Partnering with Civil Society
Strong civil society participation is crucial for:

- informed
- transparent
- participatory systems of governance for culture

It is essential for civil societies all over the world to discuss what citizens expect from culture. This Convention on the diversity of cultural expressions gives us the means to do so; let us seize this opportunity.

RASMANÉ OUÉDRAOGO
President of Burkina Faso’s Coalition for Cultural Diversity

Civil society refers to a number of stakeholders:

- non-governmental organizations
- non-profit organizations
- professionals in the culture sector and associated sectors
- groups that support the work of artists and cultural professionals
Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a pivotal role in the 2005 Convention’s implementation. The Convention requires Parties to involve civil society in its ratification, implementation and monitoring.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 17 aims to revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The 2005 Convention encourages and promotes effective public and civil society partnerships, by providing a framework for effective advocacy, collaboration and monitoring in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (target 17.17).

**MONITORING CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE 2005 CONVENTION**

**Area of monitoring** | **Core indicators** | **Expected result**
--- | --- | ---
Partnering with civil society | Measures strengthen the skills and capacities of civil society | National policies and measures support creation, production, distribution and access with regard to diverse cultural activities, goods and services and strengthen informed, transparent and participatory systems of governance for culture
Civil society is involved in the implementation of the Convention at national and global levels
For sustainable systems of governance, CSOs need:

- Regular and structured participatory processes
  - Actively participate in periodic reporting and data collection

- Financial resources to partner with public agencies
  - Apply to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD)

- Skills and capacities to engage in policymaking
  - Seek out learning opportunities and invest time in mentoring programmes

- Connections and networks for peer support and advocacy initiatives
  - Partner with civil society organizations working in different areas (human rights, gender equality, freedom of expression, etc.)

What CSOs are doing around the world

**Advocacy**

Through their advocacy work, the Chile Coalition for Cultural Diversity ensured that a cultural clause was written into Chile’s trade agreements. Their advocacy campaign included meetings with civil society organizations, declarations, media statements and a letter-writing campaign that resulted in over 500 signatures from creative professionals.

**Collaboration**

The Austrian Working Group on Cultural Diversity (ARGE) is a ‘network of networks’, funded by the Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, that includes associations, unions, academic, institutions and artists. It provides a unique forum for continuous dialogue and exchange between civil society representatives and public authorities from all Ministries on matters relating to the Convention.

**Monitoring**

CSOs from across Indonesia and national authorities were brought together to elaborate Indonesia’s periodic report on the implementation of the 2005 Convention. Recognizing the value of participatory spaces for policy discussion, formulation and monitoring, a new working group on cultural statistics was then set up by the Ministry of Education and Culture to monitor the state of Indonesia’s culture sector.
Get involved!

- Participate in fundraising activities to support the IFCD
- Participate in advocacy campaigns to uphold the objectives and principles of the Convention
- Promote the diversity of cultural expressions
- Participate in the decision-making processes of the governing bodies
- Participate in the design, implementation and monitoring of cultural policies at the national level

The Civil Society Forum

The Civil Society Forum provides a framework for exchange and cooperation among CSOs to strengthen their contribution to the Convention’s governing bodies and to advocate for the conditions that will promote the diversity of cultural expressions worldwide.

NGOs with interests and/or activities in one or more of the fields covered by the Convention are invited to participate in the Civil Society Forum organized every two years.

CONTACT
Diversity of Cultural Expressions Entity
Culture Sector-UNESCO
7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP, France
Convention2005@unesco.org
en.unesco.org/creativity/
Follow us #supportcreativity