



SPECIAL DECLARATION ON CULTURE AS A PROMOTER OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The Heads of State and Government of the Latin America and the Caribbean States gathered in Havana, Cuba, on the occasion of the II Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2014,

1. Reaffirm that CELAC is the ideal space where rich cultural diversity of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples can be expressed;
2. Ratify the importance of cultural rights within the set of human rights as defined in the United Nations system, and urge all Member States to formulate public policies aimed at ensuring the full enjoyment of cultural rights;
3. Recognize the importance of culture for the sustainable development of all Member States and highlight its contribution to the integration of our peoples, preserving and promoting its multi-ethnic, multicultural and multilingual character. In this regard, they ratify their unanimous support to the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 65/166 and 66/208 on Cultural Development and commit themselves to working for due consideration of culture in the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
4. Stress the contribution of culture to eradicating poverty, reducing social inequalities, increasing job opportunities and reducing social exclusion rates, as part of the process towards the promotion of more equitable societies;
5. Advocate sharing and exchanging methodologies that enable a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the real impact of culture, creative and cultural industries on the economies and social development of our countries. This effort could lead to the establishment of cultural information systems that promote more efficient decisions by the States for consolidating culture as a tool of development and social advancement, from a national and regional perspective;
6. Call for sparing no effort to formulate and materialize regional projects to finance and promote cultural endeavors, including the promotion of synergies between public and private institutions;

7. Reaffirm the need of developing support and financing schemes for cultural projects, including, inter alia, cultural small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives, associations of artisans as complimentary paths for cultural entrepreneurship;
8. Support the taking of the necessary measures to safeguard traditional knowledge and wisdom that are part of Latin American and Caribbean identities;
9. Express their will to continue working on the struggle against illicit trafficking in cultural properties in the region, and the promotion, recovery and safeguard of the tangible and intangible heritage of our countries;
10. Underline the importance of the Portal of Culture of Latin America and the Caribbean and request UNESCO to continue its cooperation for the development of the Portal as an important tool for the promotion of cooperation in the field of culture within CELAC.

Havana, January 29, 2014