

# CULTURE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

**First Draft** - Last Revised on Friday, March 27th 2026

*This draft is preliminary and will be revised following further review, inputs, and consultations. All Parties and non-Party stakeholders are invited to provide additional inputs; please submit them [through this form](#).*



Diagram Credit: Jen Rae, Centre for Reworlding

## **Outcome of the first Culture Global Stocktake for Climate Action**

The first Culture Global Stocktake for Climate Action urges Parties, the entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, and invites the cultural ecosystem of cultural and heritage professional and non-professional actors, inter alia, artists, creatives, practitioners, Indigenous and people of African descent knowledge holders, local, tribal and place-based communities, researchers, archivists, artisans, language preservationists, archaeologists, academics, directors, producers, actors, musicians, singers, animators, illustrators, game developers, photographers, dancers, choreographers, designers, poets, writers, graffiti artists, adult industry performers, makers, art teachers, librarians, chefs, curators, festival organizers, conservationists, cultural centers, cultural and creative industries, subcultures, gastronomy cultures, spiritual and/or religious leaders, businesses and workers advertising, media and entertainment, sports, fashion, cultural policymakers, cultural entrepreneurs and their associated service providers, partners and other stakeholders to take the following urgent actions to strengthen culture-based climate action by;

1. *Recognizing* culture, cultural diversity and cultural heritage as defined in UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) and UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005); and *acknowledging* the cultural rights of individuals and communities as recognized by international law in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007);

2. *Further recognizing* culture as diverse systems of meaning, values, artistic expression, knowledges and practices through which societies interpret, inhabit and respond to the world, expressed and sustained through cultural ecosystems and transmitted through generations, as well as enabling infrastructures, constituting economic activities, producing and distributing cultural goods and services without encompassing the totality of culture itself. *Further noting* this distinction avoids reducing culture to an economic sector and instead positions it as a foundational dimension shaping climate action and *recognizing* nature as a cultural and human right;

3. *Recalling* the Preamble, Articles 7.5 and 12 of the Paris Agreement, which emphasize that effective climate action requires inclusive, participatory and cooperative approaches across all levels of society, including through education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, international cooperation, and the consideration of Indigenous knowledge and local knowledge systems and people of African descent, and recognizing that culture is a cross-cutting consideration amongst these civic, social, knowledge-based and economic dimensions across both public and private sectors;

4. *Further recalling* Article 14, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement, which establishes that the Parties to the Paris Agreement shall periodically take stock of its implementation in order to assess collective progress towards achieving its purpose and long-term goals;

5. *Recalling* decision 1/CMA.5 on the outcome of the first Global Stocktake, which encourages the High-Level Champions, the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and Non-Party stakeholders to consider the outcomes of the global stocktake in their work on scaling up and introducing new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions;

6. *In pursuit of ensuring* that the Second Global Stocktake (GST2) in the 33rd Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) delivers a collective assessment to apply a stocktake approach to the cultural sector and strengthen the role of culture in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, urges Parties and Non-Party stakeholders to identify gaps, highlight evidence, and outline pathways to integrate cultural dimensions across climate action efforts;

7. *Reaffirming* the shared vision of the Outcome Document of MONDIACULT 2025 of the right to take part in cultural life as a human right, inherent to dignity and identity. *Recognizing* that culture contributes to the full exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, peacebuilding, inclusive economic growth, climate resilience, wellbeing and sustainable development. *Further recognizing* that culture is a global public commons, with intrinsic value, whose transformative power must be fully mobilized to address today's challenges and to shape more just, equitable, peaceful, intercultural, inclusive and sustainable societies;<sup>1</sup>

8. *Acknowledging* that culture is both a driver and enabler of climate action that strengthens the implementation of the Paris Agreement by fostering social cohesion, resilience, public engagement, and long-term behavioral transformation, and *noting* Article 9(g) of the Global Goals on Adaptation to assess progress on enhancing the resilience and protection of cultural practices and heritage sites; while *also noting* with concern that in some instances culture also has barriers such as ecological-footprint, co-optation of fossil fuel based and other extractive industries, and production waste;

9. *Noting* that the creative industries represent 3.39% of global GDP and 3.55% of global employment, generating nearly 50 million jobs worldwide and employ more people aged 15 to 29 than any other sector<sup>2</sup>;

10. *Highlighting* the creative economy sector's substantial contribution to international trade, *noting* that United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimates that export of creative services reached a record USD \$1.4 trillion in 2022, almost double those of creative goods exports, which totaled USD \$713 billion;

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<sup>1</sup> UNESCO MONDIACULT, 2025, Outcome Document MONDIACULT 2025 Culture Minister's Commitment, [https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2025/09/EN\\_MONDIACULT\\_Outcome\\_Document%20Final%202027.09.25.pdf](https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2025/09/EN_MONDIACULT_Outcome_Document%20Final%202027.09.25.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> UNESCO Global Report on Cultural Policies, "Culture: The Missing SDG", 2025, <https://www.unesco.org/en/culture/global-report>.

11. *Noting with concern* that the impacts of climate change are not distributed equally, disproportionately affecting low-income countries and Most Affected People and Areas (MAPA) despite being largely driven by historical and present emissions from wealthier countries and high-income individuals; *further notes* that a person from the richest 0.1% generates more carbon pollution in a single day than someone in the poorest 50% produces in an entire year<sup>3</sup>;

12. *Recalling* Article 2, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, which reflects the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and recognizing that actors across the cultural sector and creative industries operate under diverse circumstances, resources and capacities that shape their ability to contribute to climate action;

13. *Recognizing* the importance of climate justice and *underscoring* that cultural knowledge systems, heritage practices and creative expression play a critical role in protecting affected communities and shaping more just and equitable pathways for mitigation, adaptation and resilience;

14. *Noting* the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including forests, oceans, mountains and the cryosphere, and the protection of biodiversity, recognizing these as living, interconnected systems of which humans are a part, and upon which present and future generations depend, and acknowledging that many global cultures and communities understand these relationships through worldviews that express reciprocity, responsibility and continuity between human and non-human life;

15. *Underlining* the urgent need to address, in a comprehensive and synergistic manner, the cultural dimensions of climate action, and to ensure that these dimensions are reflected in formal climate decision texts and governance frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and GST2 in order to strengthen effective climate action;

## **I. Context and cross-cutting considerations**

16. *Emphasizes* that culture-based climate action and solutions must be grounded in equity, justice and inclusive participation, and *recognizes* cultural ecosystems as interdependent systems that sustain relationships between human and non-human life across generations; *further recognizes* that Indigenous peoples, local communities, people of African descent, women, children and youth, older persons, migrants, refugees, LGBTIQ+ people, religious and ethnic minorities people with disabilities, and other historically excluded groups are disproportionately affected by climate impacts while also serving as custodians of knowledge and key transmitters of cultural heritage, and *affirms* the protection and realization of cultural rights as integral to just climate action and environmental stewardship;

17. *Reaffirms* that climate change is not only an environmental, social and economic challenge but also a cultural one, as climate disruptions affect sacred landscapes, cultural heritage sites and practices, community identities and traditional practices that shape relationships between societies and the natural world;

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<sup>3</sup> Oxfam International, 2025, Climate Plunder: How a powerful few are locking the world into disaster <https://doi.org/10.21201/2025.000091>.

18. *Underscores* the essential role of Indigenous knowledge systems, traditional ecological knowledge and community-based cultural practices in supporting climate adaptation, ecological stewardship and resilient governance systems, and *strongly reaffirms* that these knowledge systems should be respected, protected and integrated alongside scientific knowledge;

19. *Highlights* that climate change is a paramount concern for younger generations and underscores the role of arts and culture in strengthening climate awareness, enabling behavioural change and fostering creativity and imagination in responding to environmental crises, connecting with nature, and *encourages* partnerships between cultural and educational institutions to integrate arts- and heritage-based climate learning into formal education systems as part of broader climate literacy efforts and reimagining futures<sup>4</sup>;

20. *Notes* the role of cultural ecosystem in transforming climate science into lived experiences and supporting social movements in strengthening the elements of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and shaping social acceptance of climate policies and environmental values;

21. *Emphasizes* the importance of strengthening synergies across the Rio Conventions on climate change, biodiversity and desertification, and recognizes culture as a transversal and cross-cutting dimension that connects climate action, ecosystem protection and sustainable land stewardship, including through the diverse knowledge systems, cultural practices and creative sectors;

22. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting narrative and information integrity and strengthening multilateralism by connecting climate processes with people on the ground and accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and *recognizes* the role the cultural ecosystem in avoiding societal polarization and addressing misinformation, malinformation, disinformation<sup>5</sup>, greenwashing and environmental narratives through transparent, evidence-based climate communication;

23. *Reaffirms* the Paris Agreement temperature goal of limiting global warming to well below 2 °C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, and *recognizes* that exceeding these thresholds is and will continue to result in significant economic and non-economic losses for the cultural ecosystem, including damage to cultural heritage practices, landscapes, and sites, traditional knowledge systems, livelihoods, health and well-being of all people working across cultural and creative industries;

24.. *Stresses* that 2025 was the third warmest year on record and that the past 11 years have been the warmest on record, with the average for 2023–2025 exceeding 1.5°C above

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<sup>4</sup> UNESCO, 2024, *Education and climate change: Learning to act for people and planet*. Global Education Monitoring Report, <https://www.unesco.org/gem-report/en/2024ccec>.

