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ICESCO

المؤتمر الثالث عشر  
لوزراء الثقافة  
في دول العالم الإسلامي  
The 13th Conference Of Culture  
Ministers In The Islamic World



## 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Ministers of Culture in the Islamic World

6 Impact of Culture on  
Socio-Economic Development

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**Draft Jeddah Declaration on the Impact of  
Culture on Socio-Economic Development**

Jeddah  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

12-13  
February

2025



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## 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers of Culture in the Islamic World

“Impact of Culture on Socio-Economic Development”

12-13 February 2025

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

### Draft Jeddah Declaration on the Impact of Culture on Socio-Economic Development

**We**, the Ministers of Culture and the heads of delegation taking part in the 13th Conference of Ministers of Culture in the Islamic World, held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 12-13 February 2025;

**Being aware of** the modern-day requirements and rapid changes; at a time when culture plays a key role in molding and developing societies, consolidating identities, anchoring values, promoting innovation, thus becoming a lever of socio-economic development, through bringing together culture and socio-economic advancements to offer new opportunities for progress and prosperity; and in light of the new major challenges, requiring ample adaptation and prompt response at both the levels of individuals and communities;

**Given** the key role of culture in building societies, promoting national identities, and invigorating socio-economic development, our Conference adopted “The Impact of Culture on Socio-Economic Development” as its theme, in support of the development of creative industries and cultural policies and in reaffirmation of the centrality of culture in anchoring a diverse knowledge and creativity-based economy, in such a way as to promote cultural interaction among nations and foster world peace and security;

**Acknowledging** the role of culture in addressing numerous global crises plaguing today's world;

**Recognizing** the importance of culture in fighting poverty and ensuring decent living conditions for individuals and societies;





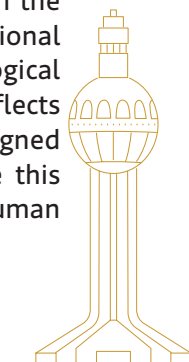
**Undertake** to observe the guidelines contained in this Declaration and mobilize our material, human and technical resources to implement its provisions, taking into account the need for coordination with the rotating presidency of the Conference, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) and the relevant international and regional bodies:

## 1- Cultural rights and the right to culture:

- **Publicizing** the grounds of cultural rights on a wider scale, facilitating access to culture through training and supporting outstanding scientific production in the field of culture, arts and heritage to improve the cultural reality in our societies.
- **Providing** the means to enable cultural competent parties to pool and harmonize efforts in the field of cultural policies with a view to making culture one of the development pillars in the Islamic world.
- **Building** the capacities of professionals working in the fields of arts, culture and heritage, taking into account local specificities, preserving their spirit of diversity and encouraging studies on cultural rights and the right to culture.
- **Developing** cultural and art programs that suit all social groups, organizing conferences and seminars, and supporting copyright and related rights in the Islamic world.
- **Raising** awareness of the importance of protecting cultural rights and individuals' rights to develop their talents, nurture their outlook on cultural diversity, promote references reflecting their existence, and highlight the diverse related expressions;

## 2- Heritage Preservation

- **Intensifying** current efforts to safeguard heritage and mitigate damage incurred thereto in zones affected by conflicts and natural disasters in the Islamic world, especially in the State of Palestine, given the great challenges facing this heritage due to the Occupation's ongoing aggressions targeting cultural landmarks.
- **Stressing** that heritage protection, especially of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, is a major shared global responsibility transcending national borders, as cultural heritage is not limited to landmarks and archeological sites, but also includes nations' identities and collective memory and reflects their evolution through history. To this end, the majority of countries signed and endorsed international conventions and treaties drafted to serve this very goal, in testimony of their commitment to safeguarding shared human





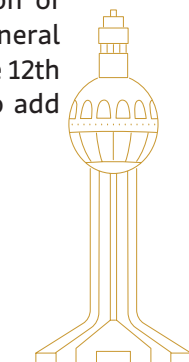
heritage. It is evident that the responsibility of safeguarding heritage is not an optional matter, but rather a moral obligation and a pressing need highlighted in international laws and conventions, to ensure the transfer and integrity of this valuable heritage to future generations.

### 3- Addressing Climate Change and the Role of Culture

- **Enabling** culture and cultural institutions to play a pivotal role in addressing climate change challenges and preserving culture and heritage by allocating material and human resources to facilitate the holding of workshops, seminars and training sessions aimed at building the capacities of researchers and practitioners.
- **Organizing** annual conferences to present research findings and exchange best practices among our countries, promote dialogue among the parties concerned, publish reports and research papers, disseminate their outputs, recommendations and results to reach policy makers, cultural institutions and the general public, and promote public awareness of the importance of culture and heritage in facing climate challenges in order to strengthen intercultural understanding and rapprochement.
- **Managing** valuable cultural and heritage assets; guaranteeing their protection from the negative effects of climate change, ensuring their sustainability; promoting international cooperation and partnership with institutions and organizations to exchange experiences and develop joint strategies to protect cultural heritage; supporting local initiatives and projects aimed at protecting and sustaining culture and heritage; fostering the contribution of local communities to these efforts; and supporting research and development in these fields.

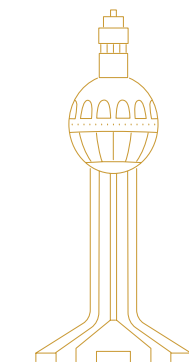
### 4- Cultural Policies

- **We reaffirm** our commitment to uphold the role of culture in promoting holistic peace within societies and ensuring their sustainability, while moving forward to add culture as a stand-alone goal within the UN post-2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda, based on the commitment of UNESCO Member States, as set forth in the Mondiacult Declaration 2022, the integration of culture in the Pact for the Future, adopted at the 79<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/79/1), and ICESCO's proposal approved by the 12th Conference of Ministers of Culture, held in Doha, in September 2023, to add culture as the 18<sup>th</sup> stand-alone goal within the United Nations SDGs.





- As part of the preparations for the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies - Mondialacult 2025, which will be held in Barcelona, Spain, from 29 September to 1 October 2025, **we reaffirm** our commitment to the main thematic areas, especially the promotion of cultural rights, strengthening the link between culture and education, supporting culture as an engine of digital transformation, promoting cultural economy, and protecting cultural heritage and diversity.
- **In this context, we express our full support for the candidacy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the 2029 edition of Mondialacult.**
- **We stress** the need for international cooperation in combating illicit trafficking of cultural property, as well as the return of cultural properties to their countries of origin. We seize this opportunity to thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its initiative to set up an assisting consultative committee to help recover cultural properties in the Islamic world. We also emphasize the need to use culture effectively to address the pressing global challenges posed by artificial intelligence, and the new roles of culture in promoting peace among peoples.





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