



“ The right to participate in a society's cultural life is seen as a fundamental human right.

United Nation's Declaration of Human rights, Act 27 ”

An Indian dancer performing in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Photo: Abir Abdullah/Drik



Useful contacts

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NORAD's Support to Culture



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NORAD's Support to Culture

Culture is one of several investment areas for Norwegian development co-operation.

Why Culture?

In all societies at all times human beings have expressed themselves through songs, poetry, dance, visual arts and drama. This creative ability is a way to deal with everyday life, festivities and rituals in happiness and grief.

- Cultural expressions are a fundamental part of human well being, human identity and pride. In a time of globalisation culture and cultural heritage contribute to a sense of belonging. One of the essential forces behind the development of free and democratic societies is the ability to take part in, express and communicate through culture. *The right to participate* in a society's cultural life is seen as a fundamental human right (United Nation's Declaration of Human rights, Act 27).
- Living culture and both tangible- and intangible cultural heritage, can be used as tools to achieve other developmental objectives. There is a rich potential in the use of culture as a tool or vehicle for development.
- Culture is part of the way we organise society and make decisions and rules. Culture also defines access to resources and control. An understanding of and recognition of culture is essential in the understanding of the development process as such. *Thus, culture is a dimension of all sectors of society* and is naturally a **sustainability element**. As Lourdes Arizpe expressed it: "Culture is a dimension of the totality of social, political and economic relations." ('Our Cultural Diversity', UNESCO, 1998).



The restoration of Fasiledes Bath in Ethiopia starts in 2002
Photo: Anne-Lise Langøy

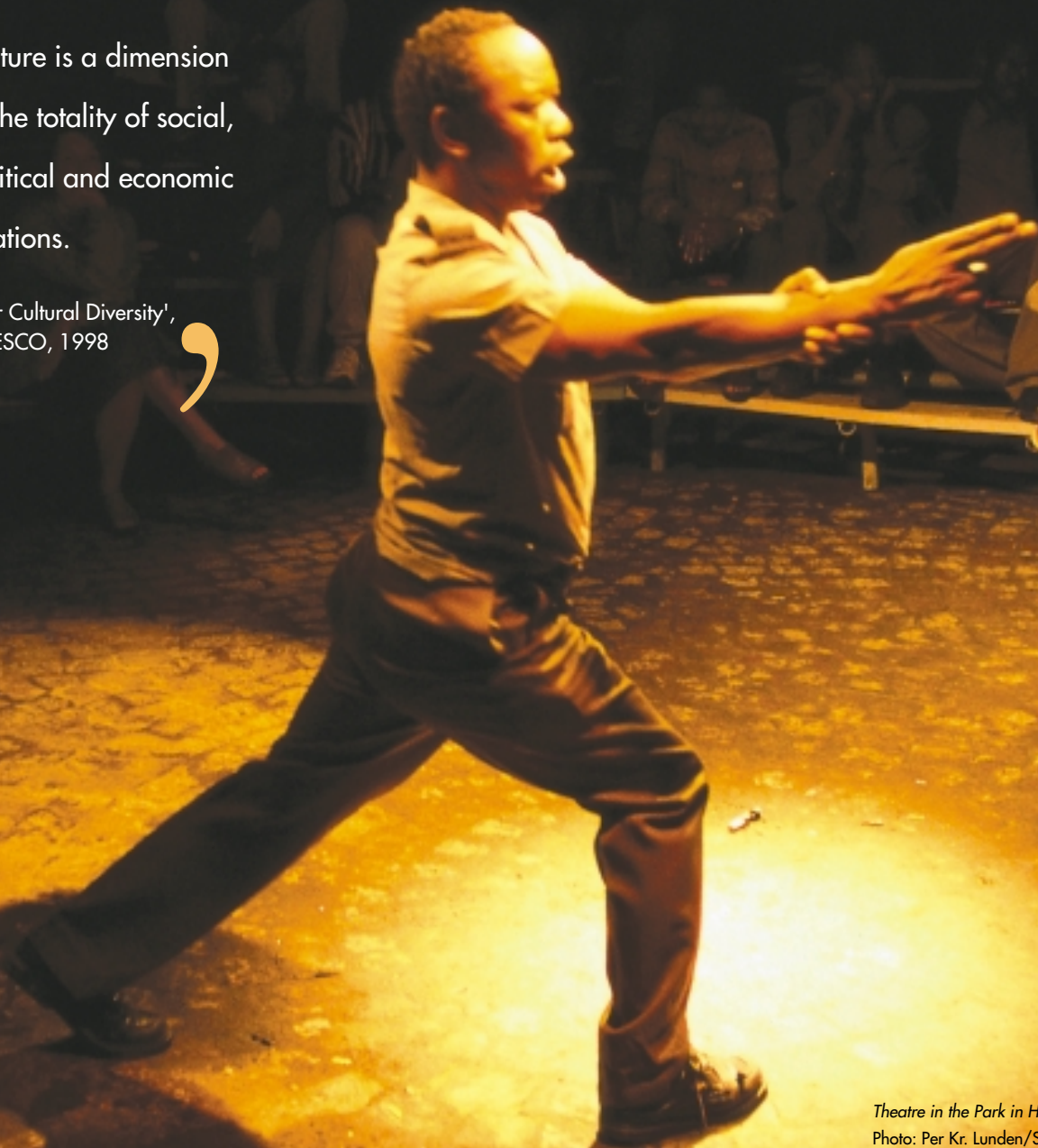
Objectives for NORAD's support to culture

