



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 19 April 2013

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to inform you that I will convene, in cooperation with UNESCO, a High-Level Thematic Debate on “**Culture and Development**”. This event will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on Wednesday, 12 June 2013.

At a time when governments around the world are rethinking strategies for development and seeking to identify renewed social energies and economic recovery, I believe that it is timely to exchange views on the role and impact of culture on development. The debate will focus on experiences at the national and international levels that draw on culture, and in particular on cultural heritage and creativity, in addressing such pressing issues as tackling poverty, social inequalities, unemployment, peace-building and resilience.

The debate thus will aim to provide a platform to discuss ways to build on culture to foster sustainable development in the light of the discussion on the Post-2015 development agenda.

This one day interactive debate will include an opening segment, keynote addresses, a high-level morning segment, an afternoon panel discussion followed by closing remarks.

Member States are invited to be represented at the highest possible level.

I am pleased to share with you the attached concept paper.

A detailed program of the debate will be circulated in due time.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Wuk Jeremić

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

THEMATIC DEBATE
67th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

“Culture and Development”

New York, 12 June 2013

Concept Note

The President of the 67th session of the General Assembly, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), will convene a thematic debate on culture as both an enabler and driver for development.

1. Background

Globalization has been radically transforming the world we live in. In this context, the challenge is to ensure that such processes of change are a positive force for all peoples, today and tomorrow, and that societies are able to adapt to a rapidly changing world. This requires new approaches to such entrenched trends as exclusion, marginalization, inequality, conflicts over scarce assets, as well as the unsustainable use of natural resources.

The Outcome Document of the 2010 MDG Summit emphasized the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the MDGs. These messages were reiterated in two consecutive Culture and Development UNGA Resolutions¹ in 2010 and 2012, which called for the mainstreaming of culture into development policies and strategies, and underscored culture’s intrinsic contribution to sustainable development.

In June 2012, the report of the UN Task Team to the Secretary-General, *Realizing the Future We Want for All*, underscored the need for the UN Post-2015 Agenda to: “*promote equitable change that ensures people’s ability to choose their value systems in peace, thereby allowing for full participation and empowerment. Communities and individuals must be able to create and practice their own culture and enjoy that of others free from fear. This will require, inter alia, respect for cultural diversity, safeguarding cultural and natural heritage, fostering cultural institutions, strengthening cultural and creative industries, and promoting cultural tourism.*” (paragraph 71)

The growing recognition of the culture and development nexus is reflected in the Outcome document of Rio+20. In addition, the theme of the 2013 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review will be “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.”

2. Aims and objectives

The thematic debate will provide a platform to discuss ways to further use the potential of culture for fostering sustainable development and contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This will feed into the discussions on the Post-2015 global development agenda by highlighting emerging issues at the global and national levels.

¹UN General Assembly (November 2010), Resolution A/RES/65/L.50 on Culture and Development; and UN General Assembly (March 2012), Resolution A/RES/66/208 on Culture and Development

The interactive debate will focus on efforts by Member States and the international community to draw on culture in addressing such pressing issues as poverty, discrimination, unemployment, as well as to showcase success stories in these areas of development. The debate will also build on ongoing initiatives and further consolidate achievements by proposing directions to be taken into consideration within the UN Development Agenda, ahead of and beyond 2015. In this context, the inter-agency experience of the MDG Achievement Fund (MDG-F) will be presented, in particular the knowledge, success stories and lessons learnt generated by the MDG-F Culture and Development Joint Programmes, which benefitted over 8 million people worldwide for a total budget of US\$ 96 million.

Following the debate, a summary note will be prepared and circulated as an official document of the UN General Assembly.

3. Main themes of the debate

In this context, the debate will focus on the role of culture for sustainable development in the context of the four following dimensions highlighted in the report of the UN Task Team to the Secretary-General in view of the Post-2015 discussions: (i) Inclusive Social Development, (ii) Inclusive Economic Development, (iii) Environmental Sustainable Development, (iv) Peace and Security, and address the following questions:

- Why is culture not a luxury in the development process?
- How does culture contribute to broadening the development debate?
- Why is culture essential for efficient and effective sustainable development?
- How is the international community mobilized on culture and development?
- How should culture be integrated as a key element in the Post-2015 Agenda?