<sup>5</sup> World Economic Forum, 2025, *The Global Risks Report 2025*, 20th Edition. Geneva: World Economic Forum, <https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2025/>.

pre-industrial levels for the first time over a three-year period<sup>6</sup> and that seven of nine planetary boundaries have been breached<sup>7</sup>;

25. *Recognizes* that, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), an estimated 3.3 to 3.6 billion people live in contexts highly vulnerable to climate change;

26. *Expresses appreciation* to the 56 Member States that have joined the Group of Friends for Culture-Based Climate Action (GFCBCA)<sup>8</sup> co-chaired by the Ministries of Culture of Brazil and the United Arab Emirates, as of March of 2026, signaling growing political will to integrate culture-related considerations into the global climate action agenda, and recalling the commitments articulated in the Emirates Declaration and the Barcelona Declaration, which should be upheld and advanced by their signatory Member States;

27. *Welcomes* the adoption of the five-year vision for accelerating the implementation of the Global Climate Action Agenda<sup>9</sup> by the UNFCCC High-Level Champions, guided by the COP30 Presidency, and *celebrates* the inclusion of a priority goal for culture (19) under Human and Social Development (Axis 5). *Further notes* the interlinkages between strengthening resilient health systems; reducing the impacts of climate change while eradicating hunger and poverty; advancing education, capacity-building and job creation to address climate change; and promoting culture, cultural heritage protection, and climate action;

28. *Recognizes* that the concept of “Mutirão,” promoted by the COP30 Presidency as a call for collective action and shared responsibility, originates from cultural traditions of mutual aid and community cooperation practiced across many societies, demonstrating how cultural knowledge systems and collective practices can enable collaborative climate action, and *notes* with regret that culture was not explicitly included in the “Mutirão” decision text contained in the Belém Political Package adopted at COP30;

29. *Encourages* businesses and institutions across the cultural and creative industries to strengthen corporate social responsibility and climate leadership through transparent sustainability practices, science-based climate targets and responsible production models aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement;

30. *Recognizes* the cultural dimensions of food systems, agricultural traditions and culinary heritage, food cultures, and highlights their role in shaping sustainable consumption patterns, biodiversity protection and climate-resilient livelihoods across communities and regions, including through culinary traditions that promote diversified, reduce food waste, promote circular economy, and locally rooted and plant-based dietary practices;

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<sup>6</sup> Copernicus European Space Agency, Global Climate Highlights, 2025, “Copernicus: 2025 was the third hottest year on record”, <https://climate.copernicus.eu/copernicus-2025-was-third-hottest-year-record>.

<sup>7</sup> Stockholm Resilience Centre, 2025, Planetary boundaries, <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html>.

<sup>8</sup> COP28 Presidency, 2023, High Level Ministerial Dialogue for Culture-Based Climate Action, <https://www.cop28.com/en/schedule/high-level-ministerial-dialogue-for-culture-based-climate-action>.

<sup>9</sup> UN Climate Change Conference - Belém, 2025, Global Climate Action Agenda 2026–2030: A five-year vision for accelerating implementation, <https://unfccc.int/documents/652935>.

31. *Strongly reaffirms* that culture-based climate action and solutions require coordinated and multi-layered coordination spanning cultural ecosystems, institutions, local governments, civil society, philanthropy and the private sector, and *underscores* the importance of strengthened collaboration across the United Nations system, including with UNESCO and other relevant agencies, to advance synergies between cultural ecosystem, including cultural policies and global climate action efforts;

32. *Recognizes* that cultural diplomacy and culture-based climate action can strengthen multilateralism and and further notes the 12th Letter of the COP30 Presidency<sup>10</sup> asking Parties to operate at “two complementary speeds” and evolve towards a new “two-tier multilateralism” for advance in implementation of the Paris Agreement;

33. *Urges* the cooperation and partnerships at global and local scales based on human rights<sup>11</sup>, while including Global-Majority, but also cultural and language minorities at risk of losing their authenticity and integrity;

34. *Acknowledges* that the climate crisis is rooted in historical and ongoing systems of colonial crimes, extraction and exploitation of territories, resources, bodies, and identities that have shaped patterns of environmental degradation, inequality and cultural disruption, and *emphasizes* the role of cultural, heritage, and creative practice in supporting decolonial approaches to climate action that restore reciprocal relationships between communities, knowledge systems and the natural world;

35. *Recognizes* that cultural ecosystem is heavily consolidated and monopolized, driven by corporate profit motives, and largely dominated by patriarchal systems in the Global North, and that this concentration of power reinforces cultural inequity and limits cultural diversity, perpetuating narratives that normalize endless consumption, reinforce the separation of humans from nature and shape policies and behaviors that justify extraction. *Further notes* that many cultural industries and much of mainstream cultural content is rooted in a worldview of domination shaped by centuries of colonization and economies built on fossil fuels;

36. *Recognizes* that human cultural practices have not only been sources of resilience and stewardship but have also embedded norms that permit the disrespect, exploitation, and violence towards the more-than-human world and *urges* Parties and Non-Party stakeholders to critically examine and transform such cultural patterns internationally, and to establish and sustain governance frameworks, educational processes, and community practices that reestablish reciprocal, accountable, and regenerative relationships within planetary boundaries and ecosystems;

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<sup>10</sup> Brazilian Presidency of COP30, (2026), Twelfth Letter from the President, <https://cop30.br/en/brazilian-presidency/letters-from-the-president/twelfth-letter-from-the-president>.

<sup>11</sup> General Assembly of United Nations, 2023, A/RES/78/209: Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4069372?v=pdf>.

## **Collective progress towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action**

### **A. Mitigation**

37. *Recalls* Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which calls for enhanced participation of both public and private sectors in the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and *encourages* Parties and non-Party stakeholders to engage the cultural ecosystem, in related mitigation efforts;

38. *Calls* on cultural institutions, creative industry stakeholders and cultural infrastructure providers, as well as individual artists and cultural practitioners, to integrate and adopt science-based and heritage-based decarbonization pathways aligned with the Paris Agreement and the best available science, and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems, including efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 per cent by 2030 and to achieve net-zero emissions by mid-century or sooner, and to take steps to reduce emissions across the full cultural value chain, including development, production, distribution, exhibition and audience engagement;

39. *Takes note* that the IPCC expresses a high level of confidence in the potential of narrative shifts, social influencers and thought leaders to accelerate the adoption of low-carbon technologies, behaviors and lifestyles, and *notes* that the engagement of approximately 10–30 per cent of influential actors can contribute to the establishment of new social norms supportive of climate action,<sup>12</sup> including through the role of cultural ecosystem in shaping narratives, engaging audiences and influencing cultural norms, values and aspirations, and in normalizing low-carbon, regenerative and nature-positive ways of living;

40. *Notes with alarm and serious concern* that the cultural sector and its practitioners do not have consensus on the total amount of emissions generated across all creative industries combined, and acknowledges that existing data remain partial, fragmented and sector-specific, with no unified global dataset currently available;

41. *Urges* the development of standardized methodologies, sector-wide benchmarks and transparent reporting, monitoring and evaluation systems to measure, aggregate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, waste, and resource use, across the cultural and creative industries; and *notes* the absence of a unified global dataset and that existing approaches remain fragmented and unevenly distributed across regions and subsectors; thus *encourages* expanded and more inclusive data collection, as well as greater coordination and interoperability of methodologies, including, where appropriate, alignment with existing reporting platforms such as the UNFCCC Global Climate Action Portal (NAZCA) or complementary national and regional systems;

42. *Notes with significant concern* that global emissions trajectories remain inconsistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and recognizes that the rapid growth of the

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<sup>12</sup> IPCC Report Chapter 5, 2022, Executive Summary of Mitigation of Climate Change, [IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGIII\\_FullReport.pdf](#), p. 124.

cultural and creative industries requires accelerated decarbonization efforts to ensure that sectoral expansion does not lead to increasing greenhouse gas emissions and *emphasizes* that such efforts must be implemented in a just and equitable manner that accounts for local contexts and capacities, and avoids adverse social and environmental impacts, including land dispossession, resource inequities and other unintended consequences associated with infrastructure and energy transitions, while also encouraging, alongside decarbonization efforts, the integration of restoration and regeneration practices and positive contributions to biodiversity;

43. *Urges* cultural institutions, production companies, festivals and event organizers to accelerate the transition toward low-carbon cultural production, including through fair renewable energy use, circular design and sustainable materials, electrified production infrastructure and the phase-out of diesel generators at cultural venues, soundstages and event productions;

44. *Recognizes* the role of cities and local governments in enabling low-carbon cultural ecosystems, including through access to renewable energy grids, sustainable mobility systems, climate-resilient cultural infrastructure and public cultural venues, and acknowledges the broader role of cultural infrastructure and cultural ecosystems in contributing to cross-sectoral climate solutions across urban systems, including in areas such as the built environment, public health, water systems and housing; while noting the need to differentiate between urban and rural contexts, which have distinct characteristics and climate resilience pathways, including urban focus on infrastructure and mobility, and rural contributions through cultural landscapes and traditional land stewardship;

45. *Recognizes* the role of cultural heritage in mitigation and in enabling a just transition to low-carbon futures, noting that tangible and intangible heritage, including traditional knowledge, can provide time-tested, low-carbon and regenerative practices across sectors, including the built and natural environment, agriculture and energy, and can support emissions reductions, particularly in the built environment, while contributing to cultural shifts toward sustainable and resilient futures, and acknowledges the role of cultural landscapes and rural areas in safeguarding carbon sinks and applying climate-resilient land stewardship practices;

