

# **Lomé Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**

**Lomé, October 10, 2019**



## **Lomé Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**

Gathered at the 6th Congress of the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD), the participants in the regional conference "Pan-African Perspectives for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions" declare that:

- Despite the progress made since the adoption of the 2005 UNESCO Convention, there is still much to be done to ensure a regular and conducive involvement of civil society representatives in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and measures to protect and promote the diversity of Cultural expressions as well as to ensure the development and implementation of national plans for culture. Although current Quadrennial periodic reports (QPRs) allow for the establishment of multi-stakeholder analysis by governments and other stakeholders on achievements in their commitment towards the realisation of the goals of the Convention, little support for the active participation of civil society in other instruments of the Convention is documented. In addition, gross rights violations on artists and cultural professionals are excluded from QPRs, notably from the south as governments which have the primary responsibility of submitting the QPRs to UNESCO do not wish to project their human rights records in bad light. Consequently civil society in the South calling for the need for shadow reporting in relation to the QPRs.
- The promotion of local languages must be on the agenda to target a greater diversity of cultural expressions.
- Abuse and violence against women in the cultural sector must be stopped. Cultural stakeholders are encouraged to introduce a gender perspective into their activities, provide safe spaces and seek to achieve equality between women and men in terms of opportunities and remuneration. Data on the cultural sector must make women's contribution visible.
- Artists, authors and cultural professionals are entitled to fair remuneration. States must adopt laws, ensure their implementation and fight against the piracy of cultural expressions. National or regional copyright offices must extend their activities to all places, media and occasions where creators' works are exploited.
- Civil society sometimes struggles to make its voice heard beyond national borders, especially when it comes to denouncing violations of fundamental rights and freedoms. Freedom of artistic expression, fundamental rights and the free movement of creators must be respected to ensure a diversity of voices and cultural expressions throughout the world.
- Cultural activities, goods and services must be exempted from the commitments made in trade agreements because of their dual cultural and economic nature. Preferential treatment clauses for developing countries must be introduced in the agreements.
- States must deploy concrete strategies to ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in the Digital Environment. These strategies must ensure adequate Internet access for all populations in the country. They must promote a diversified and local supply of cultural expressions on the Web, capable of competing with that of the Web giants.
- Following the discussion on the new African Continental Free Trade Agreement, it was recommended that both the negotiation guide on incorporating clauses based on the 2005 Convention in trade agreements and the forthcoming analysis from *Arterial Network* of the AfCFTA be circulated widely for further refinement. It was also recommended that these be formally deliberated on at the next African Union's Pan African Cultural Congress, and UNESCO's Civil Society Forum in Paris.

Participants at the 6th IFCCD Congress are committed to working together on these objectives toward the next IFCCD meeting in 2022-2023. Participants from the African continent reaffirmed their desire to continue a regional conversation on these issues and to overcome the linguistic divisions, which are still critically important.

Lomé, October 10, 2019