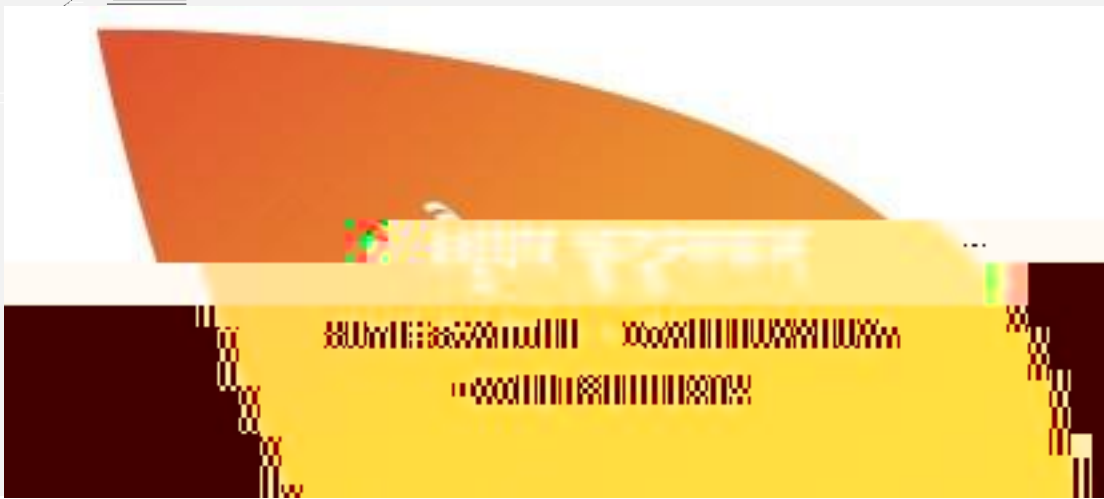




CULTURE WORKING GROUP

Issue Note





empower the global developmental scenarios, it is imperative to build upon the pillars of culture, commerce, connectivity, and collaboration.

II. PRIORITY AREAS

Under India's G20 Presidency, the priority areas of focus for the Culture Working Group (CWG) shall be the following: **(i) Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property; (ii) Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future; (iii) Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy; and (iv) Leveraging Digital Technologies for the Protection and Promotion of Culture.**

PRIORITY 1

PROTECTION AND RESTITUTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

PRINCIPLES

1. Reaffirm the protection and restitution of cultural property as ethical imperatives, at the core of international cooperation, solidarity and peace, while endorsing the right to cultural heritage as an essential component of cultural rights, particularly in view of exacerbated natural and human made threats on cultural heritage.
2. Renew the commitment towards fighting against illicit trafficking of cultural property and facilitating an open international dialogue for its return and restitution.

KEY FOCUS


Tangible cultural heritage not only connects latent linkages with the intangible but also helps societies redefine their cultural histories, contemporary identities and future civilisational ethos.

Strengthening the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property requires enhanced efforts towards prevention, notably through the establishment of inventories, raising awareness and a more effective regulation of online trade.

Enabling an open international dialogue for the return and restitution of cultural property, including illegally exported property, to countries of origin, addresses the growing aspiration of peoples and communities to exercise their right to cultural identity and heritage, thereby, upholding cultural heritage as an intrinsic dimension of cultural rights.

AREAS OF DISCUSSION

By shaping the identities of peoples and communities across time, cultural heritage empowers countries to appreciate and take pride in their history and cultural legacy. It also provides a reservoir of knowledge and basis for innovation to support the adaptation of societies to contemporary and future challenges. However, the vicissitudes of history have deprived many countries of portions of their rich inheritance. In addition, the illicit




trafficking of cultural property undermines the rights of peoples and communities to their identity and cultural heritage and erodes their collective memory and the opportunity to share it with future generations. This jeopardizes social cohesion and weakens the capacity of societies to shape their future.

Contesting claims over cultural ownership and the looting of cultural objects are arguably as old as the history of conquest itself. As a corollary, legislative deliberations and moral obligations in relation to cultural property have historically evolved within the context of war and conflict, but also posed new challenges in the digital age.

Since 1945, various international legislative instruments have been adopted at the multilateral and national levels to ensure the protection of movable and immovable cultural heritage, and notably to fight against illicit trafficking and facilitate the return and restitution of cultural property. These include the Hague Convention of 1954 and its two protocols, the UNESCO Convention of 1970, and the UNIDROIT Convention of 1995. These normative instruments have engendered a deeper understanding of the concerns and challenges at stake. At the same time, they have also specified concepts and provided operational tools and assistance to the countries to effect prevention and forge international cooperation for return and restitution.

