

# CULTURE, ARTS AND DEVELOPMENT

## JOINT STATEMENT OF INTEREST AND CREATION OF “THE COALITION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CULTURE AND ARTS”

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to create a Coalition of Public Development Banks (PDBs) and partners called “The Coalition for sustainable Development through Culture and Arts” (from now onwards called “The Coalition”) that mainstreams the impact of arts and culture in the development agenda, leveraging its powers towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

### II. Vision

Arts and culture as a lever for development - and its significance in building a more sustainable future - have been highlighted by major international conferences over the years. The recent UNESCO report following Mondiacult 2022 “harnesses the transformative impact of culture for sustainable development”, as did the Missing Pillar report (2020). The 1998 Stockholm Conference on Cultural Policies for Development and the 2005 Convention on Diversity of Cultural Expressions preceded it. This understanding even finds its roots in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its Article 27, which already emphasized the major importance of cultural rights.

**OUR BELIEF:** As Public Development Banks, we recognize the powerful impact of Culture and Arts as levers for human and sustainable development. Together, public development banks manage more than 10% of global investments. As such, they are well-placed to make the cultural sector and its actors more sustainable and be part of addressing global challenges for a brighter future.

Culture unites different stakeholders at multiple levels and provides a framework for actions in a variety of contexts, notably the following:

**SDG n°4 - Education:** Culture and arts play a fundamental role in individuals’ ability – especially children – to connect with themselves, their communities, and the world. The arts contribute to strengthen cognitive abilities and learning. Creativity is an essential skill for an evolving society and economy, and can help to find innovative solutions to tackle global challenges such as the climate emergency.

**SDG n°5** - Gender equality: Access and participation in cultural life contribute to women and girls' empowerment and challenge gender stereotypes to promote equality and equal opportunity.

**SDG n°8** - Decent work and economic growth: Cultural and creative sectors represent 3.1% of the global GDP and 6.2% of total employment. There is also an active informal economy particularly in the global South, and a growing need for creative and soft skills for the future. Therefore, they are an economic vector and a major source of income. They also reinforce the dynamics of local and international tourism.

**SDG n°11** - Sustainable Cities: Through the conservation and protection of heritage and the improvement of access to culture in cities, investments in infrastructure foster more sustainable cities and communities.

**SDG n°13** - Climate Action: As a powerful tool of influence, arts and culture help foster dialogue, create innovative solutions and can enhance awareness regarding climate change. Artists play a key role in shaping new perceptions of nature and biodiversity, and highlight the connection between people and planet.

**SDG n°16** - Peace and Justice: Major cultural events take place around the world; they contribute to strengthening tolerance and friendship between different groups of people and help build stronger relationships between nations. Community-led cultural activities foster dialogue and connection to build trust and understanding for more peaceful societies.

More generally, arts and culture connect and empower people, create dialogue, and promote change. They make a critical contribution to achieve the SDGs.

### III. Objective

The Coalition endeavors to leverage the power of culture and arts to achieve the SDGs by promoting investments into cultural and artistic projects and related components as part of development projects, programs and initiatives, and by maximising economic, social and environmental impacts.

The Coalition will encourage cooperation between PDBs and any entity involved in the arts and in the cultural sector (including governments, local authorities, private sector, civil society organization, cultural institutions and artists).

### IV. Birth of a Coalition of Public Development Banks and partners

The Signatories of the statement enter in mutual goodwill and respect, according each other all reasonable cooperation and assistance as may be expected between organizations committed to common higher goals.

The Coalition's ambition is to expand its membership over time to other Public Development Banks and by fostering partnerships with other stakeholders, concerned IGOs and coalitions that share its vision, and are willing to contribute with their diverse resources and abilities, including from the private sector, civil society, governments and academia.



## V. Membership

The Coalition's founding members are the Public Development Banks signatories of this Memorandum of Agreement and the partner organizations (international organizations and sport leading organizations).

