

DRAFT MANILA PLATFORM FOR ACTION

General Preamble

As set forth in the aims and objectives of the “Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice” under UNESCO patronage, this declaration provides actionable points supporting this decade of action in the countdown to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

Recall

the objectives of the forum

- 1) Manila SDG Festival, Forum, and Workshop owes its origin to the long-standing efforts of Earthsavers Dream Center, UNESCO Artist for Peace, under Cecile Alvarez, but established by the late Senator and Secretary Heherson Álvarez, to ***harness the power of art as a tool for peace and climate justice***. In 2018, Mrs. Álvarez organized, under the patronage of UNESCO and with support of the Senate and the Head of State, the 2018 forum to create the so-called Peace Movement: “Not by Force but by Art.” This was itself preceded by the 2017 Manila Declaration, the Philippine Roadmap for the Paris Accord, held on 29-31 May.
- 2) These Manila events laid the foundation for the Cartagena Declaration on ***Art as a Tool for Peace and Afro-Caribbean Integration***, which was adopted at the Conference organized by Earthsavers’ principal partner, South-South Cooperation Council (SSCC) in November 2018.
- 3) The Manila SDG event showcases the effort of organizers to ***join the Resiliart Movement*** launched by UNESCO Director General, Mme. Audrey Azoulay.
- 4) The Manila event is also a contribution to the vision of a world post-covid, ***positioning culture as a “Vaccine against Pandemic.”***

Acknowledge

- 1) the importance of further evidencing ***cultural related SDG best practices from the Republic of the Philippines and from the rest of the World***,
- 2) ***best practice initiatives from across the Global South on the topics of Health, Well-Being, Peace, Climate Justice, and Biodiversity***;

Emphasize that given the volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous times we are living in, no sector or discipline can afford to work in silos. Collaboration is needed, not only between nations but between sectors and public and private fields.

Recognize that while SDGs constitute the vertebral column of the UN system, they are not necessarily properly popularized on the ground. Thus, there is a need to bring them closer to communities and people and to find relevant tools for doing so. This declaration emphasizes how culture should be formalized as a part of the vertebral column of the UN system and advocates for culture becoming the 4th pillar of sustainable development because of its transversal, multi-layered, and multi-faceted nature and potential. Culture and the arts can indeed be excellent tools, among others, in the process of realizing the 2030 SDGs.

Emphasize that the Manila Declaration of 2018, adopted at the global launch of the peace movement “Not by Force but by Art” at the initiative of the Earthsavers Dream Center UNESCO Artist for Peace from 20th to 23rd May 2018, elaborated a list of proposals, which were subsequently endorsed at the SSCC Cartagena Forum in November 2018, and then at COP at Katowice, Poland, in December 2018.

Preamble:

Harness the power of art as a tool for peace and climate justice

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

Affirm the role which culture and theatre can play in advocating religious and ethnic tolerance;

Approve of the important role which the International Theatre Institute (ITI) plays in using scenic arts as a vehicle for strengthening SDGs;

Are convinced that the film industry can serve to deliver a powerful message to mitigate armed conflict, modern day slavery, other forms of violence, and racial and religious intolerance;

Appreciate the role which the sculpture, *Tree of Peace*, by Hedva Ser, plays in disseminating the message of peace through the UNESCO;

Appreciate that the UNESCO Silk Road Program implements the cultural diversity framework of the UNESCO and the contribution which the Government of Uzbekistan made to the process of recognizing the role of Central Asian Cultures in the World Civilization through the Khiva Process launched in September 2021;

Recognize with concern the increased tensions in South China/West Philippine Sea claims and the proposals by Dream Center Earthsavers UNESCO Artist for Peace in the Philippines for cultural activities to reduce such tensions;

Appreciate the #TreeToo movement, initiated by Etienne Verbist. Its manifesto is a call for action to mobilize everyone involved in the art world, aiming at raising awareness, motivating and animating the Global Art Community, thus encouraging them to become active in the protection of our trees, nature, and the preservation of our planet; The #TreeToo movement aims to remind us how we all stand to lose, if trees, our strongest, quiet allies in this world through all times, were to be destroyed;

Endorse the practice and multi-layered partnership beyond the project Cara o Sello/Pile ou Face, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia and the ifa laboratory in Belgium. The project produced a comic strip magazine raising awareness about stigmatization in marginalized communities;

Warmly welcome culture as a tool of peace in Africa by linking historic old cities within the South South, using popular locally based activities (e.g. theatre, musical ensembles, sports,

culinary traditions and festivals, athletics, tourism, football etc.), with focus on women and girls, bringing about regenerative ideas that engender and promote economic empowerment, capacity building, and upskilling. Such empowerment discourages infiltration by extremist groups that seek to leverage the terrorism agenda;

Recognize and acknowledge the role of arts in achieving cross cultural understanding and in peace building. Arts are the mirror to society that reflect injustices and discriminations, as well as the aspirations of the general public;

Trust in the arts and culture as the most reliable form of communicating ideas, themes, and concepts, whereby the SDG Goals can be made accessible, visual, and interactive to societies and help drive our mutual understanding of working together for the betterment of our countries and of the globe.