The international community has also increasingly put the question of fighting illicit trafficking of cultural property on the global agenda, through different United Nations Security Council resolutions, and the G20 ministerial Declaration on Culture adopted in 2021 in Rome. More recently, the MONDIACULT Declaration, adopted unanimously by



Increased awareness at individual and societal levels, and enhanced access to information and sharing of knowledge on trafficked cultural objects with the countries of their origin is also critical to reducing illicit trafficking. In this context, the virtual museum of stolen cultural objects announced by UNESCO in cooperation with INTERPOL and other technical partners will be a powerful tool for drawing global attention to the scale of illicit trafficking and heritage impoverishment of affected countries while also providing an initiative that G20 countries may like to support.

Another core challenge to be addressed is ensuring that museum collections are documented with accurate provenance and transparency. National inventories will also need to be continuously updated to significantly reduce the illicit trafficking of cultural property. Many countries have built capacities in this field, however, there are still gaps in terms of technical skills of museum managers, curators, and provenance researchers. This requires developing and implementing capacity building programs such as participatory activities, seminars, training sessions, and workshops to enhance the skills of museum professionals in order to ensure clean collections and strengthen the fight against illicit trafficking.

Supporting the return and restitution of cultural property, including in contexts that do not fall under the above-mentioned international treaties, also requires adapting national regulatory frameworks a perspective which is particularly relevant in cases where the

substantially reducing legal disparities, strengthening penal sanctions, and proposing a 'general law' to facilitate more restitution and eliminate the need for specific legislation.

Besides bilateral and multilateral treaties, promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as negotiation, mediation, conciliation, and arbitration is equally vital for the return and restitution of cultural property. In this regard, the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property (ICPRCP) provides a mediation platform in cases that are not covered by international conventions.

Flexible, non-judicial solutions allow for the accommodation of historical and ethical considerations and contexts. The return and restitution of cultural property should not be viewed only through the perspective of international law and legal obligations but also as an ethical imperative through the lens of transitional justice. Furthermore, it is equally important to gather and maintain accurate, comprehensive, and up-to-date information on the restitution efforts of member states to efficiently target policy interventions in this area.

KEY QUESTIONS

1. How can G20 member states prevent illicit trafficking and facilitate the return and restitution of cultural property?
2. How can G20 member states enhance the effective implementation of existing international normative instruments to prevent illicit trafficking of cultural property?

3. How can G20 member states work on reducing the legal disparities in their respective national legislations on prevention of illicit trafficking and return and restitution of cultural property?
4. How can G20 member states strengthen the efficacy of alternate dispute resolution mechanism and build cooperation amongst themselves for the return and restitution of cultural property?

EXPECTED OUTCOMES


1. Achieve significant reduction in illicit trafficking of cultural property in G20 countries by 2030; strengthen regulation of online trading platforms and social media; and promote awareness raising and educational campaigns for the general public.
2. Increase the ratifications of key conventions and enhance access to information and sharing of knowledge by promoting interoperability among existing tools and databases at the disposal of stakeholders, notably the databases on stolen cultural property and national cultural heritage legislations, thereby preserving the cultural rights of people by ensuring equitable access to cultural heritage.
3. Promote an open and inclusive international dialogue to facilitate alternative dispute resolution mechanisms pertaining to the return and restitution of cultural property.
4. Support cultural institutions and museums to enhance the skills of their professionals by developing and promoting capacity building programs such as participatory activities, seminars, training sessions, and workshops that would assist in provenance research of their collections as well as establishment and improvement of inventories.

PRIORITY 2

HARNESSING LIVING HERITAGE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

PRINCIPLES

1. Promote the role of living heritage in sustainable development, expanding the notion
2. Harness living heritage to achieve sustainable development goals by building on G20 LiFE - or, Culture for LiFE - as a campaign for collective participation led by India.
3. Mainstream living heritage practices in policy frameworks across domains such as healthcare, natural resource management, and climate action among others.



continuous strengthening and viability of these systems are crucial to ensuring food security and quality nutrition for many communities around the globe.

Indigenous and local communities play a central role in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Traditionally, women have played a major role in breeding food crops and preserving seeds in many societies by growing and conserving multiple seed stocks to hedge against diseases and unpredictable climate. These seed stocks constitute a precious botanical repository of indigenous knowledge. In this context, farmers, herders, fishers, and traditional healers, among other local knowledge holders, are the significant custodians of biodiversity.

