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CULT HERIT 17
SUSTDEV 74
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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	MONDIACULT 2025 - <i>Presentation by UNESCO (Cultural Affairs Committee meeting on 10 October 2025)</i>

Delegations will find attached the presentation¹ given by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) at the Cultural Affairs Committee meeting on 10 October, to inform on the outcomes of MONDIACULT 2025, the World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development in Barcelona, Spain between 29 September and 1 October 2025.

The MONDIACULT 2025 Outcome Document is available at the following link:

<https://www.unesco.org/en/mondiacult/working-documents?hub=171169>.

¹ This document contains presentations by external stakeholders and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third parties it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.



MONDIACULT 2025

World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development
Barcelona, Spain
29 September – 30 September – 1 October 2025
www.unesco.org/en/mondiacult



MONDIACULT 25
ESPAÑA

Host and organizing country:

 GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA	 MINISTERIO DE CULTURA	 GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA	 MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNION EUROPEA Y COOPERACION
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MONDIACULT 2025 in figures

29 September to
1st October 2025



- 2.569 participants from 163 countries
- Including 118 Ministers and Vice-Ministers
- 2 ministerial plenary sessions, 20 thematic ministerial sessions and 75 side events (+ 117 side events in the lead of Mondiacult 2025). Civil Society forum “Agora Cívica”: 2.000 participants in 200 activities
- 20 thematic ministerial sessions aligned with the Conference’s thematic priorities:



MONDIACULT 2025: A key moment to promote inclusive and sustainable cultural policies

Role of Culture in Development

- An essential driver of transformation, cohesion, and development
- It shapes identities, fosters creativity, and drives innovative responses to contemporary challenges
- It promotes social, economic, and environmental well-being

A Call for Multilateralism

- In times of global challenges, intergovernmental dialogue on culture is essential
- As the UN Secretary-General stated:
"Multilateralism is not an option, it is a necessity."

MONDIACULT: A global platform for continuous dialogue on cultural policies



MondiaYouth as part of Mondiacult 2025



- 48 young cultural leaders from 34 countries
- Involvement in M25 Programme
- Youth-focused displays and sessions
- Outcomes recommendation presented at the closing session

Participation of youth representatives in a full day of sessions mirroring the ministerial agenda

We, the Ministers and Authorities responsible for Culture of UNESCO Member States and Associate Members, meeting in Barcelona on September 29, 30, and October 1, 2025, in response to the urgent and complex challenges of our time and based on the shared vision established in the Final Declaration of MONDIACULT 2022, reaffirm our collective commitment to firmly anchor culture as a component and pillar of just, peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable development, both as the human right of everyone to take part in cultural life and as a global public good. We collectively commit to strengthen cultural policies and institutions, and the cultural and creative sectors in their entirety, as well as to ensure their interconnection with other areas of development. Culture contributes to the well-being of all, to cultural diversity and cultural expressions, to the preservation of knowledge and heritage, and to the shared care of our planet.

1. **Shared Vision**
We reaffirm the recognition of the right to take part in cultural life as a human right, inherent to dignity and identity. Culture contributes to the full exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, peacebuilding, inclusive economic growth, climate resilience, wellbeing and sustainable development. It is a global public good, with intrinsic value, whose transformative power must be fully mobilized to address today's challenges and to shape more just, equitable, peaceful, intercultural, inclusive and sustainable societies.

2. **Strategic Foundations**
This document builds on an inclusive, multi-stakeholder process, including regional consultations, global surveys, and contributions from multiple stakeholders, as well as reflections arising from UNESCO's six culture conventions. Grounded in the six priority domains of MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration and with an ethical, human rights-based and human-centred approach, it incorporates two focus areas from the preparatory process: culture for peace, and artificial intelligence (AI) and culture. These pillars provide a common foundation for collective action in favour of integrating culture in the post-2020 United Nations (UN) development framework.