46. *Encourages* cultural and creative industries to address emissions across their supply chains, including materials sourcing, equipment manufacturing, logistics, digital infrastructure and service providers associated with cultural production and distribution and urging them to operate based on credible standards;

47. *Acknowledges* that cultural production and media industries have historically contributed to the normalization of high-consumption lifestyles and economic models dependent on fossil fuels, while also recognizing their potential to accelerate the transition toward low-carbon societies; including by making lower-consumption, regenerative and sustainable lifestyles visible, desirable and socially normative;

48. *Urges Parties to recognize* the role of advertising, public relations, branding and media infrastructures in shaping public perceptions and social norms around energy systems, and *calls* cultural and creative professionals to align their professional practices with climate science and the goals of the Paris Agreement, including by refraining from communications, campaigns

or partnerships that advance fossil fuel expansion or delay the transition to renewable energy systems;

49. *Takes note* of emerging frameworks such as the concept of “Serviced Emissions”, which expand the scope of climate accountability within creative and communications industries by measuring not only operational emissions but also emissions associated with client work, campaigns and narratives that shape consumption patterns, and encourages the development of standards that integrate such approaches into global climate accounting frameworks and net-zero commitments for the creative sector<sup>13</sup>;

50. *Encourages* the adoption of sustainable and just mobility and travel practices across the cultural communities and creative sectors, while protecting cultural actors and workers rights to mobility, including for peer learning, cultural productions, festivals, touring industries and other cultural events, by prioritizing low-carbon transport options, reducing unnecessary air travel and incentivizing sustainable mobility solutions for audiences, artists, cultural practitioners and production teams, encouraging the protection and restoration of nature and local authenticity across all locations where cultural activities take place, including during travel, touring, and temporary productions;

51. *Urges* the cultural ecosystem to align their financial practices and partnerships with the goals of the Paris Agreement, including by divesting from fossil fuel investments<sup>14</sup> and sponsorships and supporting the transition away from fossil fuel dependence;

52. *Urges* increased transparency and accountability in the participatory governance and financing of cultural ecosystem and their diverse stakeholders at the national and international level, including the disclosure of sponsorship arrangements, endowment investments and potential conflicts of interest, in order to support pathways for phasing out fossil fuel influence across cultural institutions;

53. *Strongly encourages* cultural ecosystem to support international efforts aimed at accelerating a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuel dependence, while acknowledging diverse national contexts and dependencies on public funding, including through engagement with and endorsement of initiatives, such as the Fossil Fuel Treaty, which seeks to end new fossil fuel expansion, phase down existing production and enable a fair global transition consistent with the 1.5°C goal;

54. *Welcomes* the growing number of organizations and companies within the cultural and creative industries that have publicly disclosed their climate commitments and emissions data through NAZCA, and *encourages* additional cultural institutions, creative industry stakeholders and initiatives participating in Race to Zero and other climate leadership platforms to transparently report their greenhouse gas inventories, targets and progress through this mechanism;

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<sup>13</sup> Serviced Emissions Hub; Oxford Net Zero, Creatives for Climate, Purpose Disruptors, Exponential Roadmap and Initiative Legal Charter 1.5

<sup>14</sup> An example from Australia: ABC News “[Santos Ends Sponsorship of Popular Darwin Festival after Lengthy Campaign by Environmentalists Opposing Fossil Fuels](#),” (18 Oct 2022) Darwin Festival ends sponsorship by gas giant Santos, [World Without Fossil Ads](#).

## **B. Adaptation**

55. *Recalls* Article 7 of the Paris Agreement, paragraph 1, which establishes the Global Goal on Adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, and paragraph 2, which recognizes adaptation as a global challenge with local, subnational, national, regional and international dimensions, and as a key component of the long-term global response to protect people, livelihoods and ecosystems, especially on vulnerable areas, like small island states, coastal and polar regions;

56. *Notes with concern* that the IPCC 6th Assessment Synthesis Report found that climate change is driving cultural losses, related to tangible, intangible, and living heritage, threatening adaptive capacity and may result in irrevocable losses of sense of belonging, valued cultural practices, identity and home, particularly for Indigenous Peoples, local communities and people of African descent, and those more directly reliant on the environment for subsistence<sup>15</sup> and affected by the climate change;

57. *Recalls* the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, CMA5, to guide Parties and Non-Parties in the implementation of the Global Goal on Adaptation and which includes a thematic target on cultural heritage (9g) and *further recalls* decisions 7/CMA.3, 1/CMA.4, and 3/CMA.4, which mandate the Global Stocktake to assess collective progress on adaptation;

58. *Welcomes* the inclusion of five indicators for assessing progress under target 9(g) of the Global Goal on Adaptation framework, relating to protecting cultural heritage from the impacts of climate-related risks through adaptive strategies for preserving cultural practices and heritage sites and designing climate-resilient infrastructure, guided by traditional knowledge, Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and local knowledge systems, including the following<sup>16</sup>:

- a) Percentage of at-risk cultural and natural heritage sites and elements with adaptation measures implemented to enhance resilience to climate-related hazards under different warming scenarios, as appropriate for regions and contexts, guided by traditional, local or Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and practices, disaggregated, as appropriate, by tangible and intangible cultural elements;
- b) Proportion of cultural heritage protected from climate impacts through digitization measures for preservation and recovery and by storing movable heritage in climate-resilient facilities;
- c) Percentage of cultural heritage and sites with adaptation measures and emergency preparedness plans in place for climate change-related hazards under different warming scenarios, as appropriate for regions and contexts;
- d) Level of establishment of institutional arrangements for the provision of regular training on climate change adaptation that incorporates guidance from traditional, local and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge where applicable;

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<sup>15</sup>The IUCN's World Heritage Outlook 3 found that climate change affected 33 per cent of natural World Heritage sites in 2020, up from 15 per cent in 2014. A 2025 UNESCO assessment of 114 Mediterranean World Heritage cities reported that nearly two-thirds already experience at least one climate-related hazard, and nearly a fifth report experiencing three or more hazards, underlining the operational need for risk-informed heritage management alongside city-level adaptation planning.

<sup>16</sup> UN FCCC/PA/CMA/2025/L.25, Draft decision on -/CMA.7, Global goal on adaptation (22 November 2025)

- e) Percentage of climate adaptation measures focused on cultural heritage that maintain sustained engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities;

59. *Welcomes* further and continuous refinement work on the Indicators by the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies as well as the new two-year Belém–Addis Vision on Adaptation Policy aimed at developing guidance for operationalizing the Belém Adaptation Indicators, noting that these processes must be inclusive and, in particular, the significant gaps in regional representation and subject matter expertise reflected in the list of cultural heritage experts previously selected by the SB Co-Chairs under the UAE-Belem Work Programme must be filled in these new processes;

60. *Further notes* the 2025 Updated Strategy of the Adaptation Committee on Technical guidance and training materials to support the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience which found that, of the seven thematic targets, cultural heritage was the lowest priority of responding parties, and *benefits* from the fewest number of technical guidance and training materials<sup>17</sup>;

61. *Notes with concern* that paragraph 7 of decision -/CMA.7 relating to the Belém Adaptation Indicators establishes that these indicators are voluntary, non-prescriptive, non-punitive and facilitative in nature, and *encourages* strengthened, supported reporting of the agreed upon indicators to better assess progress, access finance, increase accountability and accelerate implementation;

62. *Further notes* that gaps persist in the implementation, support and collective assessment of culture-based adaptation, underscoring the need to dramatically scale up adaptation finances and, in this regard, welcoming paragraph 18 of the CMA.6 New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance decision that these efforts should take into account the global goal on adaptation and the targets referred to in paragraphs 9–10 of decision 2/CMA.5, including cultural heritage;

63. *Encourages* local governments, cultural ecosystems to support Parties in the collection of data and reporting on indicators under target 9(g) of the Global Goal on Adaptation Framework, with a view to facilitating the integration of cultural heritage and cultural ecosystem considerations into national adaptation plans (NAPs), adaptation communications and other relevant reporting mechanisms;

64. *Recognizes* the significant efforts of Parties, particularly “developing country Parties”, in formulating and implementing NAPs, adaptation communications and NDCs, including through domestic expenditure and the integration of adaptation priorities into national development strategies, applauds the 2021 Rome Declaration of G20 Ministers of Culture which invited Parties to consider including culture and cultural heritage in their Adaptation Communications and *welcomes* the Parties that have begun integrating cultural heritage, cultural landscapes and local and Indigenous knowledge systems into their national adaptation planning processes;

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<sup>17</sup> UNFCCC. (2025). Technical guidance and training materials to support the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience: Updated draft strategy paper (AC27/STRAT/9): [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/AC27\\_9\\_Decision2CMA5\\_Para44\\_UpdatedDraftStrategyPaper.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/AC27_9_Decision2CMA5_Para44_UpdatedDraftStrategyPaper.pdf).

