

Advocating for the inclusion of culture in the SDG Summit Declaration

30 June 2023

With UN Member States currently negotiating the declaration for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit in September, it will be important that negotiators hear from as many voices as possible about why it matters to include culture.

You can help make this happen! Below, you can find simple instructions on who to contact, and what you can say. You are of course free to use alternative methods that you know will be more effective, and to adapt the proposed text provided below.

Identifying who to contact

You can use a search engine to find the website of your country's UN mission, or you can go through the [UN Blue Book](#):

- ➔ Pick 'Member States maintaining permanent missions at Headquarters;
- ➔ Pick your country
- ➔ See if there is a person responsible for any of the following:
 - Sustainable Development
 - Culture
 - Second Committee
- ➔ If they have a published e-mail, use this. Otherwise, you may need to use the generic contact address for the Mission, or try out different possible e-mail addresses. You can also look for the person on the internet to see if their e-mail appears anywhere.

What to say

You should feel free to adapt/translate the below text, or develop your own. The key point is that we are asking delegations to make sure that culture is highlighted, in the SDG Summit, as a key factor in development:

Dear [...],

I am/we are writing to you to seek your support in addressing the absence of culture in the current draft of the SDG Summit Declaration. This will not only strengthen the document, but also resolve an inconsistency both with the [Report of the Secretary General](#) on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet, and the [Declaration of the UNESCO MONDIACULT Conference](#) of September 2022.

I/we underline that there is widespread agreement that culture is a global public good and a critical enabler and driver of SDG progress. As the Secretary General himself sets out, it serves as a source of knowledge, values and communication, as a contributor to environmental sustainability and as a generator of economic activity and jobs. Respect for cultural diversity and the diversity of religions and beliefs as well as intercultural dialogue and understanding are also crucial to strengthening social cohesion and sustaining peace.

A key weakness of the 2030 Agenda is therefore the lack of a clear emphasis on the role of culture, leading to its undervaluation and underutilisation in the push for SDG progress. Thanks to this, the world is missing out on an opportunity to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs. With the SDG Summit in September, as well as the Summit of the Future next year, there is an opportunity to start to correct this, by recognising that culture is a lever for SDG acceleration.

We look forward to your response and remain at your disposal for any further information or clarification you may need, and also encourage you to take account of the [statement](#) released by the Culture2030Goal campaign.

Yours faithfully,

Let us know if you have any questions!