

INTERNATIONAL LIAISON COMMITTEE OF COALITIONS FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The Buenos Aires Declaration

The Coalitions for cultural diversity gathered together for their seventh General Assembly in the context of the Third International Meeting on Cultural Diversity hosted by the city of Buenos Aires express their support for the proposed convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. It is to us essential that this convention be adopted during UNESCO's 33rd General Conference in October 2005.

The result of global multilateral negotiation, involving all the member states of UNESCO, the proposed convention represents a good balance between the concerns of developed and developing countries with respect to the question of culture in an era of globalization.

The proposed Convention clearly recognizes:

- The sovereign right of States to adopt, implement maintain and develop cultural policies intended to ensure a space for the diversity of their own cultural creations and productions.
- The necessity to promote and reinforce dialogue and a balanced exchange of cultural goods and services between countries, fundamental conditions peace and harmony among peoples.
- The specific nature of cultural goods and services, which cannot be considered solely in terms of their commercial value.
- The importance of reinforcing international cooperation in order to enable the development of capacity building with respect to the creation, production and distribution of the cultural goods and services of developing countries.
- The non subordination of the convention to other international treaties, notably trade agreements, as well as the mutual support and complementarity of international agreements.

The coalitions call on all member states of UNESCO to adopt the Convention in October 2005 and to ratify it in 2006 to ensure it rapidly enters into effect.

The coalitions further urge these governments to integrate into their own policies the principles set out in the Convention.

In particular, governments should:

- Articulate and develop, in the short and medium term, in a systematic fashion, public cultural policies.
- Make meaningful investments in their cultural policies in order to support the creation, production, distribution and access to culture, reinforcing the dialogue and the balanced exchange of cultural expressions of other peoples, thereby contributing to making cultural diversity a reality at the local and international level.

- Reinforce the cultural dimension of their international cooperation and development policies by, among other measures, committing to contribute to the Convention's International Fund for Cultural Diversity in proportion to their own resources.
- Undertake to use the mechanisms of international coordination and cooperation set out in the convention to promote its principles and objectives in other international fora, and by categorically refusing all liberalization commitments affecting cultural goods and services in the context of trade agreements, whether at the bilateral, regional or international level, including the WTO.

The Coalitions for cultural diversity, present in the five continents, undertake to:

- Urge their own governments to maintain their strong support for the text of the Convention approved at the final intergovernmental experts meeting, and released by UNESCO's Director General on August 4, and to resist all pressures to reopen the negotiations and thereby either dilute the convention or delay its adoption.
- Continue to work to ensure that the Convention becomes an effective instrument for protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions around the world, by seeking a sustainable development where we can evolve together, side by side.
- Advance this unprecedented movement of civil society from the cultural sector by establishing an International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity, with an organizational structure favoring a balanced representation from all regions of the world.

The identity of a continent, country or region is expressed above all by its creations and cultural expressions. The meeting of, respect for and development of cultures in the context of cultural diversity is a fundamental pillar for moving towards a world that is more humane and more just.

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- Allemagne – Bundesweite Koalition für Kulturelle Vielfalt**
- Argentine – Foro para la defensa de las industrias culturales**
- Australie – Australia’s Coalition for Cultural Diversity**
- Belgique – Coalition belge francophone pour la diversité culturelle**
- Bénin – Coalition béninoise pour la diversité culturelle**
- Brésil – Coalition brésilienne pour la diversité culturelle**
- Burkina Faso – Coalition pour la diversité culturelle du Burkina Faso**
- Cameroun – Coalition Camerounaise pour la diversité culturelle**
- Canada – Coalition pour la diversité culturelle (Canada) / Coalition for Cultural Diversity**
- Chili – Coalición Chilena para la Diversidad Cultural**
- Colombie – Coalición Colombiana para la Diversidad Cultural**
- Congo – Coalition pour la diversité culturelle de la République du Congo**
- Corée – Korea’s Coalition for Cultural Diversity**
- Equateur – Coalition de l’Equateur pour la diversité culturelle**
- Espagne – Coalición española par la diversidad cultural**
- France – Coalition française pour la diversité culturelle**
- Guinée - Coalition guinéenne pour la diversité culturelle**
- Hongrie – Coalition hongroise pour la diversité culturelle**
- Irlande – Irish Coalition for Cultural Diversity**
- Italie – Coalition italienne pour la diversité culturelle**
- Mali – Coalition malienne pour la diversité culturelle**
- Maroc – Coalition marocaine pour la culture et les arts**
- Mexique – Coalición Mexicana para la Diversidad Cultural**
- Nouvelle Zélande – New Zealand Coalition for Cultural Diversity**
- Pérou – Coalición Peruana para la Diversidad Cultural**
- Sénégal – Coalition Sénégalaise pour la Diversité Culturelle**
- Slovaquie – Coalition slovaque pour la diversité culturelle**
- Suisse- Coalition suisse pour la diversité culturelle**
- Togo – Coalition Togolaise pour la Diversité culturelle**
- Uruguay – Coalición Uruguaya para la diversidad cultural**