

**BI-REGIONAL MEETING
TOLEDO AGREEMENT ON CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Ibero-America and Europe united in diversity

We, the members of the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) and the Ibero-American Network for Cultural Diplomacy (RIDCULT), integrated by the 22 countries of the Ibero-American Conference, assembled in Toledo, Spain, on 11 June, in the framework of the General Assembly of the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) working within our competencies and with the purpose of strengthening our dialogue and cooperation in the field of culture, wish to underscore our shared viewpoints and commitments as set forth hereunder:

To raise awareness of the value of culture as an inherent strength of human beings and of its contribution to respect for the dignity of people, their liberty and the full exercise of their rights;

To consider culture in its manifold aspects, which include spiritual and symbolic values, and their materialization in cultural heritage, and in creative expressions and productions;

To reaffirm the importance of enhancing intercultural and multicultural dialogue in today's diverse societies to grow on a foundation of mutual respect and recognition;

To acknowledge the importance of protecting and enhancing the value of cultural heritage and of supporting the flourishing of cultural and creative expressions in our diverse societies;

Aware of the contribution of culture, cultural heritage and cultural expressions in every field of sustainable human development, which benefits from the knowledge of all cultural groups in the path towards becoming democratic societies that are wiser, just and respectful with our planet;

Inspired by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which promotes strengthening partnerships for the protection of people, the planet, prosperity and peace;

Fully acknowledging the contribution of cultural cooperation to promoting partnerships based on shared values, such as respect for fundamental human rights, human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law;

Aware of the importance of culture in strengthening cooperation and uniting efforts in the pursuit of joint solutions to global challenges, particularly in the multidimensional crisis brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic;

Inspired by the ongoing interest of the European Union and the members of the Ibero-American Conference to strengthen their relations;

Taking into account the Ibero-American Strategy for Culture and Sustainable Development, approved at the 27th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Andorra on 21 April 2021¹; which promotes specific joint actions in Ibero-America to promote cultural diversity and its traditional knowledge associated to nature, heritage and the cultural and creative industries; and the EU Council Conclusions on an EU strategic approach to international cultural relations and a framework for action²;

We express our willingness to work together, making the best use of the values of culture and principles of cultural relations in the interests of sustainable development and of our communities.

In accordance with the above, **we undertake to:**

1. Jointly develop a strategic cultural action that is based on our shared values and our historical ties: international law, peace, the rule of law, dialogue and cooperation and the respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
2. Foster the contribution of culture to promoting dialogue, knowledge, understanding and respect between the people of Europe and Ibero-America;
3. Share experiences, good practices and acquired knowledge, and continue to explore the contribution of culture and cultural diversity to responding to the global challenges facing sustainable development, through specific practices and joint projects;
4. Contribute to the strengthening of the North-South, South-South and triangular dialogue and cooperation mechanisms in culture, so as to promote sustainable development;
5. Promote the design and development of cultural cooperation, production and circulation projects to support a sound and sustainable recovery after the Covid-19 pandemic, based on social and cultural innovation and focused on people and the preservation of the planet;

¹ <https://www.segib.org/?document=estrategia-iberoamericana-de-cultura-y-desarrollo-sostenible>

² Council conclusions on an EU strategic approach to international cultural relations and a framework for action – (2019/C 192/04). ([Link](#). Accessed 22 April 2022)

6. Promote and integrate culture in national development programmes and initiatives promoted by the European Union and the Ibero-American Conference, including facilitating resources when possible.
7. Contribute to participation and to the establishment of effective partnerships in the area of culture, in line with the 2030 Agenda's SDG 17.

These commitments are not binding in nature, but they clearly express our intention to collaborate in enhancing and making the best use of the values of culture to give impetus to our relations in support of sustainable development and to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.