Background Note

The cultural and creative industries are among the fastest growing sectors in the world. With an estimated global worth of 4.3 trillion USD per year, the culture sector now accounts for 6.1% of the global economy. They generate annual revenues of US$ 2,250 billion and nearly 30 million jobs worldwide, employing more people aged 15 to 29 than any other sector. The cultural and creative industries have become essential for inclusive economic growth, reducing inequalities and achieving the goals set out in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The adoption of the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions was a milestone in international cultural policy. Through this historic agreement, the global community formally recognised the dual nature, both cultural and economic, of contemporary cultural expressions produced by artists and cultural professionals. Shaping the design and implementation of policies and measures that support the creation, production, distribution of and access to cultural goods and services, the 2005 Convention is at the heart of the creative economy.

Recognizing the sovereign right of States to maintain, adopt and implement policies to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expression, both nationally and internationally, the 2005 Convention supports governments and civil society in finding policy solutions for emerging challenges.

The Global Report series monitors the implementation of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, as well as the progress towards achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within and with the cultural and creative sectors.

Its 2022 edition revolves around two major questions:

- What is the state of the cultural and creative sectors?
- What policy changes to promote sustainable, human rights-based systems of governance for culture and equitable access to cultural opportunities and resources have resulted from stakeholders’ implementation and ownership of the Convention?

In line with the 2015 and 2018 editions, this third edition of the Report presents the latest policy developments to support creativity and sheds light on current and future challenges in areas such as the digital environment, media diversity, sustainable development, mobility of artists and cultural professionals, gender equality and artistic freedom.
The trends, innovative practices, gaps and recommendations that emerge from the 2022 edition provide valuable evidence to inform the policy dialogue leading up to the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022.

Read the third edition of the Global Report here:

- Full report
- Executive summary