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A woman with dark hair, wearing a light-colored t-shirt and brown pants, is standing on a wooden ladder. She is painting a large, colorful mural on a wall. The mural features stylized tropical elements, including large orange and yellow flowers, green palm fronds, and abstract blue and yellow shapes. The woman is holding a paintbrush and looking towards the wall. The background is a light blue wall.

The cultural and creative industries are major drivers of social and economic development. The creative sector contributes significantly to the global economy, representing 3,1% of global GDP and 6,2% of all employment. **Developing and retaining creative talent** is at the core of this process and requires integrated policies and regulatory frameworks that ensure **decent working conditions, fair remuneration, and training opportunities** for artists and cultural professionals.

The 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist calls upon all UNESCO Member States to improve the professional, social, and economic status of artists through the implementation of policies and measures related to training, social security, employment, income and tax conditions, mobility, and freedom of expression. It also recognizes the right of artists to be organized in trade unions or professional organisations that can represent and defend the interests of their members.

The Recommendation

was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its twenty-first session in 1980. At the time, the need to understand and strengthen the role of the “creative worker” was already recognized by Member States as well as the need to improve the status of such workers considering both the particular conditions of their profession and their contribution to development. Decades later, the Recommendation remains as relevant today as in 1980 considering the remaining challenges worldwide in the area of social and economic rights and the impact of digital technology on the work of artists.



The right to a dignified
life, health, education,
and well-being for all
is a basic human right

*The UNESCO 1980 Recommendation
concerning the Status of the Artist*

1980 Recommendation: What does it mean?

is taken to mean any person who creates or gives creative expression to, or recreates works of art, who consider their artistic creation to be an essential part of their life, who contributes in this way to the development of art and culture and who is or asks to be recognized as an artist, whether or not they are bound by any relations of employment or association.

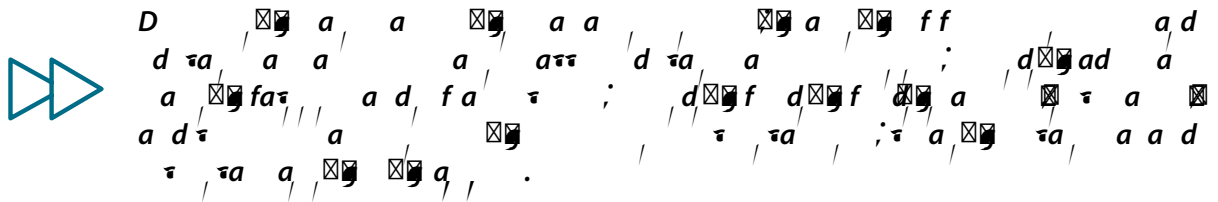
signifies, on the one hand, the regard accorded to artists, defined as above, in a society, on the basis of the importance attributed to the part they are called upon to play therein and, on the other hand, recognition of the liberties and rights, including moral, economic and social rights, with particular reference to income and social security, which artists should enjoy.

To support artists, States, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, and other stakeholders can develop and implement policies, measures, and initiatives related to:



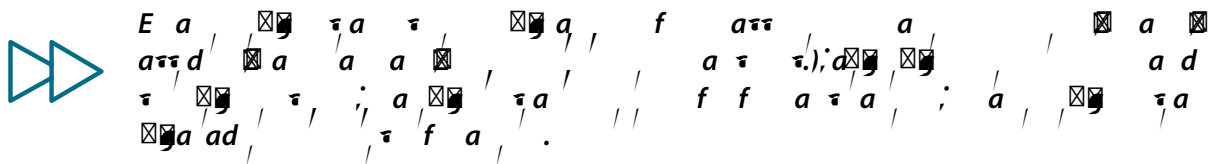
Training

Training includes formal and informal education opportunities, including technical and vocational education and training (TVET), as well as life-long learning opportunities. It is essential to ensure that training and education opportunities are available and accessible to stimulate artistic talent and inspire vocations, including infrastructures and resources to enable the teaching of particular artistic disciplines.



