



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 June 2020

Co-signatories of the Culture 2030 Goal statement,

It is my pleasure to inform that I endorse the Culture 2030 Goal statement entitled ‘Ensuring Culture Fulfills its Potential in Responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic’. Covid-19 poses an unprecedented global challenge that requires unprecedented whole-of-society responses. I welcome this initiative to mobilize cultural communities and sectors in support of Covid-19 relief and recovery efforts. Culture brings inspiration, comfort and hope into people's lives, promoting well-being and resilience, especially during challenging times such as this pandemic. Culture also has a fundamental role in guaranteeing access to information, and encouraging intercultural tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

I commend this statement's call to achieve culture's potential to rebuild better and create the future we want. This is especially important in this moment, because the interlinkages between culture and the 2030 agenda have become more evident to experts and policy makers. Late last year, UNESCO released the Culture 2030 Indicators, a thematic framework to measure and monitor culture's contributions to Sustainable Development Goal implementation nationally and locally, including on environmental action and societal resilience, prosperity and livelihoods, knowledge and skills, and inclusion and participation. In addition, the World Health Organisation recently released its first ‘Art and Health’ report, synthesizing the global evidence on the role of art and culture in promoting overall good health, preventing mental and physical ill health, and treating or managing acute and chronic conditions. Incorporating culture into Covid-19 recovery plans can thus help accelerate 2030 agenda implementation. As is the case with Covid-19 response efforts, achieving the 2030 agenda in its entirety will only be possible with the participation of all stakeholders and sectors of society. Culture can help further communicate the agenda to general publics, and in so doing attract new partnerships in support of sustainable development. Culture can also help strengthen support for intercivilizational dialogue and multilateralism, as we face the risk of greater divisions arising in the international community throughout this pandemic and beyond.

I have highlighted education as one of my key priorities for the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly. I am concerned that not offering adequate protections for culture and cultural practitioners during this pandemic may trigger long-term deteriorations in the richness and diversity of all cultural sectors' manifestations – from heritage sites, museums, libraries and archives, to traditional practices and contemporary cultural expressions. These resources are

prized repositories of knowledge and experience, passed down through generations, that strengthen humanity's capacity to overcome adversity and envision a better future. They enrich education ecosystems and life-long learning, and contribute to overall quality of life by helping people find meaning and purpose through historical and artistic reflection. We will need these intellectual and creative capacities more than ever once this crisis has passed.

I call on governments, UN agencies, and stakeholders to endorse this statement, and to reflect and act upon its guiding principles. Only by working together will we be able to respond to Covid-19 and what lies ahead. We must reach out to build bridges and foster new partnerships to create the future we want. I truly believe that by striving together, we will succeed in delivering for all.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

Arterial Network President, Mr. Pierre Claver Mabilia  
Culture Action Europe Secretary General, Ms. Tere Badia  
International Council on Monuments and Sites Secretary General, Mr. Peter Phillips  
International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity Secretary General, Ms. Nathalie Guay  
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Secretary General, Mr. Gerald Leitner  
International Music Council Secretary General, Ms. Silja Fischer  
Latin American Network of Arts for Social Transformation Coordinator, Ms. María Emilia de la Iglesia  
United Cities and Local Governments Culture Committee - Agenda 21 for Culture Coordinator, Mr. Jordi Pascual