The experience of the 18 MDG-F Culture and Development programmes, jointly implemented in recent years by some 12 UN agencies alongside national counterparts, will help illustrate the role of culture, notably in generating enabling environments for improved living conditions, along with the fostering of social inclusion, supporting women's empowerment and gender equality, addressing health and environment concerns as well as challenges in the areas of education and human security.

The thematic debate, in particular its panel discussion segment, will also address key areas of action in the field of heritage and creativity, which are at the heart of the culture and development nexus.

In this context, the discussion on heritage and creativity may address the following questions:

- How can heritage and creativity contribute to sustainable development in all its dimensions?
- What is the role of heritage and creativity for empowering communities and ensuring inclusive development?
- How can heritage and the creative economy contribute to sustainable economic growth?
- How can heritage and creativity contribute to sustainable management of resources and a more balanced urbanization?
- In what ways are heritage and creativity vehicles for peace and reconciliation?

4. Participants

The participants will include representatives of UN Member and Observer States, UN System, civil society and academia.

5. Format

This one day interactive debate will include an opening segment, keynote addresses, a high-level morning segment, an afternoon panel discussion followed by closing remarks.

A detailed program of the debate will be circulated in due time.

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United Nations General Assembly

Thematic Debate

CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMME

12 June 2013, New York

Trusteeship Council Chamber

The event will be broadcast live. Link available at <http://webtv.un.org/>

10:00 - 10:20	<p><u>Opening remarks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić, President of the United Nations General Assembly • H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General
10:20 – 10:50	<p><u>Keynote address:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO <p><u>Video message:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland <p><u>Remarks by the special guests:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, the United Nations High Representative of the Alliance of Civilizations • Ms. Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator
10:50 – 13:00	<p><u>High-Level Segment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H.E. Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh ○ H.E. Mr. Mário Lúcio Sousa, Minister of Culture of Cape Verde ○ H.E. Ms. Lisa Hanna, Minister of Youth and Culture of Jamaica ○ H.E. Mr. Mohamed Amine Sbihi, Minister of Culture of Morocco ○ H.E. Mr. Alassane Djimba Soumanou, Minister for Secondary Education, Technical and Vocational Training, Youth and Integration of Benin ○ H.E. Dr. Frank Anthony, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana ○ H.E. Dr. Lincoln Douglas, Minister of the Arts and Multiculturalism of Trinidad and Tobago ○ H.E. Mr. Paul Mashatile, Minister of Arts and Culture of South Africa ○ H.E. Ms. Ana Magdalena Granadino, Secretary of Culture of the Presidency of El Salvador ○ H.E. Ms. Graciela Bartolizzi, Minister of Culture of Paraguay ○ Mr. Felipe M. De Leon, Jr. Chairman of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts of Philippines

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H.E. Mr. Americo Cordula, Secretary of Cultural Policies, Ministry of Culture of Brazil ○ Ms. Itziar Taboada, Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain ○ Ms. Mónica Guariglio, National Director of Cultural Policy and International Cooperation of Argentina
13:00 - 15:00	Break
15:00 - 16:25	<p><u>Interactive panel discussion I: The nexus between culture and development</u></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Francesco Bandarin, Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Miri Ben-Ari, Grammy Award Winning Violinist and Goodwill Ambassador of Music for the United Nations Association of Brazil ○ Mr. Thomas P. Campbell, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art ○ Professor Wang Linxu, Artist and Vice President of the Central University for Nationalities in Beijing ○ Mr. Ivan Tasovac, Director of Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra ○ Mr. Anthony Tommasini, Chief Music Critic, The New York Times
16:30-17:50	<p><u>Interactive panel discussion II: What role for culture in the post-2015 framework?</u></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Francesco Bandarin, Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on Post-2015 Development Planning ○ Professor Alfons Martinell, Director of the UNESCO Chair on Cultural Policies and Cooperation, Girona University ○ Professor Homi K. Bhabha, the Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities and the Director of the Humanities Center, Harvard University ○ Mr. Sergio Raul Arroyo Garcia, Director of the National Institute for Anthropology and History of Mexico

12 June 2013

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić,
President of the 67th Session of the General Assembly,
at the Opening of the Thematic Debate on Culture and Development**

Mr. Secretary-General,
Madam Director-General,
Mr. High Representative,
Madam Administrator,
Esteemed Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am truly honored to welcome you to the General Assembly's thematic debate on Culture and Development, which we have organized in partnership with UNESCO.

