

Madame Director-General,

Minister<sup>1</sup>,

Colleagues and Friends,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honored to speak here today, on behalf of Alice Bah Kuhnke, the Swedish Minister for Culture and Democracy.

The Global report *Re| Shaping Cultural Policies* highlights the strong connection between Culture and Democracy.

The report is the only global document that presents an overview of cultural development world-wide and monitors state action to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions at all levels. This second edition of the Global Report shows how the 2005 Convention shapes and reshapes cultural policies around the world and contribute to the achievement of the sustainable development goals and the 2030 Agenda. Hopefully it will be used as a source of inspiration, providing guidance for policy makers and cultural actors.

I would like to extend a special thank you to those who have made this report possible; especially the independent experts who have worked together with UNESCO. You have once again presented us with an inspiring report which will continue to push us forward.

Dear friends,

The 2005 Convention is the first global instrument of its kind - embracing general cultural issues and cultural policies in particular.

Sweden was deeply involved in the process leading up to the creation of the Convention and we consider it to be a most significant platform for

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<sup>1</sup> Paraguays kulturminister Fernando Griffith är ordförande för Mångfaldskonventionen

work in the field of Cultural Policy. We appreciate the convention's interrelation between cultural diversity and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to freedom of expression and information. This freedom is essential for creation, production, distribution and enjoyment of a diversity of cultural expressions.

The 2005 Convention invites States Parties to promote cultural diversity on all levels; local, national, regional and international. One international example is the project "Enhancing fundamental freedoms through the promotion of the Diversity of cultural expressions" funded by Sweden. This project has funded the report that is being launched here today and I am very proud of that.

I would like to give you some reflections on the issues addressed in the report;

The digital revolution changing the world rapidly has given us enormous possibilities for exchange and knowledge. It hasn't made the world smaller but it has definitely made it more connected.

There needs to be a balance between the free flow of cultural expressions online and the rights of creators and authors to be compensated for their work. In the transition between the analogue and the digital world copyright is essential, especially for the development of the cultural and creative sectors. Robust copyright systems are a prerequisite for fair remuneration to authors and other rights holders and thus a driving force for innovation, artistic renewal and creativity.

Civil society participation in decision-making is valid for all areas of life, including culture. It is crucial for the development of cultural life and in a broader sense for the fulfillment of both the 2005 Convention and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Civil society must always be included, protected and promoted in a democratic and functional society.

Civil society also plays a key part in promoting the diversity of cultural expressions when it comes to awareness-raising. We look forward to more discussions, more engagement and more active participation by all relevant stake-holders to the Convention in the future and thank UNESCO for its engagement.

As a representative of a feminist Government, I would like to underline the need to support and ensure equal rights for women creators and producers of cultural goods and services.

Gender equality is a key dimension of the promotion of human rights and the protection of fundamental freedoms. The message of the Convention is clear in calling for policies and measures that promote gender equality and that recognize and support women as artists and producers of cultural goods and services. The gender gap in almost all cultural fields and in most parts of the world, as shown in the report, must therefore be repeatedly addressed. Women are severely under-represented in the workforce, particularly in key creative roles and decision-making positions. They also have less access to resources and are generally paid much less than men.

Dear friends,

Artistic freedom is a global challenge and the right for artists to express themselves freely is under threat worldwide. Artistic voices are being silenced over the world. Censorship, imprisonment, threats or even killings are frequent.

At the same time, we see from the report that positive progress has been made.

This progress gives us hope for a growing understanding of the crucial role artistic freedom plays for the development and the stability of the cultural sector.

However, firm action is still needed, on all levels. We need to cooperate internationally and join forces to strengthen and promote artistic freedom. In July this year the Swedish government adopted an action plan with concrete measures to safeguard freedom of expression, by protecting journalists, artists and politicians against threats and hatred. The objective is to work more strategically to reduce the vulnerability of these individuals for example by strengthening the judiciary's ability to act as well as to better support those affected.

To conclude, UNESCO's mandate to promote *the free flow of ideas* is more relevant than ever. Freedom of expression is a basic human right, and a fundamental part of democratic societies. The 2005 convention plays a crucial part here and the global report provides us with a necessary knowledge base to further develop cultural policies for the future. We are convinced that the convention will continue to push us towards the world we want.

Thank you