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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Open Method of Coordination (OMC) group of Member States' experts on the Cultural Dimension of Sustainable Development - <i>Final mandate</i>

Delegations will find attached the mandate for the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) group of Member States' experts on the Cultural Dimension of Sustainable Development, as finalised further to the discussions at the Cultural Affairs Committee meeting on 18 February.

**Open Method of Coordination (OMC) group of Member States' experts on the
Cultural Dimension of Sustainable Development**

set up following the Council Resolution on the Cultural Dimension of
Sustainable Development, adopted on 21 November 2019

- mandate -

1. The 2030 Agenda¹, adopted by the international community in September 2015, is structured around 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), providing a framework for policy design and implementation for a more sustainable future.
2. At the EU level, the Council Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022 and the New European Agenda for Culture recognise the important cultural dimension of sustainable development. This is also a focus of UNESCO's work to harness culture's contribution to the 2030 Agenda, stating that culture contributes to sustainable development both as a sector of activity in itself and as an intrinsic component present in other sectors².
3. In its Resolution on the Cultural Dimension of Sustainable Development³ (the Resolution), the Council confirms its dedication to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and agrees, referring to the intrinsic value of culture, to step up efforts by initiating a process that would lead to an action plan, prepared by the European Commission in cooperation with Member States, on the cultural dimension of sustainable development at EU level, and to the integration of this action plan in the EU's implementation strategy for the 2030 Agenda.

¹ United Nations, A/RES/70/1, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

² UNESCO, "Culture 2030 Indicators", <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000371562>

³ Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the Cultural Dimension of Sustainable Development, OJ C 410, 6.12.2019, p. 1.

4. In line with the Resolution, a new Open Method of Coordination working group (OMC group) on the cultural dimension of sustainable development is to be set up. The Resolution states, inter alia, that the action plan could build on existing work carried out in the framework of the Council Work Plan for Culture, especially the work to be undertaken by such an OMC group, and the New European Agenda for Culture.
5. In line with the Resolution, the OMC group on the cultural dimension of sustainable development will have the following tasks:
 - Share information on, and best practices from, the work pursued by the Member States to integrate cultural policies and perspectives into their national sustainable development strategies;
 - Discuss how the cultural sector's and culture's contribution to sustainable development can further be strengthened and how Member States' actions in this regard can be supported, coordinated and supplemented through EU level action;
 - Provided that the Commission, in line with the invitation in the Resolution, decides to prepare an action plan on the cultural dimension of sustainable development at EU level, conduct an exchange on a regular basis with the Commission on its progress in preparing the action plan and provide input to this work;
 - Prepare guidance on how culture could be included in Voluntary National Review Reports and/or a possible EU report⁴ for the UN's High-Level Political Forum;
 - Actively seek synergies with other relevant works and initiatives, and avoid any overlapping, such as:
 - other relevant OMC groups in the cultural field, e.g. on architecture and built environment, gender equality and social cohesion;⁵

⁴ As mentioned in the Council conclusions on *Building a sustainable Europe by 2030 – Progress thus far and next steps* (14835/19), adopted by the Council on 10 December 2019 (“The Council invites the Commission to prepare a report for the HLPF on the EU's internal and external implementation of the 2030 Agenda during the next HLPF cycle, preferably in 2021. An open, transparent and multilevel participatory process should be established for the preparation of the report, with close involvement of the Council, and consultation of key stakeholders and the European Parliament.”)

⁵ Open Method of Coordination Group of Member States' Experts on High-quality architecture and built quality environment for everyone; Open Method of Coordination Group of Member States' Experts on Gender equality; Open Method of Coordination Group of Member States' Experts on Culture and Social Cohesion (all three under the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022).

- the Member States' Expert Group on Culture in Development and International Cooperation;
 - the implementation of the EU's strategic approach towards international cultural relations;
 - the future Voices of Culture dialogue on culture and sustainable development;
 - the work carried out in other national and international contexts (such as UNESCO) to harness culture's contribution to the 2030 Agenda.
6. The OMC group may, for further inspiration and input, decide to involve external experts, such as researchers and representatives from civil society.
7. The OMC group will prepare a report on the activities outlined under point 5.
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