- In September 2013, some 15 Member States launched the establishment of a “Group of Friends on Culture and Development” in the framework of the discussions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, in order to provide an informal mechanism for Permanent Missions to exchange on the contributions of culture to the achievement of sustainable development.

- November 2013: Indonesia, in cooperation with UNESCO, will organize the first World Culture in Development Forum.

The Report also refers to a number of meetings that were organized at regional level:

**In AFRICA:**
- Conference of Ministers for Culture of the African Union, held in Kinshasa, in November 2012
- The Pan-African Forum on “Sources and resources for a culture of peace”, held in Luanda in March 2013

**In the ARAB STATES:**
- Meeting of ministers of culture of the Arab region, held in Manama on 13 and 14 November 2012

**In ASIA:**
- The ASEAN summit of November 2011

**In LAC:**
- The Suriname Declaration of the Ministers of culture of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States issued at their first meeting, held in Paramaribo in March 2013
- The Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 3rd International conference on small island developing States, held in Kingston in July 2013

**In EUROPE:**
- within the framework of the EU institutions
- The Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Culture, held in Moscow in April 2013,
- The initiative of the Council of Europe within its Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention)
2. Culture is an enabler & a driver of sustainable development

**Culture is an enabler of sustainable development**

- Cross-cutting role

  - To be most effective, development approaches should be adapted to local contexts. “One size does not fit all”. Development policies and programmes should respect the diversity of cultural contexts; they should respond to local needs. Too many well-intended programmes failed because they did not take into account cultural settings. There can be no full ownership, no full participation without integrating culture.

  - Culture is a vital aspect of human development as it provides peoples and communities with a strong sense of identity and belonging. Culture, through cultural heritage and cultural and creative industries, can help promote social cohesion and youth engagement.

  - Culture has a strong role to play for quality education. Culture can provide innovative and effective solutions to complex issues such as health, gender equality and the environment. Culture in all its different forms of expression is an invaluable resource to facilitate learning from the past, adapt and respond creatively in the present and anticipate the future.

**Culture is a driver of sustainable development**

- Sectoral role

  - Culture is a strong and viable economic sector, generating income, creating jobs, and contributing to poverty alleviation in a number of countries, and a growing portion of GDP in emerging economies.

  - Cultural heritage and creative industries are vehicles for job creation, economic growth and the building of sustainable livelihoods. Culture is a driver for innovation and creativity.

  - Cultural and creative industries represent one of the most rapidly expanding sectors in the global economy.

Figures published by UNCTAD in May 2013 show that world trade of creative goods and services totalled a record $624 billion in 2011 and that it more than doubled from 2002 to 2011; the average annual growth rate during that period was 8.8 per cent. Growth in developing-country exports of creative goods was even stronger, averaging 12.1 per cent annually over the same period.
3. The Report presents the progress made in the implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolution 66/208 adopted in 2011

- **UNDAFs**
  The UNESCO analytical report shows that there is a *growing interest for culture* as an integral part of the broader development debates at country level.
  
  **2006:** culture was mentioned in less than 30% of UNDAFs
  **2012:** culture is mentioned in 70% of UNDAFs

- **UNDG Task Team on C&D**
  - Established in Nov 2012 to facilitate the exchange of experience and data to support the UN reflection on the impact of culture.
  
  - *Culture is not a “UNESCO-specific” concern:*
    15 UN organizations work in this area thereby illustrating both the transversality and the intrinsic importance of culture in the field (UNDP, UNIDO, UNWTO, IFAD, WIPO, FAO, UNEP, UNCTAD, UNITAR, UNOPS, UNAIDS, UNHCR, UN-Habitat, UNFPA, UNV).

