



Statement by H.E. Ms Lachezara Stoeva
President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
**at the High-Level Political Forum Side Event, “Culture as a Global Public Good:
Towards a Culture Development Goal beyond 2030”**
12 July 2023
United Nations Headquarters, New York

It is my great pleasure to be here with you you for this side event co-chaired by the Government of Greece and UNESCO, “Culture as a Global Public Good: Towards a Culture Development Goal beyond 2030”.

This event follows a very fruitful dialogue held last week, also with the President of the General Assembly, on the importance of culture for sustainable development. It highlighted the gaps that need to be filled in order to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, and the crucial enabling role of culture in this regard.

Accelerating the achievement of the SDGs has been the aim of my presidency, and this event is particularly relevant. It is long overdue for Member States to realise the interconnectedness of culture, sustainable development, peace and security.

This week we are reflecting on the status of implementation of the SDGs, including SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), which actually makes a direct reference to culture.

UNESCO has been spearheading the global advocacy for the recognition of culture as an important driver of the implementation of the SDGs. I would like to express my appreciation to UNESCO for its sustained commitment in this direction.

Member States are already including culture in the draft Political Declaration of the SDG Summit. I urge you to recall the Declaration MONDIACULT 2022, where Member States recognised culture as a global public good and supported its inclusion as a standalone goal in the post-2030 development agenda.

In addition to providing a way to preserve heritage, culture is an enabler for sustainable development. It can be harnessed for climate action, it can foster the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as contribute to the maintenance of peace and security. Culture has also been a source of resilience and recovery for communities devastated by conflict or natural disasters.

This event this evening is one of many leading up to SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future in 2024. At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, we all must now look beyond 2030.

I hope that we will seize this opportunity to reflect on the role of culture in implementing the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

Thank you.