

MAYORS' DECLARATION IN ENGHIE-LES-BAINS XITH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK

**Enghien-les-Bains, France
30 June-2 July 2017**

We, the Mayors of the UNESCO Creative Cities, gathered in Enghien-les-Bains, France, from 30 June to 2 July 2017, on the occasion of the XIth Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), affirm the importance of culture and creativity as vital and transformative drivers of socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development.

We wish to thank UNESCO for providing member cities with the opportunity to take part in international discussions on culture and urban development and showcase their experience and innovative solutions on the international stage.

Echoing the global momentum for sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, we underline the strategic role of culture and creativity in building inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and the need to better harness the potential of culture to design quality public spaces, stimulate urban regeneration and foster social cohesion as well as intellectual and cultural development.

We therefore reiterate our commitment towards the Network's mission statement, further integrating culture and creativity within initiatives, policies and projects implemented at the local level, with a view to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, in close partnership with UNESCO.

Acknowledging the central role of cities and local governments in urban development policies, we emphasize the strategic potential of the UCCN member cities in promoting culture-engaged urban development policies, acting as "laboratories" for innovation and sharing good practices at the international level.

We encourage our fellow member cities to renew their political commitment towards the Network and UNESCO, implement institutional arrangements as necessary and further integrate culture into the overall political agenda, so as to facilitate the active implementation of the UCCN programme and the dissemination of the Network's core principles at the local level.

We fully endorse the new Strategic Framework, which embodies the collective vision of the Network, and we support its strategic objectives to showcase member cities' innovative power at the international level, enable a sound growth of the Network, improve the Network's geographical representation and ensure its financial sustainability.

We reiterate our commitment towards strengthened cooperation between our member cities, with a view to further exchange good practices, facilitate crossed experimentation and innovation and we welcome the improvement of the geographical balance within the Network.

Recognizing the need to ensure financial sustainability of the Network, we wish to thank UNESCO for its essential financial commitment towards the Network's activities and programmes and we commit to contribute financially within our respective possibilities. We welcome and accept further development and operationalization of a simple and effective annual contribution mechanism to frame member cities' contribution, with a view to facilitate the implementation of the Network's Strategic Framework.