For many years, they have stood at the forefront of UN's efforts to promote culture as both an enabler and driver of development. I believe their current endeavors are of paramount importance for the conceiving and eventual carrying out of post-2015 agenda. I am truly grateful for Director-General Bokova's engagement and dedication in this regard.

Allow me to extend special recognition to my predecessor as PGA, my good friend Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser. In his capacity as High Representative of the Alliance of Civilizations, he has worked very hard to incorporate culture into the UN's development policies and strategies, as called for in resolution 66/208, adopted during his GA presidency.

I would also like to express my appreciation to UNDP Administrator Helen Clark for her participation in today's debate. I believe we will greatly benefit from her wealth of knowledge and experience.

Last but not least, permit me to emphasize Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's leadership in advancing the post-2015 agenda—including its cultural component.

Excellencies,

Our increasingly globalized and interdependent world is beset by one of the most profound, all-encompassing periods of transformation ever to occur in peacetime.

We are in the midst of an unprecedented pivot towards a more democratized system of international relations, in which countries aspire to greater empowerment and freedom of action. This calls for a

grand re-organization of human affairs, in which the importance of how cultures and civilizations communicate and intertwine will grow stronger over time.

Last June, world leaders came together in Rio de Janeiro to adopt the historic “Future We Want” document.

For the first time in history, Member States agreed to comprehensively integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development—namely economic, social, and environmental—into a single, fully coherent whole.

In Rio, the General Assembly received additional mandates. In essence, it was given the strategic task of crafting a new, ambitious universal framework that will define much of the UN’s work for decades to come.

The General Assembly has under one thousand days to carry out these assignments. They include conceiving and adopting the SDGs; designing options for financing them; and creating a workable arrangement for monitoring their implementation.

The Rio conclusions also emphasized the importance of promoting the world’s diversity, acknowledging that “people are at the center of sustainable development,” to which “all cultures and civilizations can contribute.” It also underscored the imperative of respecting “different national circumstances” in moving towards a common end point.

On this basis, the UN System Task Team convened by the Secretary-General has concluded that all “communities and individuals must be able to [...] practice their own culture and enjoy that of others free from fear. This will include, inter alia, [...] safeguarding cultural and natural heritage, fostering cultural institutions, strengthening cultural and creative institutions, and promoting cultural tourism.”

Notwithstanding these important points of reference, I believe that the significance of the nexus between culture and development for the post-2015 agenda is not yet fully grasped.

I hope our discussions will contribute to a reassessment of its meaning to our generational task.

Excellencies,

I am afraid we are not moving forward with the adequate dynamism that is required if we are to meet the envisaged deadlines.

I once again extend an appeal for urgency, and respectfully call on Member States to make the post-2015 agenda their utmost priority. Its full implementation, in my view, may help draw the world’s cultures closer together, enabling them to grow increasingly secure with each other.

I believe that cultural interaction is first and foremost about dialogue. The human capacity to communicate—to share thoughts and convictions in an orderly and meaningful way—is what opens the possibility for diverse communities to achieve concord on the basis of mutual respect.

This is a basic tenet of not only the post-2015 agenda, but the UN Charter itself. It has been actively championed by UNESCO throughout its existence, starting with its first Director-General, Sir Julian Sorell Huxley. Upon being asked to define the parameters of progress, he stated that fulfilling humanity's potential meant directing its “[cultural] diversity away from competitive discord to harmonious symphony.”

I can think of fewer better ways to define our assignments: to produce a harmonious symphony of mankind, through the achievement of a universal transition to sustainability.

