



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organisation  
Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

In partnership with the UNESCO Office in Moscow  
for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus,  
Republica of Moldova and Russian Federation

В партнерстве с Бюро ЮНЕСКО в Москве  
по Азербайджану, Армении, Беларуси,  
Республике Молдова и Российской Федерации



Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia

Министерство культуры Республики Армения



cultural  
policy:  
policy for  
culture

**YEREVAN DECLARATION**  
**of**  
**International Conference**  
**“Cultural Policy, Policy for Culture:**  
**the Role of Culture in Post-2015 Development Agenda”**

**13 July 2015**

*The participants of the International Conference “Cultural Policy, Policy for Culture: the Role of Culture in Post-2015 Development Agenda”, held in Yerevan, Armenia, from 11-13 July 2015,*

1. Bearing in mind that the UNESCO General Conference proposed, during its 36th session, that the decade of 2013-2022 be proclaimed as the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (36 C/Resolution 40 of 25 October – 10 November 2011);
2. Referring to the United Nations General Assembly’s Resolution 67/104, of 17 December 2012 by which the interreligious and intercultural dialogue,

understanding and cooperation for peace was promoted for the decade of 2013-2022;

3. Referring also to the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) adopted by the UNESCO Executive Board on 3 March 2014 (Document 194 EX/10);
4. Recalling the four United Nations General Assembly Resolutions on Culture and Sustainable Development adopted in 2010 (A/RES/65/166), 2011 (A/RES/66/208), 2013 (A/RES/68/233) and 2014 (A/RES/69/230);
5. Recalling also, among other international statements and declarations, United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 (2015), United Nations General Assembly Resolution adopted in 2015 (A/RES/69/281) and UNESCO Executive Board Decision 196 EX/29 (2015) concerning the protection of culture and cultural heritage in conflict areas as a humanitarian and security issue;
6. Noting that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice, liberty, equality, non-discrimination and peace are indispensable to the dignity of people and they constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern;
7. Expressing also sincere appreciation to all the intergovernmental, governmental, nongovernmental, scientific bodies and organizations that contributed to the efforts to organize the Conference;
8. Underline that the rights in the sphere of culture are integral parts of human right and fundamental freedoms and everyone has the right to harmoniously preserve and develop his or her culture and participate in the cultural life of the society without any prejudices and limitations;
9. Emphasize that the persons belonging to national minorities shall have the right to preservation and development of their traditions, religion, language and culture;
10. Acknowledge the link between culture and community development and emphasize that cultural industries have a crucial role to play in socio-economic development simultaneously establishing a harmonious balance between progress and quality of life as envisaged in the Post-2015 Agenda;
11. Underline also that armed conflicts have changed during the course of time and presently the cultural properties are demolished under the pretext of ideological reasons, justification of hostile activities and xenophobia, due to which the millennia-old treasures of human civilization are targeted and cleansed;

12. Call to prevent cultural genocide and condemn the cultural cleansing, barbaric destruction, violence, looting and other crimes committed against humanity's cultural heritage and convey its support to the UNESCO Director - General in the endeavours to safeguard culture and cultural heritage in danger in the event of armed conflict of international and non-international character;
13. Invite States to join the launched UNESCO social media campaign "Unite4Heritage", to counter the propaganda of cultural cleansing in Iraq, Syria and other crisis-torn countries at their early convenience;
14. Acknowledge that cultural education, including education for youth, shall constitute an integral part of education for sustainable development. It is also critical for ensuring global citizenship, fostering social cohesion, tolerance and respect for diversity;
15. Acknowledge also the historic mission of ecclesiastical organizations in the development of spiritual and traditional cultural life of nations, as well as their contribution to all the relevant UNESCO conventions, along with other entities of civil society;
16. Emphasize that bilateral or multilateral, regional or international cultural co-operation, as well as within international organizations shall be based on all purposes and principles of the United Nations, including reciprocal respect, recognition of dignity and value of all cultures to ensure stable and long-term relations;
17. Encourage States to take all appropriate measures to ensure the widest possible dissemination of this Declaration to the public at large, as well as to promote the above-mentioned principles through relevant programmes and cultural establishments;
18. Extend gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Armenia for their kind hospitality, which facilitated the success of the Conference.