

Recognizing the linkages between cultural and biological diversity and the positive contribution of local and indigenous traditional knowledge in addressing environmental challenges in a sustainable manner,

Recalling the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,⁹ and acknowledging that, in many regions, forests have important cultural and spiritual value,

Taking note of the declaration adopted in Florence, Italy, on 4 October 2014, at the third United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries, the Hangzhou outcomes, adopted at the conference on the theme “Culture for sustainable cities”, held in Hangzhou, China, from 10 to 12 December 2015, the Bali Declaration, adopted at the second World Culture Forum, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 10 to 14 October 2016, the global report on culture for sustainable urban development of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, entitled *Culture: Urban Future*, of October 2016, the new strategy for the integration of culture and creativity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the eleventh annual meeting of the Creative Cities Network, held in Enghien-les-Bains, France, from 30 June to 2 July 2017, the twelfth annual meeting of the Creative Cities Network, held in Krakow and Katowice, Poland, from 12 to 15 June 2018, and the thirteenth annual meeting of the Creative Cities Network, held in Fabriano, Italy, from 10 to 15 June 2019, as well as its discussions on the role of culture across development areas, including education, entrepreneurship, innovation, inclusiveness and environmental sustainability,

Recognizing the role of museums as crucial partners for protecting and promoting culture, from safeguarding world heritage to countering illicit trafficking in cultural property, in particular through their preservation, research, communication and education efforts,

Recognizing also that culture in diplomacy remains an important component of strengthening international relations,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;¹⁰

2. *Reaffirms* the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development that provides people and communities with a strong sense of identity and social cohesion and contributes to more effective and sustainable development policies and measures at all levels, and stresses in this regard that policies responsive to cultural contexts can yield better, sustainable, inclusive and equitable development outcomes;

3. *Recognizes* the power of culture as a driver of sustainable development, which contributes to fostering social inclusion and developing a strong and viable economic sector by generating income, creating decent jobs and addressing both the economic and social dimensions of poverty through cultural heritage, including its

(o) To mobilize culture as a vehicle to foster tolerance, mutual understanding, peace and reconciliation in the context of conflict-prevention, conflict-resolution and peacebuilding processes;

17. *Expresses deep concern* that cultural property, including religious sites, shrines and cemeteries, and objects, is increasingly targeted by terrorist attacks and vandalism, often resulting in its damage, theft or complete destruction, and condemns such attacks;

18. *Encourages* all countries, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, within their existing mandates, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to enhance their cooperation with national, sub-national and local government