65. *Also recognizes* the significant challenges faced by “developing country Parties” in accessing adequate and predictable finance for implementing adaptation actions and NAPs, and further acknowledges that these Parties face disproportionate physical impacts of climate change, including escalating loss and damage, compounding their capacity constraints and financing needs;

66. *Welcomes* all the Plans to Accelerate Solutions on Culture<sup>18</sup>, such as the initiative of GFCBCA aimed at advancing the systematic integration of cultural heritage considerations into NAPs through the development of guidance, pilot country processes and strengthened institutional capacities for heritage-inclusive adaptation planning, and Heritage Adapts!, a global campaign mobilizing thousands of heritage sites and cultural practices to implement locally led adaptive strategies by 2030, advancing the Global Goal on Adaptation frameworks’s cultural heritage target 9(g);

67. *Encourages* the implementation of integrated and multi-sectoral adaptation solutions, including sustainable land stewardship, resilient food systems and ecosystem-based approaches that protect, conserve and restore ecosystems such as forests, mountains and coastal environments, recognizing that these approaches can enhance community resilience and well-being while drawing on the best available science as well as Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge, traditional ecological knowledge and local cultural values, practices and knowledge systems that guide sustainable resource stewardship, collective action and behavioural change;

68. *Invites* local governments and the cultural ecosystem to promote adaptation and participatory approaches within cultural landscapes, including ecosystem-based, biodiversity restoration, regenerative land stewardship and nature-positive cultural practices and programming as well as community-based research;

69. *Applauds* that cultural expression, storytelling and interdisciplinary artistic practices can support climate adaptation by strengthening risk awareness, intergenerational knowledge transmission and community-led responses to climate impacts;

70. *Urges* Parties and Non-Party Stakeholders in the cultural ecosystem to ensure that activities undertaken in natural, cultural and biocultural landscapes reduce their environmental impact and degradation and instead contribute to restoring and enhancing ecosystem integrity, while *notes with concern* the endangerment and external threats faced by Indigenous Peoples, local communities and people of African descent, in this process and *encourages* their full stewardship, safeguard, and rights such as Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC);

71. *Strongly considers* that cultural infrastructures are capable to serve as community resilience and adaptation hubs during climate-related extreme events, by providing temporary shelter, cooling or heating support and social protection measures that strengthen local adaptation, disaster risk reduction, resilience capacities and support community-led responses;

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<sup>18</sup> All Plans to Accelerate Solutions are available at: <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/CopsAndSummits/COP30>

72. *Encourages* Parties, local governments and Non-Party stakeholders to integrate cultural ecosystem and the its infrastructure into city, regional and national adaptation plans, recognizing their role as critical infrastructure for community resilience;

73. Emphasizes that climate adaptation strategies should include quantitative and qualitative measures to safeguard cultural rights and heritage as well as cultural landscapes, recognizing their role in sustaining identity, social cohesion and community resilience in the face of climate impacts;

## **C. Means of Implementation and Support**

### **1. Finance**

74. *Recalls* Article 9 of the Paris Agreement, which establishes that “developed country Parties” shall provide financial resources to assist “developing country Parties” with respect to both mitigation and adaptation, and which encourages other Parties to provide or continue to provide such support voluntarily;

75. *Notes with concern* that finance directed toward culture-based climate action remains extremely limited, despite the role of cultural ecosystem in delivering mitigation, adaptation, capacity-building competencies and responses to loss and damage;

76. *Notes* that although existing climate finance architecture may in principle support culture-based climate action where it contributes to mitigation, adaptation and responses to loss and damage, cultural ecosystem initiatives remain largely absent from funded portfolios due to limited eligibility recognition, lack of dedicated funding windows and insufficient guidance on how culture-based initiatives can access climate finance mechanisms;

77. *Recognizes* the persistent global imbalances and structural issues in climate finance flows and emphasizes the need to significantly increase accessible, grant-based and locally led finance for Global Majority countries, particularly “least developed countries” and small island “developing States”, recognizing both the disproportionate climate vulnerabilities faced by these regions and their significant potential to advance culture-based climate solutions rooted in local knowledge, heritage and community resilience;

78. *Calls* on climate funds, including the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund and other financing mechanisms, to establish explicit eligibility criteria and dedicated funding windows recognizing culture and cultural heritage as cross-cutting dimensions of climate action and the intersections between mitigation, adaptation and resilience efforts;

79. *Urges* climate funds, multilateral development banks, bilateral donors and philanthropic institutions to recognize and financially support cultural ecosystem, including rights holders and stakeholders, and matters related to Article 12 of the Paris Agreement and *underscores* the work of these actors as eligible implementing partners, with an emphasis on

directly impacted communities and, where appropriate, direct recipients of climate finance when they contribute to mitigation, adaptation and loss-and-damage outcomes;

80. *Requests* that dedicated public funding windows, grant programmes and readiness support be made available for culture-based climate action including art–science collaboration, climate and cultural literacy initiatives, community storytelling, artist residencies in research institutions, and climate-focused cultural programming for cultural rights holders and stakeholders, including approaches that strengthen the economic resilience, stability and agency of artists and cultural practitioners as essential actors in culture-based climate action;

81. *Encourages* climate finance providers to ensure that funding frameworks cover not only project outputs but also the enabling preparatory activities necessary for effective culture-based climate action, including coordination, research, translation, accessibility, community engagement, capacity-building and sustained local engagement, and sustained access to long-term, flexible, predictable, and, where appropriate, multi-year and unrestricted funding;

82. *Calls* on climate funds and philanthropic institutions to improve practical access for cultural and community-based actors through streamlined and accessible application processes, strengthened direct access modalities, participatory approaches and the support for community-based cultural practices, such as those of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and people of African descent, and support for local organizations and community-based cultural practices, while ensuring transparency, due diligence and accountability, and prioritizing direct access over reliance on low-value intermediaries, noting that existing evidence indicates that only a very small share of global climate finance currently reaches Indigenous Peoples and local communities directly, and recognizing the need for funding approaches that support cultural continuity, long-term processes and locally embedded practices, in addition to short-term, results-based delivery;

83. *Encourages* Parties, national designated authorities, national implementing entities and relevant national governance structures, including those related to ACE, to embed and consult the cultural ecosystem in national climate finance planning, project design and implementation processes, including within National Adaptation Plans and climate finance readiness programmes, and further *encourages* the integration of culture-based climate action within NDCs, investment plans and broader financial strategies, including in efforts to align financial flows with low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement, and within relevant climate finance tracking and reporting frameworks, including the Global Stocktake;

84. *Recommends* that funds addressing non-economic loss and damage explicitly recognize cultural heritage, cultural identity and community-based cultural responses within their programming and access modalities. UNFCCC technical work on non-economic losses specifically identifies cultural heritage as one of the relevant categories of non-economic loss;

85. *Encourages* national cultural endowments, public arts funds, philanthropic institutions and private donors to make culture-based climate action a strategic funding priority and to pursue ethical finance by adopting transparent sponsorship and investment policies that address

environmental breakdown<sup>19</sup>, including shifting partnerships and financial relationships away from highly polluting industries and toward genuinely climate-aligned alternatives;

86. *Recognizes* the significant economic scale of the global creative economy, which generates over USD 2 trillion annually<sup>20</sup> and supports tens of millions of jobs worldwide, and encourages governments, cultural institutions and private sector actors to explore innovative financing mechanisms within the creative economy to support culture-based climate action, including benefit-sharing approaches, reinvestment profit revenues, cultural climate funds, and associative or community-based philanthropy, as well as partnerships between, but not limited to, creative industries and climate initiatives;

87. *Encourages* large creative industry companies, including media corporations, entertainment companies, streaming platforms, cultural venues and event producers, particularly those with significant environmental footprints and financial resources, to contribute to culture-based climate action through corporate social responsibility initiatives, climate-aligned investment strategies, and dedicated funding for cultural climate education, storytelling and community-based climate initiatives, while ensuring transparency in financial contributions and not compromising artistic independence, editorial integrity or the ability of cultural actors to address climate issues critically;

88. *Notes with concern* the significant imbalance between the limited financial resources currently directed toward science-based climate communication, cultural engagement and climate literacy initiatives, and the substantial resources historically deployed by fossil fuels, the military industrial complex, and extractive industries for advertising, public relations and narrative-shaping strategies that have delayed climate action and contributed to misinformation, malinformation, disinformation and societal polarization;

89. *Encourages* governments, philanthropic institutions, cultural foundations and international climate initiatives to increase investment in independent climate communication, narrative-shaping, cultural engagement and storytelling initiatives that strengthen public understanding of climate science, shift public perception to 1.5C Paris Agreement-aligned lifestyle, counter mis-, mal-, disinformation and societal polarization in line with the United Nations Secretary Office's Verified initiative and guiding principles, and accelerate the social transformations necessary to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement;

90. *Encourages* public and philanthropic funders to support UNFCCC sectoral engagement initiatives and efforts under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action that mobilize non-Party stakeholders, including initiatives advancing culture-based climate solutions, while emphasizing the importance of maintaining the independence, transparency and integrity of such initiatives and ensuring that financial contributions do not influence their objectives, governance or outcomes;

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<sup>19</sup> Heritage Declares (2019), Declaration on Climate and Ecological Emergency, Point 10: Pursue Ethical Finance, <https://heritagedeclares.org/>.

<sup>20</sup> UNESCO (2022). Re|Shaping Policies for Creativity: Addressing Culture as a Global Public Good; executive summary (CLT-2022/WS/1): <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380475>.

