



Kalmar, 9 april 2022

UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural
rights
Alexandra Xanthaki

Cultural Rights and Cultures of Development

I. The cultures of development

1. What is your understanding of what “development” should aspire to?

Development is about realizing gradual change (for the better)

2. How is development defined in your country?
 - If it exists, please provide the definition of development used in your Government's / organizations' strategies or policies towards (sustainable) development.

The concept of sustainable development has been included in the constitution of Sweden since 2003 (form of government, ch. § 2): "The public sector shall promote sustainable development that leads to a good environment for current and future generations." (see here for discussion: https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/motion/definition-av-begreppet-hallbar-utveckling_H4021803)

3. Has your country developed and adopted a (sustainable) development strategy?
 - If so, please indicate what the main development model is, the aims that are communicated and monitored.
4. Who are the main stakeholders defining, driving and monitoring the (sustainable) development process?
 - Please provide information on the various levels or sectors of stakeholders involved.
5. Are there participatory processes influencing and informing the definition and evaluation of (sustainable) development policies? If so, how?
6. Have the development priorities or the assistance provided by international organisations impacted negatively on some aspects of your country's (sustainable) development policies?

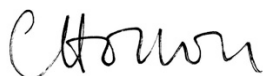
For replies concerning Q 3-6 you should approach the Swedish Embassy to the UN. I am not knowledgeable in law or political sciences.

II. The cultural rights dimension of the sustainable development goals

1. In designing the strategy to achieve the SDGs, what consideration has been given to their cultural dimensions and to cultural rights? Which aspects have been considered?
2. How was the planning, implementation and monitoring of the strategy adapted to the cultural values, world views, practices and identities of the concerned persons? How was respect for diversity integrated in the process?
3. How were the persons concerned involved? Their diverse cultural resources, knowledge and capacities in various contexts capitalized? Has the strategy to achieve the SDGs been designed in a way that is culturally adequate and inclusive?
4. Have international development and financial agencies taken into account cultural rights in sustainable development initiatives?
5. Where cultural resources and creative capacities were leveraged in achieving the SDGs, what were in your experience the results, successes, weaknesses, or lessons learned?

Generally, I do not have a sense that cultural dimensions are very central in Sweden's work towards achieving the SDGs. However, as a University-based researcher I am not familiar with the details of cultural policy in Sweden and cannot confirm to what extent any specific groups have been involved in relevant processes. Please approach the Swedish Embassy to the UN.

Kind regards,



Cornelius Holtorf
Professor