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Globalization and interdependence: culture and development

Fiji:* draft resolution

Culture and sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions [41/187](#) of 8 December 1986, [46/158](#) of 19 December 1991, [51/179](#) of 16 December 1996, [52/197](#) of 18 December 1997, [53/184](#) of 15 December 1998, [55/192](#) of 20 December 2000, [57/249](#) of 20 December 2002, [65/166](#) of 20 December 2010 and [66/208](#) of 22 December 2011, concerning culture and development, and [66/288](#) of 27 July 2012 on the future we want,

Recalling also the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity¹ and the Action Plan for its implementation,² on 2 November 2001, and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions,³ as well as other international conventions of that organization that acknowledge the important role of cultural diversity for social and economic development,⁴

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October-3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 25, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-third Session, Paris, 3-21 October 2005*, vol. 1 and corrigenda, *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 41.

⁴ The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954); the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970); the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972); the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001); and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003).



Acknowledging the adoption by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its 192nd session, held from 23 September to 11 October 2013, of a decision highlighting the need to intensify efforts to integrate culture as an enabler and driver of equitable and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda,

Recognizing that culture is an essential component of human development, represents a source of identity, innovation and creativity for the individual and the community and is an important factor in social inclusion and poverty eradication, providing for sustainable economic growth and ownership of development processes,

Recognizing also the importance of respect and understanding for cultural diversity throughout the world and of working together and not against each other,

Recalling the principles of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, and acknowledging the importance of cultural diversity as a source of enrichment for humankind and as an important contribution to the sustainable development of local communities, peoples and nations, empowering them to play an active and unique role in development initiatives,

Recognizing the importance of multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving the diversity of languages and cultures globally and that genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding, and recognizing also the importance for the peoples of the world to communicate in their own language,

Recalling the concerns expressed in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action⁵ on the underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions in the area of culture, which has prevented women from having a significant impact in the area of culture and development,

Recalling also the importance of the promotion of national cultures, artistic creation in all its forms and international and regional cultural cooperation, and reaffirming in this regard the relevance of strengthening national efforts and regional and international cooperation mechanisms for cultural action and artistic creation, recognizing that respect for cultural pluralism enhances cultural development and contributes to sustainable development,

Recognizing the linkages between cultural and biological diversity and the positive contribution of local and indigenous traditional knowledge in addressing environmental challenges in a sustainable manner,

Recalling that, in its resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and, in that respect, encouraged international cooperation in the cultural field, aimed at achieving development objectives,

Recalling also the Hangzhou Declaration: Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies,⁶ adopted at the Hangzhou International Congress, entitled “Culture: key to sustainable development”, organized by the United Nations

⁵ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁶ Available from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002212/221238m.pdf>.

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and held in Hangzhou, China, from 15 to 17 May 2013,

Recalling further the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁷ which acknowledges that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to sustainable development and calls for holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development,

Noting that the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals addressed the theme of education and culture at its fourth session, held in June 2013,

Highlighting the importance of culture and sustainable development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,⁸ and in this regard acknowledges the work undertaken by United Nations agencies to optimize the contributions of culture to sustainable development;

2. *Welcomes* the Hangzhou Declaration,⁶ in particular the nine action-oriented recommendations contained therein to place culture at the heart of development policies in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the discussions and conclusions of the high-level thematic debate on culture and development sponsored by the President of the General Assembly, held at United Nations Headquarters on 12 June 2013, which focused on culture as a resource for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Looks forward* to the special edition of the *Creative Economy Report*, to be issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in November 2013, and welcomes the role of the creative and cultural industries in achieving inclusive social and economic development;

5. *Notes* the positive results and impact of programmes on culture and development at the country level, including programmes jointly implemented by several United Nations agencies, including those financed by the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund;

6. *Recognizes* the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development that provides peoples and communities with a strong sense of identity and social cohesion, allowing development policies and measures at all levels to be effective and sustainable, and stresses in this regard that only policies responsive to cultural contexts can yield sustainable, inclusive and equitable development outcomes;

7. *Also recognizes* that culture as a driver of sustainable development contributes to a strong and viable economic sector, generating income, creating jobs and addressing both the economic and social dimensions of poverty through cultural heritage and cultural and creative industries, while providing innovative and effective solutions to cross-cutting issues, such as education, health, gender equality and the environment;

⁷ Resolution 66/288, annex.

⁸ A/68/266.

8. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of culture to the three dimensions of sustainable development and to the achievement of national development objectives and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard acknowledges:

(a) That culture is key for inclusive economic development, as cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries, sustainable cultural tourism and cultural infrastructure are sources of income generation and job creation, including at the community level, thus improving living conditions and fostering community-based economic growth, and contribute to empowering individuals;

(b) That culture is key for inclusive social development for all, including local communities and indigenous peoples, with respect for cultural diversity, safeguarding of the cultural and natural heritage, fostering of cultural institutions and strengthening of cultural and creative industries;

(c) That culture is key for environmental sustainability, since the protection of cultural and biological diversity and the natural heritage is crucial to sustainable development, while supporting traditional systems of environmental protection and resource management can contribute to the increased sustainability of fragile ecosystems and the preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, reducing land degradation and mitigating the effects of climate change;

9. *Acknowledges* that culture is also key for peace and security, as a valuable resource for empowering communities to participate fully in social and cultural life, facilitating inclusive governance and dialogue at the national, regional and international levels and contributing to conflict prevention and resolution, as well as to reconciliation and recovery;

10. *Recognizes* that the appropriate conservation of the historic environment, including cultural landscapes, and the safeguarding of local and indigenous traditional knowledge, values and practices, in synergy with scientific knowledge, enhances the resilience of communities to disasters and climate change;

11. *Also recognizes* that culture plays an important role in the promotion and implementation of new sustainable consumption and production patterns that contribute to the responsible use of resources and address the adverse impacts of climate change;

12. *Acknowledges* that culture can be an enabler for achieving quality education as a vehicle for transmitting shared values, knowledge and skills;

13. *Invites* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders:

(a) To raise public awareness of the importance of cultural diversity for sustainable development, promoting its positive value through education and media tools;

(b) To ensure a more visible and effective integration and mainstreaming of culture into social, environmental and economic development policies and strategies at all levels;

(c) To ensure that women and men fully enjoy their equal rights to have access to, participate in and contribute to cultural life and decision-making and to

further commit themselves to develop cultural policies and programmes with a gender perspective at the local, national and international levels in order to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(d) To promote capacity-building, where appropriate, at all levels for the development of a dynamic cultural and creative sector, in particular by encouraging creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship, supporting the development of cultural institutions and cultural industries, providing technical and vocational training for culture professionals and increasing employment opportunities in the cultural and creative sector for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development;

(e) To actively support the emergence of local markets for cultural goods and services and to facilitate the effective and licit access of such goods and services to international markets, taking into account the expanding range of cultural production and consumption and, for States parties to it, the provisions of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;³

(f) To preserve and maintain local and indigenous traditional knowledge and community practices of environmental management, which are valuable examples of culture as a vehicle for sustainable development, and to foster synergies between modern science and technology and local and indigenous knowledge, practices and innovation;

(g) To promote global awareness of the linkages between cultural and biological diversity, including through the protection and encouragement of the customary use of biological resources, in accordance with traditional cultural practices, as a key element of a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

(h) To support national legal frameworks and policies for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage and cultural property,⁹ the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property and the return of cultural property,¹⁰ in accordance with national legislation and applicable international legal frameworks, including by promoting international cooperation to prevent the misappropriation of cultural heritage and products, recognizing the importance of intellectual property rights in sustaining those involved in cultural creativity;

(i) To note that, in achieving these objectives, innovative mechanisms of financing can make a positive contribution in assisting developing countries in mobilizing additional resources for development on a stable, predictable and voluntary basis, and to reiterate that such voluntary mechanisms should be effective, should aim to mobilize resources that are stable and predictable, should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing, should be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of developing countries and should not unduly burden such countries;

⁹ As defined in article 1 of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 823, No. 11806).

¹⁰ In line with the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 823, No. 11806).

(j) To mobilize culture as a vehicle to foster tolerance, mutual understanding, peace and reconciliation, in the context of conflict-prevention, resolution and peacebuilding processes;

(k) To consider the prompt implementation of the nine actions recommended in the Hangzhou Declaration;

14. *Encourages* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to enhance international cooperation in supporting the efforts of developing countries for the development and consolidation of cultural industries, culture-related microenterprises and cultural tourism benefiting communities, for the protection of tangible and intangible heritage, and to assist those countries in developing the necessary infrastructure and skills, inter alia, through access to and transfer of technologies, including information and communications technologies;

15. *Encourages* the initiatives to foster cultural cooperation agreements and networks at the regional level for knowledge- and information-sharing for sustainable development;

16. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to continue to provide support, to facilitate financing and to assist Member States, upon their request, in developing their national capacities to optimize the contribution of culture to development, including through information-sharing, the exchange of best practices, data collection, research and study, and the use of appropriate evaluation indicators, as well as to implement applicable international cultural conventions, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

17. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies to continue to assess, in consultation with Member States, the contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development through the compilation of quantitative data, including indicators and statistics, with a view to informing development policies and relevant reports, where appropriate;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that United Nations country teams continue to further integrate and mainstream culture into their programming exercises, in particular United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, in consultation with relevant national authorities, when assisting countries in the pursuit of their development objectives;

19. *Encourages* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to take into consideration the contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development in the formulation of national, regional and international development policies, international cooperation instruments and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution and a consolidated approach, in consultation with relevant United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations development system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and

the United Nations Development Programme, on the specific modalities of the inclusion of culture in the post-2015 development agenda;

21. *Welcomes* the upcoming World Culture in Development Forum on the power of culture in sustainable development, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 29 November 2013, which is expected to further enrich the deliberations on the impact of culture on the three dimensions of sustainable development;

22. *Decides* to hold a United Nations conference on culture and sustainable development in the context of the preparatory process of the post-2015 development agenda by the end of 2014;

23. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the agenda item entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, a sub-item entitled “Culture and sustainable development”.