Excellencies,

The basis of the word culture is the Latin *cultura*. Originally, it was an agricultural term—used to describe the cultivation of the soil and the enjoyment of what it produced. It thus signified taking care of the earth, by improving it through human ingenuity and responsible stewardship.

Today, it chiefly refers to the sum of a community's intellectual and artistic achievements—a symbolic bridge that maintains continuity between the past, present and future. A great 20th century philosopher defined culture as improving and refining our natural faculties, enabling us to experience more fully the endowments conceived by the human mind.

He also reminded us that our ambition to constantly strive for material prosperity must be informed by a greater respect for traditions—both our own and everyone else's. Without this, we run the danger of not only neglecting our roots, but denigrating those of others.

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, and who helped make our cultures what they are today. Those famous or anonymous heroes of yesterday deserve our sustained respect. They attach personality to the building blocks with which we constructed our most cherished edifices, the alphabets we used to write our chronicles, and the songs we sang of our dreams and sacrifices.

Excellencies,

Intercultural dialogue conducted within the framework of the post-2015 agenda represents, in my view, the surest way to guard against the erasing hand of uniformity, which some fear could be a consequence of globalization.

Fully embracing the potential of this nexus will also help promote a greater sense of indivisibility and mutual belonging—a feeling that no community or nation can fulfill its potential until it is accompanied by the advancement of the entire mankind.

In the discussions that have taken place over the past few months, we have so far been unable to reach consensus on how to build on the agreed foundations of sustainable development.

The gap between means and ends has yet to be bridged—in my view, partly because the cultural component has largely been absent from our discussions.

I believe that creating solid and durable bridges between humanity's cultures will help overcome many of the differences which manifestly stand in the way of moving decisively forward—as one diverse, yet unified family of nations—in the quest to achieve universal sustainability.

The 1961 Nobel Laureate in Literature, Ivo Andric, wrote that nothing that man erected or built in his “urge for living” was more valuable than bridges. For him, they facilitate togetherness, and like nothing else, they attach and bind peoples, cultures, and nations.

Allow me to summarize the message I have tried to convey today than by concluding my remarks with a passage from his magnum opus, the *Bridge on the Drina*.

“Belonging to everyone and being equal for everyone, useful, always built with a sense [of purpose], on the spot where most human needs are crossing, [...] bridges do not serve for anything secret and bad. [...] What we aim for,” he concluded, “will be granted its true meaning on the other side, for bridges represent the eternal unsatisfied human desire to link, to reconcile and join all that springs up before our spirit and our eyes, so that there should be no divisions, no confrontation, and no parting.”

May this thematic debate lead to new bridges being built, and so foster a better understanding between nations on the critical issues we must come together to resolve—for the benefit of all mankind.

Thank you very much for your attention.

High-Level Thematic of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

New York, 12 June 2013

President's Summary

Introduction

Convened at the initiative of H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić, President of the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Thematic Debate entitled “Culture and Development” was held on 12 June 2013 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. The one-day thematic debate was comprised of an opening segment, keynote and special guests addresses, a high-level morning segment, followed by two afternoon panel discussions.

Anchored in the current discussions on the future international development agenda, at both international and national level, the thematic debate sought to foster dynamic and in-depth exchanges on the role of culture for development, highlight key experiences of Member States, and provide a platform to discuss ways to further use culture as a resource for achieving development goals.

Opening Segment

The thematic debate was opened by the President of the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić, followed by the statement of H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, and the keynote speech of Mrs. Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General, a video message from H.E. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland and the remarks, as special guests, of Ms. Helen Clark, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator, and H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative of the Alliance of Civilizations.

While Member States were urged to make the post-2015 development agenda their utmost priority, reference was made to a number of milestones on the culture and development agenda over the past recent years, including the two consecutive UN General Assembly Resolutions on Culture and Development adopted in 2010 and 2011, the conclusions of Rio+20 and the report of the UN Task Team to the Secretary-General, Realizing the Future We Want for All.