- **The MDG-F experience:**
  - Spanish Fund (of some USD 900 million)
  - established in 2006 up to 2013:
    - To contribute to progress in the achievement of MDGs
    - To promote increased coherence and effectiveness through the collaboration among UN Agencies and with national governments
    - To support national ownership and the UN Reform
  
  - 18 MDG-F Joint Programmes on Culture and Development:
    - In Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Arab States, South East Europe.
    - Total budget: USD 95 million
    - The joint programmes build on culture as an asset for development and a factor for social cohesion and peace.
    - In the areas of cultural heritage, cultural industries, cultural tourism and intercultural dialogue.
    - Specific attention has been brought to local communities in order to ensure community-based action and reinforce national ownership.

- **Creative Economy Report**
  - To be launched in 14 November (Paris) / 27 November (New York)
  - The 3rd edition of the Creative Economy Report, jointly published by UNESCO and UNDP
  - will represent an opportunity to highlight the contribution of culture to the attainment of MDGs and more broadly to sustainable development. The novelty of this Report is its focus on cultural and creative industries at the local level in developing countries.

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New knowledge generated by UNESCO and WIPO confirm that the economic impact of culture at the national level goes beyond initial expectations. This is based on indicators measuring the contribution of cultural activities to GDP and levels of cultural employment. For example, data from 40 countries collected and analysed by WIPO reveal that, on average, the contribution of copyright industries represents 5.2% of GDP.
Governments in developing countries are also supporting the emergence of dynamic cultural and creative industries.

Burkina Faso’s 2015 Stratégie de croissance accélérée et de développement durable identifies them as a key priority area for sustainable development and growth.

Brazil has begun to create more than 3000 centres for the arts across the country, as a driver for social inclusion, urban revitalization and job creation.

China is also putting a strong emphasis on culture as a pillar of its development strategy for the coming years and it is clear that creative industries are considered at the highest political level as a major component of the next chapter of China’s rise.

- **The achievements of UN Organizations:**
  UNDP, World Bank, UNIDO, IFAD, WIPO, FAO, UNEP, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNCTAD, UNITAR, UNOPS, UN-Habitat, UNAIDS, UNWTO

  - Large-scale programmes
  - Indicators and statistics

UNESCO’s Culture for Development Indicators Suite (CDIS), based on the UNESCO Framework for Statistics, demonstrates that in Ecuador nearly 5% of the national GDP is contributed by private and formal cultural activities (similar to contribution levels of agriculture to the GDP).

This figure stands at 5.7% in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 3.4% in Colombia and 1.5% in both Cambodia and Ghana where informality poses a major challenge for estimating the real contribution of the creative sector to GDP.
4. Culture in the Post-2015 process

The organization of a UN Conference:

- Stems from the 2nd Resolution of the UNGA
- The 2013 UNSG report brings a positive reply on the need to organize such a meeting:
  - It is time to have a meeting of all Member States on C&D
  - After Hangzhou, PGA thematic debate, ECOSOC
  - Before the deadline of September 2015 (date of the Post-2015 agenda summit)
    ➔ Early 2015 (before the summer) seems adequate.

- Objectives:
  - To take stock of the contribution of culture to development
  - To formulate a consolidated approach of culture to development
  - To define a common strategy through concrete policies and operations (in view of the Post-2015 agenda)

- The format is flexible: Not necessarily a UN Conference, but for example a Special Meeting of the General Assembly:
  - In New York – over 2 days
  - With a negotiated document
  - With high-level representation from Member States + UN Heads + experts if desired

5. CONCLUSION (optional)

- The UNSG report on C&D aims at feeding the discussions on the Resolution (A/68/266)
  3) Substantial report on C&D: the report presents the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 66/208, while outlining the work and initiatives undertaken by Member States and UN Organizations
  4) Process towards 2015: the report includes a feasibility assessment of a possible UN Conference

- Main objectives of the 3rd Resolution:
  - The Resolutions of 2010 and 2011: a breakthrough on the recognition of the role of culture
  - The 3rd Resolution will:
    1) (contents): build on such recognition in view of the Post-2015 agenda, by recognizing the contribution of culture as an enabler and a driver of sustainable development + the 3 main pillars (economic, social, environmental)
    2) (process): take a decision on the way forward, by taking a decision on the holding of a UN Conference or a Special Meeting of the UN General Assembly during its 69th session
Funding of a UN Conference or a Special Meeting of the UNGA

