

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

--

**MESSAGE – EUROPEAN HERITAGE HUB COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FORUM
“REIMAGINING THE ANTHROPOCENE: PUTTING CULTURE AND HERITAGE AT THE
HEART OF CLIMATE ACTION”**

28 SEPTEMBER 2023

Climate and culture are closely connected.

Our imploding climate is unleashing fires, floods and storms that can damage and destroy heritage and devastate entire ways of life. Nearly a third of World Heritage cities face threats from rising seas and climate chaos is disrupting and displacing communities, imperilling traditions and cultural practices.

But culture also offers solutions. We can learn from Indigenous Peoples’ relationship with the planet, and from their traditional knowledge that can help us to reduce emissions and adapt to extreme weather. We can explore how culture contributes to climate change. And we can direct the power of culture, heritage and the arts towards inspiring social and political change that can help accelerate climate action.

The need to harness culture and heritage in the fight for our planet has never been more urgent. Time is running out. Only by turbocharging global action, can we limit the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degree Celsius and avert the worst of climate change.

So, I welcome the new European Heritage Hub and its important work to support the European heritage sector to deliver climate action and climate advocacy. I appreciate your efforts to embed culture and heritage in climate change policy. And I wish the Forum every success.

Together, we can imagine a better future, and make it a reality.