Indeed, the two Resolutions on Culture and Development request a more visible and effective integration and mainstreaming of culture in development policies and strategies at all levels. The Rio conclusions emphasized the importance of promoting the world's diversity, acknowledging that “people are at the center of sustainable development,” to which “all cultures and civilizations can contribute.” In addition, the UN System Task Team convened

by the Secretary-General concluded that all “communities and individuals must be able to practice their own culture and enjoy that of others free from fear. This will include, inter alia, respect for cultural diversity, safeguarding cultural and natural heritage, fostering cultural institutions, strengthening cultural and creative institutions, and promoting cultural tourism.”

The past decade of working towards the Millennium Development Goals has demonstrated that culture must be woven fully into development strategies. Lessons learnt from efforts to realize the Goals taught that there is no one-size-fits-all formula for development and that culture must be an overarching principle for all development interventions.

Full ownership of development strategies demand the full integration of culture, having in mind that culture and heritage cannot be used to divide, sow conflict or perpetuate injustice. Societies should be built on inclusion, understanding and mutual respect.

Although culture as a concept was not part of the Millennium Development Goals framework, development projects in the field of culture have contributed to achieving the Goals: Culture is an economic factor which generates incomes and jobs, thereby contributing to poverty eradication (MDG 1); culturally-adapted curricula content allow for improved quality education and citizenship building (MDG 2); culture-oriented activities such as craft entrepreneurs are a source of gender empowerment (MDG 3); socio-cultural approaches to health lead to cost-effective and more efficient health policies (MDG 4, 5, 6); cultural and traditional know-how are inexhaustible resources for sustainable environment and livelihoods (MDG 7).

The experience of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F) with 18 UN interagency programmes implemented between 2008 and 2013 by some 15 UN agencies have showcased the role of culture as an enabler of sustainability. The programmes had an impact in terms of social inclusion and economic development through cultural and creative industries, sustainable cultural tourism, tangible and intangible heritage, and inclusive policies and ethnic minority development.

High-level segment

During the high-level segment 14 Ministers and other senior officials delivered speeches on the role of culture for development from the perspectives of their respective countries: H. E. Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Mário Lúcio Sousa, Minister of Culture of Cape Verde, H.E. Ms. Lisa Hanna, Minister for Youth and Culture of Jamaica, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Amine Sbihi, Minister of Culture of Morocco, H.E. Mr. Alassane Djimba Soumanou, Minister for Secondary Education, Technical and Vocational Training, Youth Integration of Benin, H.E. Dr. Frank Anthony, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, H.E. Dr. Lincoln Douglas, Minister of the Arts and Multiculturalism of Trinidad and Tobago, H.E. Mr. Paul Mashatile, Minister of Arts and Culture of South Africa, H.E. Ms. Ana Magdalena Granadino, Secretary of Culture of the Presidency of El Salvador, H.E. Ms. Graciela Bartolizzi, Minister of Culture of Paraguay, Mr. Felipe M. De Leon Jr., Chairman of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts of Philippines, H.E. Mr. Americo Cordula, Secretary of Cultural Policies, Ministry of Culture of Brazil, Ms. Itziar Taboada, General Director of Cultural and Scientific Cooperation (AECID), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, and Ms. Mónica Guariglio, Director of National Cultural Policy and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Culture of Argentina.

Participants in the high-level segment discussed the unlimited potential of cultural activities and products to boost economic growth, notably in developing and middle-income countries, while also being a key factor for social cohesion and human development at large, as well as an essential force for sustainability in development.

It was highlighted that despite the economic and financial crisis, culture stands as a strong and viable economic sector, generating incomes and jobs, and contributing to poverty alleviation in a number of countries, and a growing portion of GDP in emerging economies. Cultural heritage and creative industries are indeed vehicles for job creation, economic growth and the building of sustainable livelihoods. The global economic crisis has accelerated the rise of culture in development policies. In that regard, it was acknowledged that culture should be brought to the fore of international priorities because investing in culture and creative industries is an effective way to revitalize economies. Economic benefits flow from dynamic cultural sectors in the form of jobs and sustainable growth generated by such activities as tourism, the screen industry, performing and visual arts, new media and branding design.

