



BRINGING FORWARD CULTURAL RIGHTS: What's next after Mondiacult?

UNESCO & HUMAN RIGHTS: GENEVA DIALOGUES FOR ENHANCING
COOPERATION & EFFECTIVENESS

3-4 April 2023





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Geneva Graduate Institute – Room C1¹

Cultural rights protect the rights for each person, individually and in community with others, as well as groups of people, to develop and express their humanity, their world view and the meanings they give to their existence and their development through, inter alia, values, beliefs, convictions, languages, knowledge and the arts, institutions and ways of life. The Mondiacult Declaration, adopted by 150 States, is a major global commitment and call for action to promote and protect cultural rights². Considering the existing foundations in international human rights law and the recent impetus provided by Mondiacult, the 3rd Geneva Human Rights Dialogue will endeavour to catalyse cutting-edge knowledge and inform Member States' implementation of their obligations regarding cultural rights and identify opportunities towards the implementation of the MONDIACULT Declaration, as well as other possible policy avenues to support cultural rights.

Programme³

08:20 Arrival and coffee

09:00 Welcome address

Mr. Nicolas Mathieu – Secretary General of the Swiss Commission for UNESCO

09:05 Opening Remarks

Mr. Ernesto Ottone - Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO

Ambassador Muriel Berset-Kohen – Permanent Delegate of Switzerland to UNESCO

Ms. Nada Al-Nashif – Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR

Facilitator: Mr. Peter Bille Larsen – University of Geneva/Swiss Commission for UNESCO

¹ Please note that the meeting will be hybrid: *links are available on the Information note*

² www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2022/10/6.MONDIACULT_EN_DRAFT%20FINAL%20DECLARATION_FINAL_1.pdf

³ Working languages : English/French with interpretation

09:20 – 09:40 Introductory Keynote Speeches: Setting the scene

Keynote Speakers:

Ms. Alexandra Xanthaki – UN Special Rapporteur - Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural rights

Ms. Paola Leoncini Bartoli – Director for Cultural Policies and Development - UNESCO

09:40 – 11:00 First segment: Ensuring the fundamentals of cultural rights

Moderator: Ms. Dragana Korljan – OHCHR

09:40 Keynote Speaker:

Mr. Patrice Meyer-Bisch – President of the Observatory of diversity and cultural rights

10:00 Panellists:

Ms. Helle Porsdam – Professor of Law and Humanities at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of Law (CIS) – University of Copenhagen

Dr. Stephenson Chow – Senior Lecturer in Human Rights & International Law - Newcastle School of Law and Justice

10:10-11:00: Discussion

The first segment focuses on the very fundamentals of cultural rights that of inclusive access and participation of all, as established in article 27 of the UDHR and further developed by the two Covenants. The aim is to better grasp evolving normative developments, understand contemporary trends and challenges, while taking stock of efforts to enhance inclusive and participation through human rights mechanisms and other partnership efforts in order to shape action opportunities in the context of Mondiacult. This segment will discuss good practices in ensuring that disadvantaged and marginalized groups, such as persons living in poverty, older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities and indigenous peoples participate, access and contribute to cultural life without discrimination. Led by two keynotes followed by two panelists and a 50 minutes moderated discussion, the panel will explore the following questions:

- What qualifies as inclusive access and full participation from the perspective of evolving human rights standards?
- What are major regional and global trends and challenges affecting access and participation?
- What action should be taken by central, regional and local governments and other key stakeholders to ensure that marginalized and disadvantaged groups or communities enjoy cultural rights fully without discrimination?
- What do we know about the effectiveness of mobilizing global and regional human rights mechanisms to enhance inclusive access and participation?
- What are the emerging opportunities and critical directions / recommendations for public policy, civil society and partnership action in the context of Mondiacult?

Rapporteur: Ms. Johanne Bouchard - OHCHR

Note-taker: Ms. Janica Puisto - OHCHR

11:00 – 11:20 Coffee break

11:20 – 12:40 *Second segment: Protecting artists & practitioners: rights and freedoms*

Moderator: Ms. Ana Luiza Thompson-Flores – Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva

11:20 Keynote Speaker:

Ms. Laurence Cuny – Human Rights lawyer working with human rights defenders, in the field of cultural rights and artistic freedom

11: 35 Panellists:

Mr. Ole Reitov – Expert and consultant on artistic freedom and Executive Director of Freemuse

Ms. Francesca Bria – Digital and innovation policy expert

Ms. Margherita Licata – Private Services Specialist – International Labour Organisation

Ms. Tojo Yharimanana Rakotomalala – Expert of the 2005 UNESCO Convention

11:55 Discussion

The right to artistic expression and creativity is an important cultural right that is recognized to all. For all to have access to creative expressions and to experiment with artistic disciplines, it is important to foster the conditions for artists to thrive. The second segment focuses on the challenging field of protecting the rights, interests and freedoms of artists and practitioners. The aim is to highlight both emerging trends and challenges affecting artists and practitioners as well as taking stock of lessons in enhancing their rights through both human rights mechanisms and other collaborative efforts.