Operative Clause: Harness the power of art as a tool for peace and climate justice

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

***Tree of Peace* Sculpture as a UNESCO visual arts messenger of peace.**

Encourage UNESCO to continue its practice of expressing its conviction that peace can be strengthened through the symbolic power of art by donating miniature versions of the sculpture, *Tree of Peace*, by Hedva Ser, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Cultural Diplomacy, to political and religious leaders worldwide;

Hedva Ser's *Tree of Peace* is included in the Odyssey program of the Heritage & Civilization Charity, enabling pupils to discover and reclaim their local heritage and to share it through the original means of expression offered by artistic creation (comics, public speaking, video, etc.).

Through the shape of its branches, the *Tree of Peace* transmits values of unity and solidarity that go beyond geographical and cultural borders. This artistic work is, therefore, a vehicle for universal dialogue. The dreamlike aspect of its volumes can allow children to develop their imagination and creativity. The *Tree of Peace* is also anchored in an environmental dimension and encourages reflection on the protection of nature. We encourage governments to buy into the concept of the *Tree of Peace* while manifesting programs, initiatives, and awareness raising linked to intercultural dialogue, peace building, environment, and protection of nature.

Artists active in the protection of our trees, nature and the preservation of our planet

Commend the #TreeToo movement initiated by Etienne Verbist. Trees have inspired artists, writers, and activists around the globe and through time. New ideas and visions for the future, formulated by artists around the globe, have the potential to visualize and bring about necessary changes and thereby uplift society. The #TreeToo Movement encourages artists to become active in the protection of our trees, nature and the preservation of our planet. It currently engages with artists from 130 countries (including the Philippines) through artworks, exhibitions, and text contributions. The #TreeToo Movement can be endorsed and supported

by governments, NGOs, and individuals, for example, through nominating artists to participate in it.

Multi-layered and multi-stakeholder partnerships, multi-dimensional cultural diplomacy

Highlight the innovative multi-layered and multi-stakeholder partnerships within the project Cara o Sello/Pile ou Face, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia and the ifa laboratory in Belgium.

Participating youth in Belgium and in Colombia created, together with professional illustrators, a comic strip magazine raising awareness about stigmatization in marginalized communities.

Funding came from public authorities, such as Wallonia Brussels International, Wallonia Brussels Federation, and the French Community Commission, as well as the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Cara o Sello was supported by the Embassy of Belgium in Bogota, the Secretariat of Economic Development, Mayor's Office Bogota, as well as by the EU-delegation in Colombia, and obtained the patronage of the UNESCO French-speaking and German-speaking National Commission in Belgium. Partners further included The Belgian Comic Strip Center Brussels, Brussels Comic Strip Festival, Visit Brussels, Maison des Cultures et de la Cohésion Sociale Molenbeek & Foyer Molenbeek, War Child Colombia, Fundacion Pepaso, and TransMiCable.

This cultural diplomacy initiative transcended several layers of society, through the multi-faceted partnerships, its process-oriented work method, the youth groups that were at the core of the project, and through the willingness to contribute to social development and change through the arts as a channel for expression. We encourage this kind of practice to be replicated and supported within countries' international and foreign relations programs and instruments.

Celebrating the contribution of Central Asian cultures to world civilization

Support the Khiva Process, the initiative of the Government of Uzbekistan, which is a regular convening of Central Asian decision makers to secure the sustainability of outcomes and recommendations from the international cultural forum, "Central Asia at the Crossroads of Civilizations" in Khiva, Uzbekistan in September 2021, in collaboration with UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector. Beyond regional engagement, the resolution from the forum also calls on UNESCO member states and partners to help strengthen cooperation and multi-lateralism in Central Asia and beyond, within UNESCO's mandate;

Recommend comprehensive educational programs, which would recognize the impact of Central Asian cultures on world civilization, provide local knowledge on cultural heritage management, cultural assets, and knowledge of these cultural assets in the world;

Recommend that the Khiva process leverages the expertise and experience of the many international experts who were present at the forum.

