

البيان
13, 15 and 20 January 2025, في إطار الاجتماعات
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Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to present the outcomes of the **Arab Regional Consultation** for MONDIACULT 2025, which has taken place on 13, 15 and 20 January 2025. The Regional Consultation was chaired by Mr. Mustapha Jlok, Director of national heritage, within the Minister of Youth, Culture, and Communication of the Kingdom of Morocco. Let me also reiterate our gratitude to ALECSO for hosting the consultation on 13 and 15 in the margins of the 24th session of the Ministers in charge of culture in the Arab world.

Overall, the Consultation brought together representatives from 15 Member States, as well as from 2 intergovernmental organizations, 14 national non-governmental organizations and universities, 5 international non-governmental organizations, 6 global specialized networks, 5 UNESCO chairs and 3 creative cities.

Let me share with you an overview of the main takeaways of the four successive sessions held over these three days.

أما في 13، 15 و 20 كانون الثاني، فقد اجتمع ممثلو 15 دولة من دول المنطقة، بالإضافة إلى ممثلين من 2 منظمة حكومية دولية، 14 منظمة غير حكومية وطنية وجامعات، 5 منظمات غير حكومية دولية، 6 شبكات متخصصة عالمية، 5 كراسي اليونسكو و3 مدن إبداعية. لقد أكدوا على الحاجة إلى تقدير وحماية التنوع الثقافي كركن أساسي للتنمية المستدامة وأساساً لسياسات عامة قائمة على الحقوق. كما تم التأكيد على أهمية تعزيز الأطر التشريعية لضمان حماية الحقوق الثقافية، إلى جانب معالجة الفجوات بين القوانين الحالية واحتياجات القطاع الثقافي. كما تم التأكيد على أهمية تدابير السياسات التي تدعم المحتوى المحلي.

heritage, archives and books , creating virtual museums, and leveraging artificial intelligence for heritage preservation. They also shared initiatives involving digital platforms to support artists' work , as well as cultural digital maps to promote economic diversification through online cultural tourism. Overall, countries and organizations underscored the need to enhance the diversity of cultural contents in the digital environment . However, concerns were raised regarding the protection of intellectual property and personal data, as well as the importance of training in digital tools and equitable access to information and communication technologies, particularly in light of the digital divide. It was emphasized that robust governance frameworks , including the principles of digital sobriety and the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence, are crucial for navigating the challenges and opportunities presented by rapid digital transformation and the expansion of AI .

The **UNESCO** **AI** **and** **Cultural** **Heritage** **Agenda** **2030** was highlighted as a guiding tool for embedding cultural practices into formal and informal educational systems. Participants emphasized the need to develop regionally tailored programs that

Indigenous knowledge. Discussions highlighted the role of Indigenous knowledge in fostering resilience and adaptation and called for more integrated approaches that align cultural preservation with environmental sustainability. Participants shared initiatives related to risk mitigation and resilience strategies at World Heritage sites, including responsible consumption and production, as well as sustainable water and land management practices, all of which contribute to sustaining livelihoods of local communities. They also encouraged the adoption of ecological approaches within the cultural sector, including the principles of eco-tourism. Countries and organizations advocated for building on cultural approaches to develop transformative policies for both mitigation and adaptation to climate change, in line with progress made towards strengthened global policy dialogue particularly within the framework of the COP.

Impact of crises on culture. Participants highlighted the devastating impacts of conflict, climate change, and disasters on all dimensions of culture, including monuments, living traditions, infrastructure, and manuscripts among others. Discussions centered on strategies to safeguard heritage in the face of crises, emphasizing the need for international cooperation, capacity-building, and emergency preparedness frameworks tailored to heritage sites, while calling for strengthened legal frameworks. Innovative approaches, such as insurance mechanisms for heritage protection, and the critical role of community-based solutions were also underscored. Solidarity and shared responsibility were deemed essential for protecting cultural heritage in times of crisis. Strengthening the implementation of the 1970 and 1954 Conventions was identified as a priority, particularly to address intentional destruction and looting of cultural property. The legacy of the colonial era was also a focus, with calls to advance the restitution of cultural property.

Societal impact of AI. explored how culture can respond to digital transformation such as artificial intelligence and contribute to building more peaceful and inclusive societies.

Cultural innovation and digital heritage. Participants discussed the potential of artificial intelligence with the potential to drive cultural innovation, create new employment opportunities, and preserve cultural heritage and archives. However, they emphasized the need for robust legislative frameworks to ensure the responsible and ethical use of AI, while promoting equitable representation of diverse cultural expressions across AI platforms, echoing the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. Participants also highlighted the critical importance of protecting intellectual property rights, addressing data protection risks, and safeguarding cultural and linguistic diversity in the digital realm. Additionally, they called for improvements in digital infrastructure, as well as the development of safe digital environments.

... f c l ... a a ... ic f di c i n, with participants sharing examples of initiatives fostering intercultural and interreligious dialogue. They emphasized the importance of investing in culture to combat discrimination, promote mutual understanding, and support conflict -affected communities ,