

ECOSOC 2016 Integration Segment
2-4 May 2016
“Implementing the 2030 Agenda through Policy Innovation and Integration”

- **Input by UNESCO** -

UNESCO’s approach to policy integration

- **Integration across sectors (with an emphasis on culture and creative industries as by the concept note)**: UNESCO is approaching the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in an integrated fashion across its areas of competence (education, natural sciences, culture, communication and information), capitalizing on its multidisciplinary expertise and intersectoral mandate. This includes UNESCO’s integrated approach to inclusive quality education for all, harnessing the potential of STI for sustainable development, including in response to climate change, advancing the empowerment of girls and women, supporting social inclusion and youth engagement, safeguarding cultural heritage and diversity, and upholding freedom of expression and media development. The organization is also actively working to preventing violent extremism, cultural cleansing, and the destruction of cultural goods, which impedes global efforts towards achievement of the SDGs.
 - UNESCO *inter alia* implements an approach to sustainable development which champions the value that **culture and cultural industries can bring as sources of creativity and innovation for sustainable development**. It seeks to integrate culture into sustainable development policies and strategies based on international standard setting instruments that recognize fundamental principles of human rights and freedom of expression, cultural diversity, gender equality, environmental sustainability, and the openness and balance to other cultures and expressions of the world. UNESCO is convinced that the full potential of the creative economy and cultural industries is to be harnessed across sectors, such as to stimulate innovation for economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work, to

enable inclusive and equitable quality education and life-long learning opportunities for all, and to manage the sustainable use of natural assets and scarce resources. At the same time, creativity contributes to building open, socially inclusive and pluralistic societies, holding the promise of increased quality of life and individual and collective wellbeing.

- In the context of a **New Urban Agenda and inclusive cities** UNESCO pursues a comprehensive agenda taking into consideration all aspects of building peaceful and sustainable cities, including the often-neglected theme of cities embracing their diverse populations. Urban development is often measured primarily by progress in planning and infrastructure, energy use, education services, environmental protection and access to health services, water and sanitation. But any form of city-level development agenda must also consider socio-cultural inclusion as an enabler for all development progress, as well as a desirable end in and of itself. Only an approach that acknowledges the existence of sociocultural tensions in urban spaces can avoid an artificial and incomplete visioning of city development. In this vein, UNESCO pursues strategies to strengthen the collaboration of cities at the international level to promote inclusion and diversity as a key aspect of urban development. UNESCO will support cities to design policies and programmes which ensure no one is left behind and where all populations (especially migrants, refugees, ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and vulnerable women and girls) are given the same opportunities to reach their full potential as citizens. The organization pursues a range of cross-sectoral actions, encompassing alliances for water and climate change, in collaboration with the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP), cultural heritage and the building of learning cities through the optimization of knowledge production and exchange. The results of the activities will converge into an integrated framework that will enable UNESCO to convene a global movement of city-level action towards inclusion and diversity.

- In the area of **climate change**, UNESCO is implementing a multisectoral and integrated approach, encompassing climate change education and public awareness, water security, climate knowledge and culture, oceanographic activities and site-based climate change observatories, to reflect the multifaceted nature of climate change challenges and associated mitigation and adaptation solutions.
- **Integration across modalities of work:** UNESCO supports closer integration and interlinkages between the UN’s normative and country-level operational work, informed by comprehensive guidance taking into account both dimensions. UNESCO is convinced that effective normative-operational linkages will be ever more relevant for implementing an ambitious and universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, UNESCO wishes to share some of the work it has spearheaded on standard-setting work in the culture sector (examining four different conventions), as well as a hyperlink to the UNEG ‘Handbook for Conducting Evaluations of Normative Work in the UN System’, which was developed with UNESCO’s co-chairmanship and participation.¹
- **Integration across pillars:** UNESCO welcomes the recent push for stronger humanitarian-development linkages across the UN’s pillars of work, based on the 2030 Agenda’s vision of “leaving no one behind”. This is a unique opportunity for a “quality leap” benefitting both humanitarian and development responses, putting emphasis on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. This is also a unique

¹ **Evaluation of UNESCO’s standard-setting work in the culture sector:**

- [Part I - 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage](#)
- [Part II - 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property](#)
- [Part III - 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage](#)
- [Part IV - 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions](#)

UNEG Handbook for Conducting Evaluations of Normative Work in the UN System:

- <http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/IOS/temp/UNEGHandbookNormativeWorkENG.pdf>
- <http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/IOS/temp/UNEGHandbookNormativeWorkFR.pdf>

opportunity to highlight the human dimensions of our work to prevent and respond to conflict, by promoting the realization of key UN values of human rights, tolerance, respect of the other and of the cultural diversity of the world we are living. In this connection, quality education; the protection and promotion of culture; respect for freedom of expression and; equitable management of natural resources, have a key role to play - not only as enablers of development, but also as key drivers of stability, security and peace-building. UNESCO also supports the focus on resilience, that is the importance of strengthening local and national institutional and technical capacities to prevent, cope with and address crisis, essential to develop early warning mechanisms both in relation to natural disasters and conflict; to alleviate the strain caused by crisis on national systems (as for instance strain caused by Syria crisis on host countries' education systems) and to create genuine national ownership in crisis preparedness and response. There is a need to provide adequate space and resources for systems strengthening and resilience into UN strategic and programmatic frameworks of humanitarian and developmental response; and to fully acknowledge the technical expertise and added value of specialized agencies, such as UNESCO, in capacity development in key sectors.

- **Integration through partnership:** UNESCO operates with and through a wide network of partners and stakeholders at global, regional and national levels; including specialized institutes and centres, professional groups and networks, UNESCO National Commissions, university chairs, and Goodwill Ambassadors.

