



**International  
Federation of  
Library  
Associations and Institutions**

## **IFLA Statement at the 2021 U20 Summit 3 September 2021**

There is so much positive to say about the communiqué that you have prepared and agreed – the importance of public services, the need to deliver digital skills and guarantee digital rights, the importance of civic engagement.

But on behalf of the Culture2030Goal campaign, which brings together global cultural networks, I wanted in particular to echo Mr Toschi's intervention, and welcome the strong focus on culture in the communiqué.

Of course, this shouldn't be a surprise. You are the ones who are most aware of what it will take to effect the behaviour change needed to deliver, on climate action, on development goals in general. You are the ones most aware of what it is that makes for better lives.

And so it makes sense that you are leading the way in recognising the role of culture, not just as something to be protected and promoted as an end in itself, but also in building social cohesion, in building resilience, in building the effectiveness of policy interventions across the board.

In particular, we welcome the focus in the communiqué on the importance of inclusion. Because cultural rights are human rights, and culture can only be a driver of equitable development if it can be practiced, and enjoyed by all, regardless of gender, wealth, ethnicity or any other characteristic.

It is something that libraries work to deliver every day, working as part of – or in partnership with – city governments.

Of course, we understand that the communiqué is of course a milestone, not an end point. As the Culture2030Goal campaign, we look forward to continuing to contribute to exchange and learning about how to realise the potential of culture to accelerate development, in future G20 and U20 meetings, and particular we thank UCLG and Mayor Soyer of Izmir for organising and hosting next week's Culture Summit.

We therefore strongly hope that G20 leaders listen to the call you are making, as well as those of the G20 Culture ministerial, and continue the work to make sure that culture – cultural actors, cultural institutions, cultural aspects of life – are fully integrated into broader policy agendas.

And that, we hope, this focus, this recognition of culture as a fourth pillar of sustainable development, is also carried across into the global agendas that set the parameters for policy making.

Thank you.