3. **Culture and Sustainable Development beyond 2029**
We recognize that in a future development framework to be decided by Member States through the United Nations mechanisms, culture should be considered as an independent goal in its own right. Here are the areas we consider a priority for cultural policies and practices at all levels.

1. Cultural Rights as Human Rights

- Recognizing, protecting and promoting the human right to participate in cultural life, and fostering access to, enjoyment of, and benefits from culture and cultural heritage, including in the digital environment, as an ethical, social, and economic imperative.
- Protecting, promoting, and safeguarding artistic freedom and freedom of expression.
- Promoting, preserving, and safeguarding cultural and linguistic diversity and cultural expressions with special recognition of the cultures and languages of Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent, and those belonging to local communities, minorities, and vulnerable groups.
- Increasing efforts to ensure the equitable distribution of opportunities to access, contribute to, and benefit from culture in the face of persisting inequalities.
- Encouraging effective and constructive bilateral and multilateral dialogue, cooperation and actions on the return and restitution to countries of origin of their cultural property, including those with spiritual, ancestral, historical, and cultural value, as appropriate.
- Ensuring the meaningful participation of concerned groups in the countries of origin, including Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and local communities, in the efforts related to the protection, return and restitution of cultural property, including through enhanced collaboration with museums.

2. Culture and Education

- Systematically integrating and strengthening culture, cultural and natural heritage, cultural expressions, and the arts in, through, and with all types of formal, non-formal, and informal education settings.
- Fostering equitable access to lifelong and life-wide learning as a fundamental tool to continuously update and further develop cultural and artistic knowledge and skills.
- Supporting interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to foster innovative synergies between culture, the arts, science, and technology in teaching, learning, and research.
- Fostering learning experiences that contribute to the realization of human rights, the appreciation of the knowledge, and the promotion of cultural diversity, while strengthening linguistic skills, critical and creative thinking, intercultural understanding, as well as the preservation and safeguarding of cultural and heritage for present and future generations.
- Supporting technical and vocational education and training as well as adult learning in the cultural and creative sectors through structural investments in public policies to foster relevant skills, career pathways, and cultural competencies in a rapidly changing world.
- Empowering institutions involved in culture to become active educational spaces that promote community engagement, wellbeing, and access to all forms of culture, including arts, heritage, knowledge practices.

3. Cultural Economy and Decent Work

- Recognizing the cultural and creative sectors and industries as a fundamental driver of inclusive sustainable economic development, enabling innovation, and contributing a significant share to national, regional, and global economies.
- Supporting decent work for artists, creators, and cultural workers, including fair remuneration and ad social protection, building on relevant international labour standards, upholding their economic and rights, reinforcing the protection of intellectual property, supporting transition to the formal sector, applicable, and addressing systemic gender-based and other inequalities.
- Strengthening, to the extent possible within national and international frameworks, national, regional, international mobility for artists, and cultural professionals, especially from developing countries, for opportunities for professional growth, collaboration, cultural exchange, and access to international markets.
- Supporting cultural institutions and infrastructure as key enablers of the cultural economy, fostering ecosystems, innovation, and inclusive community development.
- Promoting access to cultural markets and cultural entrepreneurship, while addressing global and local imbalances in the circulation of cultural goods and services, and the unequal distribution and visibility of cultural content on all platforms including digital platforms.

4. Culture for Peace

- Promoting culture as an essential element for intercultural, intergenerational and interreligious dialogue, resilience, conflict prevention and resolution, and post-crisis recovery.
- Struggling against all forms of racism, discrimination, and prejudice that threaten artistic freedom, free expression, as well as cultural diversity and heritage.
- Advancing international cultural policy based on human rights, as a tool for promoting international border security, peaceful coexistence, as well as mutual respect and understanding.
- Promoting culture, as well as natural and cultural heritage – both tangible and intangible, as a vehicle for memory, identities, reconciliation and social cohesion, strengthening resilience, and the realization of rights.
- Promoting cultural spaces as safe and accessible environments that foster dialogue, social cohesion, inclusion, and contribute to reducing violence and building lasting peace.