Culture as a tool for peace in Africa

Warmly welcome the initiative of the European Cultural Parliament, in conjunction with the SSCC for the African region in Ghana, with the support of the Colombian Ambassador to 18 West African countries and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Ghana, to develop programs and projects on culture as a tool to combat terrorism, with special emphasis on the position of women and girls;

Believe that in the Arab World, we need to work towards meeting the aspirations of the youth, who form the majority of the population, and invest in arts and culture to maximize the potential of individuals and promote creative industries for rapid and inclusive job creation for youth. In building on the human capital through including arts in education, socio-economic development and focusing on the inclusion of youth, we can develop critical thinking, build resilience to prejudiced and intolerant narratives, and instill awareness of global issues that affect us all. In an area of continuous conflict, arts can serve as an important tool towards peaceful conflict resolution, to advance social cohesion in refugee host communities and alleviate perceptions of stereotypes.

Advocate for further support to make arts and culture an inclusive and integral part of life experiences through concrete policies by governments worldwide that support artists and cultural actors, and we commend the role of ITI/UNESCO in advocating for the protection and promotion of cultural expressions, regardless of age, gender, creed, or ethnicity.

Caribbean

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

Commend the initiative of the building of the Transatlantic Slavery Museum in Barbados and understand the role that the arts and culture can play in helping small island developing states (SIDS), like those in the Caribbean, to play a role in pooling their sovereignty and resources, despite limitations of size and hard power, so that they can focus on the manifold existential threats that they face, stemming from climate change and global warming;

Encourage the Caribbean region to utilize culture as a tool in the building of resilient economies and infrastructures that will help countries in the region remain viable as state/society becomes complex.

South and Central America

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

Recognize the importance of art and culture in building resilience in Central America, one of the regions in the world most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. These effects are also directly affecting migration, so we urge that the Central American region be prioritized in global actions, to deepen its understanding of climate migration;

Require the prioritization of Central America in the global action frameworks for work with youth, women, indigenous peoples, and the Afro-descendant population;

Recognize in Central American integration a valuable instrument for the construction of sustainable development; therefore, we urge to strengthen the participation and proposals of civil society with a regional vision in the member countries of SICA: Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. We believe that the work of civil society with a regional integrationist approach can contribute to a more resilient Central America.

Role of art, especially theatre, in promoting religious and ethnic harmony.

Request the Philippine Government and civil society to initiate a 10-country ASEAN approach toward peace by tapping like-minded and like-hearted artists, who will come together to conduct healing workshops, especially for victims of war and natural catastrophes. It is recognized that intensive cultural work still has to be done to deepen the change of mindset among Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, and indigenous peoples. As a case study, in the Philippines, a lot of biases, remnants of the 333 years of Spanish colonization (culture of discrimination, violence, and impunity) still have to be dismantled to bring about respect and understanding among Filipino Christian, Muslim, and indigenous peoples. It is suggested that artists and cultural workers could turn the Clash of Civilizations into a Harmony of Civilizations by upholding the strength of Multi-Culturalism.

Role of the film Industry in addressing the fight against armed conflict, modern-day slavery, other forms of violence, and racial and religious intolerance.

Commend SSCC and ITI in Ghana for producing the docufiction, *Ulysses from Ghana*, based on the play, *Slaves*, by Mohamed Abdallah, which supports the Black Lives Matter movement, fight against racism, and other forms of discrimination; and request SSCC to continue with similar programs in other parts of South America, Africa, Middle East, and Asia, in conjunction with the Philippine Centre of ITI and the Colombian Center of ITI.

Día del Galeón/Galeón del Manila

Note that this year marks the 450th anniversary of the foundation of Manila and recommend that the Government of the Philippines take a lead role in this Program, together with other partners, especially the governments of Spain, Mexico, Colombia, and Peru. We commend the proposal of Earthsavers Dream Center UNESCO Artist for Peace for a biennial Festival of Galeón de Manila on a rotating basis, starting on 8th October 2022 in Manila to celebrate Día del Galeón.

Preamble: Art as a tool for peace and Afro-Caribbean integration

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

Welcome the initiative taken by the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean in naming Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, as UNESCO City of Music—which has created a year-round opportunity for artists, musicians, and cultural entrepreneurs to promote the art of calypso

and soca music and culture as drivers for sustainable urban development and peaceful co-existence;

Commend the work of Caribbean governments and their civil societies in their attempts to build resilient communities, even in the face of the devastating consequences of the global pandemic, COVID-19, and despite the perpetual onslaught of natural and man-made disasters on the entire culture value chain and on the creative economy;

Recognize that culture, the arts, and creativity are essential building blocks for the resilience of Caribbean communities. This has become even more evident during times of multiple crises, when millions of people are physically separated from one another. During such a time of great anxiety and uncertainty, culture has provided comfort, inspiration, and hope.

Understand that during the current interregnum of the global pandemic, it is imperative to put in place measures to support artists and to access culture, both in the short- and long-term. This includes efforts to ensure that culture is accessible to all and that the full diversity of humanity's cultural expressions can flourish, both on-line and face-to-face.

Encourage all efforts aimed at ensuring that artists have access to global markets and that they are being fully remunerated for their works, understanding that most artists and cultural entrepreneurs work only part-time and often on a contractual, freelance, or intermittent basis. Such efforts in the Caribbean require a rethinking of the labor and social protection afforded to artists and cultural entrepreneurs and the unique ways in which they work.

Strongly support recent initiatives by the Prime Minister of Barbados, the Honorable Mia Mottley, to extend cultural linkages between Caribbean, African, and Indian artists and to seek out international markets to help promote Caribbean cultural goods, to establish an inter-regional knowledge exchange, to learn lessons about the arts' contributions to peace from other regions of the world, and to seek to safeguard the Caribbean's heritage and environment through support for sustainable eco-tourism;

Recognize and support the notion, advanced by the Director of the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean, that, when integrated into development strategies, culture has the power to positively change lives of thousands of people in the Caribbean, to build lasting bridges between African diaspora, and to overcome language barriers. By placing culture at the center of sustainable development goals (SDGs), we can harness diversity and connect artists and cultural professionals throughout the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, and throughout the globe. Culture brings us hope and reminds us that we are not alone, even when forced apart, and that we are part of a larger place in life.

Operative Clause: Art as a tool for peace and Afro-Caribbean integration

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

Nexus between Africa and its diaspora, the Americas, Europe, and Asia

Warmly welcome "Africa Priority" programs of the UNESCO and such components as Decade of Afro-Descendant People, Cultural Diversity, and Slave Route, and urge governments and civil society to contribute to these programs;

Give full support to the commissioning in September 2023 of the Pan African Heritage World Museum (PAHWM) in Ghana as a tool for strengthening national pride in African nations and bringing awareness of that continent's great cultural heritage;

Bearing in mind that the PAHWM will serve not only as a museum, but also as an educational center of excellence and venue for artistic performances, we recommend design of a policy in concert with the African Union (AU) and regional bodies in Africa, together with the UNESCO, the development of a plan to disseminate information about the cultural heritage of Africa, ranging from the Obelisk of Axum, to Egyptian pyramids, the Roman jewel city of Leptis Magna in Libya, mosques in Egypt and Tunisia, pyramids in Sudan, palaces in West Africa, Coptic churches in Ethiopia, and many other cultural monuments.

Commend the Government of Ghana for its policy of "Year of Return" in 2019 and "Beyond the Return" in 2021, allowing people of African descent to return to their roots in Africa, get integrated into African society and, should they choose to do so, invest in the country (and the continent);

Urge former colonial powers to return artefacts removed from Africa during colonial expansion to their rightful owners in the country. We commend the decision of the German Government to repatriate Benin bronzes looted during the siege of Benin, and the declaration by the Smithsonian Institute of African Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Universities of Cambridge and Aberdeen to follow suit. We urge all other institutions which acquired looted artefacts to return them to the countries from which they were taken.

Commend the decision of the Government of Germany to recognize that its colonial policies in South West Africa were tantamount to what is known today as genocide. We also commend its decision to invest, to the tune of several billion euros, into projects in Namibia which would benefit descendants of affected tribes [AK1]. We recommend that other former colonial powers, like Belgium, follow this lead.

Commend the recent decision of the French President, Emmanuel Macron, to recognize France's responsibility for events in Rwanda which subsequently led to genocide and the mass killings of over 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutus;

Welcome the efforts of Fundación Esquipulas and Central American Integration System (SICA) to improve conditions in the lives of the Afro-descendant population in Central America;

Encourage programs which promote closer links between Africans and their diaspora, the result of transatlantic trade, in the Americas, and also with black populations in Asia, such as the Siddi people in India, and the Negritos, who have lived for tens of thousands of years in a part of northern Luzon in the Philippines.

Preamble: Encourage people to join the resiliart movement

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

Endorse the statement of Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General, in launching the ResiliArt movement and debate in 2020; "In these unstable and uncertain times, we need to

look to the things that unite us—the things that show us the world in all of its variations—and for that, we need artists”;

Advocate for support, collaboration, and innovation for the arts and culture. While the culture and creative sectors contribute significant economic development averaging between 2% and 7% of national GDPs around the world, the sectors have been among the worst affected by the pandemic. Fragile living conditions of independent artists from all disciplines have been brought down even further;

Encourage partnerships, support, and funding of initiatives leading to business model innovation, as well as entrepreneurial and digital upskilling, within the culture and creative sectors;

Call out to all sorts of sectors (for example, business and education) and types of organizations to support and organize resiliart events.

