



CHANDI 2025
Bali, 3-5 September 2025

Bali Cultural Initiative Declaration 2025:
"Culture for the Future"

Preamble:

We, the participants of the CHANDI 2025, gathered in Bali, Indonesia, understand that culture is the foundation of human identity and social cohesion. Therefore, we declare our shared commitment to promoting cultural diversity, safeguarding heritage, and advancing cultural diplomacy as a means of achieving sustainable and inclusive global development.

As the world faces unprecedented challenges ranging from environmental crises and digital transformation to social inequalities and geopolitical instability, culture must play a central role in shaping a peaceful and sustainable future.

We reaffirm that culture is a driver of creativity and innovation, a catalyst for fostering mutual understanding, and a bridge for dialogue between civilisations, while also emphasising the pivotal role of youth and the cultural and creative industries in shaping dynamic and future-ready societies.

Principles and Commitments:

Culture as a Pillar of Sustainable Development

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling UN Resolution A/RES/78/161 on Culture and Sustainable Development, adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023, and UN Resolution A/RES/76/214 on Globalisation and interdependence: culture and sustainable development, adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2021, which reiterated the shared commitment to promote culture as a cross-cutting enabler of sustainable development, reaffirm the integration of cultural heritage and creativity into policy-making,

and strengthen the role of cultural rights in realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling also that, in the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, the natural and cultural diversity of the world is acknowledged, and it is recognised that cultures and civilisations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development,

Recalling also, the principles of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, and acknowledging that cultural diversity is a source of enrichment for humankind and an important contribution to the sustainable development of local communities, peoples and nations, supporting their ability to play an active and unique role in development initiatives,

Recognizing the interdependence between culture, the environment, and sustainable development, and reaffirming the essential role of cultural heritage—both tangible and intangible—in fostering environmental stewardship, strengthening community resilience, and promoting inclusive and sustainable societies, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goals 11, 13, and 15; and further acknowledging that traditional knowledge systems, local practices, and cultural expressions contribute significantly to climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and the safeguarding of ecosystems, while also enriching the social, spiritual, and economic dimensions of sustainable development;

Welcoming the final declaration of the World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development (Mondiacult 2022),

Reaffirming that culture plays a transformative role across all dimensions—economic, social, and environmental—and contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Recognising that culture is an essential component of human development, that it represents a source of identity, innovation, and creativity for the individual and the community and that it is an important factor in social inclusion and poverty eradication, providing for sustainable economic growth and ownership of development processes,

Harness the potential of tangible and intangible cultural heritage to drive economic development and safeguard cultural heritage from the impacts of climate change,

Recognising further the importance of respect and understanding for cultural diversity throughout the world and of working together to foster intercultural understanding and dialogue,

Noting with great concern the growing threats to culture, including due to natural disasters, and in the situation of armed conflicts or other situations of violence that lead to the intentional or collateral destruction of cultural heritage, as well as the rise of illicit trafficking of cultural property,

Recognizing the profound impact of digital transformation on societies and the cultural sector, particularly in expanding access to cultural goods and services, enhancing the documentation, conservation, safeguarding, promotion, and management of cultural heritage, and fostering creativity and innovation; while also acknowledging the need to address emerging challenges such as ensuring cultural and linguistic diversity in the digital space, promoting fair and inclusive access to culture, and encouraging more balanced global participation in digital cultural platforms,

Strengthen cultural diplomacy for peace and understanding.

Reaffirming the importance of culture, which serves as a bridge for dialogue, reconciliation, and cooperation,

Emphasising that cultural diversity, as an inevitable reality, relating to the past and the future of human individuals, should be preserved and appreciated by communities and individuals,

Recognising that cultural diversity and linguistic plurality are fundamental expressions of humanity's collective heritage, enriching societies by offering diverse worldviews, values, and traditions, and serving as a foundation for inclusive, respectful, and constructive intercultural dialogue,

Encouraging dialogue and mutual understanding among cultures to promote shared human values and strengthen international cooperation, to advance peace, friendship, and the prevention of war, violence, and all forms of discrimination,

Being aware that globalisation has posed challenges to the preservation and expression of cultural identities,

Reaffirm the commitment to multilateralism by promoting cultural diplomacy as a vital instrument for conflict prevention, resolution, and humanitarian response,

Promote cultural exchange programs that actively involve youth, artists, scholars, and cultural professionals to foster global solidarity and mutual respect,

Strengthen partnerships among governments, international organizations, cultural and creative sectors, and civil society to advance global cultural diplomacy initiatives.

