

Panel I: Culture as an Enabler to Unlock the key challenges and Gaps in the Implementation of the SDGs

Douglas Comer, President, United States National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS) - Moderator

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Dr. Douglas C. Comer is President of Cultural Site Research and Management, Inc., President of the CSR Foundation, President of the United States Committee for ICOMOS, Chair of the ICOMOS National Committee Council, and Vice-President of the ICOMOS Advisory Committee. He is Immediate Past President of the ICOMOS Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management. Dr. Comer has served as Chief of the United States National Park Service Applied Archaeology Center, Chair of the Maryland Governor's Advisory Committee on Archaeology, and is a Fulbright Scholar in Cultural Resource Management. He has been a Research Fellow at the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan,

and the Southeast Asian Center for Archaeology and the Fine Arts in Bangkok, Thailand, and is currently a Fellow by Courtesy with the Whiting School of Engineering at The Johns Hopkins University, a Visiting Associate with the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Caltech, and a member of the Governing Board of the UNESCO International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage.

A recipient of research grants from the National Science Foundation, NASA, The Department of Defense Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program, and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, he has published widely on the use of aerial and satellite remote sensing technologies in archaeology and cultural resource management, as well as archaeological heritage management. Dr. Comer organizes and teaches courses in aerial and satellite remote sensing in archaeology for the NASA Space Archaeology Program.

He has served as principal author for archaeological site management plans, interpretive plans, and visitor services plans for World Heritage Sites in the Jordan, Ghana, Sudan, Peru, Thailand, Ireland, and Turkey, and has also provided consultation on these matters for World Heritage Sites in many countries, including the United States, Peru, Guatemala, Ireland, several countries in Southeast Asia, several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Japan, China, Micronesia, Egypt, Oman, Sudan, and Costa Rica. He has overseen planning and research efforts at numerous areas in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Central and South America, Africa, and Europe, as well as in United States National Parks, World Heritage Sites, National Monuments, and areas under the stewardship of the BLM and Department of Defense.

H.E. Ms. Milagros German Olalla, Minister of Culture of the Dominican Republic



Born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, she is a prominent artist and communicator, film, theater and television producer.

She studied architecture at the Pedro Henríquez Ureña National University and from an early age she was inclined towards the performing arts, for this reason she studied dramatic art and singing, as well as she also learned the guitar and practiced dance. In 1980 she won the Miss Dominican

Republic pageant, representing the country in the Miss Universe pageant that was held in the Republic of Korea that same year. During the following years she won the crown of International Coffee Queen and Miss Latin America.

In 1991 she took her first steps on Dominican television, with a social program called "With open eyes, there she had very close contact with the reality and idiosyncrasies of the Dominican people. From that day on, she began a long career in communication, making great contributions to national television, and obtaining important recognitions.

With more than 30 years of experience in art and communication, she has been the winner of 10 Soberano Awards statuettes, she has produced and/or hosted more than 6 national television programs and 2 radio programs. Likewise, she has also acted in 7 plays and 3 film productions of high national scope. During her career on television, she produced and hosted the television program "Chévere Nights", this being the one with the highest audience on Dominican television for more than 15 years. She also played a very prominent and recognized role as a judge of the Dominican Republic's Got Talent 2019 international franchise.

In August 2020, she was appointed by the President of the Dominican Republic, Luis Abinader, as Director of Communications and spokesperson for the Presidency, becoming the first Dominican woman to hold this position and assuming her position in the midst of the political and social challenge that caused the Covid-19 pandemic at the national level.

During her administration at the Communication Department, she achieved great success in the dissemination and positioning of the National Government's messages to the public opinion and the population in general. Her work managed to bring the Presidency of the Republic and its ministerial cabinets closer to the citizens, generating in her a perception of closeness and trust.

Since October 10, 2021, she is the Minister of Culture of the Dominican Republic, appointed by President Luis Abinader.

