

UNESCO Instruments/Frameworks Culture



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Promotion of Quality Standards and Certification
For Handicrafts from Ghana and Sierra Leone

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1. What is UNESCO ?

In 1945, UNESCO was created in order to respond to the firm belief of nations, forged by two world wars in less than a generation, that political and economic agreements are not enough to build a lasting peace. Peace must be established on the basis of humanity's moral and intellectual solidarity.

What is UNESCO ?

UNESCO strives to build networks among nations that enable this kind of solidarity, by:

- Mobilizing for education: so that every child, boy or girl, has access to quality education as a fundamental human right and as a prerequisite for human development.
- Building intercultural understanding: through protection of heritage and support for cultural diversity. UNESCO created the idea of World Heritage to protect sites of outstanding universal value.
- Pursuing scientific cooperation: such as early warning systems for tsunamis or trans-boundary water management agreements, to strengthen ties between nations and societies.
- Protecting freedom of expression: an essential condition for democracy, development and human dignity

1. What is UNESCO ?

National Commissions

- UNESCO is the only UN Agency to have a global network of national cooperating bodies known as National Commissions for UNESCO.
- The National Commissions operate, on a permanent basis, **for the purpose of associating their governmental and non-governmental bodies** in education, sciences, culture and communication with the work of the Organization.
- Presently, there are **199 National Commissions for UNESCO** across the world.

2. Culture & SDGs

- In today's interconnected world, culture's power to transform societies is clear. Its diverse manifestations – from our cherished historic monuments and museums to traditional practices and contemporary art forms – enrich our everyday lives in countless ways
- UNESCO is convinced that no development can be sustainable without a strong culture component. Indeed only a human-centred approach to development based on mutual respect and open dialogue among cultures can lead to lasting, inclusive and equitable results. Yet until recently, culture has been missing from the development equation

Culture & SDGs

- To ensure that culture takes its rightful place in development strategies and processes, UNESCO has adopted a three-pronged approach: it spearheads worldwide advocacy for culture and development, while engaging with the international community to set clear policies and legal frameworks and working on the ground to support governments and local stakeholders to safeguard heritage, strengthen creative industries and encourage cultural pluralism
- For the first time, culture was part of discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and was integrated in SDGs (17 Goals in all) - international development agenda adopted at the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2015.

3. Legal Instruments (Conventions, Recommendations & Declarations)

Culture Conventions

UNESCO renowned cultural conventions provide a unique global platform for international cooperation and establish a holistic cultural governance system based on human rights and shared values. These international treaties endeavour to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage including ancient archaeological sites, intangible and underwater heritage, museum collections, oral traditions and other forms of heritage, and to support creativity, innovation and the emergence of dynamic cultural sectors. The conventions as listed:

- [The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions \(2005\)](#)
- [The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage \(2003\)](#)

Legal Instruments (Conventions, Recommendations & Declarations)

Culture Conventions

- [The Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity \(2001\)](#)
- [The Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage \(2001\)](#)
- [The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage \(1972\)](#)
- [The Convention on the Protection of Copyright and Neighbouring Rights \(1952, 1971\)](#)
- [The Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Traffic of Cultural Property \(1970\)](#)
- [The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict \(1954\)](#)

Ghana ratified 7 of them in June 2015

Legal Instruments (Conventions, Recommendations & Declarations)

- **UNESCO does not have any instruments or programmes dedicated exclusively to handicrafts. However, the scope of the 2003 and 2005 conventions may be seen to be cover them.**
- [The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions \(2005\)](#)
- [The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage \(2003\)](#)

4. Creative Cities

- Urban areas are today's principal breeding grounds for the development of new strategies, policies and initiatives aimed at making culture and creativity a driving force for sustainable development and urban regeneration through the stimulation of growth and innovation and the promotion of social cohesion, citizen well-being and inter-cultural dialogue. In this way cities respond to the major challenges with which they are confronted, such as the economic crisis, environmental impacts, demographic growth and social tensions.
- The crucial role of cities in promoting sustainable development focused on people and the respect of human rights is notably recognised in the post-2015 Development Agenda which includes among its 17 goals a specific objective to 'make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable' and identifies culture and creativity as one of the essential levers for action in this context.

Creative Cities

- It is first and foremost at local level that culture and creativity are lived and practised on a daily basis. It is therefore by stimulating cultural industries, supporting creation, promoting citizen and cultural participation and approaching the public sphere with a new perspective that public authorities, in cooperation with the private sector and civil society, can make the difference and support a more sustainable urban development suited to the practical needs of the local population
- In this context, cooperation and the sharing of experience and knowledge is crucial for making creativity a lever for urban development and conceiving of new solutions to tackle common challenges. In this regard, UNESCO's Creative Cities Network offers unparalleled opportunities for cities to draw on peer learning processes and collaborative projects in order to fully capitalize on their creative assets and use this as a basis for building sustainable, inclusive and balanced development in economic, cultural, environmental and social terms.

Creative Cities

- **The Network covers 7 creative fields**, (Crafts & Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music) which can be chosen by the cities according to their preference for a specific creative industry sector to which they devote their talent and energy

This is where the crafts can take advantage of!

At the moment, there are only a few cities from Africa (Lubumbashi, Dakar, Brazzaville, Kinshasa) and it is recommended that Ghana (Accra, Kumasi, etc) apply to the network. The call will also be launched in the beginning of 2017.

<http://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/home>

Creative Cities

- **Joining the network is a longstanding commitment;** it must involve a participative process and a forward-looking approach. Cities must present a realistic action plan including specific projects, initiatives or policies to be executed in the next four years to implement the objectives of the Network.
- **Join the Network and enhance your city's creative potential for sustainable urban development, exchange know-how and cooperate on an international level!**
- To become a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, candidate cities **must submit an application that clearly demonstrates their willingness, commitment and capacity** to contribute to the objectives of the Network.

5. Some Culture Funds

- **International Fund for Cultural Diversity** - Supports the 2005 Convention. Public authorities/institutions and NGOs from developing countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention, as well as INGOs can apply.
- **The World Heritage Fund** provides about US\$4 million annually to support activities requested by States Parties in need of international assistance. It includes compulsory and voluntary contributions from the States Parties, as well as from private donations
- **Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund** -grants assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for activities aimed at safeguarding intangible cultural heritage as defined in the Convention (Article 20):

Some Culture Fundslinks:

- http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13649&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=-471.html
- <http://en.unesco.org/creativity/ifcd>
- <http://whc.unesco.org/en/funding>
- <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/requesting-assistance-00039>

6. Culture Report

New UNESCO Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Cities, Culture: Urban Future.

1. People-centred cities are culture-centred spaces that:

Respect cultural diversity and ensure social inclusion

Stimulate creativity and innovation

2. Culture is key to quality urban environments that:

Provide inclusive, quality public spaces

Enhance cities' resilience to environmental challenges

3. Sustainable cities require integrated culture-based policies that:

Strengthen rural-urban linkages

Foster inclusive socio-economic development

Summaries are available to download at :

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/culture-and-development/culture-for-sustainable-urban-development/>



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO Culture

Protecting Our Heritage and Fostering Creativity



Thank You!

