

SEVILLE STATEMENT

TENTH ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ON CULTURAL POLICY

SEVILLE, SPAIN
SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2007

Participating Members: Spain, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Italy, Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Venezuela

Special Guests: Andorra, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Lithuania

International Organizations: Asia-Europe Foundation, Council of Europe, European Commission, International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies, Latin Union, International Organization of la Francophonie, United Cities and Local Governments

Civil Society: International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity, International Network for Cultural Diversity, Youth Council of Spain

On September 20-21, 2007, Mr. César Antonio Molina Sanchez, Minister of Culture of Spain and the 2007 President of the International Network on Cultural Policy (INCP) hosted the Tenth Annual Ministerial Meeting in Seville. This important event marked a decade of remarkable achievements for the Network and brought together 43 delegations from every region of the world, 26 of which were led by Ministers of Culture.

The meeting provided Ministers of Culture with the opportunity to advance the international discussion on the implementation of the *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* (UNESCO Convention). Ministers unanimously agreed on the importance of the effective and timely implementation of the Convention in order to ensure that the diversity of cultural expressions is protected and promoted worldwide. Ministers applauded the UNESCO Secretariat for successfully organizing the First Conference of the Parties to the Convention and engaged in discussion regarding the work that will be undertaken by the Intergovernmental Committee throughout implementation phase of the Convention.

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In preparation for the First Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) in December 2007, Ministers of Culture expressed their commitment to work together to ensure that tangible results are achieved in terms of fostering the development of cultural policies aimed at promoting and protecting the diversity of cultural expressions. INCP Ministers emphasized the importance of establishing guidelines aimed at enhancing international cooperation in the area of culture, including the rapid development of criteria to establish the International Fund on Cultural Diversity and ensuring the active participation of civil society throughout the implementation phase of the Convention.

In addition, as a precursor to the European Year for Intercultural Dialogue in 2008, Minister Molina led his colleagues in a discussion on the concept of intercultural dialogue and examined the issues raised in a study on this theme prepared by the Spanish Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with INCP members. Ministers congratulated Spain for its comprehensive study which illustrates the complex and transversal nature of the concept of intercultural dialogue, particularly with respect to its positive impact on efforts relating to conflict prevention, cooperation for development, the promotion of youth engagement and social inclusion.

Ministers of Culture agreed on the fact that the INCP is a unique international forum reserved for Ministers of Culture and in which they can informally discuss cultural policy issues of interest. In this regard, Ministers mandated the INCP's Working Group on Cultural Diversity and Globalization (WGCD&G) to continue its diligent work in undertaking research on, advocating for and building international consensus around the promotion of cultural diversity.

Specifically, Ministers requested that the WGCD&G focus its activities on two key areas of cultural policy:

1. Support the work undertaken by the IGC in the implementation phase of the Convention by:

- Continuing to advocate for the widespread ratification of the Convention in an effort to ensure greater geographical representation among the Parties;
- Continuing to serve as an informal expert discussion group focused on highlighting and further reflecting on key issues that can be addressed by IGC;

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- Continuing to work with international civil society that would bring diverse perspectives, which would benefit the work being undertaken during the implementation phase.

2. Further explore the theme of Intercultural Dialogue with a view to contribute to the ongoing discourse on this transversal issue and highlight its importance as a key element in promoting social inclusion by:

- Exploring the multi-dimensional impact of intercultural dialogue, particularly its potential in promoting youth engagement; bridging socio-economic gaps through cultural cooperation and preventing all forms of conflict;
- Exchanging information, research and experiences on these issues with key international organisations involved in furthering the discourse on Intercultural Dialogue;
- Exchanging best practices for and challenges to establishing intercultural dialogue as a permanent factor integrated in the development of public policy;
- Broadening the scope of dialogue with international civil society to include organizations that focus on youth issues, social inclusion and intercultural dialogue.

Conclusion

Ministers welcomed Andorra, Guatemala and Mali as new members to the Network.

Ministers expressed their appreciation for the dedicated work carried out by the Liaison Bureau in support of the Network, in an effective and efficient manner.

Ministers thanked Spain for its warm welcome and the work undertaken in presiding and hosting this year's Annual Ministerial Meeting.