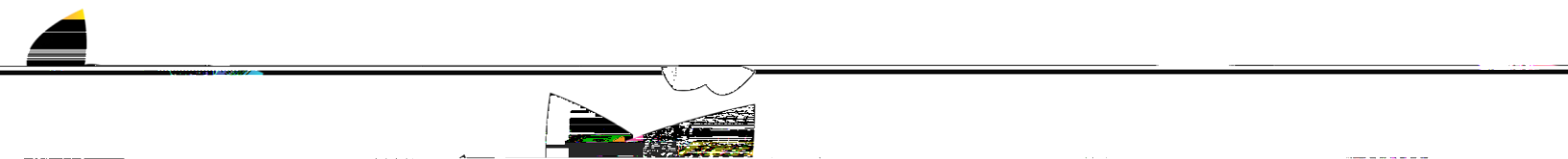
Culture and living heritage are crucial components for achieving sustainable and quality healthcare. Communities worldwide have created various health-related knowledge and practices that provide efficient and cost-effective therapies, frequently based on utilizing local natural resources. Today, frequent references are made to holistic healthcare practices such as acupuncture, ayurvedic medicine, herbal mixtures, and yoga, some of which have existed for centuries, even millennia. Integrating indigenous healthcare systems in national and international health planning agendas is critical to achieving inclusive healthcare.

Throughout history, local communities have demonstrated their ability to design sustainable water management methods and achieve access to clean water. These water management practices can lead to equitable access to clean water and sustainable water management, notably in agriculture and other livelihoods. The key to developing sustainable solutions to water-related environmental and development challenges lies in recognizing and respecting the diversity of water resource management systems, their enhancement and continued transmission.

Likewise, living heritage is strongly connected with formal and non-formal education, thereby playing a crucial role in safeguarding living heritage and supporting its transmission to younger generations. Providing context-specific content and pedagogy for education programs, it has the potential of increasing the relevance and quality of education and improving learning outcomes. Learning with and about living heritage contributes towards appreciation of diversity while sustaining skill adaptation and inter-cultural dialogue.

Living heritage also contains locally rooted knowledge and practices that provide a source of resilience against changing climate conditions and helps protect biodiversity. The significance of intangible cultural heritage practices for environmental sustainability in the fields of biodiversity conservation, natural and water resource management, disaster risk reduction, natural disaster preparedness and response mechanisms is widely acknowledged.

In this context, Mission LiFE, predicated on climate-friendly cultural norms, beliefs, and daily household practices of globally diverse cultures, was announced by PM Modi during the 26th UN Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP26), in 2021. LiFE envisions



2. How can G20 member states draw upon living heritage practices to combat global socio-environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development goals?
3. How can G20 member states integrate living heritage practices in policy frameworks to build a more comprehensive approach to culture and enable systemic linkages with other policy areas such as health and well-being, education, climate action, and disaster risk reduction, among others?

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Mainstream sustainable and eco-friendly cultural practices and know-how spanning diverse areas such as food security, health and well-being, education, biodiversity conservation, climate change, natural resource management, and responsible consumption, among others.
2. Develop instruments, mechanisms, and conceptual studies for integrated analysis and determining the role of intangible cultural heritage in achieving sustainable development goals.
3. Create a repository of reliable evidence and data on living heritage practices by 2025 to shape local approaches toward sustainable development.
4. Strengthen the framework for sharing knowledge and good practices on living heritage among the member states to mainstream them in policy frameworks.
5. Enhance synergies between tangible and intangible cultural heritage, notably through movable and living heritage, in educational systems, including in non-formal education settings, with a view to acknowledging and valorizing cultural diversity and cultural resources.
6. Sustain indigenous languages as a vehicle of living heritage and biodiversity and ensure participation in - and access to - all forms of culture are enhanced for Indigenous Peoples, notably through the Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032).

PRIORITY 3 PROMOTION OF CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND CREATIVE ECONOMY


PRINCIPLES

1. Increase, support and monitor the contribution of cultural and creative industries to global GDP and international exchange of goods and services.

2. Recognize the status of cultural practitioners across the cultural value chain and safeguard their social, economic, and cultural rights through formalization of the sector.
3. Prioritize policy interventions that secure the resilience of cultural and creative industries and enhance cooperation efforts for the sector.

KEY FOCUS

Cultural and creative industries are in the spotlight because they account for 3.1% of global GDP, provide 6.2% of all employment and hire more people aged 15-29more




areas of the world economy. As per UNESCO, they account for 3.1% of the global GDP, provide 6.2% of all employment, and hire more people aged 15–29 years than any other sector.⁴

Cultural and creative industries constitute a set of knowledge-based activities that generate tangible and intangible cultural goods and services. Seven of the top 10 exporters of creative goods are members of the G20.⁵

Republic of China, France, India, Italy, Turkey, and the United Kingdom, creative goods account for more than 5% of overall exports.⁶ G20 countries may, therefore, take a leading role in furthering international cooperation and solidarity with the Global South for more equitable exchanges of cultural goods and services. This is in line with the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and particularly its Article 16, thus facilitating a more equitable global cultural market.





sector. These include ensuring equal online access to culture for all, protecting online cultural and linguistic diversity, and addressing disparities in the global exchange of cultural goods and services due to the unequal concentration of global cultural platforms.