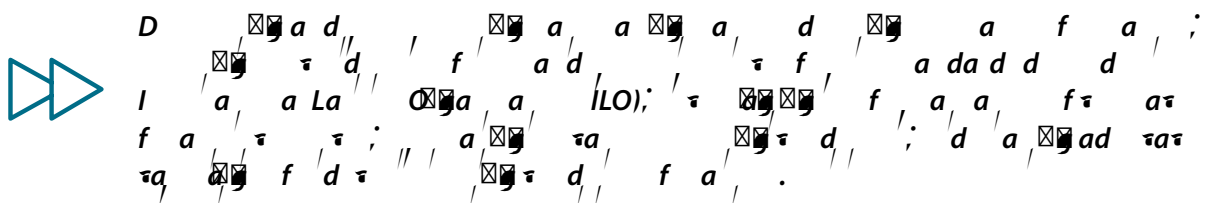
Social security

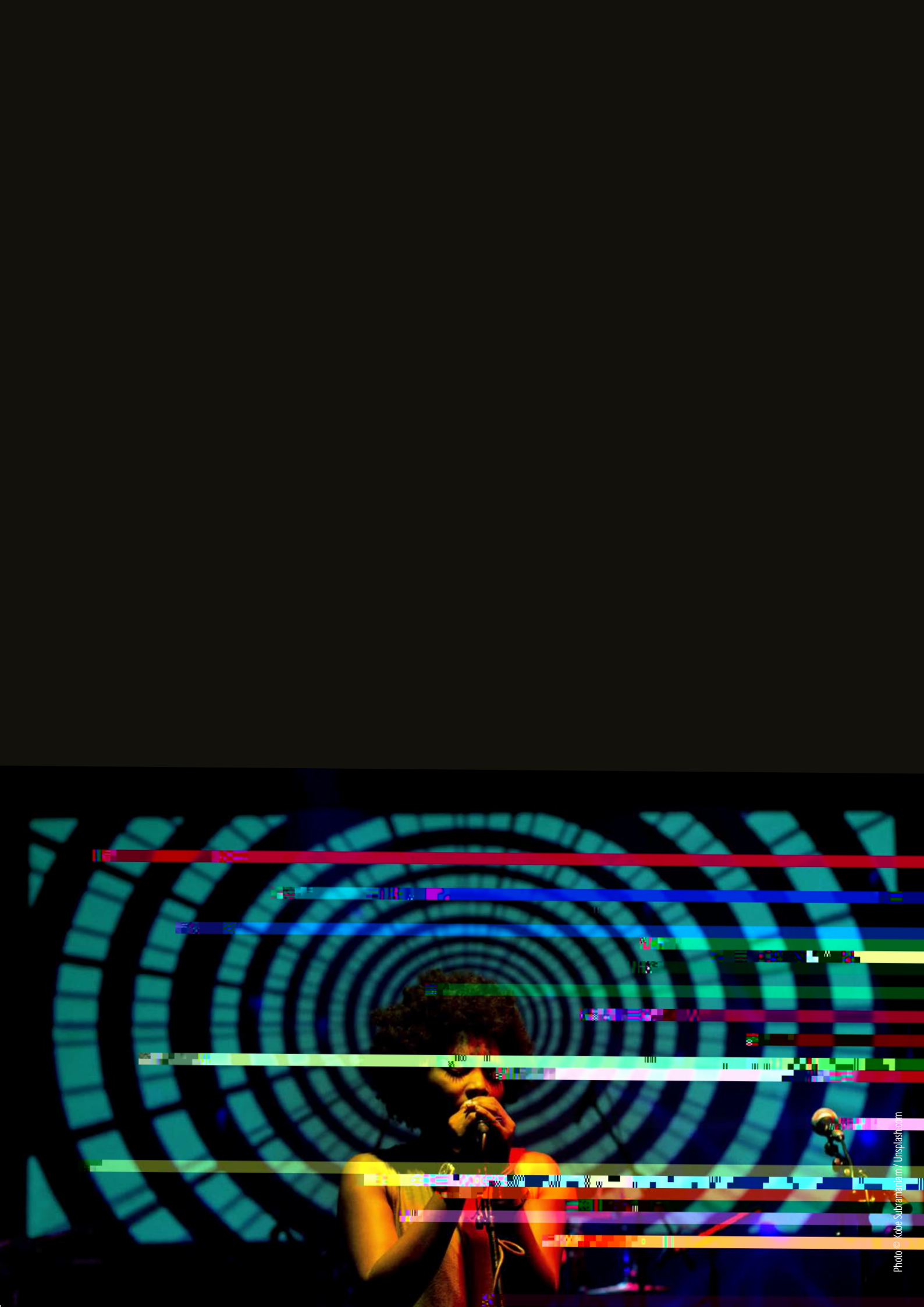
Artists should enjoy the same legal, social, and economic rights as are conferred on a comparable group of the active population by national and international legislation in respect of employment and living and working conditions, and self-employed artists should enjoy, within reasonable limits, protection as regards income and social security.



Employment

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that 30-50% of workers in Europe's creative sector are self-employed, rising to between 40-60% in developing countries. The high prevalence of freelancing, informal employment and irregular contracts across the creative workforce creates a constant lack of predictability and security for artists, who often fall outside of social and economic security nets and struggle to access established opportunities and traditional financing avenues.







UNESCO Secretariat : The UNESCO Secretariat is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation and other related normative instruments, such as the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. It is also responsible for advancing knowledge by undertaking ad hoc research and global quadrennial consultations on the implementation of the 1980 Recommendation; strengthening the capacities of governments and civil society by providing technical assistance and trainings; providing financial assistance for the implementation of projects through the *UNESCO*

UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris, France





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