Starting with a 15 minutes keynote followed by 3 panelist inputs, the segment explores the following questions:

- What are critical emerging trends and challenges affecting the rights of and freedoms of artists and practitioners?
- What are examples of policies and measures that local, regional and national governments can take to ensure the rights of artists and practitioners are better respected and protected?
- What are the lessons learned in terms of mobilizing human rights mechanisms and other means to strengthen the protection of rights and freedoms of artists and practitioners?
- What are the opportunities and critical directions / recommendations for public policy action and new forms of cooperation?

Rapporteur: Ms. Emmanuelle Robert – UNESCO

Note-taker: Mr. Samuel Bartz – UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva

12:40 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:20: Third segment: *Protecting cultural diversity in public policies: identities, languages and contents*

Moderator: Mr. Jordi Pascual – Coordinator of the Culture Committee, United Cities and Local Governments – UCLG

14:00 Keynote Speaker:

Ms. Lucina Jimenez – Mexican anthropologist and International consultant in cultural policy, cultural management and arts

14: 15 Panelists:

Ms. Claudia Curiel de Icaza – Secretary of Culture of Mexico City

Dr. Azza Karam – Secretary General of Religions for Peace and previously Senior Advisor on culture at UNFPA

Ms. Christelle Blouët – Founder and Coordinator of Réseau culture 21

14:30: Discussion

The Mondiacult declaration commits States to protect and foster the diversity of cultural contents and linguistic diversity and reminds them of their international human rights obligations to develop and ensure legal and public policy frameworks upholding the right to cultural identity and heritage. This segment seeks to better understand current trends, learn from existing efforts in other frameworks, such as the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and the COVID-19 recovery, and shape building blocks for strengthened implementation as part of Mondiacult. Key questions include:

- What are some of the key trends and challenges in the fields of cultural and linguistic diversity?
- What are critical lessons learned from public policies seeking to promote diversity of cultural and linguistic diversity?
- How can human rights mechanisms and other means be mobilized to better to harness public policies in favour of cultural and linguistic diversity?
- What are the opportunities and critical directions / recommendations for public policy action and new forms of cooperation in the context of Mondiacult?

Rapporteur: Mr. Rémi Orsier – Director of DOCIP (Indigenous people’s center for documentation, research and information)

Note-taker: Mr. Gautham Narayan – UNIGE

15:20- 15:40 Coffee break

15:40 – 17:00 Fourth segment: *Cultural rights in building peace: heritage, identity and restitution*

Moderator: Mr. Peter Bille Larsen – University of Geneva/Swiss Commission for UNESCO

15:40 Keynote Speaker:

Mr. Pierre Hazan – Senior Advisor with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and Coordinator in 2018 of the Declaration of Geneva “Human Rights and Culture Heritage: Committed Cities Working Together”.

15: 55 Panellists:

Mr. Vital Bambanze – UN Permanent forum on indigenous issues

Ms. Krista Pikkat – Director of the Culture and Emergencies Entity – UNESCO

Ms. Lily Pandeya – Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Culture of India

16:15 Discussion

The fourth segment focuses on reinforcing rights-based approaches to cultural identity and cultural heritage as key resources to ensure sustainable peace. Ranging from shared cultural identity and living practices to heritage sites and moveable property, including the necessary discussions and actions relating to their restitution, cultural rights-based approaches cover a multitude of complex issues that can strengthen mutual understanding and respect, or antagonise people and create tensions. This segment particularly aims to explore the following questions:

- What are some of the contemporary trends and challenges affecting the rights to cultural identity and heritage, including dynamics of restitution?
- What are critical positive and negative lessons learned from efforts to reinforce the rights to cultural identity and heritage? How can human rights mechanisms and UNESCO processes can effectively implement rights-based approaches?
- What are critical opportunities and directions / recommendations for public policy action and new forms of cooperation in the context of Mondiacult?

Rapporteur: Ms. Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović – Secretary General of Europa Nostra – The European Voice of Civil Society committed to Cultural Heritage

Note-taker: Ms. Manny Zhang – OHCHR

17:05 End of day 1

17:05 - 19:30/20:00 Light dinner aperitif

Day 2 – April 4th (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies)

08:20 Arrival and coffee

09:00 – 11:30 : Key messages and recommendations

Moderator: Mr. Peter Bille Larsen – University of Geneva/Swiss Commission for UNESCO

The wrap up session will allow for a 10-minutes reports from each segment followed by a 20-minute plenary discussion.

09:00 1st segment report to plenary:
Ensuring the fundamentals of cultural rights

Rapporteur presentation: key messages and recommendations
Ms. Johanne Bouchard - OHCHR

Discussion

09:30 2nd segment report:
Protecting artists & practitioners: rights and freedoms

Rapporteur presentation: key messages and recommendations
Ms. Emmanuelle Robert – UNESCO

Discussion

10:00 Coffee break

10:30 3rd segment report:
Protecting cultural diversity in public policies: identities, languages and contents

Rapporteur presentation: key messages and recommendations
Mr. Rémi Orsier – Director of DOCIP

Discussion

11:00 4th segment report:
Cultural rights in building peace: heritage, identity and restitution

Rapporteur presentation: key messages and recommendations
Ms. Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović – Secretary General of Europa Nostra – The European Voice of Civil Society committed to Cultural Heritage

Discussion

11:30 – 12:15 Closing remarks and next steps

University of Geneva/Swiss Commission for UNESCO

12:15 - 13:00 Lunch