Support to culture shall:

- support NORAD's overall policy for development co-operation
- contribute to the strengthening of people's belief in their own identity, creativity and values
- stimulate to popular participation in the development processes
- promote cross cultural understanding

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of the totality of social,
political and economic
relations.

'Our Cultural Diversity',
UNESCO, 1998



Theatre in the Park in Harare, Zimbabwe.
Photo: Per Kr. Lunden/Sorvis

Examples of long term support

The encouragement of creativity and participation in social life

Support to:

- street theatres and drama festivals in Bangladesh focusing on social rights
- libraries and theatre groups in Zimbabwe campaigning for participation in general elections
- Tanzania's National Cultural Fund – funding based on application from a broad spectre of actors within the country's cultural life

Support to arts- and culture education, competence building and strengthening of institutions

Support to:

- the establishment of NORAD's arts- and culture education programme from 2002 (Ref. Centre for international University Co-operation, Bergen)
- MMINO – a music education programme in South-Africa aiming at preserving and developing South African music.
- the establishment and development of the Palestinian National Theatre in Jerusalem
- the establishment of The Zimbabwean Association of Music Educators (ZAME)

Support to regional networks and international co-operation

Support to:

- African Publishers' Network – a network that promotes high quality literature, strengthens the African book chain economically and increase the authorities' consciousness concerning the importance of an African book chain.
- African Book Collective promotes African literature and books outside the African continent.
- "Jeunesse Musicale" – a regional music festival programme for young musicians in Southern Africa.
- Culture projects in co-operation with UNESCO, for example The Slave Route Project aiming at target groups on three continents: The Americas, Europe and Africa.



NORAD contributed to the restoration of Baltit Fort in northern Pakistan.
Photo: Anne-Lise Langøy

Contribution to the strengthening of cultural policies and cultural heritage management

Support to:

- the programme 'Africa 2009' – competence building of immovable cultural heritage management in sub-Saharan Africa.
- PMDA - Programme for Museum Development in Africa, a sub-Saharan African network for competence building within the museum sector.
- the rehabilitation of the cultural heritage of Pakistan (Hunza Valley) and Ethiopia (Gondar).

NORAD's partners in cultural co-operation - channels for support

- National authorities and institutions
- NGOs, regional networks and independent groups/organisations.
- Norwegian and international institutions, organisations and private enterprises and their partners in the South
- Resource institutions in Norway (frame agreements)

References

NORAD invests in the future - NORAD's strategy for 2000-2004
Proposition No. 1 to the Storting, 2001-2002
UNESCO 1998: *Our Cultural Diversity*
United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights