

CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 21 May 2019)

Key Statements for Roundtable on Culture and Sustainable Development

To mark the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, the National Cultural Commission (NCC), with the assistance of UNESCO, brought together representatives of government agencies, NGOs, and international and civil society organizations for a Roundtable discussion in Laguna Hotel, Port Moresby, on May 21, 2019. Apart from NCC, the participants included officials from the National Museum & Art Gallery (NMAG), PNG National Commission for UNESCO, Partners With Melanesians Inc. (PWM), Institute of PNG Studies (IPNGS), Linguistic Society of PNG (LSPNG), Tourism Promotion Authority (TPA), Department of Education, Office of Library and Archives (OLA), as well as Blue Shield Pasifika (BSP). The UN Resident Coordinator to PNG opened the Roundtable.

The main objective of this Roundtable was to provide an enhanced understanding of the benefits and obligations of the UNESCO Culture Conventions (1954, 2003, 2005) with a view in respecting PNG's cultural diversity and contribution towards peace and sustainable development.

The Roundtable resulted in the shared realization that our cultures including indigenous languages under threats can only be protected through planned and organized collective action of all national and international stakeholders. The Roundtable identified the main goals and objectives of necessary actions, and strategies for achieving them, detailing a number of urgently required concrete tasks to be completed in the immediate future (see Appendices for the Roadmap).

KEY STATEMENTS

1. **To achieve the common goals of preserving, documenting and promoting cultural knowledge of PNG, we must work together with all National and International agencies:**
 - a. **Cooperation on the international level requires**
 - i. Urgent ratification of the UNESCO Culture Conventions which "constitute a governance system for culture," operating "in full compliance with existing international human rights instruments and in full respect of cultural diversity" (<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/gender-and-culture/gender-equality-and-culture/the-culture-conventions/>)

- ii. These conventions are an indispensable tool for sustainable development; their ratification will bring Papua New Guinea in concert with the international community, and will enable closer cooperation with international agencies, such as the UN /UNESCO /Blue Shield, etc.
 - b. **Cooperation on the Regional level requires**
 - i. Establishment of Blue Shield PNG (BSPNG) in collaboration with Blue Shield Pasifika (BSP) in Fiji, whose stated mission to “Empower Pacific Small Island Developing States in Disaster Risk Reduction of Cultural Heritage and Institutions and promote the 1954 Hague Convention under UNESCO” resonates with our shared aspirations.
 - ii. ‘Connecting’ to other Blue Shield branches in the region [i.e., Blue Shield Australia (BSA)], working to protect all “cultural and natural heritage, tangible and intangible, in the event of armed conflict, natural- or human-made disaster” <http://blueshieldaustralia.org.au/about-us/>.
 - c. **On the National level, there is an urgent need to establish:**
 - i. **A Working Committee** of Government and Civil Society organizations that will work together to protect and promote the indigenous languages and cultures of Papua New Guinea; this Working Committee should include representatives from National Cultural Commission (NCC), National Museum & Art Gallery (NMAG), PNG National Commission for UNESCO, Partners With Melanesians Inc., Institute of PNG Studies, Linguistic Society of PNG (LSPNG), Tourism Promotion Authority (TPA), Department of Education (DOE), and the Office of Library and Archives (OLA).
 - ii. Blue Shield PNG - a National branch of Blue Shield International (akin to BSP/BSA).
2. **The Roundtable emphasized the need to speed up the ratification of Hague and Cultural Diversity Conventions;** to this end, the Working Committee, headed by NCC, must urgently explore the ratification process and procedures, identify all necessary prerequisites for this action, and ensure its rapid implementation.
 3. **The Roundtable noted the need for adequate public awareness campaigns and education on the three UNESCO Conventions, i.e. the Hague Convention, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention and the Cultural Diversity Convention, which may become part of the Working Committee’s functions.**

4. The Working Committee functions will also include:

- a. **Ensuring the preservation, promotion and transmission of cultural knowledge to young Papua New Guineans:** Liaising with the DoE and Provincial/Local Governments in the search for 'cultural experts' or cultural knowledge holders and practitioners within the local communities who would be able to record the known histories of their clans, their legends/folk wisdom (i.e., proverbs and parables), and to describe the way of life and traditions of their ancestors. Written in the many indigenous languages of Papua New Guinea, these tales and oral traditions from all corners of the land should then be translated into Tok Pisin and English and published as teaching & learning materials in all national elementary and primary schools.
- b. **Taking stock of the existing inventory and conducting future community-based inventories** of cultural artifacts and intangible cultural expressions through the use of existing systems at different levels of government, from the national down to the provincial and local/ward levels.
- c. **Promotion and monitoring of inter-agency participation and cooperation on the three conventions.** For example, National Museum and the PNG Defense Force on the Hague Convention, or National Cultural Commission and Provincial Governments in refurbishment or establishment of museum and libraries.
- d. **Support and promotion of all cultural activities** promoting PNG cultures and languages.
- e. **Incentivizing the creative industry** through implementing educational arts and crafts programs in the school curriculum.
- f. **Strengthening the existing cultural institutions through capacity building programs, infrastructure development and increased funding.** There are a number of important government cultural organizations in existence, but they receive very little support for their activities.