During her tenure at the Ministry of Culture, the institution has focused on developing public policies aimed at expanding citizen access to cultural goods and services, preserving the nation's cultural heritage, and promoting the growth of cultural and creative industries.

Mohamed Echkouna, Laureate of the UNESCO/Netflix prize based in NYC:

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Mohamed is a Filmmaker and VFX Technical Director from Mauritania. His passion for film and belief in its power to guide emotions and reshape perspectives within and about African cultures are the main drive of his career. He joined the African Leadership Academy in South Africa for two years of entrepreneurship and leadership training, and graduated from Savannah College of Art and Design with a BFA in Visual Effects and Technical Direction.

After his studies, Mohamed went on to make short films in Mauritania while also working in Visual Effects for the creative studio Framestore. He wrote and directed his latest short film Trail Of Hope. It won multiple awards, screened at over a dozen film festivals worldwide, and featured on various online platforms. Mohamed is currently working on a variety of shows, commercials and VR projects for Framestore clients, including HBO, Netflix and Showtime.

Mr. Matthieu Cognac, Senior Multilateral Cooperation Specialist and OIC of the ILO NY Office

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Matthieu Cognac is the Senior Multilateral Cooperation Specialist at the International Labour Organization (ILO) office in New York. Among his many roles, Matthieu liaises with the UN and collaborates with the organization's entities on decent work initiatives. In 2004, he worked on the Indian Ocean tsunami and began his career with ILO in Indonesia. Since then Matthieu has managed several youth employment projects; partnering with government officials and working with local communities to enhance economic growth and enhance skills needed to enter the global labour market. Matthieu has contributed to numerous employment-related initiatives, including job creation for farmers and traders, amongst others. He is

contributed to the expansion of financial cooperative networks and the launch of green jobs initiatives. Matthieu has over the years worked with many governments, employers and workers organizations on opportunities to create decent jobs. In January 2019, Matthieu joined the ILO office in New York where he holds his current position. Matthieu graduated with an MBA Degree from Nicholls State University in the United States.

Ms. Whitney McGuire Associate Director of Sustainability at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

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Whitney is an attorney specializing in intellectual property and other legal issues affecting the fashion, film, art, and music industries, as well as a Part-Time faculty member at Parsons School of Design in New York City. She has been recognized as a leader in the field of Fashion Law, as chairwoman of Fashion Law Week, a week-long symposium dedicated to educating participants about legal issues impacting the fashion industry, as board member of the Greater Washington Fashion Chamber of Commerce and later, and as Legislative Associate for a notable lobbying firm where she provided support for legislation that would provide anti-piracy protection for fashion designs.

Prior to attending law school, Whitney held positions in financial development as an assistant for the Luther Rice Foundation at The George Washington University; as a Development Coordinator for Dreams for Kids, D.C., an adaptive sports organization for physically disabled children; and as a paralegal for two prominent boutique law firms.

After law school, Whitney moved to Brooklyn, NY to consult for individuals and brands within the intersection of law, culture, art and sustainability. She later served as general counsel of a fashion-related nonprofit corporation in Manhattan, NY. Additionally, Whitney served as a federal judicial law clerk to a United States District Court Judge in Nevada. She also served as chairperson of the Las Vegas Arts District Neighborhood Association and the Las Vegas Fashion Council.

At the conclusion of her clerkship, Whitney joined The Fashion Law Group, P.C., first as a contract attorney, and later, as of counsel where she advised individuals and companies on a variety of legal issues affecting their fashion businesses.

After exiting The Fashion Law Group, Whitney re-established her law firm and consulting practice and co-founded Sustainable Brooklyn, a community-based consultancy specializing in concretizing equity and climate justice within the sustainability movement. In addition to co-founding Sustainable Brooklyn, Whitney served on the Board of Directors of the Women's Prison Association.

Education:

J.D., The Catholic University of America - Columbus School of Law, 2013

B.A. The George Washington University, 2008