

**Regional Conference**  
***How art and architecture can make city development inclusive and sustainable***

**Kampala, Uganda, September 18, 2012**

**DECLARATION**

Participants assembled, including Mayors and representatives of East African Community capitals and cities, present at the conference organized in the context of the Visionary Africa - *Art at Work* project<sup>1</sup>

***Together,***

- Recognize that art and architecture can engage, connect, and uplift citizens through the enhancement of urban environment livability;
- Acknowledge the unprecedented social, economic and political challenges of urban growth facing African capital cities;
- Appreciate the importance of availability and access to art and culture in small and medium-sized cities;
- Affirm their commitment to implement measures aimed at positively valuing the role of arts, culture and architecture at the service of inclusive and sustainable urban development of African cities;
- Insist that inclusive and sustainable urban development must be nationally-encouraged, locally and community focused, heritage-led, creative, open, and relevant to African contexts;
- Affirm the urgency of protecting natural and historical assets of African cities;
- Confirm their adherence to the values and objectives of:
  - the European Commission's Communication *Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change*<sup>2</sup>;
  - the 2010 United Nations' *Millennium Development Goals Outcome Document*<sup>3</sup>;
  - the 2012 United Nations *Resolution 66/208 on Culture and Development*<sup>4</sup>;
  - the 2009 '*Declaration of Brussels*' on the role of culture and creativity as vectors of development;
  - the 1972 UNESCO *Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, the 2003 *Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage*, the 2005 *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions*, and the 2011 *Convention on Historic Cultural Landscapes*;
  - the 2012 UN-Habitat Naples World Urban forum VI;

*And bring to the attention of:*

National authorities:

- the need to *define a national urban development policy that integrates art and architecture as factors of inclusive and sustainable development.*

Local authorities:

- the opportunity to propose *actions and rules integrating local cultures and artistic heritage within local urban development plans.*

Development partners:

- the need to *advocate and strengthen actions that support local initiatives towards inclusive and sustainable urban development.*

Civil Society organizations:

- the need to *raise awareness and contribute to the implementation of the purposes and objectives of the Declaration of Kampala, and seek advice and assistance to facilitate its implementation.*

*And Recommend:*

- to establish a **Permanent Consultation Mechanism at the national and regional levels<sup>5</sup>** to help local and national governments foster culture and architecture at the service of urban development;
- to strengthen and promote **creative industries** and their connection with **cultural institutions**;
- to develop a platform for regular **dialogue on urban development between administrations, local collectivities and civil society**;
- to define and implement a cultural policy that enables the contribution of art and architecture towards inclusive and sustainable urban development;
- to inventory and protect natural and historical urban assets;
- to identify poles for the revitalization and creation of public spaces in urban environments, with input from the local stakeholders;
- to **identify technical and financial means to assist in the above objectives**;
- to **actively engage in the follow-up of the Declaration and its recommendations<sup>6</sup>.**

Agreed in Kampala, 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2012

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<sup>1</sup> This conference was part of the Visionary Africa - Art at Work initiative launched by the European Commission and the African Union in the framework of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the independence of numerous African countries. The initiative, developed by the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels (BOZAR), proposed a travelling exhibition platform that explored the link between art, culture and public spaces in African capitals. It was already presented in Ouagadougou, Addis Ababa, Cairo, Harare, Bujumbura, and was hosted in Kampala September 18-October 14, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> European Commission's Communication *Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change* is the 2014-2020 strategic approach of the European Union to reducing poverty, focusing on key goals such as: good governance; social protection, health and education; favourable business environment; sustainable agriculture and clean energy, in order to turn challenges of food security and climate change into opportunities for growth.

<sup>3</sup> UN Millenium Development Goals' "General assembly Outcome Document", 17th of September 2010: particularly MDG 7 on Environmental Stability, where it is mentioned the 2020 target to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the "Cities Without Slums" initiative (target 7.D) and the integration of principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reversal of the loss of environmental resources (target 7.A).

<sup>4</sup> March 15, 2012 United Nations Resolution 66/208 on Culture and Development acknowledging that cultural diversity is a source of enrichment for humankind and an important contributor to the sustainable development of local communities, peoples and nations, empowering them to play an active and unique role in development initiatives.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. *Annex 1*: Recommendations for a Permanent Consultation Mechanism

<sup>6</sup> Cf. *Annex 2*: Additional Recommendations for follow-up

## Annex 1

### Note on the recommended Permanent Consultation Mechanism at national and regional levels:

Such a mechanism would involve municipal authorities, architects, urban planners and arts managers. Its essential core values would be the promotion of an interactive relation between citizens and town, the equality and respect of cultural diversity, freedom of expression of all citizens regardless of age, social status, language, religion or ethnicity; and the acknowledgement of the importance of associations and collective groups to guarantee access to city development and enforce respect and promotion of cultural diversity even when dealing with urban infrastructure.

