

## Call for expressions of interest for UNESCO Chairs to contribute to the first edition of the UNESCO Global Report on Cultural Policies 2025

The UNESCO Secretariat is looking for UNESCO Chairs and Category 2 Centers to support the elaboration of the 2025 UNESCO Global Report on Cultural Policies. **The deadline for submitting expressions of interest is 25 March 2024 at 23:59 CET.**

### Background

The [UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022](#) was convened by UNESCO forty years after the first MONDIACULT to advocate for the recognition of the transformative impact of culture for sustainable development. The resulting [MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration](#) unanimously adopted with the participation of 150 States in September 2022 called for culture to be integrated as a stand-alone goal in the post-2030 development agenda. As the United Nations system and international community engage in a deep reflection on how to advance the attainment of the goals set by 2030 and fill existing policy gaps for a more sustainable future beyond this milestone year, UNESCO is firmly committed to supporting evidence-based global advocacy by demonstrating culture’s contribution to the social, environmental, and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

In this context, UNESCO is launching the elaboration of a Global Report on Cultural Policies on a quadrennial basis, building on comprehensive, qualitative and quantitative data, collected primarily through the periodic reports submitted by UNESCO States Parties and Member States in the framework of UNESCO Culture [Conventions](#)<sup>1</sup> and [Recommendations](#)<sup>2</sup>. Complementary sources include the [UNESCO Creative Cities Network](#) monitoring and reporting exercise and the [UNESCO Culture | 2030 Indicators](#).

### The 2025 Global Report on Cultural Policies

The [2025 Global Report on Cultural Policies](#) will serve as a basis for the discussions to be held at the UNESCO World Forum on Cultural Policies - MONDIACULT 2025, which will seek to address priority areas for cultural policy in a constructive and inclusive dialogue of all actors concerned, to strengthen multilateral action and collaboration between countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005); Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003); Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001) does not currently possess a reporting mechanism; Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972); Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970); Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954).

<sup>2</sup> Recommendation concerning the protection and promotion of museums and collections, their diversity and their role in society (2015); Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, including a glossary of definitions (2011); Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist (1980).

## **Elaboration process**

The elaboration of the Global Report relies on the guidance of its Advisory Board, entrusted with the overall methodology and framework for the collection of information and data. The Advisory Board consists of the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, the UNESCO Director of the Gender Equality Division, a representative of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and the Global Education Monitoring Report, key experts in the field of culture and sustainable development, representatives of UN agencies, as well as regional experts. An Editorial Board, comprising a principal editor and the commissioned authors and collaborating UNESCO Chairs, will provide editorial guidance and ensure the drafting of the chapters. In addition, a group of expert peer-reviewers will review chapter drafts based on their expertise in specific priority areas and with a view to ensuring a comprehensive analysis and representation of information by region and cultural domain, and an Editorial Board, comprised of a Principal Editor, who will provide overall editorial guidance and the contributing authors, commissioned to draft the chapters.

## **Draft structure**

The Global Report will consist of seven chapters, in line with the request of the UNESCO Executive Board, based on the priorities set out by the MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration, namely:

- **Chapter 1: Guaranteeing Cultural Rights**

The right to take part in cultural life guarantees the right of everyone to access, participate in and enjoy culture, cultural heritage, and cultural expressions. The chapter will aim to provide evidence of the importance of cultural rights – individual and collective – as inseparable from the exercise of all human rights and respect for human dignity, and provide an analysis on the status of artistic freedom worldwide, as well as the provision of inclusive and equitable access to cultural life, and the progress made to attain gender equality in the cultural and creative sectors.

- **Chapter 2: Leveraging Digital Technologies in the Culture Sector**

The digital transformation has fundamentally impacted all cultural domains, bringing new opportunities and challenges for culture professionals, artists and institutions. The chapter will include an analysis of issues related to access to culture, cultural and linguistic diversity, documentation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and innovation of creative expressions, fair remuneration, adaptation of skills, freedom of expression, and intellectual property in the digital environment, with a particular focus placed on Artificial Intelligence.

- **Chapter 3: Fostering Culture and Arts Education**

Synergies between culture and education are pillars for an inclusive future rooted in cultural diversity and human rights. This chapter will reflect the outcomes of the intergovernmental conference on Culture and Arts Education as well as the follow-up ensured to the UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education to be adopted by Member States.

