

International Music Council

www.imc-cim.org

Silja Fischer (she/her), Secretary General, s.fischer@imc-cim.org

Chapeau

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

The Pact for the Future should recognise culture as the 4th dimension of sustainable development, acting both as a key determinant of success across development agendas, and as a goal in its own right, noting in particular the need to guarantee the enjoyment of cultural rights, protect tangible and intangible heritage, safeguard and promote diversity of cultural expressions, mobilise and support cultural actors and institutions, protect and promote indigenous languages and cultures, and integrate culture into policy-making across development agendas.

We believe that culture represents a key factor of sustainability which must be taken into account in wider development planning, considering its role in addressing pressing challenges such as the climate emergency, health and wellbeing and gender equality, as well as inequalities within and between countries among others. Neglect of it jeopardises the chances of success in many areas, while making it part of an integrated approach promises to bring dividends across the board.

We need a commitment by countries to reporting on how culture is contributing to the achievement of all UN priorities from now on, in particular sustainable development, and a commitment to including a culture goal in any future development agenda, in line with the commitments made in the 2022 UNESCO MONDIACULT Declaration, the 2023 G20 Declaration, and the EU's Caceres Declaration.

Following the clear calls in different international policy settings for culture to be seen as a goal, we believe that it is time to recognise the same in the Pact for the Future, ensuring that culture is given a practical, concrete role in development and other processes today, as well as setting out intentions for post-2030. The integration of a culture goal would allow governments and stakeholders at all levels to capture and harness the multifaceted impact of culture on sustainable and inclusive development across the SDGs. We are already seeing Voluntary National and Local Reviews doing this in many cases, recognizing the depth and breadth of culture's contribution to development.

Chapter II. International peace and security

The Pact for the Future should reflect a strong commitment by countries to protect and promote cultural heritage and cultural expressions, to support artists and culture professionals at risk, while reaffirming their commitment to the respect of cultural diversity and pluralism, as a security imperative, to sustain social cohesion and stability, support conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution, while also enabling post-conflict reconciliation both within and between countries.

We wish to underline the need to build proactively a culture of peace, through upholding and celebrating cultural diversity, promoting intercultural exchange and education.

We welcome the reference to a culture of peace in the co-facilitators' draft and believe strongly that this should feature in a future chapter on this topic.

We are deeply concerned that culture has been increasingly targeted and instrumentalised in a world marked by conflicts and forced mobility, undermining fundamental human and cultural rights.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

The Pact for the Future should recognise the role of culture in shaping behaviours and defining values, as well as the contribution of heritage and traditional knowledge, especially indigenous cultures, languages and knowledge, to finding solutions to the challenges of our times, and so the