### Public Development Banks FICS Members

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) – Dr. Hyginus Leon  
 Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) - Vice Governor Böhmer  
 Development Bank of Rwanda (DBR) – Kampeta Sayinzoga  
 ENABEL – Jean van Wetter  
 French Development Agency (AFD) – Rémy Rioux  
 Istituto per il Credito Sportivo (ICS) - Antonella Baldino  
 West African Development Bank (BOAD) – Serge Ekue

### Expert International Organizations (Advisory Members):

British Council  
 CEBRI (Brazilian Center of International Relations) – Sergio Gusmão Suchodolski

The Coalition will benefit from the guidance, expertise and inspiration from all the founding members. The partner organizations will be part of the Task Force.

### Future Members

Any relevant organization deemed suitable by the Coalition's Task Force is welcome to join. Membership is permanent unless:

- Resignation notified by registered letter to the Coalition's executive body.
- The exclusion of a Member Organization pronounced by the Coalition's executive body for any serious reason, enforced by a two-thirds majority vote.
- The dissolution for any reason of a Member Organization.

## VI. Structure

A Task Force is hereby created as the Coalition's executive and deciding body. It will lead the Coalition's work, as well as allocate roles and responsibilities.

Each Organization (Founding Members & Partners) will appoint a minimum of one team member to represent the organization within the Task Force. This team member will be the organization's point of contact and be engaged in the Task Force's work. Being appointed to the Task Force does not come with any monetary or non-monetary benefits.

The Task Force will meet as often as necessary, either online or in situ, to review progress and provide directions to the Coalition and to its further work.

The Task Force will work under a principle of consensus.

French Development Agency (Metis Fund) and the Caribbean Development Bank propose to co-chair the Coalition Task Force for an initial duration of one year (October 2023 – October 2024). This timeline will be confirmed with the Task Force members at its first meeting.

## VII. Governance

Upon its creation, the Coalition’s executive and deciding body is the Task Force. In the future, the Coalition governance may evolve as membership grows and more complex operations and decision-making needs develop. Its governance might grow to include an administration Board, a General Assembly and an Executive Committee, but these matters are in the hands of the members of the Task Force, whose work program must include close scrutiny of the Coalition’s future governance requirements.

Finally, if, after significant work by the Task Force, it appears that the Coalition’s governance needs to significantly evolve, then the MOA can be updated.

## VIII. Means

At the time of its formation, joining the Coalition does not come with any financial commitment or obligation.

There are also no annual contributions required to be paid by members.

The means of the Coalition are made of the following components:

- The human resources contributed by Member Organizations into the life and operations of the Task Force
- The active sharing of information, contacts, networks, and opportunities among members.
- If necessary, the financial resources voluntarily invested by individual member organizations into delivering their share of work (e.g. consultancy).
- The voluntary commitments made by Member Organizations and partners in supporting all or selected aspects of the Action Plan.

## IX. Objectives of the Task Force

The Task Force will organize its activities and leadership around two main objectives: a knowledge objective and an operational objective.

The objective is to strengthen actions to facilitate the impacts of culture and the arts on the achievement of the SDGs.

- 1. Promote the improvement and sharing of a common knowledge of the potential of culture and the arts in relation to development issues**

Knowing and understanding the role of the arts and culture and its contribution to supporting development issues is an essential step in enriching the action and funding of development operations with impact. To this end, the Task Force may decide to carry out specific studies on this subject. It may propose to share experiences within the FICS network and also to invite/organize dedicated events for FICS members in order to bring in experts on the subjects addressed. The aim

is to strengthen the knowledge and action of development finance operators and their technical partners.

## 2. Leveraging the power of art and culture in order to achieve the SDGs through concrete development operations

Acting more and better together is also one of the objectives that the Task Force will pursue. To this end, the Task Force will be able to promote the engineering of impact-based Arts and Development projects for members of the FICS and their partners. Depending on the wishes of the members, operational synergies could be encouraged in the same way as pilot actions. Quantitative and qualitative operational objectives could be defined at a medium term.

## X. Roadmap

Relating to these main initial objectives, the Task Force will decide on its roadmap and its framework : studies to be released, appointing thematic working groups, engaging in international events, etc.

Roadmap 2023-2024	Agenda	Objective
1st Meeting of the Task Force	DECEMBER- JANUARY 2024	Confirm the list of members Launch of a first study: <i>PDBs, culture, arts and development: History, current situation and prospects.</i>
FICS 2024	TBA	Side meeting and presentation of the study

### Coordinator

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