Operative Clause: Encourage people to join the resiliart movement

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

Highlight the Global Foundation for the Performing Arts, which was concerned by the devastating impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the livelihoods of cultural professionals and the cultural fabric of our societies. During the lockdown period, people relied heavily on culture for emotional support, while the creators of these artistic expressions were left with little to no economic or social assistance. That is why GFPA joined Resiliart; to raise public awareness of the challenges faced by artists in this time of crisis through virtual discussions with key industry professionals.

Draw attention to 'Arts Alive' an international webinar series that brings artists from various disciplines in conversation with each other, to map their creative journeys before, during, and post-pandemic. Their innovation, resilience, and coping methods during the crisis is the focus of the project. 'Arts Alive' is a documentation of conversations that are completely aligned with UNESCO's Resiliart, as it is structured as a knowledge sharing of creative pathways to recovery to ensure capacity building for artists and access to cultural information for all.

Further, these discussions are aimed to be digitally archived and later published as an e-book and in-print book to serve as a reference point for future scholars to look at the work before, during, and post-pandemic times. These virtual discussions will continue long after the pandemic subsides and build a learning model that will help sustain the arts sector through mutual knowledge sharing not only now, but also for future generations. 'Arts Alive' supports several of the SDG's: Quality Education, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, Partnership for the Goals.

Preamble: Culture as a vaccine against the pandemic

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

Recognize and emphasize the social value and the positive contribution to well-being that the creative and cultural sectors bring during the pandemic. The COVID-19 forced change of situational context can also result in innovative behaviors and new collaborations that arise in order to find new solutions. While social distancing and isolation have created an ether of personal spaces, an important number of world citizens listen to that great music or watch those films and obtain joy from the artworks that we see with our devices.

Call for furthering awareness of art and culture in health and well-being contexts.

Operative Clause: Culture as a vaccine against the pandemic

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

Highlight the charity sale called “Protect Your Caregiver,” organized by the President and shareholder of the French auction house PIASA, Laurent Dumas, in response to the urgent demands placed on caregivers by the COVID-19 pandemic. “Protect Your Caregiver” is a multi-disciplinary team of doctors, researchers, entrepreneurs, engineers, and developers determined to beat COVID-19. Mr. Dumas called upon artists, collectors, gallerists, and designers to join the cause of leveraging social and creative capital for one common cause.

Emphasize all the contexts, singers, and musicians who have performed out of their windows and on balconies to entertain people and cheer them up and bring them joy during quarantine. An example is the Swedish musician, Frida Öhrn, with her band performing outside retirement facilities. The Assembly Hub, a hub for fashion and creative entrepreneurs in Senegal, offers free virtual consultation clinics to help their community of entrepreneurs and freelancers in the areas of well-being, remote working, marketing and business strategy—or just having someone to talk to.

Value the educational efforts of the art collection, Galila’s Passion Obsession Collection, in Brussels that continued to engage the public through projects where children confined to their homes undertook tasks of creating masks from all sorts of everyday materials. The project aims to show how relevant art can be in real life. Art, in this case, serves as a tool to make the children reflect on how they want to impact adults and their environment. In Amsterdam, students from the Fashion Institute help Project Amsterdam to make face masks for hospitals and shelters for homeless people.

Preamble: Culture-related SDG best practices from the Republic of the Philippines and from the rest of the world

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

Note with approval that twinning between cities from different continents strengthens understanding among people of different cultures, races, and religious beliefs;

Approve of the important role which the International Theatre Institute (ITI) plays in using scenic arts as a vehicle for strengthening SDGs;

Welcome the type of practice behind the project Tfanen-Tunisie Créative, endorsed by UN as SDG good practices, as a success story on good SDG implementation;

Welcome publications such as *The Missing Pillar*, exploring the place of culture in the SDGs through research, policy, and practice. It analyzes where arts and culture as a sector and as a creative process can fit within a number of goals, including their targets and indicators;

Welcome the Arts & SDG's Festival powered by Create2030.

Operative Clause: SDG best practices from the Republic of Philippines as well as from the rest of the world

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

Role of Earthsavers Dream Center UNESCO Artist for Peace

Express deep appreciation to Mrs. Cecile Guidote-Álvarez, Director of Earthsavers Dream Center UNESCO Artist for Peace, Founder and President Emeritus of Philippine Center of International Theatre Institute (ITI), for her lifelong vision of popularizing culture as a tool for peace, environmental protection, climate justice, and fight for democracy in the UN, in the global civil society, and in the Philippines.

Scenic arts as a tool for popularizing SDGs

Commend the festival and workshop segments of the Manila SDG event; thank the support from ITI in Paris and Shanghai, ITI Philippines, ITI Colombia, ITI Jordan, ITI Macedonia, ITI Georgia, ITI Montenegro, ITI Ghana; and urge ITI Philippines to continue with such practices in Asia/Pacific, as well as in other regions of the world.