Lead Agency/Chair of Working Committee: PNG National Cultural Commission (NCC)

Approved by:


Steven Kilanda
Acting Executive Director
PNG National Cultural Commission



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Roadmap (2019-2023)

ICH Safeguarding and the ICH Convention

Outcomes	Activities	When	Lead (by whom) and stakeholders	Resources
1 Inter-agency participation and cooperation enhanced amongst relevant stakeholders	Establish a Working Committee of Government & Civil Society Organizations that will work together to continue promoting ICH	2019 – 2020	NCC, NMAG, NATCOM, IPNGS, UPNG, TPA, CEPA	
2 An updated list of ICH in need of urgent safeguarding undertaken	Consult local experts knowledgeable in ICH and support documentation including endangered local languages	2019 – 2023	NCC	
3 ICH belonging to communities in 22 provinces revitalised for community wellbeing.	Support to local festivals and cultural shows in 22 provinces to attract visitors/tourists	2019 – 2023	NCC, IPNGS, Provincial Govts	
4 Institutions promoting ICH strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and promote capacity building programs on ICH. Refurbishment of infrastructure for key institution supporting ICH, particularly NCC 	2019 – 2023	NCC, NMAG, NATCOM	
5 Preservation, promotion and transmission of cultural knowledge (ICH) to younger generations enriched.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Department of Education and Provincial/Local governments to identify cultural/local experts & educators who can assist in awareness programs, documentation and education of ICH. 	2019 – 2023	NCC, UPNG, DoE, NATCOM	
6 ICH belonging to communities in respective provinces inventoried with community participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations to ensure ICH is integrated into the education system. Carry out community-based ICH inventorying in provinces 	2019 – 2023	NCC	

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Roadmap (2019-2023)

Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the 2005 Convention

Outcomes	Activities	When	Lead (by whom) and stakeholders	Resources
1 Establish Working Committee comprising government & civil society organizations that will work together to progress on the ratification of 2005 Convention	Organize Roundtable for the 21 May World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development, focused on steps leading to ratification	2020 – 2023	NCC, NMAG, IPNGS, UPNG, OLA,	
2 Promotion and strengthening of creative economy in PNG	Organize Art & Crafts Fair in conjunction with PNGs annual Cultural Shows and celebrations	2019 – 2023	NCC	
3 Ensure that schools have publications on diversity and on cultures	Distribute available publications on cultures and diversity to PNG schools	2019 – 2023	NCC, DoE, NATCOM	
4 PNG to ratify the 2005 Convention	Organise national consultation with relevant organizations to understand benefits, obligations and the processes towards ratifying 2005 Convention	2019 – 2023	NCC, NATCOM, NMAG	
5 Promotion of creativity and diversity, to well-being (of communities and groups) and peaceful development enhanced.	Encourage capacity building programs and activities such as selling of artefacts for sustainable living amongst community members	2019 – 2023	NCC, NMAG	

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Roadmap (2019-2023)

Cultural Property Protection against disasters and the Hague Convention

Outcomes	Activities	When	Lead (by whom) and stakeholders	Resources
1 The people of PNG will have increased opportunities to participate in activities of cultural centres, museums, archives and libraries	Support in the rehabilitation and or establishment of cultural centres, museums, libraries, archives.	2019-2023	NCC, NMAG, OLA,	
2 A Working Committee of Government & Civil Society Organizations established, headed by NCC	Organize Roundtable for the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development, focused on steps leading to ratification of Hague Convention	2020	NCC, NATCOM, IPNGS	
3 Museums & Libraries in PNG will have well-managed inventories of their collections and storage.	Support develop an inventory of collections at museums and in libraries	2019 – 2020	NCC, NMAG, OLA	
4 Protect PNG's cultural & natural heritage from human-induced disasters and natural disasters, particularly in relation to galleries, libraries, archives, and museum	Meetings & consultations with relevant organizations on the establishment of a Blue Shield PNG (BSPNG)	2019 – 2023	NCC, NMAG, NATCOM	
5 PNG will ratify the Hague Convention	Organise national consultation with relevant organizations to understand benefits, obligations and the processes hence pursue ratification	2019 – 2023	NCC, NMAG, NATCOM, CEPA	

Round Table 2019

Hosted by the National Cultural Commission
in collaboration with UNESCO Office for Pacific
States, Port Moresby, 21 May 2019

Round Table Theme

UNESCO CULTURE CONVENTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
Celebrating World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

Photo Images



NGOs call for support from govt

BY PATRICK NIATO TOM

NON-GOVERNMENT organisations are calling for government support in preserving and promoting PNG's cultural heritages.

Partners with Melanesians Inc and other NGO groups have been working hard and using scarce resources to continue preserving, protecting and promoting the country's diverse culture.

Partners with Melanesian executive director Kenn Mondiai pointed out two key points in supporting the call made by the NGOs during the world day for cultural diversity for dialogue and development round table forum held in Port Moresby this week.

Mr Mondiai, in answering questions raised on ways in what the government and NGOs can do to help protect and promote our culture, said the government is focusing more on income generating activities and development and in doing that they forget about the importance of our culture and never consider the importance of the country's cultural diversity and heritage.

He said what they need to do is to get this group here to set up a secretariat that can have a voice for all of us so that we stand together and speak with one voice.

"That's the first thing we have to do, regardless of who we are. We need to work together and voice our concern. Our priority is to protect and preserve our culture and our

Forum looks at ways to protect, promote PNG's culture and its diversity



PARTICIPANTS at Laguna Hotel in Port Moresby for the world day for cultural diversity for dialogue and development round table forum. Picture: ROBERT APALA

national heritage.

"We need to have a secretariat that is financially equipped and has the power to speak on behalf of our people," he said.

Mr Mondiai said the other thing is as individuals, we all need to work together, stand together and look for ways to find money to promote what we do best in preserving and

protecting and promoting our cultural diversity and heritages.

"Our cultures are dying out and we seem to be forgetting about ourselves. Our children cannot learn

and speak our languages and our cultural heritage or ways of doing things is dying as we are speaking, so we need to act now and get organised," he said.