

# Culture2030Goal Campaign Response to the Pact for the Future Zero-Draft

## Chapeau

### General Comments:

We welcome the clarity of the chapeau in setting out the role of the Pact for the Future on how the multilateral system can best achieve its goals. We believe this message would be strengthened through a more explicit recognition that the UN is focused on a human-centred development paradigm, given that it is only through the international, cross-policy nature of the UN's work that we can hope to achieve this.

Given the end-goal of the Pact is to ensure more effective action to improve lives, today and tomorrow, we believe that it is imperative that the action catalysed by the UN is culturally relevant and responsive.

### Language Proposals:

Paragraph 4:

*We recognize that challenges such as these, **and the human-centred development paradigm that we seek**, can only be addressed through strong and sustained international cooperation. To enhance our cooperation, we need a multilateral system that is fit for the future, ready to address the political, economic, environmental, **cultural** and technological changes in the world, and with the agility to adapt to an uncertain future **and to deliver solutions that work with people's values, behaviours and cultures**. We know that multilateral institutions – especially the Security Council and the international financial architecture – have struggled to address the scale of the challenges they face and live up to the world's expectations of them. Too often, international commitments that are made, remain unfulfilled.*

Paragraph 13:

*The scourge of war is taking on new and more dangerous forms. We are closer today to a nuclear confrontation than at any time since the end of the Cold War. We will act collectively to maintain and restore international peace and security on land, at sea, in space, in cyberspace and in other emerging domains, to more effectively address interrelated global threats, and to deliver on the promises of the Charter of the United Nations, including its purposes and principles. To that end, we will enhance and make fuller use of the United Nations toolbox for prevention, mediation, peacebuilding, peace operations and counter-terrorism, and put a stronger focus on addressing root causes and underlying drivers and enablers of violence. **As a particularly strong driver and enabler for peace, we will harness culture's contribution to peacebuilding by fostering appreciation of cultural diversity and amplifying messages of peace through creative and cultural expressions.***

Paragraph 17:

*Through the steps set out in this Pact, we aim to realize the vision of a multilateral system that is more effective, more trusted, more inclusive, **more aware and engaged with cultures and***

*behaviours, and better equipped for the challenges, opportunities and capacities of the present and the future. As such, we reaffirm the intergovernmental character of the United Nations, while also committing to ensuring that a diverse range of actors beyond States contribute to efforts to address global challenges. We commit to reforming of the intergovernmental organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council, so that they can deliver on their mandates in a changing world, and to strengthening the human rights pillar of the Organization. We agree to new ways to improve our response to global shocks and expanded ways of measuring human progress so that human and planetary well-being are not overlooked. We will pursue more equitable and effective global economic governance, including through reform of the international financial architecture. Finally, we will foster the peaceful and sustainable uses of outer space for the benefit of all, increasing international cooperation in this rapidly changing domain.*

## **Chapter I Sustainable Development and Financing for Development**

### **General Comments:**

We believe that one of the most significant contributions that the Pact for the Future can make to accelerating delivery of the 2030 Agenda and transforming the way that the UN impacts on society would be through clearly recognizing culture as an integral part of both policy planning and delivery.

This is not a controversial move, but a natural outcome and prerequisite to build on the wide range of commitments already made by all governments in the past two years. By doing this, it will nonetheless give an important steer to the UN system as a whole, and through this, to UN Member States and other stakeholders, helping to avoid the missed opportunities, policy inefficiencies, insecurity and loss of social cohesion that neglect for culture brings.

We also believe that the Pact could furthermore develop a more concerted, dynamic approach to using reporting and measurement to understand drivers of development, combining quantitative and qualitative indicators, mobilising constituencies, such as cultural actors and institutions, and ensuring cross-cutting factors of development, such as culture, being integrated into SDG delivery.

It is vital to harness the power of diverse cultural values and ways of knowing to enable all people and peoples to participate in the systems-change needed to address the climate crisis. Recognising the cultural dimension of climate change would build upon the momentum achieved in recent multilateral climate agreements, such as the 2023 Emirates Declaration on Culture-Based Climate Action.

### **Language Proposals:**

Paragraph 23

*We remain resolved, between now and 2030, to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions and hunger, everywhere, as a priority. We recognize our responsibility to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural **and cultural** resources and that we may be the last generation to have a chance of saving the planet.*

Paragraph 26

*We commit to following up on recent high-level meetings of the United Nations related to sustainable development and financing for development, including the United Nations Food Systems Summit (2021), the Transforming Education Summit (2022), **the MONDIACULT Conference (2022)**, the United Nations Water Conference (2023), the Sustainable Development Goals Summit (2023), the high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (2023), the high-level meeting on universal health coverage (2023), and the high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis (2023).*

Paragraph 28

We recognize that to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources a fundamental shift is needed – in commitment, solidarity, financing and action, **and respectful of diverse cultural values and ways of knowing** – to put the world on a better path and support the well-being of present and future generations.