Underline the importance of publications, such as *The Missing Pillar*, by the British Council, exploring the place of culture in the SDGs through research, policy, and practice. It analyzes where arts and culture as a sector and as a creative process can fit within a number of goals, including their targets and indicators.

Encourage further support and recognition of the Arts & SDG's Festival powered by Create2030. This festival brings together members of the growing creative economy with UN/NGO agencies, advocates, and brands in support of the SDGs. The first festival was held in April 2020 and it continues as a gathering for socially conscious artists and creatives.

Twinning between cities

Commend twinning arrangements which are being put in place between the cities of Manila, where the forum is held, and Cartagena de Indias, facilitated by Earthsavers Dream Center UNESCO Artist for Peace and SSCC, and between Cartagena de Indias and Accra, facilitated by the Colombian Embassy in Ghana and SSCC for African region.

Innovative multi-stakeholder collaborations

Commend the practice of the project Tfanen-Tunisie Créative. Since Tunisia's democratic awakening in 2011, the role of culture in societal change and sustainable development has been at the heart of inter-sectoral debates. In this context, Tfanen-Tunisie Créative, a bilateral EU-funded project, aims to leverage culture for social cohesion and economic prosperity at local, regional, and national levels. Tfanen, in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, targets a wide range of actors, including youth and women, artists, cultural NGOs, public sector, and cultural CSOs and enterprises.

Addressing traumas caused to the vulnerable population of Africa, Latin America, Middle East, and Asia

Recommend, based on the experience, inter-alia, of the Global Trauma project, with special emphasis on Africa,

- To focus on Mental Health and Well-Being to serve as a precursor to multiple SDGs, in particular 3) Good Health and Well-Being; 4) Quality Education; 5) Gender Equality; and 16) Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions;
- To reduce stigma by promoting psycho-education;
- To acknowledge that health is multi-faceted and that mental health impacts physical, emotional, spiritual, behavioral, relational, and financial realms;
- To balance fidelity to best mental health practices and flexibility to the unique strengths and challenges of a community;
- To recognize that art is a tool for social change as it promotes reflection, requires creativity, and encourages dialogue;
- To prioritize the experiences and guidance of community leaders, who often are doubly impacted, serving and living within the same context;
- To require, nurture, and fund cooperation and collaboration—rather than zero-sum competition— across communities, organizations, and sectors;
- To model community care that promotes health, well-being, resilience, and reconciliation;
- To infuse a social justice approach by naming and then dismantling systems of oppression, racism, unearned privilege, and unethical power dynamics;

Request Earthsavers Dream Center UNESCO Artist for Peace and SSCC, especially through its membership in Ghana and Kenya, in dialogue with the Global Trauma Project, to develop models and projects for the implementation of this educational tool.

Preamble: Health, well-being, peace, climate justice, and biodiversity

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

Express our deep concern about the consequences of climate change and the trajectories of GHG emissions, the development of our societies, and the impacts on the lives of millions of affected people around the world, and particularly vulnerable countries and indigenous peoples, with significant consequences on poverty, human rights, food production, migration, and, more generally, the biodiversity and the survival capacity of our planet;

Express our deep concern about the unprecedented degradation of biodiversity and protected areas around the world, as well as sacred lands belonging to indigenous peoples. The latest work and inventories carried out by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) call for immediate action to answer Nature's dangerous decline 'unprecedented' more than ever before in human history. IPBES Chair, Sir Robert Watson, recalls that "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide." We recall the inseparable link between Nature, Culture, and the Spirituality of Humanity, which is in the process of being altered and which calls for a massive return to the cultural, spiritual, and vital sacredness of nature and biodiversity with massive use of nature-based solutions.

By doing so, we recall the importance of Art and Culture as pillars of reappropriation and sharing of the very essence of nature and its sacredness while respecting plant and animal species and indigenous peoples and traditional knowledge.

Take into consideration the gravity of the current epidemiological situation and its devastating effects and, therefore, the absolute necessity for world cooperation on health issues; reaffirm the urgency to improve vaccine production and channels of distribution; stress the utmost importance of strengthening global efforts in order to achieve a viable, inclusive, and sustainable post-covid recovery, where scientific communities play a crucial role;

Are concerned by the continuing deforestation and its impact on climate change;

Commend novel efforts in Africa and African diaspora to address the problem of relearning the history of Africa from the viewpoint of the indigenous population and not of the colonial powers, and attributing in this process appreciation for great ancient cultures of North, East, South, and West Africa and the forthcoming establishment of the Pan African Heritage World Museum in Ghana and the building of the Transatlantic Slavery Museum in Barbados;

