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#### NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council of 12 and 13 May 2025: MONDIACULT 2025 - UNESCO's World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development (Barcelona, 29 - 30 September - 1 October 2025) - Information from Spain

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**MONDIACULT 2025 - UNESCO's World Conference  
on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development  
*Barcelona, Spain: 29-30 September - 1st October 2025***

*Information from Spain*

#### **Introduction**

In 1982, 126 countries met in Mexico City for the first World Conference on Cultural Policies. The purpose of this meeting was to analyze and highlight the knowledge and experience acquired in the field of cultural policies and practices since the Venice Conference of 1970, to promote research on the fundamental problems of culture in the contemporary world, to formulate new guidelines to promote cultural development in general development projects and to facilitate international cultural cooperation.

Since then, and over those past four decades, the main debates on the evolution of the definition of culture at the international level have been driven by different meetings and conferences. In 2022, 150 countries met in Mexico City forty years later for UNESCO's World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development (hereafter MONDIACULT) and discussed about the role of culture as a "global public good". Among others MONDIACULT 2022 focused on anchoring of culture in public policies, urging the preservation and strengthening the financing for culture, enhancing synergies between culture and education, integrating cultural heritage and creativity into international discussions on climate change, fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property and fostering the development of sustainable cultural and creative sectors to support the creative economy were discussed extensively.

Today, UNESCO's World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development is undoubtedly the premier international meeting on cultural policies. It brings together the ministers of culture of UNESCO's 194 Member States and defines the global agenda, placing culture at the heart of the Global Development Agenda.

From September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup> Spain will host MONDIACULT 2025 and will be a key occasion for enriching discussions on the below mentioned topics.

### **Mission**

In the current international context, it is crucial to create fora for dialogue at the highest level to discuss how culture and its institutions can contribute to sustainable development and the reinforcement of multilateralism.

Culture is now recognized as a key driver of inclusive and equitable sustainable development. This has recently been evidenced in the Pact for the Future, adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2024, which explicitly calls on its Member States to integrate culture into their economic, social and environmental policies in Action 11. In this sense, culture is not only a reflection of who we are, it is also an innovative pathway to address modern challenges, from urban development to climate resilience. By embracing the cultural dimension in policy-making and development strategies, societies can promote holistic well-being—socially, economically, and environmentally—ensuring that growth is inclusive and sustainable. Therefore, a more systematic integration of culture into sustainable development agenda would also directly contribute to the acceleration of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the SDGs, as well as to advance

inclusive sustainable development in the post-2030 agenda, including through culture as a stand-alone goal.

Equally central to the conference's mission is a strong call for multilateralism. In an era marked by global crises—climate change, pandemics, conflict—the need for international cooperation has never been greater. Culture serves as a bridge for dialogue among nations, fostering understanding and collective action. As emphasized by the UN Secretary-General, "Multilateralism is not an option, it is a necessity." The conference champions intergovernmental dialogue on cultural issues as a means to build trust, share knowledge, and craft coordinated solutions.

### **Priority domains and focus areas**

MONDIACULT 2025 will focus on 6 priority domains that had been previously established by the MONDIACULT 2022 declaration, and 2 new focus areas have been introduced as a result of the current state of international affairs and the changing environment.

The 6 priority domains are:

- Cultural rights
- Digital technologies and culture
- Culture and education
- Economy of culture
- Culture and climate action
- Culture, heritage and crisis


Whereas the two new focus areas are:

- Culture and peace
- Artificial Intelligence and culture

**Results**

MONDIACULT 2025 will offer space for developing essential contents for leveraging culture role in future development agendas, finding evidence-based information to inform debates and policies, and also strengthening inclusive dialogues and multilateral actions in favour of cultural policies.

**Agenda**



# Agenda Structure

	Pre-Conference 28 September	Day 1 29 September		Day 2 30 September		Day 3 1 October	
Morning side events							
Morning session 1		Inaugural Assembly		Climate + Heritage and Crisis	Cultural Rights + Economy	Education + Peace	Climate + Heritage and Crisis
Morning session 2		Education + Peace	Climate + Heritage and Crisis	Education + Peace	Digital + AI	Digital + AI	Cultural Rights + Economy
Lunch side events							
Afternoon session 1		Digital + AI	Cultural Rights + Economy	Climate + Heritage and Crisis	Digital + AI	Education + Peace	Digital + AI
Afternoon session 2		Education + Peace	Digital + AI	Education + Peace	Cultural Rights + Economy	Concluding assembly	
Evening side events	Ministers' welcome dinner						
Exhibition							

### Main sessions

- Ministerial and Inter-ministerial dialogues with industry & civil society high-level keynote speakers
- 20 parallel sessions (4 slots/day x 3 days – inaugural & concluding assemblies x 2 sessions in parallel)

### Side events

### Exhibitions

- Spaces for NGOs, Youth, Private Sector, others

### Civil Society Forum

- Organized by Spain on 25-26 Sept.

**Summary**

- 29 September - 1 October 2025
- Barcelona International Convention Center (CCIB)
- **2,000** participants
- Six priority domains & two focus areas
- UNESCO Member States work together in defining a **global agenda for culture**