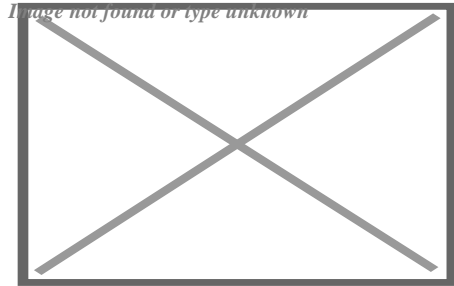


Building a more inclusive future

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By: Maritza Gutiérrez

In 2003, the United Nations General Assembly made a powerful call to the world to celebrate the World Day for Cultural Diversity, Dialogue and Development on 21 May every year. This date is not just a commemoration; it is a vibrant reminder that cultural diversity is the very essence of our humanity. In such a multifaceted world, where each culture brings a wealth of beliefs, languages, music and arts, diversity is an endless source of richness.

Contemplating cultural diversity reveals that it is not only about differences, but also about the nuances that enrich our lives. Every cultural expression reflects the history, values, and aspirations of a community, providing insight into its collective identity. The music we listen to, the art we admire and the languages we speak are all living tributes to our roots and traditions. In this vast panorama, we find beauty, creativity and innovation — all of which are crucial elements for social and economic development.

In its 2001 declaration, UNESCO emphasised the importance of this diversity, drawing a comparison with the biological diversity that is vital for life on Earth. This recognition invites us to reflect on our shared heritage and to celebrate and protect it. In an increasingly diverse world, fostering dialogue and inclusion is imperative. Respecting the customs and beliefs of others not only upholds their dignity, but also our own human rights. Mutual respect is the foundation upon which we can build a more harmonious future.

Celebrating this day challenges us to question stereotypes and reject polarisation. It urges us to actively contribute to a space where all cultures can coexist, participate, and exchange ideas. Rather than viewing our differences as divisions, we should embrace them as opportunities to learn and grow together. In this way, each of us can become an ambassador of diversity, promoting an understanding that transcends borders.

On this World Day for Cultural Diversity, Dialogue and Development, we must ensure that this is more than just a date in the calendar. It must be a collective commitment to a world in which diversity is celebrated and valued. It reminds us that every culture and every voice has a fundamental role in the

symphony of humanity. Let us embrace this celebration and commit to working together for a more inclusive and prosperous future.

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