91. *Recommends* that climate finance for mitigation, adaptation, capacity-building and responses to loss and damage prioritize direct access for cultural rightsholders, cultural actors and affected communities, minimizing reliance on intermediaries and ensuring resources reach those most directly impacted, while maintaining transparency and accountability;

92. *Recognizes* that education, knowledge production and dissemination are core components of cultural ecosystems, and notes with concern the increasing barriers to access to arts and cultural education and training, including rising costs and reduced public investment, which risk limiting participation and reinforcing inequities, and encourages increased investment in accessible, inclusive and sustained pathways for arts and cultural education, training and capacity-building as foundational to culture-based climate action;

93. *Recognizes* the urgent need to support cultural ecosystem, identity and continuity in the context of climate-related displacement, including people of African descent, oceanic and island contexts and other regions facing permanent or long-term displacement, and encourages the development of dedicated funding mechanisms to support artists, cultural practitioners and knowledge holders in preserving, adapting and transmitting cultural practices, including through collaborative, community-led approaches to climate solutions;

94. *Encourages* increased investment in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery for cultural ecosystems, both to address the impacts of climate-related disasters on artists, cultural practitioners and cultural infrastructure, including cultural heritage, and to support the role of cultural ecosystem in contributing to preparedness, resilience-building and recovery processes;

## **2. Technology development and transfer**

95. *Recognizes* that technology and culture are deeply interconnected domains that have co-evolved throughout human history, shaping how knowledge, values and identities are created, transmitted and experienced; and *emphasizes* that technology development and transfer should be pursued through a rights-based, culturally grounded and ecologically responsible approach that safeguards spaces for creativity, memory, play and intergenerational exchange, while respecting diverse knowledge systems and worldviews;

96. *Recalls* Article 10 of the Paris Agreement, which establishes a long-term vision on the importance of fully realizing technology development and transfer in order to improve resilience to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and *recognizes* the role of the Technology Mechanism and its bodies, including the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network, in supporting the development and dissemination of climate technologies;

97. *Recognizes* that certain cultural expressions and forms of mass media, including film, television, radio, broadcasting, publishing, and digital storytelling, are inherently dependent upon technological and institutional infrastructures, including broadcasting systems, public interest media and distribution networks, for their creation, production, distribution and preservation, and in this regard recalls the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), which recognizes the dual nature of cultural goods and services as bearers of identity, values and meaning, and affirms the right of Parties to develop cultural

policies that support the diversity of cultural expressions, including in the audiovisual and media sectors;

98. *Further recalls* the broader international framework for audiovisual and media technologies, including the Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media (1978) and the UNESCO Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images (1980), which reflect the long-standing recognition by the international community of the educational, scientific and cultural value of these technologies;

99. *Recognizes* the essential role of public interest media, including public service media and community media, in ensuring that climate-relevant cultural expressions and integral information reach all segments of society, including remote and underserved communities, in accessible, culturally relevant and linguistically diverse formats; *further recalls* the Paris Declaration on Broadcast Media and Climate Change (2009), and encourages Parties to support these institutions through adequate technological infrastructure, financial resources and capacity-building;

100. *Acknowledges* that audiovisual and media technologies serve a dual function in the context of climate action, acting both as critical infrastructures for the dissemination of cultural expressions and climate information across diverse publics, and as essential tools for the documentation, preservation and intergenerational transmission of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge systems increasingly at risk from climate change impacts;

101. *Recognizes* the growing role of digital technologies, creative innovation and responsible artificial intelligence within cultural and creative sectors in advancing climate and digital literacy, public engagement, memory safekeeping and combating misinformation, malinformation-, disinformation and societal polarization and behavioral change, as well as supporting collaborative climate action across borders and communities;

102. *Recognizes* the potential of digital tools and emerging technologies to document, preserve and transmit cultural heritage and knowledge systems at risk from climate impacts, including through digitization, digital archives, immersive storytelling and collaborative knowledge platforms;

103. *Applauds* the growing use of digital technologies and innovative tools by artists and cultural practitioners to expand creative expression, foster climate awareness and enable new forms of cultural participation and exchange and *notes with concern* that the increasing reliance on such technologies may also generate unintended social, cultural and environmental impacts, including exclusion, dependency on proprietary systems and loss of cultural agency;

104. *Notes* the increasing role of digital collaboration platforms and cultural exchange networks in enabling cross-border cultural engagement and climate collaboration while reducing the need for carbon-intensive travel and supporting more inclusive participation in global climate governance;

105. *Expresses serious concern* regarding the rapidly growing environmental and social impact of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence systems, large-scale data centers, data extraction and storage processes, land use, and energy-intensive digital cultural industries, and *encourages* Parties and technology providers to assess and mitigate the climate impacts of digital infrastructure, social, economic and all other research-based environmental impacts in alignment with 1.5°C pathways;

106. *Notes with concern* that the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence infrastructure and technological devices, including data centers, energy systems and mineral supply chains, is highly resource and land-intensive, and *emphasizes* the importance of ensuring that these developments do not disproportionately impact Indigenous Peoples, local communities and people of African descent whose lands and territories are often used to host such infrastructure, and *urges* that these developments integrate Free, Prior and Informed Consent, provide accessible information and capacity-building on technological impacts, and promote equitable benefit-sharing and locally relevant climate strategies, including upcycling and end-of-life reuse practices led by cultural actors;

107. *Notes* the growing role of artistic and cultural practices in addressing electronic waste through creative reuse and upcycling<sup>21</sup>, including the transformation of end-of-life hardware and materials into works such as sculptures, installations and community-based art; recognizes that such practices contribute to circular economy approaches, raise public awareness on the environmental and social impacts of electronic waste, and support locally rooted innovation and cultural expression, including through significant artist-led movements in the Global Majority;

108. *Encourages* stakeholders within the cultural ecosystem that rely on large-scale data infrastructure, to adopt more sustainable digital practices, including circular approaches to improve energy efficiency of data centers, reducing water consumption for cooling systems, increasing the use of renewable energy and enhancing transparency regarding the environmental footprint of digital cultural services, including batteries, renewable energies and clean technologies;

109. *Highlights growing concerns* regarding the use of copyrighted cultural works and creative data in the training of artificial intelligence systems without clear consent, attribution or compensation for creators, and *encourages* the development of transparent governance frameworks that protect cultural and nature rights, including intellectual property rights to support the social economic sustainability of the cultural sector and ensure that the development of generative artificial intelligence aligns with cultural integrity, justice and environmental responsibility and fair remuneration for creative workers;

110. *Reaffirms concern* regarding the growing concentration of power within a small number of global technology companies that control key digital infrastructures, platforms and artificial intelligence systems, and *recognizes* that such concentration may influence cultural

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<sup>21</sup> National Geographic (10 May 2022): [These artists transform garbage into garb to take a stand](#); Artmajeur Magazine, Art & impact (29 May 2025): [War on canvas: How artists reimagine conflict and inspire change](#).

production, public discourse and access to knowledge in ways that affect cultural diversity, democratic participation and information integrity;

111. *Emphasizes* the importance of developing governance frameworks, transparency standards and ethical guidelines to ensure that artificial intelligence and algorithmic systems, including those shaping indexation and discoverability, systems and digital platforms support cultural diversity, creative freedom and the integrity of climate information, while addressing risks associated with algorithmic curation and platform concentration that may homogenize climate narratives or marginalize minority cultural voices, and *further encourages* the exploration of international governance mechanisms or instruments, developed in consultation with cultural ecosystem and its stakeholders, to safeguard the interests, rights and agency of cultural practitioners and knowledge holders in digital spaces, including in alignment with international frameworks such as the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence<sup>22</sup>;

112. *Recognizes* the importance of safeguarding cultural knowledge commons in the digital age and encourages the development of open, inclusive and equitable digital knowledge systems that prevent monopolization of cultural knowledge by concentrated technology platforms, and *emphasizes* the need to respect the cultural and biocultural rights of authors, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and people of African descent;

113. *Encourages* the development of shared digital knowledge platforms and mapping initiatives that document and aggregate culture-based climate solutions, creative innovations and community knowledge systems across regions, languages and disciplines, in order to support policymakers, negotiators and practitioners in identifying and scaling effective culture-based climate action;

114. *Recognizes* the potential of digital technologies and data systems to support the measurement and evaluation of culture-based climate action, and encourages the development of accessible, transparent and culturally relevant approaches that reflect both quantitative and qualitative impacts, while respecting data sovereignty and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;

115. *Encourages* technology cooperation and capacity-building initiatives that support cultural institutions, creative practitioners, local communities and organizations in accessing digital tools, climate technologies and knowledge platforms relevant to culture-based climate action; and further *encourages* Parties to celebrate the technologies of craft, making, and haptic skills;

116. *Encourages* the development of responsible environmental data governance frameworks that ensure digital technologies and environmental data systems reflect ecological integrity, biodiversity protection and Indigenous knowledge systems, while respecting cultural values and emerging principles related to the rights of nature;

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<sup>22</sup> UNESCO (2021): Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381137>.

117. *Recognizes* the importance of democratizing access to and use of technologies within the cultural ecosystem, including through open, community-led and participatory approaches that enable co-creation, adaptation and governance of technological tools; and *further emphasizes* the value of ‘soft technologies’ including craft, making, artisan practices and local knowledge systems as critical forms of innovation that foster ecological connection, cultural networks and locally grounded climate action; and *further encourages* the integration of hands-on, accessible and culturally relevant learning approaches that build technological literacy, agency and creative experimentation across diverse publics, while supporting the development of place-based, nature-connected and technological practices;

### **3. Capacity-building**

118. *Recalls* Article 11 of the Paris Agreement, which emphasizes that capacity-building should enhance the ability of Parties, particularly “developing country” Parties, and regions, to take effective climate action, including through strengthening institutional capacities, knowledge systems and coordination mechanisms;

119. *Emphasizes* that a just transition to a low-carbon economy requires capacity-building and training programmes for the cultural sector, including equitable funding to finance and technologies, the recognition of cultural rights, gender-specific policies, while empowering communities to remain active stewards of their cultural landscapes;

120. *Acknowledges* that despite the growing recognition of the role of arts, culture and creative sectors, civil society, private sector, local governments and personal capacity in advancing climate action, many cultural institutions and practitioners continue to face barriers in translating climate ambition into practical implementation, including fragmented initiatives, limited access to guidance, dedicated funds, and insufficient sector-specific capacity-building frameworks<sup>23</sup>;

121. *Urges* Parties to establish or designate national culture–climate coordination mechanisms that bridge relevant regional, national, or subnational state governmental bodies, including Ministries of Culture, Education, Environment, Finance and Foreign Affairs, as well as stakeholder groups such as “C40 Cities”, enabling coherent policy environments in which cultural and environmental actors can mobilize effectively in support of climate implementation;

122. *Calls* on ACE focal points to engage with their respective Ministries of Culture and relevant cultural authorities in identifying pathways for collaboration across the six elements of the ACE work programme;

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<sup>23</sup> UNESCO (2022). Re|Shaping Policies for Creativity: Addressing Culture as a Global Public Good; executive summary (CLT-2022/WS/1): <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380475>.

