



**Closing Remarks by Permanent Representative  
Ambassador Guillermo Fernández de Soto  
Permanent Mission of Colombia to the UN**

***“INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT CREATIVE ECONOMY  
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”***

Side Event at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) – ECOSOC  
Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup> 2021  
8:55 – 9:00 AM

**4 – 5 MINUTES**

Excellencies, Distinguished Speakers, dear colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to deliver closing remarks at this very special event that Colombia Co-sponsored on the margins of the High-Level Political Forum, on the occasion of the 2021 International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development.

Many thanks and congratulations to Indonesia and all the high level speakers that made remarkable contributions and comments.

Our special recognition as well to UNESCO and UNCTAD for their leadership, commitment and relevant outlooks on this topic.

With no doubt, the main objectives of this timely Side Event has been reached, as we had a very rich discussion and shared best practices for a more inclusive and resilient creative economy.



We had also increased a cross-regional multi stakeholder's active participation and synergy in observing this important International Year.

Under the current administration of President Iván Duque, the Ministry of Culture has led a strategy aimed at enhancing and strengthening the cultural ecosystem with three main purposes:

- Consolidating culture as a vehicle for social dialogue;
- Economic reactivation;
- Youth empowerment through culture all around our national territory.

We believe that culture has the capacity to reduce inequality, help us fight against poverty, create full and productive employment, empower women and young people and bring ways for environmentally responsible and sustainable growth.

We also took note attentively of all the important initiatives, strategies and policy recommendations from different parts of the world, to build more inclusive and resilient societies.

Dear Colleagues,

Let me take this opportunity to recognize the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development as an opportunity to raise awareness, promote cooperation, and foster an enabling environment at all levels, with the premise that no one is left behind.



Furthermore, I would like to emphasize Minister's Mayolo message about the importance of modernizing and reactivating the cultural and creative industries as a fundamental part of our national economies.

In the same line, as President Iván Duque had mentioned, under the multidimensional challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has created to everyone, Creative Economy also called Orange Economy, gives the opportunity to tackle inequality and poverty through the most effective tools culture has to offer: creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

To finalize, we look forward to continue our discussions in September during the upcoming high level week of the 76<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly, to accomplish a full year of reflections on the important contributions of Creative Economy to the three dimensions of sustainable development and the achievement of 2030 Agenda.

You can count on Colombia's support.

Thank you.