- Positive contacts are being held with key partners.
- The budget of such a UN Conference/Special Meeting needs to be funded by:
  - The Regular Budget of the UN: to finance the basic costs of the meeting: security, room, etc.
  - Voluntary funding (extrabudgetary) through a Special Fund to participate in the core funding of the meeting (cost-sharing), convene high-level representatives from LDCs, convene high-level experts

Culture on the global agenda

Establishing specific goals and recommendations on culture and development:
- **2000 Millennium Declaration:** “6. We consider certain fundamental values to be essential to international relations in the twenty-first century. These include: [...] Tolerance. Human beings must respect one another, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity. A culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted.”
- **2005 World Summit outcome document:** “14. Acknowledging the diversity of the world, we recognize that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind. We acknowledge the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world.”
- **2010 World Summit outcome document:** “16. We acknowledge the diversity of the world and recognize that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind. We emphasize the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.” and “66. We consider that the cultural dimension is important for development. We encourage international cooperation in the cultural field, aimed at achieving development objectives.”
- **The 2010 United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Culture and Development (A/RES/65/166),** which notably: (1) Emphasizes the important contribution of culture for sustainable development and the achievement of national development objectives and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and (2) "Invites all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system and relevant non-governmental organizations [...] to ensure a more visible and effective integration of culture in development policies and strategies at all levels" (1) **Emphasizes** the important contribution of culture for sustainable development and the achievement of national development objectives and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and makes a number of recommendations to ensure a more effective integration of culture in development policies, frameworks and programmes.
- **The 2011 United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Culture and Development (A/RES/66/208),** which notably (1) Emphasizes the important contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development and of national development objectives and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; (8) Encourages all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to take into consideration the contribution of culture to the achievement of development in
the formulation of national, regional and international development policies and international cooperation instruments;

✓ **2012 Realizing the Future We Want for All:** Amongst a number of references to culture: “71. It is also critical to promote equitable change that ensures people’s ability to choose their value systems in peace, thereby allowing for full participation and empowerment. Communities and individuals must be able to create and practice their own culture and enjoy that of others free from fear. This will require, inter alia, respect for cultural diversity, safeguarding cultural and natural heritage, fostering cultural institutions, strengthening cultural and creative industries, and promoting cultural tourism.”

✓ **2012 Outcome Document of Rio+20:** Amongst a number of references to culture: “We acknowledge the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognize that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to sustainable development” (41). Are also recognized: the relationship between people, their ecosystems and their cultural heritage (30); the importance of investing in cultural tourism (130 and 131); “the need for conservation as appropriate of the natural and cultural heritage of human settlements, the revitalization of historic districts, and the rehabilitation of city centres” (134); and the important relationship between culture and biodiversity was also affirmed (197). In addition Rio+20 recognized that “indigenous peoples and local communities,...have developed sustainable uses of...resources” (211,109,197), as well as the importance of “avoiding endangering their [Indigenous Peoples’] cultural heritage” (58)).

✓ **The Hangzhou Declaration,** (China, 15-17 May 2013), which recommends that a specific goal focused on culture be included as part of the post-2015 UN development agenda, to be based on heritage, diversity, creativity and the transmission of knowledge.

✓ **The UN General Assembly Thematic Debate on “Culture and Development”** (New York, June 2013), with the UNSG Ban Ki-moon, the President of the UN General Assembly, the UNESCO Director-General, the UNDP Administrator, the President of the Alliance of Civilizations, 14 government ministers, where the ‘G-77 plus China’, the EU and the CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) called for the role of culture to be explicitly recognized in the post-2015 global development agenda.

✓ **2013 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review on “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals”**. [to be adopted]

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