



## 1<sup>ST</sup> G20 CULTURE WORKING GROUP MEETING

22-23 February 2021

### Contribution of Civil 20

As Civil 20 we want to thank Italy and Saudi Arabia for proposing culture as a relevant axis for shaping and improving our societies and to promote and implement the 2030 Agenda.

We want to make a strong reference to the 2030 Agenda because as C20 we always insist on the role of G20 as a powerful actor at the service of the UN and the multilateral system. The Agenda and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are the political compasses to orient our common efforts for peace, dignity and prosperity for all in a healthy planet.

Culture can play a fundamental role in this perspective. And we want to share with you our concern about the risk to undermine the cultural sector during the current pandemic, thinking it would be not strategic or not essential. We do think the cultural sector has to be protected even during this special and difficult time, being one of the needed contributors of tools for the dignity of human life. And our concern goes of course to the workers of this sector, in the theatres in particular, among the most affected by the crisis.

We appreciate the priorities proposed by the Italian Presidency. In the webinars we will present some more detailed example of possible suggested initiative and policies. In this first meeting of the Working Group we would like to highlight some general element related to the three proposed priorities.

### Protecting Cultural Heritage and Fighting illicit trafficking of cultural property

C20 Anti Corruption Working Group developed a qualified reflection over the past years. Beyond the need for coordination and exchange at the international level, the C20 ACWG stresses the importance of setting and implementing national plans in order to strengthen the accountability of anticorruption policies.

More widely as C20 we want to emphasize the role that can be played by Civil Society in protecting cultural heritage and natural resources. Many examples of projects with civic participation are available to show how organized citizens can contribute to protect and valorise cultural heritage. For example *projects of veedurias with* citizens monitoring the sites or more articulated projects based on the participation of local communities in the managing of cultural and archaeological sites, with local households engaged in economic activities for tourists reception and in the scientific researches developed from the sites.

### Addressing the Climate crisis through culture

Civil 20 asks for a General commitment to the implementation of multilateral agreements on climate, while expressing its concern for the quality of national political initiatives targeting the heritage in too many cases. The consequent call is to identify effective and adequate adaptation and mitigation initiatives with the participation of local communities.

Local communities and in particular indigenous people can play a fundamental role in protecting the land, the natural resources and the cultural heritage. National plans mustn't simply foresee technical analysis and instrument to detect and mitigate climate change, but have to be based on the recognition of the role of local communities and have to transform it in a national and international opportunity.



### Building capacity through training and education

As Civil 20 we suggest, in dialogue with the G20 Education WG, that education has to be strengthened, according to the message of the 2030 Agenda. But this role has to be developed and orient also to building care for cultural heritage and goods.

Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge are fundamental in order to shape our identities as well as to promote a wide culture of sustainability. Not only what lasts is sustainable and can teach something to the present generation, but also preserving and maintaining cultural goods, create habits of care, that nourishes the culture of sustainability.

Educating to become familiar with cultural heritage is also educating to global citizenship. Culture and beauty are universal languages. Meeting the beauty and recognizing it creates bonds. And this is fundamental in a time of concern for the raising of nationalism and racism.

### **Citizens and Communities as Fundamental players**

In conclusions we propose three cross-cutting priorities/recommendations:

- Citizens and local communities play an irreplaceable role in protecting the heritage (ownership, protection and prevention, sharing culture and building global citizenships)
- In this framework, a special role is played by indigenous people
- There is a need for national plans and specific projects including and involving citizens, communities, actors from civil society in the management of natural and cultural heritage.