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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Mondiacult 2025: what's next? – Presentation by UNESCO

Delegations will find attached the presentation given by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) at the Cultural Affairs Committee meeting on 14 July 2026.

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MONDIACULT 2025: WHAT'S NEXT?

**M. LODOVICO FOLIN CALABI, UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EUROPEAN
UNION**

Meeting of the Committee
on Cultural Affairs

14th July 2026

BACKGROUND

A SIGNIFICANT MOMENTUM FOR CULTURE AT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

- **Recent developments at EU level:**
 - New EU Work Plan for Culture
 - Culture Compass for Europe
 - Joint Declaration “Europe for Culture – Culture for Europe”
- **Shared commitments and values:**
 - protecting **cultural diversity** in a fast-changing policy landscape
 - advancing **peace** and **international cooperation**
 - implementing an integrated **normative architecture**
- **MONDIACULT 2025 outcomes:**
 - **thematic priorities:** cultural rights; culture and education; culture for climate action; economy of culture; culture, digital and AI; culture, crises and peace building
 - **a strong rights-based focus:** cultural rights, artistic freedom, cultural and linguistic diversity, equitable access and participation
 - advancing culture as a **global public good**, while promoting the integration of culture, as a **specific goal, in the post-2030 Agenda**
- **Converging policy processes:**
 - **mutually reinforcing agendas** at European and global levels
 - **favorable timeframe:** MONDIACULT 2025 / last phase of the EU Workplan



AREAS FOR COOPERATION

ADVANCING THE FINANCING OF AND INVESTMENT IN CULTURE

- **A priority for cultural policies:** – 3.1 % of global GDP and 6.2 % of global employment
 - Fragmented, volatile or ill-suited financing mechanisms
 - Key constraints: limited policy prioritization and insufficient data
- **Key dimensions:** – upholding **public investment** as the foundation of diverse and accessible cultural life
 - catalyzing **private and blending financing** through regulatory, fiscal and institutional levers
- **EU processes :** – a **priority** of the EU Culture Compass and Joint Declaration “Europe for Culture, Culture for Europe”
 - **good practices** at EU level: Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility – European Investment Fund
- **UNESCO-led workstream:** – A first set of **EC-funded online dialogues** (regional intergovernmental organizations, development banks, bilateral development agencies) – July/Sept 2026
 - Upcoming development of a **policy guidance document** on the financing of culture to support UNESCO Member States



AREAS FOR COOPERATION

UPHOLDING THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL RIGHTS

- **A foundational component of cultural policies:** – unequal participation in culture as a critical dimension of broader inequalities
– strengthening **inclusion, trust, and democratic participation**
– fostering societies' **resilience** in the face of interconnected crises
- **UNESCO's ongoing work:** – upholding **artistic freedom** through 2005 Convention and 1980 Recommendation
– addressing **over-commercialization of living heritage** under 2003 Convention
– fostering engagement of **Indigenous Peoples and local communities** under 1972 Convention
– advancing the international **dialogue on the return and restitution of cultural property**
– developing a **comprehensive guidance document** on cultural rights
- **Cultural rights in the digital sphere:** – **2021 Recommendation** and **2005 Convention** as key international frameworks
– protecting cultural and linguistic **diversity**
– advancing the **discoverability** of national and local content
– supporting **IP protection** and fair remuneration of cultural professionals



AREAS FOR COOPERATION

PROTECTING CULTURE FROM THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND CRISES

- **Overall rationale:** – Tackling the growing **impact** of climate change, biodiversity loss, conflicts and disasters on culture
– Harnessing the role of culture for **preparedness, adaptation** and **recovery**
- **A momentum on culture and climate:** – culture integrated in the COP 30 **Climate Action Agenda**
– 5 **cultural heritage indicators** approved under the Global Goal on Adaptation
– Ongoing work of the **Group of Friends** on Culture-based Climate Action
– 2022 Delphi Conference (organized by UNESCO and Greece)
- **Culture in emergencies:** – A **systemic policy action** to foster preparedness and recovery (ie culture in DRR and PNDA)
– UNESCO **Heritage Emergency Fund** as a key early response instrument
– Ongoing **emergency intervention in conflict situation** (notably in Ukraine)



AREAS FOR COOPERATION

STRENGTHENING DATA AND INDICATORS TO FOSTER EVIDENCE BUILDING

- **2025 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics:** – a comprehensive, international standard for cultural statistics
 - concepts, classifications and methodologies for comparable data
 - updating concepts (digital transition, updated value-generation model)
 - linking cultural domains to international classifications, data sources and methods.
- **Global Report on Cultural Policies:** – Co-funded by the European Commission and issued every four years at MONDIACULT
 - Consolidating evidence on cultural policies worldwide
 - Converging data from the UNESCO conventions reporting mechanisms
- **Culture|2030 Indicators:** – a set of 22 indicators to measure the contribution of culture to 2030 Agenda
 - implemented in 28 countries and 28 cities
 - supported by the European Commission and several EU Member States