123. *Encourages* Parties to ensure reciprocal representation between the cultural sector and national ACE coordination mechanisms, including through the participation of cultural practitioners, institutions and networks in national ACE governance structures and the engagement of ACE focal points within cultural policy processes;

124. *Reaffirms* the importance of mapping, strengthening and resourcing cultural climate ecosystems at local, national and regional levels, including cultural institutions, creative industries, community organizations and informal cultural networks, whereby the ecosystem landscape information is disseminated in conjunction with paragraph 79;

125. *Affirms* that grassroots initiatives within the cultural ecosystem play a critical role in advancing locally embedded climate solutions, human rights, and culture-based climate action, and *emphasizes* the importance of recognizing and upholding their rights to self-organize, ensuring their protection, and providing sustained capacity-building support and equitable access to resources from Parties;

126. *Recognizes* that historical and structural inequalities continue to shape access to resources, knowledge systems and participation in climate action, which can limit the ability of cultural actors and communities to benefit from capacity-building opportunities, and *emphasizes* the need for inclusive approaches that empower diverse cultural practices, safeguard cultural heritage and knowledge systems, and support communities in navigating the systemic transformations required for effective climate action;

127. *Further recognizes* the need for strengthened capacity-building support and resources for cultural actors and institutions in “developing countries”, particularly in least developed countries and small island developing States, where cultural knowledge systems and creative sectors play an important role in climate resilience;

128. *Invites* cities, rural communities, subnational authorities and regional bodies to serve as anchor nodes within cultural climate ecosystems by convening cross-sector partnerships and channeling resources toward locally embedded cultural climate initiatives, and *further recognizes* the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action as a key pathway for strengthening local and subnational climate capacity, while encouraging the integration of culture and cultural actors as cross-cutting contributors within its implementation;

129. *Welcomes* the emergence of transnational cultural climate networks and *encourages* the UNFCCC Secretariat and relevant Non-Party stakeholders to enable sustained support connectivity, peer learning, knowledge exchange, coordinated participation as well as platforms for involvement, leadership, and integration, among cultural actors participating in climate action in ways that respect the plurality of knowledge systems and languages without privileging one over another;

130. *Encourages* the development of sector-specific guidance, frameworks, standards, and benchmarks to support cultural institutions and creative practitioners in implementing and co-creating adaptive and essential knowledge systems as well as climate action in ways that reflect diverse local contexts and traditional and indigenous knowledge systems while contributing to global climate goals;

131. *Encourages* the development of training programmes and educational initiatives proposals, and projects that strengthen climate literacy within cultural and creative sectors while also enhancing the capacity of climate institutions and policymakers to engage effectively with cultural actors and knowledge systems;

132. *Recognizes* the important role of cultural ecosystem, including digital content creators, hyperlocal media networks, alternative communications media, and cultural leaders in shaping public discourse on climate change and *celebrates* the cultural figures and institutions who use their influence to promote climate awareness, resilience and climate action;

133. *Encourages* the integration of creative and participatory approaches within UNFCCC meetings and stakeholder engagement processes, drawing on artistic practices, cultural methodologies, and diverse ways of knowing as forms of expertise; and *calls* for measures to ensure that these approaches are not instrumentalised or extractive, but remain grounded in the leadership, governance and fair resourcing of the artists and cultural practitioners who hold them, including by fostering engagement in spaces of cultural relevance that support more inclusive, relational and context-specific dialogue among Parties and non-Party stakeholders;

134. *Encourages* the development of recognition mechanisms, awards and public platforms that highlight exemplary contributions of cultural ecosystem actors in climate action, thereby strengthening visibility, inspiration and leadership within the cultural sector;

## **D. Loss and Damage**

135. *Recalls* Article 8 of the Paris Agreement, in which Parties recognize the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, and further recognizes the role of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts in enhancing understanding, action and support in this regard;

136. *Recognizes* that climate change is generating significant cultural loss and damage, including impacts on cultural heritage sites, environments, sacred landscapes, traditional knowledge systems, languages, rituals and cultural practices that sustain community identity and intergenerational continuity<sup>24</sup>;

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<sup>24</sup> British Council (2023): Strategic Literature Review: Climate Change Impacts on Cultural Heritage, <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-insight/british-council-strategic-literature-review-climate-change-impacts-cultural>.

137. *Acknowledges* that these impacts constitute important social, cultural, tangible and intangible non-economic losses associated with climate change, including the erosion of cultural identity, collective memory, sense of place and belonging, particularly for Indigenous Peoples, local communities and people of African descent and populations whose cultures are closely connected to land and ecosystems;

138. *Acknowledges* that climate impacts constitute losses that cannot be reduced to economic terms, including the erosion of cultural identity, collective memory, imagination, meaning making, and displacement of culture keepers; further *notes* that arts and culture shape values, worldviews, and behaviors, and their loss represents a disruption to intergenerational knowledge, creative practice, and intellectual property, particularly for most-impacted communities whose lifeways are rooted in relationship to ecosystems;

139. *Encourages* Parties and relevant international institutions to integrate cultural dimensions of non-economic loss and damage into national and international response mechanisms, and acknowledge their value beyond economic measures, including through the documentation and protection of cultural heritage at risk, the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and the inclusion of cultural considerations and sectors within recovery and resilience planning, while empowering affected communities to document and preserve their own cultural heritage;

140. *Notes with concern* that rising sea levels, extreme weather events, wildfires, desertification, melting glaciers near mountain communities, disasters and other climate impacts are increasingly threatening tangible and intangible cultural heritage and creative infrastructure, including historic buildings, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, oral traditions, languages, seasonal rituals, place-based knowledge systems and traditional ecological knowledge;

141. *Recognises* that many cultural landscapes and ecosystems that sustain cultural practices and traditional knowledge systems are increasingly threatened by climate and biodiversity crises, highlighting the need to safeguard these interconnected cultural and ecological systems;

142. *Emphasizes* that culture rights and heritage constitute a foundational element of climate resilience by connecting communities to their lands and providing knowledge systems narratives and practices that inform participatory and locally grounded climate responses, plays a critical role in supporting climate resilience by connecting communities, places, identities and histories and creating relationships to the other than human world and cultural heritage, by providing knowledge systems, narratives and practices that inform locally grounded climate responses;

143. *Recognizes* that climate-induced displacement can generate profound cultural loss and damage when communities are separated from ancestral territories, sacred sites and cultural landscapes that sustain cultural identity, social cohesion and intergenerational knowledge transmission and *encourages* Parties to create mechanisms to address and reduce displacement and cultural loss;

144. *Emphasizes* the importance of safeguarding cultural continuity in contexts of climate economic, and administrative displacement, and relocation, including through the protection of cultural heritage, support for cultural practices and the recognition of cultural rights within relocation and recovery processes and ensure the protection of Indigenous peoples' right of ownership of land-related cultural practices and documentation of oral traditions and offer training to their keepers;

145. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening support for communities facing cultural loss and damage through dedicated locally led adaptation, social context, capacity-building, response programmes and cooperation initiatives that treat cultural heritage and cultural practices as critical components of climate resilience and recovery;

146. *Encourages* Parties and relevant institutions operating under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage to further operationalize the recognition of cultural heritage, cultural identity and traditional knowledge systems as critical dimensions of non-economic loss and damage, including by integrating cultural section into loss and damage assessment, response and recovery processes;

## **E. Response Measures**

147. *Recalls* Article 4.15 of the Paris Agreement, which recognizes that Parties shall take into consideration the impacts of the implementation of response measures, particularly on vulnerable communities and sectors, and further acknowledges the work of the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures in enhancing understanding of the interdependence social and economic implications of climate policies;

148. *Recognizes* that climate response measures, including energy transitions, conservation policies, land-use changes and infrastructure development, can generate significant social, economic and cultural implications, leading to systemic violence and displacement for communities whose livelihoods, identities and cultural practices are closely connected to landscapes, natural resources and cultural heritage;

149 *Recognizes* the need to move from policy commitments to implementation at multiple levels and at scale, and encourages the establishment of collaborative accelerator initiatives to identify, incubate and scale high-impact, culturally grounded climate solutions, including context-sensitive and place-based approaches, with the potential to generate cascading and transformative cross-cutting effects across sectors and levels of governance;

150. *Emphasizes* that cultural heritage, cultural practices and creative expression play an important role in supporting social cohesion to bring new imagination and mindset and community resilience during periods of environmental and economic transition, helping communities navigate the social transformations associated with climate action and just transition pathways;

