CULTURE

IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

A BRIDGE TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
Culture is not only a sector of activity in itself, but also a transversal, intrinsic component across the public policy spectrum, acting as an enabler to accelerate sustainable development processes. While culture does not have a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) in the 2030 Agenda, it is reflected across many of the goals and targets including those on sustainable cities (SDG 11), decent work (SDG 8), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), climate action (SDG 13), gender equality (SDG 5), innovation (SDG 9), and peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG 16).

This transversal dimension of culture in public policy-making is increasingly reflected in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) submitted by Member States. These reports, which countries are invited to provide to monitor their progress in the achievement of the SDGs, are key indicators of public policy priorities and commitments at country level, and draw a global picture of the ways in which countries envision a more sustainable future. The transversality of culture can be appreciated in the ways in which countries explicitly integrate culture in education, heritage, innovation and city development, and implicitly through environmental dimensions, social inclusion, and peace-building.

UNESCO, has analysed the VNRs for the period 2016-2020, and can confirm that culture interacts with all 17 SDGs at the different policy levels. This snapshot provides inspiration going forward as we place culture at the heart of the UN Decade of Action on Sustainable Development.
Since 2016, Culture has been mentioned across all 17 SDGs in relation to laws, policies, and initiatives.

From 205 VNRS analysed, 95 directly linked initiatives with a cultural component to SDGs.

22 countries mentioned the transversal role of culture and is therefore the bedrock of all 17 SDGs.
Samoa is strengthening the revival of traditional food production and preservation practices as a response to strengthened food security in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Using local knowledge, it strengthened the production of the underutilized but highly nutritious crops such as laupele.
CULTURE IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS
Integration of Culture into Different Policy Levels

HOW CULTURE IS INCORPORATED IN DIFFERENT PUBLIC POLICY INSTRUMENTS

**National Constitution**
- protection of natural and cultural heritage
- freedom of cultural and creative expression
- access to culture
- legal rights of indigenous peoples

**National Development Strategy**
- cultural and arts education
- cultural tourism
- indigenous peoples

**National & Regional laws**
- cultural rights
- creative industries
- sustainable tourism
- international funds
- development banks

**Public Budget, Institutional Arrangements and Implementation Mechanisms**
- cultural funds
- natural reserves
- peace building
- consultation mechanisms

**Multilateral Cooperation**
- UNESCO conventions
- UN system

**UNESCO conventions**
- conservation of biodiversity and natural heritage

**Integration of Culture into Different Policy Levels**

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**Cultural rights**
- protection of natural and cultural heritage
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**Indigenous peoples**
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**National Constitution**
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**Integration of Culture into Different Policy Levels**
CULTURE IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

Number of countries referencing culture in different public policy levels (2016-2020)

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<th>Category</th>
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<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
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<td>NATIONAL &amp; REGIONAL LAWS</td>
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<td>OTHER STRATEGIES &amp; POLICY DOCUMENTS</td>
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CULTURE IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS
Cultural integration at the different policy levels

**NATIONAL BUDGET**
ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FILM SECTOR
Austria has devised a comprehensive package of measures through the federal film funding bodies for support, mentoring, training and film production to promote equality for women and close the gender pay gap in the film sector.

**VISION DOCUMENT**
LINKING CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND BIODIVERSITY
Through its Vision 2040, Guyana aims at becoming a green state with a view to mitigating the effects of climate change. It makes explicit linkages between natural heritage, biodiversity and cultural diversity. These links are promoted through different events, such as its Indigenous Heritage Month.

**NATIONAL LAW**
EQUIPPING YOUTH WITH SKILLS FOR PEACE BUILDING
The Central African Republic ensures that public school students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable development by fostering their appreciation for a culture of peace, intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity.

**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION**
CULTURAL RIGHTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS
The Hungarian Constitution of 2012 articulates the principles of the rights of future generations including the "preservation and protection of material, intellectual and natural resources", which includes heritage, language and biodiversity.

**MULTILATERAL COOPERATION**
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Launched in 2016 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, MiSK Global Forum brings together young leaders, creative persons and intellectuals from all over the world with an aim to explore ways and means of addressing the challenge of change. The forum aims to achieve sustainable development goals through promotion of understanding between cultures, tolerance, mutual respect, ethics of good citizenry and sharing of responsibilities.

**IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM**
INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES’ KNOW-HOW STIMULATES LOCAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION
Brunei Darussalam is one amongst many other countries in Asia who have implemented the One Village, One Product policy, which aims to invest in communities’ creative know-how, and local crafts in particular, to support job creation, local tourism and social inclusion. By promoting local goods and practices with high added value, villages improve their standard of living.
During the United Nation's Decade of Action, culture can accelerate progress to a more sustainable future by building a bridge between global ambitions and local action. Natural and cultural heritage, creativity, museums, living heritage and intercultural dialogue enhance all dimensions of sustainable development for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. UNESCO works to unleash this potential by:

- Promoting good practices on culture's impact in sustainable development
- Accelerating actions towards the implementation of cultural initiatives
- Using research and evaluation to inform cultural policy development