Note efforts of the Government of Kenya, especially the Office of Deputy President, and Kenyan civil society, especially the African branch of the Global Trauma Project, to combat radicalization and crime through culture and eventually to integrate and rehabilitate those participating in violence and crime as useful members of society;

Bear in mind that

- people throughout the world, and in particular within the continent of Africa, have been and are currently impacted by stress, trauma, and adversity, including but not limited to civil conflict, poverty, terrorism, and natural disasters;
- humans have the right to accessible, contextualized, and effective mental health resources;

- resilience exists in all communities, perhaps most abundantly--but commonly overlooked--in those most marginalized;
- the history of colonialism has present-day effects, including unjust systems of power and privilege;
- there exist dangers to the culture and language of indigenous populations, whose ancestral habitat lies within increasingly urbanizing capital cities;

Express with concern the growing tension in South China Sea/West Philippine Sea;

Note with satisfaction the work on the Central American integration and policies on strengthening SDGs undertaken by Misión Presidencial, Fundación Esquipulas, and the Central American Integration System (SICA), with special emphasis on the needs of the indigenous population;

Recall and welcome ASPA (Summit of South American-Arab Countries) mechanism, especially its cultural component to strengthen peace and education;

Acknowledge efforts being made in Ecuador through the Universidad del Pacifico in Guayaquil, and the creation of “Our Pacific Ocean Program,” (Nuestro Oceano Pacifico) to improve knowledge on the importance of oceans in general, and maritime areas in Ecuador and in Galapagos Islands in particular; (Sonia/Mario please improve)

Take into consideration that South-South cooperation needs to be strengthened at the academic level among countries of Latin America/Caribbean, Africa, and Asia;

Underline that the implementation of SDGs and a resource-efficient future can be better achieved through transnational and cross-border cooperation, which creates interconnecting links, common strategies, and partnerships between countries;

Observe that first attempts of globalization through both maritime trade and exchange of ideas took place alongside the Día del Galeón (Galeón de Manila) linking Spain with today’s Mexico;

Note with greatest concern increase in extremist movements advocating hate and violence worldwide, and growing terrorist activities with emphasis on Africa, especially in the Sahel region, as well as in the Horn of Africa, spilling into Kenya and Mozambique;

Are conscious that tensions between Serbia and Kosovo represent one of the most important causes of volatility in Western Balkans and in Europe generally.

Operative Clause: Health, well-being, peace, climate justice, and biodiversity

We, participants at the Manila SDG Resiliart Festival, Forum, and Workshops for Health, Well-Being, Peace, and Climate Justice under UNESCO patronage,

South-South cooperation among academia

Support the nucleus of tricontinental academic cooperation, as a result of the Manila SDG event, among South America (through Universidad del Pacifico, Guayaquil, Ecuador), Africa (through African University College of Communication in Accra, Ghana) and Asia (through Philippine Normal University and Northwest Mindanao State College of Science and Technology in the Philippines). It is anticipated that European universities will join as well, as partners with a view to forging academic exchanges and cooperation.

Links between the Arab world and Latin America

Recommend that:

- The understanding between the Ibero-American world and the Arab world be improved through the medium of common languages;
- A consortium be created to teach Spanish in the Arab world and the Arabic language in Latin America. This forum will focus on improvement and integration of the existing initiatives/chairs/institutions. The aim is to coordinate and publicize the courses, to facilitate the exchange of students through scholarship, the publication of textbooks for teaching those languages, and the translation of literary masterpieces as tools for learning languages (with CDs and grammar and vocabulary explanations). The consortium would include universities and language centers from different countries interested in this initiative.
- A platform for online courses on Ibero-American and Arab culture and history be created through online courses on topics relevant to the history, culture, and present issues of Ibero-America and the Arab world. These courses would trigger the interest and develop ties between people of both regions. Courses about Latin America will be translated into Arabic and those about the Arab world will be translated into Spanish and Portuguese.
- The SSCC, through its directors in the Catholic University of Buenos Aires and its partners, Fundación Esquipulas and Misión Presidencial, prepare projects for the implementation of this recommendation.

Recommend that the civil society in Serbia and Kosovo continue with their efforts to promote peace, tolerance, stability, and reconciliation between Serbs and Albanians and in the Western Balkans region by:

- Continuing with cooperation and dialogue with a view to broaden the environment for civil society actors to have a transformative impact on their societies and on relations between Serbs and Albanians and between Kosovo and Serbia;
- Assuming a leadership position in which civil society work together on principles of common values and a common interest to provide a sustained foundation for collective action and to deal with problems of the past and create a peaceful future;
- Leading by example through shunning inflammatory rhetoric and hate speech in Kosovo and Serbia and working collaboratively and with good will to move past existing political divisions and build relations between people from different communities;

- Fighting intolerance, discrimination, and ethnic hatred and working to prevent ethnic-based conflict and violence against individuals or communities.

