



## PRESS RELEASE

# “Group of Friends of Culture-Based Climate Action” launched at COP 28 in response to Global Campaign by Cultural Voices



*Family photo taken after the Ministerial meeting held on 8/12 at COP28, including the two Co-Chairs, H.E. Sheikh Salem bin Khalid Al Qassimi, Minister of Culture of the UAE and H.E. Margareth Menezes, Minister of Culture of Brazil, representatives of governments, international organisations and a large delegation of civil society led by HRH Princess Dana of Jordan, as Special Envoy of the Climate Heritage Network*

***A decade of campaigning for the arts, heritage and creative industries to be at the heart of climate action has led to the establishment at COP 28 of the 'Group of Friends of Culture-Based Climate Action.' Over 30 Ministers or government representatives and a large delegation of committed cultural advocates from across the Globe attended the historic inaugural meeting, co-chaired by UAE and Brazil, recognising the key role of culture for transformative climate action.***

*Dubai, UAE (9 December 2023) - Yesterday, history was made at COP 28. Exactly one month after the launch of the [Global Call to put Culture at the Heart of Climate Action](#), the first ministerial meeting on this topic was convened and chaired by the Ministers of Culture of the UAE and Brazil. More than 30 governments were represented as well as key intergovernmental organisations: UNESCO, ALECSO; ICESCO and the European Union represented by the European Commission. The event was [live streamed](#).*

The ministerial meeting was also attended by top representatives of the following leading cultural organisations (mentioned in alphabetical order), all of whom are founding signatories of

the Global Call to Action and most of whom are active members of the Climate Heritage Network: ALIPH (International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas), Brazil Climate Action Hub, British Council, Europa Nostra/European Heritage Hub, International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), International Council of Museums, (ICOM), International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), International Peace Institute, Julie's Bicycle, People's Palace Projects, Petra National Trust, Southeast Asian Cultural Heritage Alliance (SEACHA), and World Monuments Fund (WMF).

After the opening remarks by the Co-Chairs **H.E. Sheikh Salem bin Khalid Al Qassimi (Minister of Culture of the UAE)** and **H.E. Margareth Menezes** (Minister of Culture of Brazil), **HRH Princess Dana of Jordan**, in her capacity as Special Envoy of the Climate Heritage Network, addressed the gathering on behalf of the large constituency of cultural voices, many of whom were invited to attend this ministerial meeting.

"This is an absolutely pivotal step towards the full integration of culture and heritage in the climate agenda to achieve transformative and meaningful action and realise a just, equitable, inclusive and diverse climate resilient future...for years, a growing coalition of cultural leaders and advocates, as well as civil society organisations from throughout the world have been committed to this goal...I am proud to work with so many partners through the Climate Heritage Network" stated **HRH Princess Dana Firas of Jordan, Climate Heritage Network Special Envoy.**

Following the interventions of each representative of governments and international/European organisations, the participants unanimously adopted the [Emirates Declaration on Culture-Based Climate Action](#). This visionary Declaration paves the way for the adoption of a Joint Work Decision on Culture-Based Climate Action at COP 29 which will take place in Europe in one year's time, and subsequently to a related action plan ahead of COP 30 in Brazil.

*"Today we need to create a path for integrating culture into climate policy for the future, as well as raise awareness of culture's transformative powers to change behaviour, and imagine its ability to unlock creative solutions that can engage all members of society across all sectors"*, said **H.E. Sheikh Salem bin Khalid Al Qassimi, UAE Minister of Culture** in his opening remarks.

*"We argue that we will only achieve the results outlined in the Paris Agreement if we include culture, arts, heritage and creative industries as part of the response, generating conditions to transform thoughts into action"*, added **H.E. Margareth Menezes, Brazil Minister of Culture.**

Before the ministerial meeting, its two Co-Chairs organised an exchange with representatives of the Climate Heritage Network that have played a leading role in organising the Global Call to Action and worked closely with the UAE Ministry of Culture to prepare this most successful ministerial meeting.

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## Images:

[Photos are available to download here.](#)

## Editor's notes

### Who is behind the 'Global Call to Put Cultural Heritage, Arts and Creative Sectors at the Heart of Climate Action'?

The Global Call to Action does not belong to a single organisation, but rather is a coalition of cultural heritage, the arts and creative sectors - and has been initiated with the backing of [founding signatories](#). The Global Campaign is for everyone who cares about empowering cultural voices, actors and sectors in the fight against climate change. Everyone is invited to [add their voice](#) and share the campaign with their communities and networks. The Global Call already has 1500 signatories and counting, including organisations with large membership or networks representing many thousands of other organisations and their communities.

The management of the Global Call campaign is being undertaken in the framework of the Climate Heritage Network Culture at COP28 Working Group, under the leadership of Julie's Bicycle. Europa Nostra/European Heritage Hub provides the secretariat for this CHN Working Group.

**The Global Call to Action campaign is a civil society contribution to an initiative funded by the UAE Ministry of Culture in partnership with the ALIPH Foundation.**

## Climate Heritage Network

The Climate Heritage Network (CHN) is a voluntary, mutual support network of government agencies, NGOs, universities, businesses, and other organizations committed to tackling climate change and achieving the ambitions of the Paris Agreement. Mobilized in 2018 during the Global Climate Action Summit and launched in 2019, the Climate Heritage Network works to re-orient climate policy, planning, and action at all levels to account for dimensions of culture - from arts to heritage.