- **Chapter 4: Enabling a Sustainable Economic Ecosystem for Culture**

Cultural economics relate to the role of culture for sustainable economic development at national and local levels. This chapter will aim to provide evidence on the current investment in culture across the world, from cultural heritage to the cultural and creative industries, addressing, among others, cultural tourism, creative entrepreneurship and employment, the working conditions and socio-economic rights of artists, practitioners and culture professionals to help fosters a prosperous sustainable and inclusive creative economy.

- **Chapter 5: Protecting and Promoting Culture in the Face of Climate Change**  
Cultural heritage and creativity need to be further integrated into international discussions and operational action on climate change. This chapter will address culture’s multidimensional role for climate adaption and mitigation and for environmental sustainability, and the need to protect the diversity of culture in the face of extreme climate events and natural hazards.
- **Chapter 6: Protecting Artists and Culture at Risk**  
In the face of growing crises and threats, the development of protection, preparedness, and recovery strategies is increasingly urgent in the culture sector. This chapter will provide an analysis on the importance of protecting cultural heritage in crisis, artists and culture professionals at risk, integrating the protection and promotion of culture in emergency preparedness, and the development of policies and measures to prevent the illicit trafficking of cultural property.
- **Chapter 7: Anchoring Culture as a Global Public Good for Sustainable Development, Peace and Security: Towards a Culture Goal post-2030**  
MONDIACULT 2022 marked a historic turning point to advance the recognition of culture as a global public good with an intrinsic value to enable and drive sustainable development. This overarching chapter will underline the need to foster informed and participatory policies to enable sustainable systems of governance for culture, while providing an analysis on the status of recognition of culture’s tangible and intangible value for sustainable development, peace and security, drawing from the findings of the six thematic chapters.

## UNESCO Chairs Role and Requirements

### Role of UNESCO Chairs

A selection of *ad honorem* UNESCO Chairs is foreseen to assist the chapter authors in the drafting process to help expand the knowledge base through additional research and data at their disposal, to provide analyses and evidence on regional trends, and contribute substantial feedback on the draft manuscripts. A UNESCO Chair specialised in the thematic areas covered by each chapter will be selected to support the commissioned authors. Additionally, a UNESCO Chair specialized in gender equality, will be selected to collaborate with all authors transversally with a view to mainstreaming the gender perspective throughout the report.

The role of the UNESCO Chairs will entail:

- Undertaking research and sharing knowledge and data to support the relevant author, as necessary, in the elaboration of the assigned chapter of the report during the following drafting periods: May–July 2024 (1<sup>st</sup> Draft); August–November 2024 (2<sup>nd</sup> Draft); January–February 2025 (Final Draft).
- Participating in online Editorial Board meetings, tentatively scheduled on 3 May 2024, 17 September 2024, and 20 December 2024.

The UNESCO Chairs will be featured as contributors to the 2025 UNESCO Global Report on Cultural Policies, to be launched globally both during the UNESCO World Forum on Cultural Policies - MONDIACULT 2025 in Barcelona, Spain, and online.

### **Submission of expressions of interest**

Expressions of interest shall be submitted through the dedicated [online application form](#) by **25 March 2024 at 23:59 CET**.

Please note that participation in this expression of interest does not guarantee that the institution will be ultimately selected.

### **Selection process**

A technical pre-screening will be conducted by the UNESCO Secretariat to verify the eligibility of the application (required documents provided; form duly completed, etc.). An evaluation will be conducted by the members of the Editorial Board and UNESCO's Gender Division in April 2024 to select a maximum of 8 UNESCO Chairs, according to the following criteria:

- ✓ Having an existing agreement designating the institution as a UNESCO Chair.
- ✓ Proven record in the field of research and/or data analysis related to one of the seven thematic areas to be covered by the Global Report chapters or in gender equality, as described above. Institutions that can contribute to the development of regional trends will be prioritized.
- ✓ Relevance of the Chair's work to the chapter outlines to be developed by the Global Report authors.
- ✓ Active collaboration with UNESCO, and in particular the Culture Sector, on the implementation of its culture programme, as well as other relevant stakeholders.
- ✓ Knowledge of the UNESCO normative instruments in the field of culture.
- ✓ Availability of the Chairholder or qualified staff to ensure the development of activities according to the project timeline.
- ✓ Capacity to draft to a high standard in English.
- ✓ Geographical and gender balance.

The results of the evaluation process will be announced by the UNESCO Secretariat in May 2024.

For any required additional information, please contact the Global Report Team at [culture-sector@unesco.org](mailto:culture-sector@unesco.org).