



UK Coalition for Cultural Diversity

CULTURE AS A STAND-ALONE GOAL IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030

Culture must be recognised as the fourth pillar of development, alongside economic, social and environmental agendas

The rationale for a UN Culture Goal has been well-established since the period (2013-2015) when the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were in their development phase. Although every aspect of development in the policy areas covered by the 17 SDGs has a cultural dimension, reflecting human beliefs, values and practices, it is now recognised that culture should have its own goal. The reasons are summarised in *A Culture Goal is Essential for Our Common Future, 2022*:

- 1 to ensure adequate focus on culture at the highest level of government
- 2 to ensure the range of connections between culture and other policy areas
- 3 to ensure that the culture sector itself feels a sense of engagement in and ownership of all the goals
- 4 to strengthen the achievement of all other Goals
- 5 to ensure all Goals can be protected from systemic and behavioural barriers that can be addressed through cultural activity

Culture2030 <https://culture2030goal.net> , a grouping of international civil society organisations which includes our international federation <https://ficdc.org/en/> , has drawn up a blueprint for this goal with eight targets, informed by an extensive international survey. It has also identified key indicators through which to evaluate performance. Download here <https://culture2030goal.net/our-culture-goal-proposal>

Achieving a stand-alone goal for culture received wide endorsement in the closing statement of this year's Mondiacult2025, the world's largest gathering of cultural ministers, cultural institutions and NGOs.

The absence of culture in our vision for development thus far is arguably one of the principal reasons that the UN Sustainable Development Goals have not achieved their targets, for instance in relation to gender equality and the rights of indigenous peoples. Given the fragile state of our international order today, culture must be recognised as the fourth pillar of development. Ensuring our cultural rights - to create, to communicate, to participate, to safeguard our

heritage. to be heard - is fundamental to sustain our global conversation, thus enabling understanding, thriving diverse communities and peace.

Presentation to Mondiacult 2025

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