

Global campaign Culture2030Goal at meeting on SDG Summit draft declaration
7 June 2023

Draft 3, by Jordi Pascual

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to all,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the global campaign “Culture2030Goal”. The campaign unites global cultural networks with thousands of members in all countries of the world. Since its creation, the [Culture2030Goal campaign](#) has underlined the essential role of culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development.

The SDGs, in 2015, did not recognise the power of culture. The good wording of the Preamble was not unfolded in one specific Goal and several clear Targets, aiming at boosting the cultural capacities of people and connecting culture to the challenges we have as one humankind: peace, climate emergency, poverty, gender equality, human rights, freedoms...

This absence means the SDGs lack coherence and consistency. A global Agenda for development can only be achieved if it includes culture as a driver of development.

Today, all stakeholders involved in the achievement and the localisation of the SDGs recognise this absence is negative. This includes the UN Secretary-General in his most recent progress report a few weeks ago.

Today, culture needs to be leveraged to accelerate progress.

The impacts of the multiple and interrelated crises have made this need, urgent.

If the leaders meeting at the SDG Summit in September 2023 are consistent in their desire to deliver on the SDGs, the Declaration needs to include culture.

Culture is one of the few policies that are able to connect trust, confidence, empowerment, learning, science, wellbeing, beauty, happiness, locality, community, universality and fraternity.

We suggest this paragraph to be added, in para 36.

We recognize that culture (intercultural dialogue, heritage in all forms, cultural diversity, creativity, transmission of knowledge) culture, remains undervalued in the push for SDG progress. We will act to analyse the role of culture as a global public good, including greater consideration of the role of culture in supporting SDG achievement now, and the analysis of a potential stand-alone Culture Goal ASAP, and certainly, post-2030.

People needs the hope and transformative action of culture.

Leaders, you need to be bold. Engage with culture!

Thank you very much.