STATUTE PROPOSAL OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN COUNCIL OF CULTURE

I. NATURE

Article 1. - The South American Council of Culture (CSC) is a permanent forum for consultation, dialogue, reflection and exchange, circulation of information and experiences, intergovernmental coordination of policies and cooperation on culture issues, aimed at promoting efforts, actions and projects, and consensual proposals, for the development of culture in all its manifestations within the scope of UNASUR Member States and contribute to the sustainable development and the welfare of the peoples of South America.

This Charter defines the functions of the South American Council of Culture (CSC), which comply subject to such principles, objectives and the legal order established in the UNASUR Constitutive Treaty, the General Regulations and legal instruments derived from its legal sources.

The initials of the South American Council of Culture are "CSC".

II. PRINCIPLES

Article 2. - The South American Council of Culture (CSC) will act according to the following principles:

a) Creation and universal access to culture. It is a fundamental right of individuals and society, and it is a major factor in human development.
b) Regional Integration. Dialogue, cooperation and capability sharing, experience and expertise on cultural issues.
c) Inclusion. Protecting and promoting the rights of peoples and collectivities and of equity and access to culture, respect for pluralism and cultural diversity in building democratic societies.
d) Equity. Unconditional respect for gender equality and to the particular characteristics of collectivities in the cultural field, promoting preferential treatment for sectors facing exclusion.
e) Interculturalism. Interrelation, permanent coexistence and constructive dialogue between the stakeholders, communities, peoples, ethnic groups and nationalities, based on solidarity, recognition and respect for the individual and collective cultural diversity and the promotion of cultural rights.
f) Transparency and disclosure. Free access to knowledge and wide and timely dissemination to the public of activities in the South American Council of Culture (CSC), respecting intellectual property rights and confidential information.
g) Participation. All social actors, through the different levels of representation and citizen participation, should be part of discussions and decisions on Culture and their results.
h) Cooperation. Joint development of specific cultural projects that promote cultural creation, from the joint participation to build, make and create processes and projects that benefit all Member States of UNASUR and their peoples.

i) Communication. Communication processes are means to spread culture and are also a source of creation and transformation of practices and cultural representations of peoples.

III. GOALS

Article 3. - In accordance to its nature and its fundamental principles, the South American Council of Culture (CSC) has the following goals:

a) To promote and strengthen cultural cooperation in the region.
b) To recognize and promote the core value of culture as an essential basis development and overcoming poverty and inequality.
c) To promote the reduction of regional and sub-regional asymmetries in the promotion and universal access to culture.
d) Strengthening institutions and spaces in which cultural manifestations arise.
e) To encourage networking and coordination between cultural organizations to strengthen the exchange of best practices and cultural expressions.
f) To promote the recognition, value, protection, preservation and social appropriation of natural and cultural heritage, tangible and intangible, and the diversity of cultural expressions of the peoples of Member States of UNASUR, as part of their collective and individual cultural rights.
g) To encourage the development of South American citizens, aware of the importance of interculturalism, the positive valuation of diversity and cultural differences and the eradication of all forms of discrimination, as the basis for the construction of the South American union.
h) To promote policies, programs and actions to facilitate the development of cultural industries as a component of economic growth and integral human development, as well as the circulation of cultural goods and services in the region.
i) To promote, strengthen and implement jointly and timely measures and actions to prevent and punish illegal traffic of cultural and heritage assets and guarantee their return to their place of origin.

j) To encourage open access to the creation, use and enjoyment of culture, promoting gender equality and combating all forms of discrimination.
k) To promote measures for the recognition of the work of social actors and public or private institutions that promote, generate, distribute, promote, provide or disclose various cultural events both nationally and regionally.
l) To promote and protect cultural diversity and expressions of memory, knowledge and wisdom of the peoples of the region, to strengthen identities.
m) To promote coordination with other regional and sub-regional integration agencies, incorporating, on the basis of consensus, efforts and achievements made by them, when relevant.

n) To promote exchange and cultural development of the member states of UNASUR, seeking their consensual projection to other international venues.

o) To encourage and strengthen the capacities of societies to create and recreate their environment.

p) To promote the creation of content and cultural narratives in different media, that will disseminate and promote the cultural diversity of the peoples.

III. STRUCTURE

Article 4. - The South American Council of Culture (CSC) is composed by the Ministers of Culture, or equivalent institutions, of the Member States of UNASUR.

Article 5. - The Presidency of the South American Council of Culture (CSC) is held by the Member State holding the Presidency Pro Tempore of UNASUR, unless that through a proposal of this State, the respective body decides by consensus to appoint another Member State. The Chair will be responsible for coordinating the activities of the South American Council of Culture (CSC).

Article 6. - The South American Council of Culture (CSC) will have an executive branch composed of delegates from the Ministries of Culture, or equivalent, coordinated by the President Pro Tempore of the South American Council of Culture (CSC).

Article 7. - The South American Council of Culture (CSC) may form work groups or other bodies, temporarily, composed of delegates or specialists to examine specific issues and make suggestions and proposals for recommendations, or to execute specific projects.

IV. FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

Article 8. - The functions and powers of the South American Council of Culture (CSC):

a) Approve and transmit norms and the statute governing it, as well as its modifications and Action Plans.

b) Ensure the implementation of agreements and policies, plans, programs and projects approved by the South American Council of Culture (CSC).

c) Formulate cultural policy proposals to the bodies of UNASUR.

d) To call for regular and extraordinary meetings of the South American Council of Culture (CSC).

e) Instruct coordinating bodies and working groups the necessary actions to fulfill its functions.
Article 9. - The functions of the Executive:

a) Prepare the documents the South American Council of Culture (CSC) has to analyze, discuss and approve in its regular and extraordinary meetings.

b) Coordinate the implementation of the activities arranged by the South American Council of Culture (CSC).

c) Organize preparatory activities to the regular and extraordinary meetings of the South American Council of Culture (CSC), according to the themes and agenda, as well as organize a file with the themes and agenda.

Article 10. - All aspects of the operation of the South American Council of Culture (CSC) will be governed by the provisions of Chapter VIII of the General Rules of UNASUR.

Article 11. - Situations not covered by this Statute, shall be resolved according to the Constitutive Treaty of UNASUR and its General Regulation.