5. Culture, Heritage and Climate Action

- Integrating cultural aspects in discussions on climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, to take into account the impacts of climate change, and biodiversity loss on the cultural and creative sectors, industries, and to help shape innovative and equitable climate solutions, recognizing the mandate of the Convention on World Heritage, the Paris Agreement, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

MONDIACULT 2025 Outcome Document

- Acknowledging, valuing, and safeguarding the knowledge, sciences, practices, and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples, local and traditional communities, and people of African descent, as part of climate solutions, in collaboration with concerned groups.
- Developing solutions to safeguarding natural and cultural heritage – both tangible and intangible and protecting the diversity of cultural expressions, from the adverse impacts of climate change, desertification, biodiversity loss, and disasters, considering the disparities in impacts and capacities within and across countries.
- Harnessing the potential of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and the interconnectedness between cultural and biological diversity, as resources for resilience, adaptation, and mitigation, including for disaster preparedness, post-disaster and post-crisis recovery.
- Mobilizing the transformative capacity of the cultural and creative sectors, industries and institutions, to inspire and empower societies for meaningful climate action, while encouraging all cultural stakeholders to actively contribute to regional, national, and local commitments and efforts to address global environmental challenges and advance sustainable development goals.

6. Culture, Heritage, and Crisis Situations

- Safeguarding natural and cultural heritage – both tangible and intangible, as well as the diversity of cultural expressions, in times of crises linked notably to armed conflict, disasters or forced displacement.
- Integrating provisions related to culture and cultural heritage, in disaster preparedness, crisis management, as well as post-crisis reconstruction and recovery processes.
- Sustaining the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property through integrated and adequate policies and financing, while fostering cooperation, and supporting the ratification and effective implementation of the UNESCO 1970 Convention.
- Protecting artists, cultural workers, and institutions in situations of conflict, disaster, or forced displacement, by providing support mechanisms that safeguard their security and ensure the continuity of cultural expressions.
- Supporting the development of knowledge and data on culture in situations of crisis by engaging academic and research institutions and networks.

7. Digital Transformation and Equitable Access

- Promoting a human-centric and human-rights-based approach to a digital environment that respects cultural rights, fosters equity and accessibility, promotes diversity of cultural expressions, including through the discoverability of national and local content on digital platforms, and ensures multilingual content and systems.
- Advancing the digital transformation of culture by supporting equitable access to digital technologies – including infrastructure and connectivity, funding, and skills building.
- Developing integrated policies that advance equitable investment in inclusive digital infrastructure and access, to address digital divides and foster digital inclusion, media literacy, and freedom of expression.
- Protecting the rights of artists and creators, including authors, performers, interpreters, and rightsholders in digital environments, including appropriate payment, safeguarding their intellectual property rights, such as copyright and related rights.
- Fighting against abuses in digital environments affecting culture, including cyberattacks, disinformation, discriminatory practices, and unethical uses of AI.

8. Artificial Intelligence and Culture

- Using AI to support the safeguard and dissemination of cultural heritage and to broaden access to culture.
- Promoting the responsible use, development, and governance of AI systems that are human rights-based, trustworthy, ethical, transparent, secure, sustainable, and inclusive addressing bias, including those affecting gender equality.
- Advancing AI to foster human creativity and support the creation, discoverability, availability, accessibility, cultural preservation, and exchange of diverse and multilingual cultural content of human creation, including digital cultural heritage.
- Promoting the meaningful participation of culture in AI policy and system development at national and international levels.

- Ensuring recognition and appropriate protection of the artists, creators, makers, communities, and cultural professionals, in the context of AI, while also safeguarding cultural diversity, intellectual property rights, including copyright and related rights.
- Supporting an approach to AI in culture that empowers human agency through education, research, and innovation, in transparent and protects the human right to take part in cultural life, including for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, people of African descent, persons with disabilities, minorities, and vulnerable groups.