In addition, it was stressed that the development goes beyond economic growth and that culture should be understood beyond its economic role. At a time of important change, as the globalization process is transforming societies and making them more diverse and interconnected, the strong linkage between culture and development is all the more relevant. Culture is a vital aspect of human development as it provides peoples and communities with a strong sense of identity and belonging. As such, through cultural heritage and cultural and creative industries, culture is a source of cohesion for societies. Culture is essential for quality education and transmission of values, for instance cultural institutions such as museums bear an educational function. Culture in all its different forms is an invaluable resource to facilitate learning from the past, adapt and respond creatively in the present and anticipate the future.

Throughout the debate, many participants emphasized that development anchored in culture achieves enduring solutions and creates meaningful possibilities for global peace and security. Culture can contribute to healing divisions among people of various races, religions and ethnic groups. Development strategies and policies need to build on the multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-cultural identity as a defining feature of many countries, taking into account that, for a truly sustainable development, the full ownership of communities is needed.

Participants provided evidence from their own countries to showcase the impact of culture on economic growth, social inclusion, equality and sustainable development. For instance, it was noted that culture was one of the five pillars of development in Cape Verde; culture was integrated into various national programmes in Morocco, the Government of South Africa had approved the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance for ratification by Parliament, that would strengthen efforts for African unity and solidarity; El Salvador's "Long Live Culture" programme had enabled more than 100,000 people to enjoy cultural-heritage areas that had previously been closed to the public and lacked a budget; to increase access to culture for low-income Brazilians, the Brazilian Government was planning to begin a programme called "Vale Cultura"; the Government of Argentina had created the National Equality Plan, which aimed to provide greater public access to cultural goods, cultural information and the arts.

While it was recognized that there is an increasing amount of data and statistics clearly demonstrating the nexus between culture and sustainable development and that efforts to generate evidence and indicators, as well as sharing knowledge have been initiated over the

recent years, it was emphasized that these efforts be expanded and systematized to inform decision-making at global and national levels.

It was also stressed that it was time to change the perception that culture was an exclusive forum reserved for elites. In that regard, a more proactive approach by Governments would help broaden the development agenda.

Participants also made a number of references to the International Conventions adopted by UNESCO in the field of culture¹, notably related to world heritage, intangible heritage, the diversity of cultural expression and illicit trafficking of cultural property.

Panel discussions

The afternoon session comprised two panel discussions, first entitled “The nexus between culture and development” and the second entitled “What role for culture in the post-2015 framework?”.

The first panel brought together the distinguished group of panellists: Mr. Thomas P. Campbell, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Mr. Ivan Tasovac, Director of Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, Ms. Miri Ben-Ari, Grammy Award Winning Violinist and Goodwill Ambassador of Music for the United Nations Association of Brazil, Professor Wang Linxu, Artist and Vice President of the Central University for Nationalities in Beijing and Mr. Anthony Tommasini, Chief Music Critic, The New York Times.

The second panel included the participation of Professor Homi K. Bhabha, the Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities and the Director of the Humanities Center at Harvard University, Mr. Sergio Raul Arroyo Garcia, Director of the National Institute for Anthropology and History of Mexico, Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, and Professor Alfons Martinell, Director of the UNESCO Chair on Cultural Policies and Cooperation from Girona University.

The panel discussions, followed by an interactive dialogue, were moderated by Mr. Francesco Bandarin, Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO.

During the exchanges, the representatives of Costa Rica, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Jordan took the floor. Three regional groups delivered in-depth statements to the Assembly: the European Union (EU), the G-77 plus China (Fiji) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC/Cuba). The representative of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) made an informative intervention as well as the International Theatre Institute of the Philippines, the New Future Foundation and the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) from the NGO sector.

¹The Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001), the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003), the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005).

The participants in the two afternoon panels drew the Assembly's attention to the following messages:

Participants widely recognized importance of culture as a factor in mutual understanding and dialogue, which embraces the diversity of humanity. Two areas of fundamental importance were highlighted: the preservation and conservation of heritage in all its forms; and the creative force of culture in service to development and the creative economy.

Culture is a constant that strengthens individuals and enhances their capacity to understand and enjoy the cultures of others while ensuring progress. As such, culture is an engine of development, unlimited in space and time.

Social development must be all-inclusive taking into account that culture creates opportunities for empowerment, especially for women and young people.

