THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

27 January 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith a preliminary concept note for the one-day High-level Event on "Culture and Sustainable Development", to be held on Friday, 21 May 2021, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/320 of 16 January 2020 entitled "Culture and Sustainable Development".

This high-level event will be convened under the theme "Building backETmf6g b

on the occasion of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

culture sector, throughout COVID-19 and the Decade of Action 21 May 2021, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background

Oulture is an essential component of human development, representing a source of identity, connection, innovation and creativity. Tangible and intangible cultural expressions have the demonstrated ability to drive social inclusion, poverty eradication, responsible environmental stewardship, sustainable economic growth and ownership of development processes. In recognition of crucial contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development across its 17 Goals, the United Nations General Assembly designated 2021 as the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development.

At the heart of the creative economy are the cultural and creative industries (CCIs), standing at the crossroad of arts, culture, commerce and technology. CCIs encompass numerous industries including visual and performing arts, music, film, television, radio, publishing, architecture and advertising among others. These sectors are some of the most rapidly growing in the world, contributing to 3% of global GDP and 30 million jobs worldwide. The cultural and creative industries also employ more young people aged 15-29 than any other sector.

The creative economy faces numerous challenges, related to the status of artists and cultural professionals and organisations, that have limited its potentially transformative contributions to sustainable development. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these pre-existing challenges, with the mobility of artists, market access, intellectual property rights, artistic freedoms and livelihoods, and funding for cultural organisations having been severely affected. New challenges have also emerged, as the COs have undergone an accelerated digital transition due to the dosure of cultural spaces, and the cancelling of physical performances, caused by the pandemic. Against this backdrop, the Internet has come to the forefront of cultural consumption and production during lockdown periods. Yet the remuneration from online activities has rarel/F1 11.04 800081 0 595.32 80 G