Towards a worldwide “one health” approach

Encourage adopting a worldwide “one health” approach in order to build a system that can not only protect but build a more sustainable and healthier world. This approach should design and implement programs, policies, legislation, and research, in which multiple sectors communicate and work together to achieve better public health outcomes and tackle health inequalities. Furthermore, we call for an International Treaty on Pandemics as a main long-term international legal binding framework, with the aim to tackle and overcome this global health crisis and prepare us for future ones. This forenamed Treaty, under the WHO oversight, could contribute to prevent pandemics and build global resilience.

Transnational and cross-border forms of cooperation

Recommend that transnational and cross-border forms of cooperation be used whenever possible because they are key elements in supporting sustainable development, helping to reduce inequalities and conflicts, and addressing common challenges. Furthermore, we recommend that transnational and cross-border cooperation should be based on a balanced partnership between participating countries in order to promote economic and social development; address common challenges such as environmental, public health, safety, and security; and put in place better conditions for persons, goods, and capital mobility.

Afforestation reversing the effects of climate change across the Middle East and North Africa

Warmly endorse the Middle East Green Initiative of Saudi Arabia, whereby 50 billion trees are due to be planted: 10 billion in Saudi Arabia and further 40 billion in other Middle Eastern countries at the cost of USD \$ 68.6 billion, of which Saudi Arabia will be contributing USD \$ 10.3 billion. This will restore an area equivalent to 200 million hectares of degraded land, reduce 2.5% of global carbon levels, and contribute to reducing carbon emissions resulting from hydrocarbon production in the region by more than 60%.

Marine protected coastal areas with special emphasis on Galapagos and Latin American Pacific countries

Recommend that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) Implementation Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ), currently under negotiation at the United Nations, recognize and incorporate within the framework of biodiversity, the protection of the marine and protected coastal areas recognized internationally by specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the UNESCO, and especially the maritime corridors that are established between them by the countries which have jurisdiction over them.

Further firmly support the declaration of the President of Ecuador, Guillermo Lasso, at COP26 in Glasgow, for the creation of a new marine reserve of 60,000 square kilometers in the Galapagos Islands and thank the Chief of Navy of Ecuador, Rear Admiral Brumel Vasquez Bermudez, for his message for the Manila SDG Event.

See this new reserve as the product of a process of dialogue with the artisanal and industrial fishing sectors that have underscored the importance of expanding the marine reserve and the proposed financial mechanism that will allow building an institutional framework to achieve the perpetuation of the marine reserve and add it to most of 130,000 square kilometers, declared by UNESCO (1986 & 1998);

Highlight and support the efforts of Ecuador, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Panama for the signing of the Agreement of the Marine Corridor of the Eastern Tropical Pacific (06/08/2011) and its Complementary Agreement (11/02/2021), as their commitment to the development of effective activities in the region for the care of the Pacific Ocean, in the Eastern Tropical Marine Corridor;

Welcome the “Our Pacific Ocean Program” (Nuestro Oceano Pacifico) and the creation of the Citizen Maritime Council CMC and its international Think Tank as a massive public awareness campaign among both public and civil society sectors, with a view to achieve sustainable development and contribute to the fight against climate change and against loss of biodiversity in the maritime and marine-coastal zone.

Climate change following Glasgow COP

Recall, as stated by the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in Glasgow COP26, that the global warming overall goal is about "life support," and that the World Leaders' commitments so far, as stated in the outcomes of the COP26, are on good trajectories but clearly insufficient. Parties should reinforce their ambition to reach the 1.5 ° C degree objectives of the Paris Agreement and must put in place the associated measures to remain in the spirit of the UNFCCC, particularly regarding the responsibilities of developed countries towards developing particularly the least developed countries while fighting against climate change. As underlined in the Glasgow decision package in November 2021, climate ambition must be considered more importantly by strengthening the establishment of a decision package and associated financing mechanisms for adaptation; respect for environmental integrity; and respect for indigenous populations, through a strengthened financial mechanism for loss and damage; respect for human rights; and particularly, migratory consequences of climate change.

Recall, by doing so, the importance of arts and culture in the transformational process to reinforce bridging humanity into this debate while co-creating a collective narrative of the need for changes to be done while protecting the Earth and vulnerable communities. By doing so, we welcome the ART's PLANET international citizen and artistic initiative, set up more than 10 years ago by ENERGIES 2050 and its international partners, and which in 2018 endorsed the “Not by Force but by Art” initiative and the 2018 Manila Declaration to reinforce its activities within the initiative and continue organizing international artistic contests and exhibitions and, in the end, support local artists and adaptation projects in the least developing countries to join forces with the movement by advocating for concrete pillars on art and culture in the climate negotiation process.