Digital Innovation for Cultural Preservation and Accessibility

Promoting the responsible use of AI and digital technologies to safeguard and promote cultural heritage, while upholding human rights and ethical standards,

Support the development and implementation of policies that protect and promote cultural expressions in the evolving digital landscape,

Promote digital literacy as a key component of cultural empowerment, enabling communities to preserve and share their cultural heritage in the digital age,

Support the development and implementation of policies that protect and promote cultural expressions in the evolving digital landscape,

Recognise that cultural intellectual property refers to the rights of peoples and local communities over their cultural heritage, including traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, and natural resources,

Support community-led initiatives that empower local communities to document, manage, and control their cultural heritage in digital and physical forms,

Encourage collaboration between technology developers, cultural institutions, and policymakers to create sustainable digital platforms for cultural preservation,

Promote awareness and respect for cultural intellectual property rights among governments, digital platforms, researchers, and commercial entities to prevent cultural appropriation and ensure fair benefit-sharing.

Empowering youth, cultural and creative industries

Acknowledge youth as vital agents of cultural continuity and transformation, bridging traditional heritage with contemporary innovation,

Recognising youth as key drivers of economic growth and cultural resilience through cultural creative industries,

Encourage youth to actively participate in cultural policy-making and decision-making processes to ensure their voices shape the future of cultural development,

Support intergenerational dialogue that fosters the transmission of cultural knowledge while encouraging innovation and adaptation,

Promote youth engagement in cultural diplomacy as ambassadors of peace, mutual understanding, and international collaboration,

Foster cultural entrepreneurship among youth, enabling them to transform cultural heritage into viable economic opportunities that contribute to local and global economies.

Cultural Heritage Conservation as a Shared Global Responsibility

Enhancing international cooperation to combat the illicit trafficking of cultural artifacts, ensuring their protection and rightful return,

Affirming the important roles of local communities as key stakeholders in heritage conservation efforts, empowering them through capacity building, inclusive decision-making, and recognising their traditional knowledge and custodianship,

Encouraging cross-border initiatives and partnerships aimed at identifying, monitoring, and protecting endangered cultural sites, particularly those vulnerable to conflict, climate change, and urban development,

Encouraging awareness and education on safeguarding cultural heritage to foster appreciation and stewardship across generations,

Affirming the essential role of local communities as active partners in heritage conservation, thus recognising their vital contribution to the protection and preservation of cultural heritage.

1. *Encourages* governments, cultural institutions, civil society, and the private sector to translate these commitments into action,
2. *Encourage* the inclusion of cultural heritage, including traditional knowledge and local practices, into national and international sustainable development policies, recognizing their role in overcoming economic, social, and environmental challenges,
3. *Promote* the sustainable cultural practices that contribute to climate resilience and socio-economic development,
4. *Establishes* international cultural policy frameworks that prioritise the protection and promotion of cultural heritage.
5. *Promotes* investment in the cultural and creative sectors to support innovation and sustainability.
6. *Creates* platforms for continuous dialogue and cooperation, including annual cultural summits and regional partnerships.

As we conclude the CHANDI 2025, we reaffirm our collective vision of a world where culture is at the heart of development, diplomacy, and human progress.

Draft as of 22 August 2025

The Bali Initiative for Culture Declaration 2025 is our pledge to future generations—our promise that culture will continue to be a beacon of resilience, unity, and innovation in an ever-changing world.

Adopted in Bali, Indonesia, on the occasion of the CHANDI 2025.