



COLLECTIONS 2030 & BEYOND

Activating heritage collections for
sustainable development through
cross-sector partnerships

DAILY DIGEST – DAY 5 - COLLECTIONS AND PARTNERSHIP

Today, we examined the importance of heritage collections and collections-based organizations in relation to the Partnership dimension of sustainable development.

Our **keynote speaker** reminded us that in the context of global uncertainty, thinking about the future and envisaging possibilities is a useful exercise. He induced Foresight, a structured way of engaging with the future and creating options for it, including with regards to the role of cultural heritage. Collections carry futures, they reveal the humanity in us, they manifest change. But to create more inclusive futures, there is a need for engaging with multiple stakeholders, including their diversity of perspectives.

In the **lighting talks**, we were given practical tips for effective and systematic cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships. We learned that we need to invest on the '*MUST competences*': they refer to having the right *mindset* to work together; *understanding* how others think and operate; building the right *skills* and developing *technical* knowledge.

The case studies from various countries provided examples of how partnerships are set up and work in practice. In **Greece**, the institutional synergy between the Ministry of Culture and the National Library, under the Ministry of Education, involving professionals with expertise in different areas, carries a lot of potential to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals in innovative ways. In **the United Kingdom**, the National Archives, inspired by its vision 'archives for everyone', has been working with the archives sector to support it towards meaningful and sustainable change. In **Ecuador**, the government and UNDP bring together different partners, including financial institutions and environmental funds to promote forest conservation and deforestation through value chain, always putting at the centre the voices of Indigenous People and their traditional heritage. In **Italy**, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo uses public-private partnership to mobilize resources for culture and heritage collections, that it considers key for people's wellbeing and sustainable development. And lastly, APOYOnline shared examples of their community-based, capacity-building initiatives for heritage preservation in **Latin America and the Caribbean**. Despite the different contexts, a common reflection emerged: to be truly effective, partnerships should continuously evolve, by adapting to the changing needs and integrating the feedback received.



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During the **panel session**, we discussed the role of collections and collections-based organizations in sustainable development, and how it can be enhanced through effective partnerships. Our panelists referred to collections-based organizations as hubs of data and learning, knowledge transmission and anchors of resilience, but also laboratories for future innovation. Through promotion of education and civic engagement, museums, libraries, galleries and archives play a key role as actors for social transformation. But to achieve this ambitious objective, partnerships with communities, civil society, governments, the private sector, the technological sector are needed. And above all, States must take responsibility for protecting cultural heritage through appropriate policies, plans and budget allocation.