151. *Further emphasizes* that the world views, perspectives, and principles reflected in a mindset that values and safeguards traditional culture and heritage contribute to just transition and long-term sustainability. Culture-based solutions maintain cultural continuity and practices that are adapted to low-carbon nature use, supporting livelihoods that promote biological and cultural diversity, landscapes, and seascapes. Heritage sites, both tangible and intangible, offer invaluable insights into climate adaptation, drawing from centuries of accumulated wisdom and sustainable practices. Traditional knowledge embedded from nature use and water management to food systems and architecture has long demonstrated its effectiveness in fostering resilience against environmental challenges;

152. *Encourages* Parties to ensure the Free Prior and Informed Consent, participatory, co-design with meaningful participation of the cultural ecosystem, Indigenous People, local communities and people of African descent, particularly the role of women, children and youth, people with disabilities and creative practitioners in the design and implementation of climate response measures, recognizing that cultural knowledge systems and place-based stewardship practices can contribute to more equitable and socially legitimate climate justice transitions;

153. *Encourages* Parties to integrate centering for cultural rights and heritage, sacred landscapes and culturally significant spaces within the implementation of climate response measures, including renewable energy development, conservation initiatives, land-use policies and climate-related infrastructure projects by providing alternative spaces;

154. *Recognizes* that economic transitions and sustainability associated with climate action may reshape cultural economies and creative sectors, and encourages the development of just transition strategies that support creative workers, cultural tourism economies and community cultural spaces during periods of structural economic change;

155. *Encourages* Parties and Non-Party stakeholders to strengthen place-based cultural initiatives that support community learning in line with the Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, climate awareness and stewardship by connecting climate action with local landscapes, histories, languages and Indigenous knowledge systems;

156. *Encourages* the development of emerging cultural roles within climate transitions, including sustainability practitioners, community knowledge archivists, climate storytellers and creative communicators who contribute to public engagement, knowledge production disseminate, collect data, and provide evidence for the cultural dimensions of climate resilience;

157. *Recognizes* that the cultural ecosystem in “developing countries” needs a just and fair transition away from fossil fuels and *calls* for climate finance mechanisms to substitute existing income derived from extractive industries;

### **III. International Cooperation**

158. *Recalls* Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, which recognizes the importance of climate change, education, training, public awareness, public participation and access to information in strengthening climate action, and acknowledges the role of international cooperation and climate justice in the engagement of non-Party stakeholders in advancing these objectives;

159. *Encourages* international cooperation among Parties and the cultural ecosystem for knowledge and resource sharing in order to safeguard global cultural assets threatened by climate change;

160. *Affirms* the interdependencies between culture, peace and climate action, recognizing that the culture ecosystem can strengthen social cohesion, reduce conflict risks associated with climate impacts and foster collective responses to the climate crisis and threats to public health<sup>25</sup>;

161. *Emphasizes* that international cooperation on culture and climate should move beyond information exchange toward representation in high-level decision-making, genuine co-creation of knowledge and solutions, ensuring that communities most affected by climate impacts are active partners in shaping climate narratives, cultural responses and locally grounded strategies for climate resilience and *acknowledges* the power of international cultural exchanges rooted in diversity to foster systemic resilience;

162. *Encourages* strengthened collaboration between cultural institutions, research organizations, civil society networks and climate institutions across regions in order to exchange knowledge, replicate successful culture-based climate initiatives and foster partnerships grounded in rights-based approaches, equity and mutual learning; empowering Global Majority, minorities, and impacted communities worldwide;

163. *Calls* on international cooperation initiatives to promote inclusive communication practices, including multilingual engagement, translation, accessible and engaging knowledge formats, recognizing that linguistic and any other accessibility barriers<sup>26</sup> can limit participation in global climate processes and the sharing of climate knowledge and committing to the prevention of the generation and dissemination of harmful misinformation, disinformation and malinformation;

164. *Recognizes* that the cultural ecosystem can help translate climate science into lived experiences across societies, strengthening public engagement, climate literacy and collective understanding of climate risks and solutions;

165. *Recognizes* the freedom of cultural movement as essential to international cooperation, ensuring that individuals in the cultural ecosystem and impacted communities can move, collaborate, and exchange across borders safely and equitably;

166. *Strengthens* international cultural cooperation to safeguard the rights of future generations, fostering long-term collaboration, knowledge exchange, and intergenerational

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<sup>25</sup> UNESCO (2025): Culture and climate action: From margins to mainstream (Thematic Paper), <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000395681>.

<sup>26</sup> UNESCO (2025): UNESCO Disability Inclusion Strategy 2026–2029, <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000396175>.

learning rooted in ecological stewardship, cultural continuity, and climate resilience, and *further commits* to the protection and regeneration of cultural heritage across borders encompassing sites, places, landscapes, and living traditions recognizing culture and nature as interdependent systems;

#### **IV. Guidance and way forward**

167. *Expresses appreciation* to the diverse cultural ecosystem, youth and intergenerational advocates and other non-Party stakeholders whose contributions, consultations and collaborative efforts have informed the development of the Culture Global Stocktake for Climate Action, and welcomes additional stakeholders to engage in future iterations of this process;

168. *Welcomes* complementary stocktake and reflection processes emerging across the climate community, including the Global Youth Statement developed by YOUNGO and the Global Ethical Stocktake initiative convened under the COP30 Presidency, recognizing their contributions to advancing dialogue on culture-based climate action and reinforcing the growing recognition of culture within climate governance processes;

169. *Calls* for the establishment of a Joint Work on Culture and Climate Action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as a formal process for consultation, knowledge gathering and technical dialogue among Parties, UNFCCC constituted bodies and non-Party stakeholders on the role of the cultural ecosystem in advancing climate action;

170. *Notes* that Joint Work programmes within the UNFCCC have historically enabled structured collaboration across scientific, technical and implementation bodies, and recognizes that a Joint Work on Culture and Climate Action could support the systematic integration of cultural knowledge systems, creative industries and cultural institutions into climate policy and implementation;

171. *Acknowledges* the growing global support for advancing culture within climate governance, including the *Global Call to Put Cultural Heritage, Arts and Creative Industries at the Heart of Climate Action* coordinated by the Climate Heritage Network and supported by over 1,000 cultural organizations worldwide, alongside initiatives such as *We Make Tomorrow*, which together reflect a growing international movement advocating for the establishment of a Joint Work on Culture and Climate Action under the UNFCCC;

172. *Calls* for the formal recognition and inclusion of the cultural ecosystem within the guiding questions or other modalities adopted to guide the technical assessment component of the Second Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, as well as in the final outcomes expected to be adopted at COP33 in 2028, acknowledging culture as a cross-cutting enabler or driver of climate action across mitigation, adaptation, resilience, loss and damage, and societal transformation;

173. *Recognizes* that culture plays a foundational role in shaping sustainable societies and sustains some of the longest living cultures in the world, helping societies to endure, adapt and regenerate and *encourages* Member States, in the development of global sustainable development frameworks beyond 2030, to consider culture as an independent pillar or goal within successor frameworks to the Sustainable Development Goals;

174. *Welcomes* the work of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, and *underlines* the progress made in integrating culture into the COP30 Action Agenda, noting that culture initiatives have advanced through Plans to Accelerate Solutions with the Activation Groups, Granary of Solutions<sup>27</sup> and Plans to Accelerate, specifically Activation Group 19 (AG19), including the integration of cultural heritage into NAPs national adaptation plans, capacity-building for locally led adaptation, and the mobilization of creative industries and cultural practitioners. *Recognizes* that these efforts demonstrate how culture contributes to mitigation, adaptation, resilience, and societal transformation, and recommends continued support from COP Presidencies, CCT, the UNFCCC Secretariat, and other stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation, scaling, and funding of these culture-based climate action plans;

175. *Requests* the High-Level Climate Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action to consider the findings and recommendations of the Culture Global Stocktake when developing and implementing the 2026–2030 strategy for non-Party stakeholder engagement, firmly recognizing the growing role of the cultural ecosystem in advancing climate action, public engagement and societal transformation change;

176. *Welcomes* the launch of the “Global Implementation Accelerator”, a collaborative and voluntary initiative under the leadership of the COP30 and COP31 Presidencies to accelerate implementation, as a prototype for enhancing the institutional speed of climate multilateralism, and *encourages* Parties and non-Party stakeholders to actively engage with and contribute to it, with a view to elevating the role of arts and culture as core societal infrastructure for advancing climate resilience, accelerating the diffusion of solutions, and enabling just transitions;

177. *Encourages* the continued development and implementation of sectoral engagement initiatives within the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, including the Entertainment and Culture for Climate Action initiative, Fashion Charter for Climate Action and Sports for Climate Action, and invites the cultural ecosystem to contribute to collaborative reporting, knowledge sharing and voluntary commitments that advance culture-based climate solutions;

178. *Calls* for the Entertainment and Culture for Climate Action (ECCA) to adopt a sectoral charter or framework, including its subsectoral initiatives for Film & TV, Arts Charter for Climate Action and the Accelerator City for Climate Action, taking into account the Fashion Charter for Climate Action and the Sports for Climate Action Framework, to strengthen accountability, transparency and voluntary commitments among cultural stakeholders and to support alignment with the goals of the Paris Agreement, inputs received in global consultations

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<sup>27</sup> Climate High-Level Champions: Action agenda: <https://www.climatechampions.net/action-agenda/>.

with ECCA membership since 2021 and the recommendations emerging from the first Culture Global Stocktake;