9. Cultural Data, Evidence, and Research

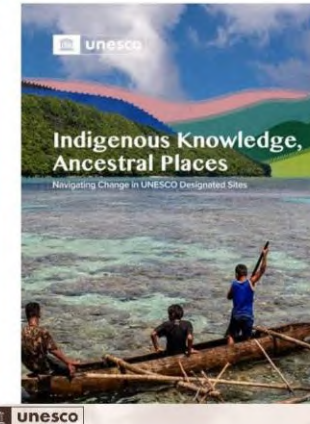
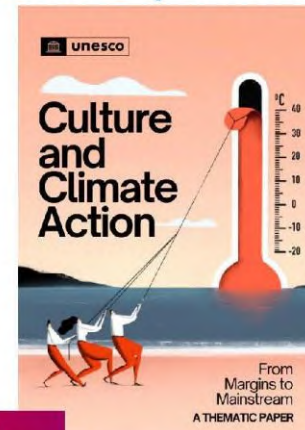
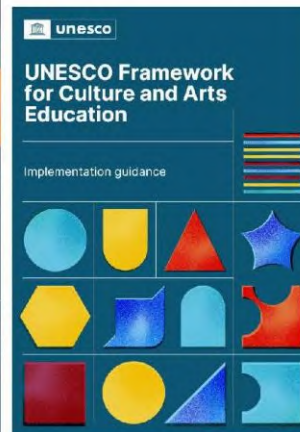
- Strengthening inclusive, transdisciplinary, open and sovereign systems for the regular collection, standardization, analysis, and comparison of quality data on culture, both qualitative and quantitative, to support policy development and evaluation.
- Advancing a global framework of cultural indicators, based on previous related efforts, to measure the impact of culture, including its contribution to sustainable development, and promote shared cultural data infrastructures to enable interoperability, collaboration and innovation across countries.
- Promoting interdisciplinary research and collaboration, nationally and internationally, among actors of cultural and creative ecosystems and research-related institutions.
- Ensuring the ethical use of data on culture, respecting the human right to enjoy and benefit from culture and protecting privacy and personal data, and traditional knowledge.
- Improving knowledge of the status and evolutions related to pressures and cumulative impacts affecting culture and heritage – tangible, intangible and natural – to better preserve them in the face of global challenges.

Between MONDIACULT 2022 and 2025, ongoing discussions have stressed that culture is both an indispensable driver and an enabler of sustainable development, and must be included as an integral component and pillar of it. This message is carried by institutions, professionals, communities and civil society around the world. There is no future without culture. We call for urgent action to address challenges that are common to all countries as well as those that are similar, in particular within the multilateral framework. Only through collective action can we advance coherently and effectively in forging more resilient and inclusive futures, where culture is an integral part of human development.

We, the Ministers and Authorities responsible for Culture, gathered in Barcelona, affirm our commitment to strengthen multilateralism, in which culture stands as a cornerstone of global cooperation, solidarity and respect for human rights. We commit to implementing the measures, policies, resources and mechanisms necessary to make culture a pillar of sustainable development. We build on the foundations of the MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration and encourage UNESCO to continue working alongside Member States, Associate Members, and stakeholders to strengthen and adapt their cultural policies to contemporary challenges and to fully integrate culture into peaceful and sustainable development and transforming agendas.

MONDIACULT 2025

UNESCO-led initiatives and policy processes
in support of Member States' policies



MONDIACULT 2025 Digital Library

A collection of diverse contributions on cultural policies and the impact of culture in all its dimensions, centered around the eight main themes of MONDIACULT 2025

Technical papers

Consultation reports

Creative writing

Short videos

- All relevant info on webpage for [MONDIACULT 2025 Digital Library](#)



Thank you

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