

Culture Workshop Request for COP30 Decision (revised)

Culture-based climate solutions have long been missing from global climate talks. COP30 can change this. For this reason, the Climate Heritage Network is seeking to have a **culture workshop request** included in the final decisions taken at COP30 (e.g. at CMA7). This short text would express a request by the COP that the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies hold one or more workshops to consider issues related to culture and heritage before their 64th session in Bonn in 2026 with the aim of exchanging views and the Conference of Parties adopting a decision on this matter at COP31. *Sample language can be found below.* The outcome of this workshop would then form the basis for a broader consideration of culture at COP31.

How would this work?

In order to fill this culture gap in climate policy and and to begin unlocking the power of culture at scale, the “Global Call to Put Cultural Heritage, Arts and the Creative Sectors at the Heart of Climate Action” campaign led by the Climate Heritage Network is seeking to secure the adoption of a Joint Work on Culture and Climate Action decision (JWD) **at COP31**.

A JWD would launch a UNFCCC consultation on culture and climate action that would lay the foundation for building the missing cultural pillar of climate change response through the adoption **at COP32** of the first-ever UNFCCC Work Plan on Culture. This timing would allow the socio-cultural dimension to be adequately addressed in the context of the 2028 Global Stocktake.

The CHN’s understanding is that there would need to be one or more workshops held by the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) on culture prior to the COP where the JWD is tabled and that those workshops would for the basis of the consideration of a JWD. In order to support the tabling of a JWD at COP30 in November 2025, these workshops should occur earlier in 2025 (e.g. before Bonn Climate Week in June 2025).

It would be customary for the COP itself to invite the Subsidiary Bodies to hold these workshops. **Hence, the need to include the Culture Workshop Request in the decisions at COP30.** These SB workshops could also provide immediate support for using culture-based strategies to enhance ambition in implementing the national climate commitments (NDCs) due in 2025 as well as in the design of GST2.0.

Sample language for inclusion in a Decision at COP30 Requesting Culture Workshop(s) in 2026, laying the foundation for policy decision for culture at COP31

Culture and Heritage

Culture and Heritage

___. **Requests the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice to consider issues related to culture and heritage at its sixty-third session, with the aim of exchanging views and The Conference of the Parties adopting a decision on this matter at its **[COP31]** session;**

___. **Invites Parties and admitted observer organizations to submit to the secretariat by **5 March 2026** their views on the issues referred to in paragraph __ above;**

___. Requests the secretariat to compile the submissions referred to in paragraph ___ above by Parties into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its **sixty-fourth** session.
All best

This language is adapted from an earlier COP decision that requested similar workshops, for example in the case of Agriculture:

D. Cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions, in order to enhance the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 1(c), of the Convention

General framework

74. *Agrees* to continue its consideration of a general framework for cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions with a view to adopting a decision on this matter at its eighteenth session, as appropriate;

Agriculture

75. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to consider issues related to agriculture at its thirty-sixth session, with the aim of exchanging views and the Conference of the Parties adopting a decision on this matter at its eighteenth session;

76. *Invites* Parties and admitted observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 5 March 2012, their views on the issues referred to in paragraph 75 above;

77. *Requests* the secretariat to compile the submissions referred to in paragraph 76 above by Parties into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its thirty-sixth session;

These workshops ultimately resulted in a recommendation for an Agriculture joint work, which was later adopted.¹

Why is this so important?

The socio-cultural dimension is a recognised enabling condition for accelerating and scaling-up systemic transitions that would limit global warming temperature increases while achieving sustainable development – yet culture receives little attention compared to other enabling conditions such as finance and technological innovation. This undermines the effectiveness of climate action and contributes to maladaptation and mal-mitigation. With global efforts to tackle climate change not yet on course to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement, the world can no longer afford this omission.

The linkages between culture and heritage, climate science and climate action were extensively explored by the 2021 [IPCC International Co-Sponsored Meeting on Culture](#).

¹ See: https://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/repository/entri/docs/cop/FCCC_COP17_dec02.pdf

[Heritage and Climate Change](#) which brought together scientists and experts to advance heritage and culture-based actions for climate change adaptation and carbon mitigation.

Building on the IPCC meeting and other successes (like [discussions in the G20](#)), COP28 in Dubai, UAE delivered the most significant outcome for culture in COP history. Successes included the launch of the national government advocacy block known as the **Group of Friends of Culture-Based Climate Action** under the leadership of Brazil and UAE, and the robust inclusion of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge in the **Global Goal on Adaptation**.

The culture successes at COP28 were supported by an unprecedented mobilisation of non-state actors that saw over 1,500 organisations and leaders sign the [Global Call to Put Cultural Heritage, Arts and Creative Industries at the Heart of Climate Action](#). In the Global Call, artists and cultural voices from across the globe are uniting to call for climate negotiators at the COPs to enable culture to contribute fully to climate solutions.

Unfortunately, this mobilisation came too late to influence COP28's premier decision, the Global Stocktake (GST). The GST as adopted omits any reference to the socio-cultural enablers of climate action. To begin building efforts to address this gap in advance of the 2028 Global Stocktake, the Global Call Campaign is seeking to secure the adoption of a **Joint Work on Culture and Climate Action Decision** (JWD) at COP30. A JWD would create a path to bolster global climate response by unlocking the power of culture-based climate action to help people imagine and realise low-carbon, just, climate resilient futures. The inclusion of culture workshop request in the COP29 final decision begins this process.

The Culture Workshop Request also concretely takes forward the aspiration expressed in the [Salvador da Bahia Declaration of the G20 Ministers of Culture](#) adopted just days before COP29 (8 November 2024), which calls for “supporting further progress on the cultural-climate nexus in COP29, in the Road to Belém at COP30, and future COPs.”