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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: The G-20 Cultural Ministerial meeting and the Rome declaration of G-20
Ministers of Culture
- Information from the Italian delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Italian delegation on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under 'Any other business' for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 29-30 November 2021.

The G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting and the Rome Declaration of the G20 Ministers of Culture

(Rome, 30 July 2021)

- Information note from the Italian delegation -

On 30 July, the G20 Culture Ministers, meeting for the first time in history under the Italian G20 Presidency, agreed on a **G20 Culture Declaration** that firmly positions **culture as a major engine for sustainable and balanced socio-economic growth**, highlighting the crucial role of cultural and creative sectors in fostering the resilience and regeneration of our economies and societies, which have been heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over almost a year of work, the G20 Culture Ministers identified recommendations and areas of common action around five priorities: **the protection of cultural heritage; culture and climate change; building capacity through education and training; cultural and creative sectors as drivers for regeneration and sustainable growth; and culture in the digital transformation**. Progress was made in each of these areas in defining shared principles and a common basis for future work.

In this context, and recognising that all threats to cultural resources, including **looting and illicit trafficking** of cultural property, may result in the loss of irreplaceable cultural assets, the G20 welcomed the activation of international mechanisms to protect cultural heritage **damaged or endangered by conflicts and disasters**, with the participation of national task forces, upon invitation by UNESCO and on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution No. 2347. Italy supports the continuation of these efforts in the EU framework, as called for by the June 2021 Foreign Affairs Council conclusions on the EU approach to cultural heritage in conflict and crises. It is worth noting that after the events of last summer, the Chair's Summary of the **G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Meeting on Afghanistan**, held on 12 October 2021, recalled 'the importance of avoiding any action that could undermine Afghanistan's cultural heritage, in particular its destruction and illicit trafficking, and calls for its preservation'.

The G20 Culture Ministers also expressed their concern about the increased frequency and intensity of hazardous events linked to **climate change** and their impact on culture and cultural heritage, but also stressed culture's role in leading to solutions to address climate change, inviting the Parties to the Paris Agreement to consider **including culture and cultural heritage in their Adaptation Communications**.

One of the follow-ups envisioned within the Rome Declaration is the establishment of a **G20 network of Cultural Business Management Training institutions**, with the goal of strengthening the managerial capacities of cultural professionals to foster culture-driven economic and social development.

The G20 also affirmed that during the pandemic, **digital technologies** have revolutionised every aspect of our lives, and culture is no exception. They have impacted on the value chains of cultural and creative industries, from the creation of a work or piece of art to its promotion, distribution and consumption: digital platforms are now the most important vehicle for accessing cultural content for the new generations. Italy supports a constructive dialogue between all EU Member States to verify **the technical and economic sustainability of a pan-European digital platform**, taking into account models already present in some countries and in full respect of intellectual property.

Finally, the **G20 Leaders' Declaration**, adopted in Rome on 30-31 October 2021, included language dedicated to culture for the first time, annexing the abovementioned G20 Culture Ministers Declaration, recalling all the issues above and underlining in particular the need to protect culture workers.