This mechanism would aim at helping national and local governments in **providing concrete orientations for the development of comprehensive and long-term roadmaps** to foster culture and architecture at the service of urban development, including:

- **Promotion and support of formal education in architecture and town planning** at a level of higher education, including curriculum development in economics and management, and facilitating students and faculty mobility;
- **Reinforcement of existing Orders of Architects and Artists Associations**
- **Review of urban building codes and architectural standards for public and private buildings construction** towards sustainable urban development and material and immaterial heritage preservation (including use of local materials, preservation of natural resources such as coastlines, forests and water, promotion of green urban areas and traditional public meeting spaces, promotion of green spaces and pedestrian zones in urban centres; energy efficiency; clean transportation; valorization of traditional styles and local building skills and materials).
- **Review of architectural heritage preservation programs** focused on documentation, conservation and re-adaptive use, with emphasis on urban, social and economic impacts;
- **Encouragement of private sector investment in local cultural industries** through fiscal incentives at various levels (national, regional, city);
- **Encouragement of private sector investment in the promotion of sustainable building solutions** as well of sustainable **cultural tourism**, respectful of nature and involving local communities;
- **Encouragement of active engagement of metropolitan municipal authorities in the national strategy implementation** by organizing forums and events on urban planning issues;
- **Advice on language adopted for communication at the national and local level on urban planning issues affecting the day-to-day life of citizens.**

## Annex 2

### Note on additional recommendations for consideration and discussion at future international and national fora on the role of art and architecture in inclusive and sustainable urban development, as follow-up to the Declaration of Kampala:

#### To architects, planners, artists, on their role in city development:

- **Integrated educational and professional training** in the areas of architecture, urban planning and the visual arts
- Promotion of **deliberate synergies** and collaboration between/among these professions
- Conscious **orientation of these professions towards people in their cities** and a response to the prevailing social realities in their cities
- Emphasis on a **cultural and city development policy** as a good place for finding common outlook and common action starting point

#### To National Authorities:

- **Decode all official messages in this sector to grass roots level** (i.e. away from intellectual discourse, placed into clear context and translated into local dialect, in order to make people feel engaged and responsible)
- **Reward communities that have improved their built environment through design** (for example: restoration of historical buildings, tree-planting programs, street improvements and other community based initiatives)
- **Introduce National Community Design Day-** an annual national celebration of successful design works from the local to national level, much like the National Farmers' Day
- **Focus on the regions and provinces** to implement some of the above initiatives
- **Promote research to assess correlation between cultural activities and local economic development**
- **Implement a financial component for cooperation projects** which integrate art and architecture as vectors of inclusive and sustainable urban development
- **Reinforce urban building codes and architectural standards** for public and private buildings construction and architectural heritage preservation programs focused on conservation and re-adaptive use
- **Set in motion the implementation of a Permanent Consultative Council**, and instruct it to formulate to governments the necessary and useful actions or legislative framework towards a national strategy in this sector
- **Focus on implementation:** encourage academic projects to be transposed to communities and work with local agencies to test these ideas in real life situations

#### To Local Authorities:

- **Raise awareness of the local population** about the diversity, creativity and preservation of local traditional and contemporary arts and cultures

**- Assess and upgrade at the local level:**

**The level of competence of technical staff** in terms of urban planning, real estate, the various dimensions of culture as vector of development;

**A standardized database of social and economic indicators** for monitoring the urban resources;

**An inventory of cultural and natural specificities of local territories** (tangible and intangible heritage, cultural creativity, and biodiversity);

**- Propose local Masterplans**, to be embedded in the national Masterplan;

**- Empower and reinforce community groups** in order to strengthen culture and development;

**- Favor the creation of local associations of artists, artisans, craftsmen**, particularly in traditional building skills and knowledge.

**To Professional organizations and International Organizations:**

**- Promote a professional charter** (within the Associations of Architects) **putting forth the consideration of culture, the arts and environmentally friendly solutions in urban development projects;**

**- Coordinate a collective intervention on the implementation of the Declaration of Kampala** on the occasion of various international fora such as *ICOMOS, the International Union of Architects, UNESCO, AKDN, ArchiAfrika, etc.*;

**- Implement training on the role of art and culture in inclusive and sustainable urban development;**

**- Promote membership of Architects Association**, and its recognition by the International Union of Architects.

**To Development Partners:**

**- Include the *Declaration of Kampala* in discussions at forthcoming international meetings** such as ACP Ministers of Culture in October 2012, the next EU-Africa Summit in Brussels in 2013, the next African Union summit in 2013, the ArchiAfrika conference in Lagos in 2013, the next Europe-Africa Summit in late 2013;

**- Integrate into projects specific actions of training and reinforcement of local capacities;**

**- Simplify and harmonize procedures and formats for financial aid applications, subsidies and loans;**

**- Reinforce consultation with beneficiaries of aid** from conception to implementation of cooperation projects.

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