It was important to discuss how each country could implement a plan on culture and development so as to enhance overall development. It was important to: raise public awareness of cultural diversity as it related to sustainable development; build cultural capacity and markets for cultural goods and services; foster synergies between traditional approaches and modern science and technology; and look at traditional ways of conserving and using resources.

Also, it is necessary to further develop an understanding of cultural development that is not unidirectional; to forge a vision of cultural heritage linked to the production of local knowledge; to see cultural development as a broad process transcending national frontiers; to pay attention to the cultural production of communities living in extreme poverty; and to break down the anachronism of a system based on the provision of aid, and instead empowering the base of cultural production.

The post-2015 framework will certainly carry forward many unfinished mandates from the Millennium Development Goals. So far, it is clear that there is a call not to leave culture behind and not to view it as an "add-on". Going forward, development must be truly people-centred, and must integrate local and traditional skills instead of marginalizing them.

The last nine months have been a period of intense outreach to contribute to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. It was recalled that the agenda must address five transformational shifts: the diversity of constituents should not be seen as a burden but as richness; there should be a paradigm shift from the poverty agenda to a balance between people and planet; there should be an economic transformation from depending exclusively on official development assistance (ODA) to forging additional partnerships; Government agendas must move past struggles over basic rights and peace-building; and champions must be clear on how to embed culture in the next development agenda.

Culture has direct and indirect, tangible and intangible impacts on the Millennium Development Goals. There are several aspects to consider: people have the right to participate in culture and to benefit from cultural practices; culture should be understood as going beyond its role as a sector, but also as a social system that produces well-being; culture influences other areas of people's lives, including health, food, water and security; culture can help meet the post-2015 development agenda.

Key messages:

The key messages from the debate can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ **Ensuring respect for cultural rights to promote inclusive social development**
Access to and ownership of heritage is becoming increasingly central for communities, who call for more participatory governance and an enhanced access to culture while seeking to insert their voice in cultural decision-making and to ensure that they are the primary beneficiaries of their heritage. Fostering access to cultural goods and services, free participation in cultural life, and freedom of artistic expression are critical to forging inclusive and equitable societies. Having the means to create and the access to diverse cultural expressions are fundamental to give a voice to the excluded and promote dialogue, mutual respect and a culture of peace. The reduction of inequalities is essential to a vision of socially inclusive, sustainable development.
- ✓ **Building on culture for poverty reduction and inclusive economic development**
Culture, as knowledge capital and as a resource, provides for the needs of individuals and communities and reduces poverty. The culture sector enhances job opportunities and income, targeting in particular women and youth. Heritage has proven its worth as a source of income generation and job creation, including at the community level. Environmental and cultural heritage protection need to be balanced with equitable economic development. In addition, the creative economy is a growing sector generating substantial revenues and creating jobs in many parts of the world. Cultural and creative industries, which encompass primarily crafts, design, publishing, cinema and music, represent one of the most rapidly expanding sectors in the global economy.
- ✓ **Building on culture to promote environmental sustainability**
The sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage is key to environmental sustainability. Traditional systems of environmental protection and resource management can contribute to enhancing the sustainability of fragile ecosystems and the preservation of biodiversity, while preventing competition and conflict over access to natural and cultural resources. Moreover, unsustainable urbanization is a global challenge with negative consequences for local production and consumption patterns. Urban renewal through creativity can lead to a more balanced urbanization and sustainable management of resources. It is important to support shared public spaces in cities where artistic creativity, cultural productions and cultural practices stimulate collective engagement in creative processes, foster social engagement and encourage equality in diversity.
- ✓ **Mobilizing culture to foster mutual understanding, peace and reconciliation**
In the context of globalization, dialogue among cultures and the recognition of and respect for cultural diversity can forge more inclusive, stable and resilient societies. Heritage, as a source of identity, is a capital for empowering communities to participate fully in social and cultural life and provides solutions for conflict prevention and reconciliation. Promoting creativity as a vehicle for peace, security and reconciliation should focus on dialogue and exchange, on the acceptance of difference and the richness it can offer, which is a source of empowerment for individuals and communities.