

Ruthie Kaplowitz

UNESCO: Topic #1 - Diversifying Growth Opportunities in Creative Industries

YUNMUN XXXIV

Promoting and protecting creative industries throughout the world has always been one of the highest priorities of UNESCO. The importance of maintaining a culturally diverse world cannot be overstated as this diversity “creates a rich and varied world, which increases the range of choices and nurtures human capacities and values.”<sup>1</sup> Cultural and creative industries (CCIs) play a crucial role not only in preserving cultural heritage and fostering creative expression but also in enhancing sustainable development, generating employment, supporting the GDP and economy, and contributing to various other societal benefits.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, increasing and protecting cultural and creative diversity is imperative and much effort has been invested to this end. Since 2005, over ten million USD have been invested in more than 140 projects supporting diversity within CCIs.<sup>3</sup>

Nevertheless, new challenges continually arise, necessitating further actions to ensure diversity within the cultural and creative sectors. There is a noticeable gap between the access to opportunities in CCIs available to those within developed countries and those within developing countries. In recently established job creation programs within CCIs, developed countries reported 81% participation, whereas developing countries reported only 63%.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, 95% of trade for cultural goods and services is exported by developed countries, leaving only 5% for developing countries.<sup>5</sup> These disparities between developed and developing countries must be reconciled to accurately represent the cultural wealth spread throughout the world.

Beyond that, further issues exist concerning cultural and creative diversity. This is especially evident in the opportunities afforded to women, young people, indigenous peoples, and individuals with lower socioeconomic status. Other advancements, such as the increase of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/convention-protection-and-promotion-diversity-cultural-expressions>

<sup>2</sup> <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380474>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unesco.org/creativity/en/international-fund-cultural-diversity>

<sup>4</sup> See footnote 2, page 61

<sup>5</sup> See footnote 2, page 164

digitalization and artificial intelligence, may also threaten the deepening of pre-existing inequalities, including lack of internet access, unfair pay, and underrepresentation.

Given these issues, we must improve the diversity of growth opportunities within the cultural and creative industries. Please consider the following:

- How can we improve and protect the professional, social, and economic statuses of creatives?
- What can be done to increase opportunities for all artists and cultural professionals?
- Can education be used as a tool to improve diversity and advance opportunity?
- What other resources can be used to resolve this issue?
- Who is responsible for balancing these inequalities, locally and globally?
- Can policies be implemented to directly support only those communities who are being underrepresented and are left unsupported?
- What actions and programs have already been created to address this problem?

Keep in mind that these questions are only here to guide you. Further research regarding this broad topic is highly recommended. Remember that you are representing the views of your given country, not your personal opinions, so direct your research accordingly. Additionally, all writing must be your own, and all sources must be cited! All papers will be submitted through TurnItIn to check for plagiarism, which will not be tolerated under any circumstance.

Please do not hesitate to email any questions, comments, or concerns to me at [rkaplowi@mail.yu.edu](mailto:rkaplowi@mail.yu.edu). I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and having an absolute blast together!

Sincerely,  
Ruthie Kaplowitz  
Chair, UNESCO  
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