



The Group of Friends for  
Culture-Based Climate Action

## Barcelona Declaration

We, the Ministers and high-level representatives gathered at the Third High-Level Ministerial Dialogue of the Group of Friends for Culture-Based Climate Action (GFCBCA), convened in Barcelona, Spain, during the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT, in the lead-up to COP30,

*Recognizing* that climate change represents one of the most pressing and complex challenges of our time and *acknowledging* not only its environmental consequences, but also its profound social, cultural, economic, and ethical dimensions,

*Reaffirming* our commitment to multilateralism, especially in the light of the progress made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, and *remaining* united in the pursuit of efforts to achieve their purpose and long-term goals, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,

*Noting* that the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that international cooperation is a strategic enabler for achieving ambitious climate action and encouraging development and implementation of climate policies,

*Reaffirming* our shared understanding that culture is both impacted by and instrumental in addressing the climate crisis, and *recognizing* its dual role as a vulnerable asset and a powerful agent of transformation,

*Recognizing* the important role played by the founding co-chairs of the Group of Friends for Culture-based Climate Action, Ministers of Culture of Brazil and the United Arab Emirates, in leading this informal international coalition of Parties, intergovernmental and international organizations, and civil society entities advocating for the consideration of culture into global climate discussions following the adoption of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience recognizing the protection of cultural heritage as a thematic target for measuring progress towards the Global Goal for Adaptation (GGA) and the Warsaw



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International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage, which addresses cultural heritage under the category of non-economic losses,

*Recalling* the adoption of the Emirates Declaration on Culture-Based Climate Action in the High-Level Ministerial Dialogue convened during the COP28, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in 2023, and the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the GFCBCA in the High-Level Ministerial Dialogue convened during COP29, in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 2024, as key steps towards consolidating our efforts to position culture as a valuable part of global efforts related to climate change,

*Recognizing* that successful outcomes from the indicator framework to be delivered at COP30 by the UAE-Belém Work Programme will be an essential instrument for tracking progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), particularly in relation to the target on protection of cultural heritage, which will help elevate the role of culture within discussions in adaptation, by integrating this perspective in a meaningful and measurable way at both global and national levels,

*Also recognizing* the UNFCCC Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action's commitment to mobilization of broad societal engagement and partnership and the COP30 Climate Action Agenda's reference to culture in Objective 19 Axis 5 for accelerating climate action by driving implementation of the Paris Agreement,

*Acknowledging* that, while significant progress has been made, further efforts are needed in cooperation, research and knowledge-exchange to advance the role of culture in climate action,

**We therefore agree to:**

Strive to develop concrete and inclusive pathways for integrating cultural heritage, arts, creative industries and Indigenous and traditional knowledge systems into national climate adaptation and mitigation strategies through enhanced multistakeholder dialogue, in line with nationally defined priorities and guided by the principles of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement;

Leverage the important role culture plays in informing, raising awareness and mobilizing inclusive climate action across all parts of society, notably by mobilizing national culture sectors to foster a deeper connection to environmental issues and to inspire behavioral change;



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Accelerate climate action within the culture sector by pursuing initiatives aimed at promoting adaptation plans for safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage, protecting natural heritage, and preserving the diversity of cultural expressions from the adverse impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, as well as reducing the carbon emissions of these sectors in our respective countries;

Advance knowledge development and exchange, as well as research on the interlinkages between culture and climate action, including impacts of climate change on the cultural and creative sectors and the role of culture for adaptation, with a view to design responsive and resilient cultural policies;

Further encourage Parties to follow the ongoing discussions around the adaptation indicators for the protection of cultural heritage, with a view to consider their adoption at COP30 in Belém, while supporting, as appropriate, the development of methodologies and metrics towards country-level implementation;

Support the COP 30 Presidency Action Agenda, which aims at accelerating climate action guided by the findings of the first GST, encouraging substantial mobilization of stakeholders, including children and youth, to deliver climate action in line with the global *Mutirão* (collective engagement), and advance the development and implementation of the COP30 Presidency's Action Agenda Axis 5, namely, Key Objective 19 – *Culture, Cultural Heritage and Climate Action*, which provides an opportunity to accelerate the implementation of solutions related to culture and cultural heritage until the next GST, due in 2028;

Encourage members to continue mobilizing advocacy efforts at the national, regional and international levels, to support culture's contribution to climate action, and agree to reconvene at COP31 to assess progress in this path.

Adopted by Brazil, United Arab Emirates, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, Greece, Indonesia, Latvia, Malta, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, South Africa, Spain and Uruguay in Barcelona, Spain, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.