Paragraph 29

We commit to accelerating ongoing efforts related to the environment and to effectively addressing the adverse impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and desertification through the implementation of intergovernmentally agreed commitments, including those made in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, **and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

Paragraph 30

We commit to achieving a world in which humanity lives in harmony with nature, to conserving and sustainably using our planet's marine and terrestrial resources, including through sustainable lifestyles, and sustainable consumption and production, to reversing the trends of environmental degradation, to promoting resilience, to reducing disaster risk, and to halting ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss, **while recognising the socio-cultural enabling conditions for imagining and realising transformative climate action.** We will conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas, freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands and protect biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife, **safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage and traditional knowledge systems associated with their age-old sustainable management.**

New paragraph 45a:

***In our resolve to overcome barriers to development and maximise the effectiveness of sustainable development policies and measures, we reaffirm the need to integrate***

***culture into our work at all levels. We recognise that cultural factors can have a determining impact on policy success and development outcomes from the global to the local, and that cultural actors, institutions and heritage represent key actors and resources in our wider efforts for sustainable development.***

## **Chapter II International Peace and Security**

### **General Comments:**

We strongly appreciate the references to the importance of developing a culture of peace, as well as to the importance of upholding cultural rights as part of wider obligations to protect human rights. We note, in particular, that UNESCO (a key part of the UN system) has in its Constitution the goal of building peace in the minds of women and men.

Building on these important references, we believe that more can be done to set out the components of a new agenda for peace through respect for cultural diversity, and protecting artists and cultural rights defenders from threats and attacks. Similarly, we underline the need to maintain focus on the protection of cultural heritage in the face of instability, societal tensions and conflicts, recalling the UN Security Council's recognition that the destruction of cultural heritage constitutes a war crime (Resolution 2347/2017).

### **Language Proposals:**

#### Paragraph 54

*We recognize the devastating impact of armed conflict on civilians and civilian infrastructure, **as well as on the culture and heritage that gives communities their identity and dignity**, and we reaffirm our commitment to the full respect of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and to granting humanitarian access, in line with resolutions 46/182 (1991) and 2347 (2017), and humanitarian principles.*

#### Paragraph 64

*We request that the Secretary-General take concrete steps to strengthen the United Nations approach to preventive diplomacy in the current geopolitical context, building on the principles set out in the New Agenda for Peace. **In particular, we commit to protecting artists and cultural rights defenders, and to promoting cultural diversity and exchange as a means of building social cohesion at all levels.***

## **Chapter III Science, Technology and innovation and Digital Cooperation**

### **General Comments:**

We believe that the increased focus on drawing on science and research to support policy-making at all levels is a very welcome step, but underline the importance of ensuring that we do not exclude any relevant forms of knowledge. In particular, and given the growing emphasis on

taking account of behaviours and values in policy-making at all levels, it will be powerful to note the role of humanities and cultures in informing decisions. Similarly, we underline the importance of giving full respect and consideration to the knowledge and insights held by Indigenous communities.

### **Language Proposals:**

Paragraph 92

*We undertake to increase the use of science and scientific evidence in policy-making, **drawing on insights from all of the sciences and humanities, as well as the insights offered by the arts, culture and Indigenous ways of knowing.** We recognize that solutions to complex global challenges call for cross- and trans-disciplinary collaboration and a strong science-policy-society interface in order to build trust in science. We encourage the United Nations system to take an active role in forging closer links with national and multilateral science advisory bodies to optimally leverage science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals. We welcome the establishment of the Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board.*

## **Chapter IV Youth and Future Generations**

### **General Comments:**

We are very happy to see references to the role of youth in advancing culture, and see this as providing a welcome endorsement of efforts to mobilise young creators to contribute to building a better world. This provides a good start, but we believe that the section as a whole will be strengthened by references to ensuring access of young people to basic services (as well as social protection).

Sociocultural conditions rightly can create challenges and barriers to meaningful participation, but cultural diversity also provides a wealth of opportunity to strengthen development processes. We recognise that content around future generations in general will come in the context of the Declaration on Future Generations, but underline our belief that any effort to imagine an inclusive, sustainable, desirable future is only possible with the creativity and ideas that come from the cultural sector.

### **Language Proposals:**

Paragraph 105

*We underline the importance of establishing in the national context robust social security systems **and basic public service infrastructures** as well as social protection floors that respond to the needs and rights of young persons and children, including all girls and young women **and youth of diverse cultural groups.** We also recognize that the wellbeing of young people is closely intertwined with the enjoyment of their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, **and access to and participation in cultural life.***

## Chapter V Transforming Global Governance

### General Comments:

We welcome the emphasis on building stronger and more effective structures at the international level to deliver on the commitments set out above, and in particular the reference to strengthening the UN human rights system to ensure enjoyment of cultural rights. We nonetheless believe that more emphasis on sustainability, in all of its dimensions (social, economic, environmental, AND cultural), as a guiding principle would establish a valuable guiding principle. We also repeat the point set out previously concerning the importance of measuring what matters.

### Language Proposals:

#### Paragraph 116

*We commit to transforming global governance and reinvigorating the multilateral system to allow us to deliver on this Pact for the Future. We will work together to ensure that the multilateral system is better equipped to tackle the challenges, and seize the opportunities, of today and tomorrow, **in line with the principles of sustainability in all its dimensions- social, economic, environmental, and cultural.** We commit to a vision of a multilateral system that is more effective and capable of delivering on its promises; just and representative; inclusive to allow for a diverse range of actors beyond States, while maintaining the intergovernmental character of the United Nations; and networked, to ensure that the multilateral system can draw together existing institutional capacities and overcome fragmentation.*

#### Paragraph 134

*We welcome the development of measures of progress on sustainable development that complement and thus go beyond gross domestic product, **highlighting key cross-cutting drivers of success such as the integration of cultural and qualitative dimensions into policy planning and delivery.** These measures should recognize what matters to people, the planet and the future. We recognize this as a critical step in deepening and making effective our commitment to sustainability in all its dimensions, fighting inequality and promoting resilience **and wellbeing** in an era defined by more frequent and intense shocks.*