

**G20 Culture Ministerial Meeting  
“Addressing the Climate Crisis through Culture”  
Rome, July 29-30, 2021**

Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to be with you today for the G20 Culture Ministers Meeting on “Addressing the Climate Crisis Through Culture”.

Since 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic has jeopardised the lives of millions of people around the world. Today I wish to commend the work of all museum professionals who have guaranteed their public service and mission under the most exceptional circumstances.

The pandemic is still a priority. Nonetheless the devastating effects of the climate crisis continue to impact our natural and cultural heritage at a global level. The dramatic loss of biodiversity and the climate crisis show us how intertwined relations between man, the environment and the natural world are.

The cultures of the world, the cultures of our shared human experience are suffering because landscape, natural resources and wildlife are increasingly endangered. Indigenous communities are at the forefront of the climate crisis. Not only are their livelihoods under threat, but so too is their cultural heritage, which is struggling to adapt and survive outside its natural habitats. Even native languages are in constant decline as a result of the climate crisis.

Actively fighting climate crisis is an imperative of our times. Culture plays a key role not only in fostering knowledge, awareness and behavioural changes, but also in sustaining mitigation strategies.

Many studies confirm that museums are amongst the most trusted institutions across the globe. –Museums are in a unique position to support sustainable environmental policies, to disseminate scientific information and encourage sustainable practices in their local communities.

In September 2019 the International Council of Museums General Assembly in Kyoto passed the resolution "On Sustainability and the Implementation of Agenda 2030: Transforming our world". Thanks to this resolution, the 2030 Agenda has become the fundamental reference for ICOM's work over the next decade and beyond.

Many museums all over the world have fully integrated sustainability into their mission and vision.

The actions taken by ICOM are numerous. And they are feasible thanks to our vast network, composed of 49,000 museum professionals and institutions from over 140 countries. Thanks to the dedication and knowledge of these experts ICOM has created effective tools as well as technical, scientific and ethical standards which are acknowledged all over the world.

The focus on climate change and sustainable development is part of ICOM's commitment on the protection of Cultural Heritage, Education and Capacity Building.

As International Council of Museums we propose:

1. to consider museums as relevant institutions in charge of promoting communities' knowledge about the climate crisis and sustainable behaviour;
2. to foster the educational commitment of museums on sustainability, climatic justice and intercultural pedagogy; to integrate museums' activities with the G20 strategies in this field so as to promote responsibility and civic participation from school children to senior citizens;
3. to rely on ICOM as an international partner in the fight against the climate crisis and in the protection and promotion of cultural and natural heritage.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,

Global challenges call for global responses. International cooperation is needed now more than ever.

It's time to take bold steps to ensure that culture and museums fulfil their role in addressing climate change and contributing to climate action.

Thank you for your attention.

Alberto Garlandini  
ICOM President