

**“Ensuring artistic freedom: a public policy challenge”  
(Parallel session 12)**

Venue: Jakarta Convention Center, Merak III  
Thursday 4 May 2017, 14h-15h30

**Description:**

“Artistic creation is free“- proclaims the Article 1 of the new French legislation on artistic freedom, architecture and heritage, adopted in July 2016. “Dissemination of artistic creation is free”, specifies Article 2.

Artistic freedom is a cornerstone of participatory democracy. Yet, while support for artists globally has improved over the last few years, many challenges remain. The implementation of the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions affects significant contemporary issues such as freedom of expression and access to cultural life, digital technologies and the Internet, ease of travel for artists and social protection.

There is a need for continued or increased support in these areas identified to ensure meaningful progress in the sustainable development of modern and democratic societies. This includes adopting regulations geared toward improving the economic and social status of the artist, building on comprehensive laws to facilitate the mobility of artists from the Global South, developing policies and measures benefiting of the collaboration with artists and their associations, as well as other relevant NGOs.

This discussion is expected to provide inspiration for future strategic action and priorities of relevant stakeholders in this field.

**Points to Ponder:**

- Is the freedom of artistic expression understood and protected as part of the broader system of fundamental rights - or not?
- How can we support artists that are threatened?
- How to follow-up on the recommendation of the UN Special Rapporteur that Member States "should review critically their legislation and practices imposing restrictions on the right to freedom of artistic expression and creativity, taking into consideration relevant international human rights law provisions and in cooperation with representatives of independent associations of artists and human rights organizations"
- How to monitor artistic freedom as part of UNESCO's periodic reporting system of the 1980 Recommendation and 2005 Convention?

**Organizer:** UNESCO, with the financial support of Denmark

<p><b>14h00-15h00: talk show</b></p>	<p><b>Opening statement: questions for debate</b></p> <p><b>Ensuring artistic freedom: a global challenge</b></p> <p>A talk show moderated by Danielle Cliche, Chief of Section Diversity of Cultural Expressions, UNESCO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farida Shaheed, former UN Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights (Pakistan)</li> <li>• Hilmar Farid (Indonesia) Director-General, Ministry of Culture and Education</li> <li>• Anupama Sekhar (India), Director Culture Department, Asia–Europe Foundation (ASEF)</li> <li>• Khadija El Bennaoui (Morocco), Arts director and cultural advisor/Art Moves Africa (AMA)</li> <li>• Farida Shaheed (Pakistan), former UN Rapporteur on Cultural Rights</li> <li>• Sara Whyatt (United Kingdom), former Deputy Director, PEN International</li> </ul>
<p><b>15H00-15h30: Q&amp;A with audience</b></p>	<p><b>Intervention by Casper Klynge, Ambassador of Denmark to Indonesia</b></p> <p><b>Q&amp;A with audience</b></p>	
	<p><b>End of programme</b></p>	

## “Ensuring artistic freedom: a public policy challenge” (Parallel session 12)

### Biographies



**Farida Shaheed**, a sociologist, is the Executive Director of Pakistan’s leading women’s rights organization, Shirkat Gah - Women’s Resource Centre that strives to empower women and further a gender-equality social justice agenda. Recipient of several national and international human rights awards, Farida has worked for more than 25 years promoting and protecting cultural rights by fostering policies and projects designed in culturally sensitive ways to support the rights of marginalized sectors, including women, peasants, and religious and ethnic minorities. She has published widely on the interface of women, cultural identities, State-citizenship and how this impacts rights.

Appointed the first UN Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights in 2009, she continued as a Special Rapporteur on the same issue, following Human Rights Council Resolution 19/6 of 2012 until October 2015.



**Hilmar Farid** is a historian and cultural activist. He holds a PhD from the National University of Singapore and wrote his thesis on Pramoedya Ananta Toer and the politics of decolonization in Indonesia. In the 1990s, he was active in the pro-democracy movement. He is a founding member of Jaringan Kerja Budaya, a collective of artists and cultural workers in the early 1990s, and also of the Institute of Indonesian Social History in 2000. He taught history and cultural studies at the Jakarta Arts Institute and University of Indonesia for several years. He has been an active member of the Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives (ARENA) and the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society. On 31 December 2015, he was appointed as the Director General for Culture at the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia.



**Anupama Sekhar** is the Director of the Culture Department at the [Asia-Europe Foundation \(ASEF\)](#), where she is engaged in facilitating cultural exchange and collaboration among artists and arts organisations in 51 countries across Asia and Europe. ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation based in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it works to strengthen relations between Asia and Europe and is the only institution of the [Asia-Europe Meeting \(ASEM\)](#).

Anupama is in charge of ASEF's culture portfolio, which comprises of [artistic collaborations](#), [support to networks](#), policy [dialogues](#) and [information platforms](#). Currently, she is part of the [Expert Facility](#) of UNESCO to support capacity development initiatives for the implementation of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

Prior to joining ASEF in 2009, Anupama worked with the International Labour Organisation and with independent arts spaces in India. Anupama holds degrees in English Literature and International Studies. She is a trained dancer in the Indian classical style of *Bharatnatyam*.



**Khadija El Bennaoui** is an independent arts practitioner working in the intersection of the artistic practices, cultural policy and research in and from Africa & the Arab world. She worked as consultant and researcher for international funding and development agencies such as the European Cultural Foundation, the Information & Research Center at King Hussein Foundation, Mimeta, Arterial Network, Al Mawred, the Arab Fund for Arts & Culture (AFAC), EUNIC and Drosos Foundation for which she successfully implemented various missions in Africa, the Arab world and Cuba.

Her work covers a wide range of topics from support to structuring independent artistic scenes, funding, grantmaking, networking, freedom of expression and contemporary artistic creation, etc.

El Bennaoui played a major role in developing support for the mobility of cultural practitioners within Africa, as the director of Art Moves Africa (AMA) mobility fund. She was also consultant to the Young Arab Theatre Fund (YATF), convening and managing four successful and important symposia for members of independent arts and culture spaces in Middle East & North Africa (MENA). El Bennaoui is currently contributing to the 2017 Global Report on the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the diversity of Cultural Expressions.



**Sara Whyatt** is a campaigner and researcher on freedom of expression and human rights, notably for PEN International for over 20 years (1990-2013), and previously for Amnesty International. At PEN she worked with its global membership of writers based in over 100 countries mobilising its campaigns for writers at risk as well as on thematic issues, gaining the organisation great respect in the field. In April 2013 she left PEN to become a freelance consultant, working on projects for Freemuse, Culture Action Europe, PEN, UNESCO, as well as other organisations.



With a special interest in Turkey developed during her years at PEN, Sara Whyatt has worked with NGOs in Turkey and outside, assisting in advocacy with the United Nations Council on Human Rights, and advising on promotion of artistic freedom. She has recently developed a tool kit for the Arts Rights Justice network of Culture Action Europe, and is working on UNESCO's 2017 report on the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultures, focusing on freedom of artistic expression.