



G20 CULTURE MINISTERIAL MEETING

Rome, July 29-30, 2021

G20 WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

The importance of culture for its intrinsic value, for its direct and indirect contribution to economic and social wealth and for its crucial role in development interventions is increasingly recognised as a cornerstone of the international agenda. The global COVID-19 pandemic accelerated this scenario.

Building on the first Joint meeting of the Ministers of Culture, organized by the Saudi Presidency in 2020 on the margins of the G20, in 2021 the Italian Presidency of the G20 incorporated Culture in the G20 Agenda and hosted the first G20 Culture Ministerial.

The discussion on culture within the G20 framework considers the multifaceted benefits of culture, cultural heritage and the creative sectors on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development and raises awareness of their value for current and future generations. Furthermore, it considers culture as a crucial driver for strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, including through technological advancement and digitalisation.

This vision, which puts forward the cross-cutting contribution of culture, cultural heritage and the creative sectors to the action of the G20, and their economic, social and environmental impacts, emphasizes culture's role in advancing G20 mission and goals. Culture fits particularly well within the agenda of the G20, in particular for post-pandemic relaunch.

The G20 has decided to set Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Culture Working Group (CWG) to define the general purpose and structure of the CWG and ensure the effectiveness and consistency of its work. The CWG ToR will also put forward connections and synergies between culture and other G20 policy areas to maximise culture's development potential.

Mandate

The G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) focuses on fostering common action to promote and protect culture and cultural heritage for a sustainable future. The goal is to make progress on main priorities that define culture's contribution to the work of the G20.

Protecting Cultural Heritage against Risks, including natural disasters, environmental degradation, climate change, deliberate destruction and looting and illicit trafficking of cultural property and identifies potential common and coordinated actions to strengthen the safeguarding and promotion of cultural heritage.

Addressing Climate Change through Culture: climate related events put increasingly culture and cultural heritage in danger but intangible and tangible cultural heritage, creativity, local community and Indigenous peoples' knowledge and wisdom offer great potential to drive climate action and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Building Capacity through Training and Education. Investing in training and education is crucial to address the challenges that the cultural and creative sectors are facing, including



digitalisation, employment, green transition and demographical change and contribute to enable and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Digital Transition and New Technologies for Culture; fostering the digital and technological transformation in the cultural and creative sectors as an important socio-economic driving forces for the development and facilitating universal access and participation in culture and promoting cultural diversity.

Culture and Creative Sectors as Drivers for Sustainable and Balanced Growth; culture fosters balanced and sustainable growth and helps to address economic, social and ecological challenges, contributing to the regeneration of our economies and our societies, heavily affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Working Group will (continue to) promote coordinated action across G20 members to build, with the support of UNESCO, the OECD and other international organisations, a strong evidence base on the economic footprint of the sector and its contribution to economies and societies, so as to inform policy action at international, national and local levels.

Functioning of the Culture Working Group

The CWG is chaired on a 'troika' Presidency basis led by the incumbent, supported by the previous and the following year's G20 Presidencies. The secretariat support for the CWG is provided by the incumbent G20 Presidency.

In the decisions of the CWG, consensus-based approach shall be applied. In the areas of joint interest, the CWG may work with other working groups and seek collaboration on those issues.

Annual and Multi-Year Agenda of the CWG

The annual agenda of the CWG will be developed by the incumbent G20 Presidency in accordance with the mandate of the CWG, the Leaders' Communiqué and the Culture Ministers' Declaration, in collaboration with G20 members and in consultation with invited international organisations and social partners. The G20 Presidency may focus on other additional issues that are of specific importance.

Given the importance of continuity regarding the work carried out under consecutive G20 Presidencies, the CWG will work under a multi-year agenda that is guided by its mandate. The multi-year agenda will be developed by the CWG members, reviewed annually and renewed when deemed necessary.

The priorities and planned outcomes of the G20 Presidencies in culture stream and dates, venues, deliverables and work themes of planned CWG activities are discussed with other members at the beginning of each Presidency term.

Membership

Participation in the CWG is open to representatives and experts from G20 members and guest countries, under the guidance of the incumbent G20 Presidency.



Collaboration with International Organisations and Social Partners

The CWG will work in cooperation with the official G20 engagement groups as appropriate and according to the arrangements to be decided by the CWG, as well as with relevant groups in member states.

The CWG may invite representatives of relevant international organisations, in particular UNESCO, UNODC, ICCROM, the OECD, ICOMOS, ICOM, INTERPOL and the WCO to participate in CWG meetings and ask them to provide technical contributions on issues identified in its agenda.

Subgroups and Task Forces

If specific expertise is required in the implementation of CWG's tasks, time-limited and voluntary-based technical sub-groups and task forces may be established, under the impulse of the incumbent Presidency and with the consensus of G20 members, with the goal of supporting the G20 agenda and of further advancing the culture-led action in specific areas.

The mandate, work plan, composition and co-facilitators of those sub-groups are decided by the G20 members.

Amendments

These Terms of Reference are reviewed at the request of the CWG members on an annual basis. Should any amendments be deemed necessary, these are duly incorporated to this document with the consensus of the CWG members.