Enhanced collaboration among G20 member states, relevant international organizations, NGOs, educational institutions, and technology firms is essential for harnessing digital technologies to monitor, conserve, protect, promote, and explore cultural heritage so as to ensure its transmission to future generations.

AREAS OF DISCUSSION


For all countries, the preservation of valuable cultural assets for future generations is a major public policy goal. Our cultural heritage is faced with numerous challenges of deterioration and destruction precipitated by climate change, natural disasters, pollution, wind erosion, improper maintenance, vandalism, conflict, and war, among other global issues.

The information technology revolution has transformed almost every single industry within the global economy. However, the cultural sector has yet to take full advantage of the potential of digital platforms and emerging technologies for the protection, conservation, monitoring, and dissemination of tangible and intangible cultural assets.

Addressing the digital divide is a critical endeavour to enable equitable access to online culture. Technology can aid in preserving and revitalizing cultural heritage, indigenous knowledge systems, languages, oral traditions while ensuring their transmission to future generations.

Digital technologies, particularly open access approaches to technology can increase and democratize access to cultural sites and experiences for all, thus facilitating the development of resilient communities. This opportunity and access to a plethora of cultural experiences can broaden and expand the demand for cultural goods and services, thus further accelerating the growth of the creative economy. Advancements made in 3D technologies, augmented and virtual reality, artificial intelligence, remote sensing, and GIS technologies have made important contributions to cultural heritage management and conservation. These technologies have also aided interest, appreciation, and awareness among larger audiences and the youth in particular. By leveraging social media, the outreach of curated digital cultural experiences can be made accessible to a diverse global audience. This will also help drive the global demand for cultural tourism.

To sustain this trend, it is vital to develop an ecosystem based on building synergies with international organisations, universities, technology firms and civil society. Emerging technologies such as, machine learning, big data, extended reality, and the metaverse can be critical in the protection and promotion of cultural heritage at risk of disappearing from collective memory.



Concurrently, it is increasingly important to combat the associated challenges arising around the digital ownership of cultural artefacts, including the need to compensate communities based in the Global South for digital commodities that are created and traded. In this regard, leveraging the knowledge and expertise of universities and international institutions to build capacities in digital recording, processing and modelling can enhance ownership of digital cultural data assets


Guidelines provide a framework to implement the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in a digital environment. The guidelines call upon countries to provide digital equipment to educational institutions, museums and cultural centres. G20 member states can deliberate and develop on creating a mechanism which tracks the disbursement of the equipment at subsidised rates to public institutions which preserve, protect and promote culture. Online journals, web pages or online databases which comprise digital cultural heritage act as a repository that would help facilitate intercultural dialogue. As technology is rapidly evolving, digital cultural heritage based on old technologies needs to be interoperable with new technologies used to store research data. Collaboration between global digital platforms and public heritage organizations by a forum designed and developed by G20 member states would enable sharing of ideas, technical know-how, which would encourage making digital cultural heritage open and accessible for all.

To ensure digital data preservation, efforts are needed to implement international data standards and implement best practices for data management, such as FAIR (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability and Reuse) so that digital heritage could be preserved for the interoperability between existing and future digital platforms ensuring longevity. G20 member states can collaborate to promote best practices not only for tangible, intangible cultural heritage and natural heritage but also for digital heritage. This is in line with the 2009 UNESCO Charter on Preservation of the Digital Heritage.

The cultural heritage sector has integrative and cross-cutting attributes sharing roots, reach and relevance across borders. Therefore, it is an opportune time for the G20 member states to deliberate on global standards periodically of evolving technologies for promoting and protecting cultural heritage for future generations.

KEY QUESTIONS

1. How can G20 member states advance the global reflection on the impact of digital transformation for the cultural sector, addressing challenges related with unequal access to cultural heritage through strengthened regulatory frameworks at national levels and enhanced dialogue with technology firms?
2. How can G20 countries ensure sharing of best practices for the digitization of cultural heritage?
3. How can G20 countries develop interoperable and connected digital heritage platforms and create accessible database or registries, at national level, of artists, art collections, and cultural property?

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4. How can G20 countries leverage technology to enhance visibility and drive demand for cultural tourism?
 5. How can G20 member states ensure sound and equitable digital preservation of culture-related assets produced through information technology with regards to compatibility and accessibility?