179. *Notes* that the IPCC is preparing its Seventh Assessment Report cycle, including an upcoming Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, the recommendations from the 2021 Culture Climate and 2024 Co-Sponsored Meetings<sup>28</sup>, and exploring ways to engage diverse knowledge systems and *encourages* the IPCC and the wider scientific community to strengthen the evidence-based case for culture-based climate action, including the roles of cultural heritage, creative sectors and traditional knowledge systems in climate mitigation, adaptation, resilience and societal transformation;

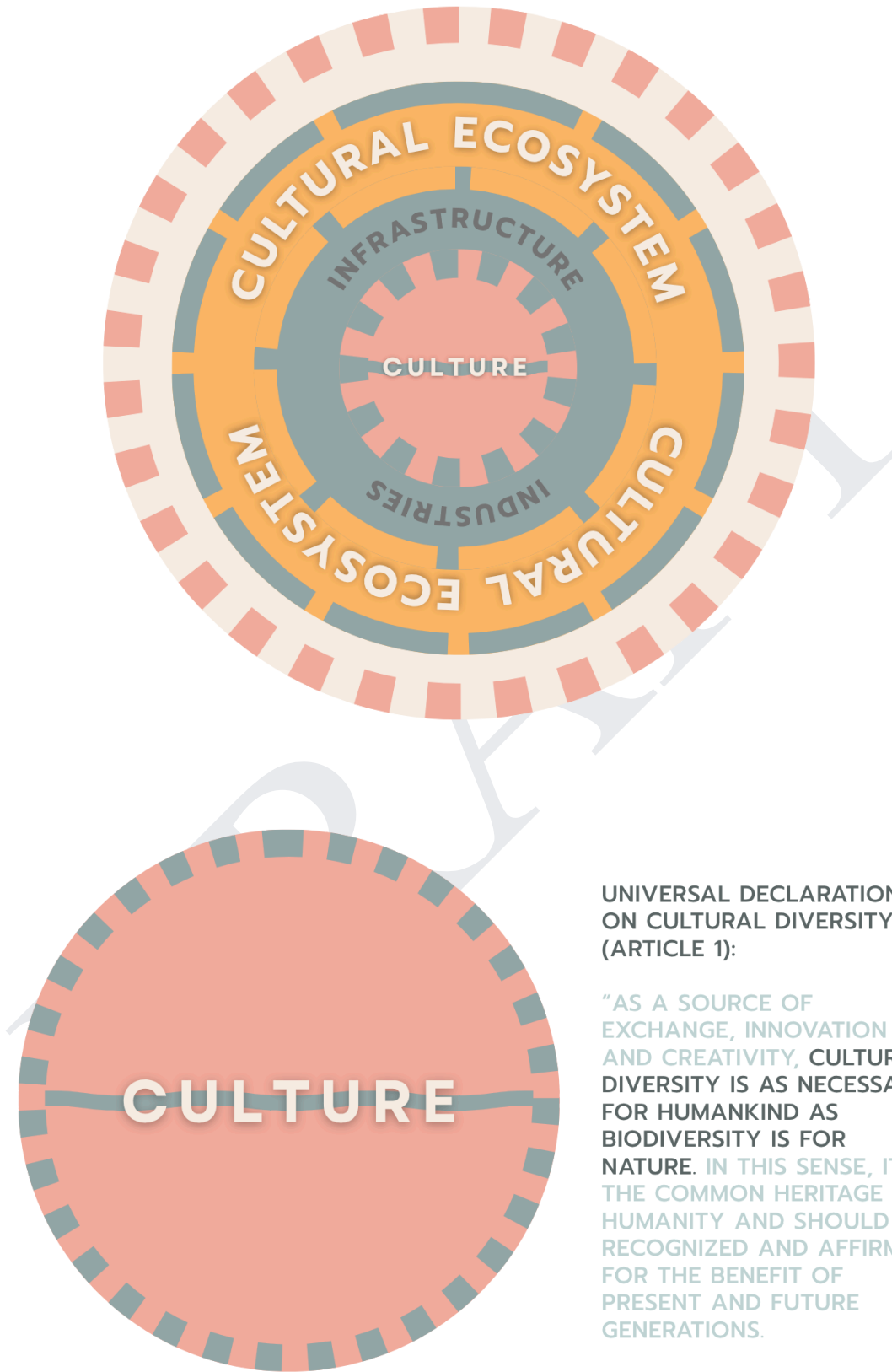
180. *Encourages* the recognition of the cultural ecosystem as a distinct stakeholder community within global sustainability governance, including within the United Nations Major Groups and Other Stakeholders system, acknowledging their growing role in shaping cultural narratives, mobilizing public engagement and advancing culture-based climate action, while also encouraging the cultural sector to address its own environmental footprint and contribute actively to long-term climate transformation;

181. *Recognizes* the Culture Global Stocktake as a living process intended to be regularly reviewed in conjunction with strengthened efforts, resources and support prescribed in aforementioned sections, continue evolving through relevant workstreams of the UNFCCC such as ACE and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, as well as future consultations, research and sectoral engagement in order to strengthen the role of culture in global climate action.

## Visual Appendix:

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<sup>28</sup> (I) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2024): International co-sponsored meeting on culture, heritage and climate change (IPCC-60, INF.13); (II) Culture Climate Meeting (6-10 December 2021): [International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change](#); (III) [ICOMOS–IPCC–UNESCO co-sponsored meeting on culture, heritage and climate science](#).



**UNIVERSAL DECLARATION  
ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY  
(ARTICLE 1):**

“AS A SOURCE OF EXCHANGE, INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY, CULTURAL DIVERSITY IS AS NECESSARY FOR HUMANKIND AS BIODIVERSITY IS FOR NATURE. IN THIS SENSE, IT IS THE COMMON HERITAGE OF HUMANITY AND SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AND AFFIRMED FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

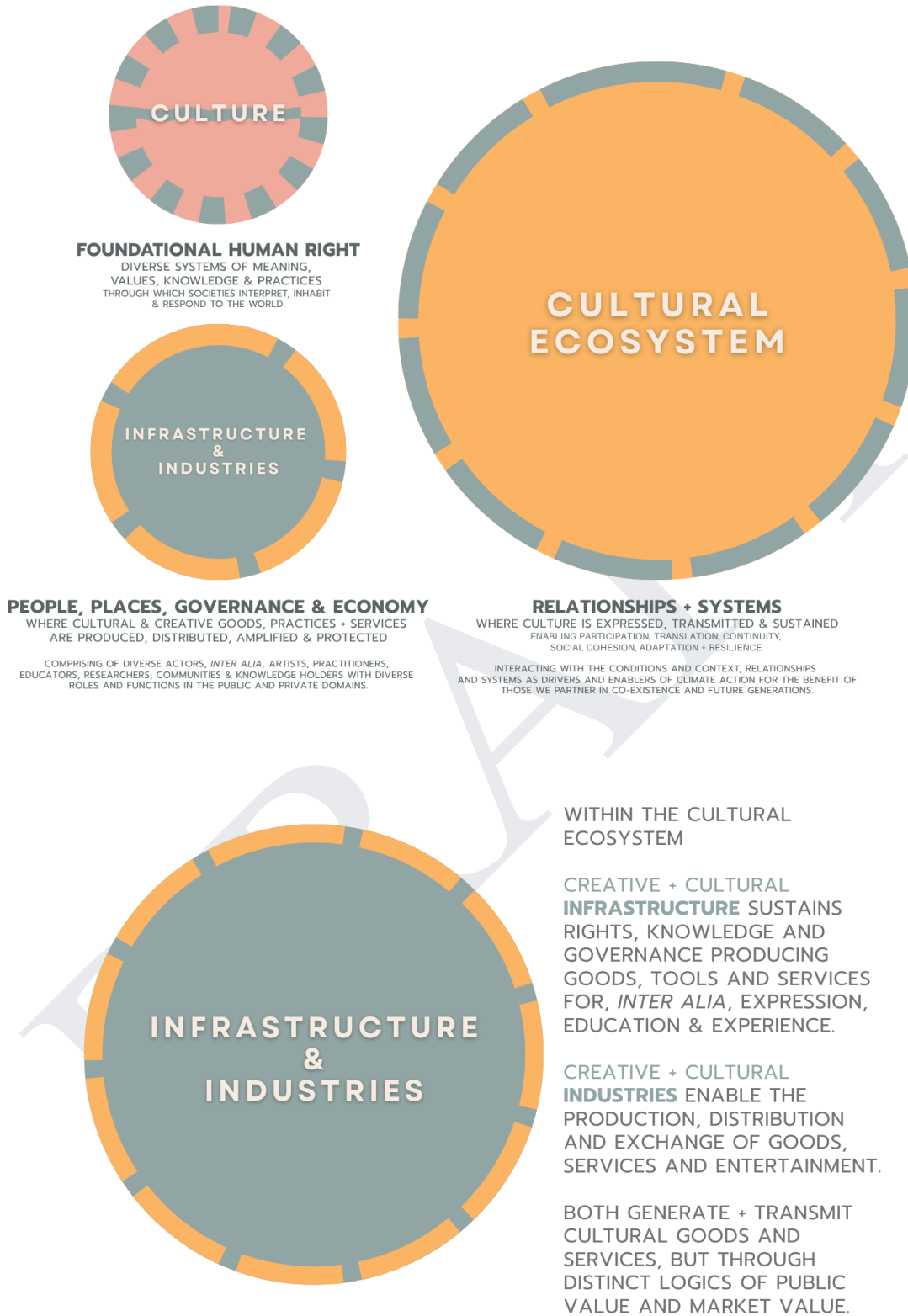


Diagram Credits: Jen Rae, Centre for Reworlding

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