Transition from MDGs to SDGs

Bringing Culture to Sustainable Development Agenda: Roadmaps for Traditional Stakeholders

Thursday Aug 6 - Saturday Aug 8, 2015
United Nations Headquarters, New York
Culture and Sustainable Development in the Post 2015 Development Agenda

Concept:
In October 2005 until the submission of the first periodic reports in 2012 and 2013, the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions has achieved many milestones at both the international and national levels. With the ratification by 134 Parties, the 2005 Convention provides a framework to forge new pathways that encourage creativity and innovation in the pursuit of inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth and development.

The year 2015 offers opportunities to not only celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Convention but also to create new momentum towards its full implementation as a roadmap for development.

Secondly, the Millennium Development Goals gradually coming to an end by Dec 2015, efforts had been geared towards ideas, contribution to the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. In the various thoughts and suggestions on the world direction, consideration are strongly geared towards best initiatives and practices suitable for growth, development and world peace. Major stakeholders and working groups have come up with groups and working groups. In December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development A/RES/68/223 with due consideration given to the role of culture and sustainable development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. This resolution builds on two previous resolutions, adopted in 2010 (A/RES/65/166) and 2011 (A/RES/66/208) respectively, and represents an important breakthrough for culture in the development agenda and the linkages with the three pillars of sustainable development while acknowledging the contribution of culture to inclusive economic development, as cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries, sustainable cultural tourism and cultural infrastructure are sources of income generation and job creation, including at the community level, thus improving living conditions and fostering community-based economic growth, and contribute to empowering individuals.

Thirdly, in December 2014, the UN President of General Assembly Mr. Sam Kutesa launched the Decade of People of African Descent where emphasis was rekindled on recognition, justice and development without mention of cultural recognition, cultural laws and policies needed for justice and bringing creative economy through cultural developments.

Working groups have held dialogues, high level discussions on the place of culture to sustainable development, yet with the release of the 17 SDGs and 169 Target, relevance was not given to culture and its place in the forthcoming acclaimed Sustainable Development Goals.

 Cultures across the continent are foundation elements for development and growth with significant contribution to inclusive social development, including local communities and Indigenous peoples, respect for cultural diversity, safeguarding cultural and natural heritage, fostering cultural institutions and strengthening of cultural and creative industries. Culture also contributes to environmental sustainability, cultural and biological diversity, natural heritage while supporting traditional systems of environmental protection and resource management.

The UN General Assembly further acknowledged that culture contributes to peace and security, as a valuable resource for empowering communities to participate fully in social and cultural life, facilitating inclusive governance and dialogue at the national, regional and international levels and contributing to conflict prevention and resolution, as well as to reconciliation and recovery.

Beyond these, the UN General Assembly encourages Member States, UN agencies, Civil Societies and other relevant stakeholders to give due consideration to culture and sustainable development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.
Many recommendations by experts and meetings from:

- The Hangzhou International Congress (China) in May 2013
- In June 2013, the UN General Assembly Thematic Debate on “Culture and Development” held at UN Headquarters (New York)
- In July 2013, the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review was dedicated to “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals
- Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals dealt with culture during its 4th meeting in June 2013
- Group of Friends on Culture and Development launched in Sept 2013;

Addressed the key issues on the place of culture in the Sustainable Development Goals called for clarity and requested for platforms for global discussion on the role and place of culture to Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Permanent Mission of Grenada to the United Nations with UNESCO Center for Global Education, UNESCO FORGE will join the world stakeholders and UNESCO to mark the 10 years of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions with a two days summit on the theme; “Bringing Culture to Post 2015 Agenda: Voices of Traditional Stakeholders”.

**Objective of the Summit:**
The summit will provide discussion and responses to the following objectives;

- Potential of culture for promoting sustainable development and Overcoming the Millennium Development Goals Challenges
- Fostering Sustainable Management practices through interrelationship between culture and environment
- Enriching Cultural Education in the promotion of Culture for Growth and Development
- Maximizing the inclusion of Culture in addressing human, social and economic dimension
- Leveraging Creative Industries of Culture and inclusive societal energies to Sustainable Development
- Cultural Mechanisms in integrating world cultures
- Bringing decade of African Descent to effective institution through Culture
- Building Synergies for Regional stakeholder partnerships to enhanced the strengthening of culture to global development

**Format and Outcome:**
The two-day Global Summit will take place from August 6-August 8 2015 at United Nations Headquarters New York.

**The Format will include:**
Thursday August 6, 2015 Press Conference at 8:00am
Venue: UNESCO Boardroom

**Session 1:Lunch Opening Session at 12:00pm-5:00pm**
Ford Foundation Conference Room
Potential of culture for promoting sustainable development and overcoming the Millennium Development Goals Challenges
This session will provide an opening message and outcome guideline on the event. The objective of this session is to review the gaps and challenges on the MDGs and identify the potentials of culture to sustainable development goal successes.
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Friday August 7, 2015:  Summit sessions, Discussion and Contributions, Cultural, Stakeholders Voluntary Presentations

Session 2: Trusteeship Council, UN Headquarters 10:00AM-1:00PM

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Participants:
The Summit will include participation of Traditional rulers, Titled Philanthropist and Spirited individuals, UNESCO Member States at the highest possible level, academia, Member States cultural agencies, parastatals and stakeholders, Observers, UN Agencies and representatives of civil society, private sector, and other relevant interest groups.

Outcome:
The outcome from the two days summit will highlight the voices of traditional stakeholders in:
- Strengthening local and regional institutional capacities to develop cultural mechanism for Sustainable Development Goals
- Developing cultural synergies to promote cultural diversity within the world regions
- Providing suggestions to Post 2015 Development Agenda on place of Culture to Sustainable Development Goals successes
- Building inter-cultural approach for regional growth and development

Organizers
The Summit is organized by Permanent Mission of Grenada to the United Nations in Collaboration with UNESCO Center For Global Education and support of Ford Foundation.
SAVE THE DATE

THEME:
BRINGING CULTURE TO POST 2015 AGENDA: VOICE OF TRADITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

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Thursday Aug 6th, 2015
Saturday Aug 8th, 2015

WHERE
United Nations Headquarters New York, USA

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