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The Role of Cultural Heritage in Enhancing Development and Building Civilizational Progress
The Role of Cultural Heritage in Enhancing Sustainable Development according to the 2030 Plan

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Abstract :
Cultural heritage plays a crucial role in achieving the goals of sustainable development as outlined in the 2030 Agenda. It not only embodies the identity and memory of communities but also serves as a driver of inclusive economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social cohesion. This paper explores how the protection, promotion, and integration of cultural heritage into development strategies contribute to achieving several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the areas of education, urban planning, tourism, and cultural diversity. It also highlights international frameworks and national policies that support the safeguarding of heritage as a shared responsibility for present and future generations.

Keywords*: Cultural heritage, Sustainable development, Agenda 203*

Le rôle du patrimoine culturel dans le renforcement du développement et la construction du progrès civilisationnel
Le rôle du patrimoine culturel dans le renforcement du développement durable selon le plan 2030

Résumé:
Le patrimoine culturel joue un rôle essentiel dans la réalisation des objectifs du développement durable tels que définis par l'Agenda 2030. Il incarne non seulement l'identité et la mémoire des communautés, mais agit également comme un moteur de croissance économique inclusive, de durabilité environnementale et de cohésion sociale. Cet article examine comment la protection, la valorisation et l'intégration du patrimoine culturel dans les stratégies de développement contribuent à atteindre plusieurs Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD), notamment dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la planification urbaine, du tourisme et de la diversité culturelle. Il met également en lumière les cadres internationaux et les politiques nationales qui soutiennent la sauvegarde du patrimoine en tant que responsabilité partagée entre les générations actuelles et futures.

Mots clés *: Patrimoine culturel, Développement durable, Agenda 203*

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Introduction

Cultural heritage represents the spirit of nations; intangible cultural heritage contains a vast amount of knowledge, practices, various customs, and rituals that carry the identities of peoples, accumulated through history and passed down through generations while preserving aspects of creativity expressed by individuals and societies since ancient times. As for tangible cultural heritage, it is one of the most prominent witnesses symbolizing the advancement and prosperity of nations in all areas, whether social, economic, intellectual, or even artistic. Archaeological landmarks are the memory of nations and what remains of them, as they have stayed firmly in people's minds and parts of them are still visible today. Countries race to preserve them by all means and capabilities to achieve sustainable restoration of their history and culture. The efforts to achieve this goal are no longer the responsibility of governments alone but have extended to include everyone.

This cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, is a civilizational product of human interaction with the surrounding environment. Because this interaction reflects a mutual influence, it will undoubtedly contribute to enabling societies to achieve self-development.

From this standpoint, the existence of a strong relationship between cultural heritage and sustainable development cannot be questioned, as the dynamics of society require the creation of systems and mechanisms to meet its increasing needs while rationalizing the use of available resources to enable future generations to obtain their necessities.

Achieving sustainable development according to the 2030 vision by utilizing cultural heritage reflects a conscious and

aware future vision that acts as a regulator of the state's development plans targeting all environmental resources to achieve balance and security. With attention to environmental capacities or energy, recognizing the importance of culture in achieving sustainable development is evident in many international conferences, such as the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment and the 2013 Hangzhou Conference in China on Culture and Development. These conferences emphasize elements of creativity that are mostly free from pollution sources threatening the human environment and that meet the overall requirements of environmental sustainability.

From here, the following problem can be posed: **How did cultural heritage contribute to enhancing sustainable development according to the 2030 vision?**

Importance of the Study:

The importance of the research lies in the importance of the topic, which mainly consists of clarifying the role and importance of cultural heritage in supporting and achieving sustainable development according to the 2030 future vision.

Objectives of the Study:

- Understanding the concept of cultural heritage and the concept of sustainable development.
- The content of the goals of the 2030 Plan.
- Highlighting the contributions and role of cultural heritage in achieving sustainable development according to the future 2030 Plan.

Methodology of the Study:

To answer the posed problem and achieve the desired objectives, the study topic was addressed using the

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descriptive-analytical method. The descriptive tool was used to present the theoretical framework of the concept of cultural heritage and sustainable development. Then, the analytical tool was used to study the content of the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Plan.

1. The Conceptual Framework of the Study:

This section discusses the key concepts addressed in the research: heritage and sustainable development and their related aspects, as follows:

1.1. Cultural Heritage and Its Types:

Heritage is one of the most important concepts and issues that have occupied modern and contemporary thought, and the discussion around it continues to this day through presenting its concepts and operational terms, as well as addressing its intellectual and methodological issues due to its great role in preserving identity and selfhood. This is clearly manifested in various fields of human sciences and areas of knowledge.

Heritage in Arabic dictionaries and Arabic scientific literature is what we inherited from our ancestors. The root is from the word "inherit." Ibn Manzur in *Lisan al-Arab al-Muheet* says: "He inherited his wealth and glory."

God Almighty said, informing about Zakariya and his supplication to Him: "*So grant me from Yourself an heir. Who will inherit from me and inherit from the family of Jacob. And make him, my Lord, pleasing [to You].*" — Maryam: 6

That is, he remains after me and becomes the heir to what I leave. The word "heritage" includes what the predecessors left behind in terms of linguistic works and their branches, sciences such as medicine, astronomy, and industry, and also buildings, castles, arts like drawing, music, singing,

dancing, etc., all of which are encompassed by the word "heritage."

1.2. Definition of the Term "Heritage":

There is no single definition of heritage, but many definitions have been offered by scholars and writers, especially the definition given by “Felix,” one of the archaeologists and heritage scholars. He states:

“Heritage is a wide-ranging cultural continuity in time and space, defined based on continuous formations in the ‘whole’ culture. It includes a relatively long period of time and a variably sized but environmentally distinct area.”

As for “MacGregor,” he defines heritage as “a deeply rooted human characteristic passed down from generation to generation,” while “Gogen” sees heritage as “a distinctive way of life, as reflected in various aspects of culture, possibly extending through a specific time period, and subject to ordinary internal cultural changes, but characterized throughout by a continuous essential unity.”

In English, **heritage** refers to a set of inheritances passed down from previous generations—fathers and ancestors—to the current generation. These inheritances vary between material (such as tools and methods of production) and immaterial (such as traditions and customs). Without heritage, the existence of civilization that distinguishes peoples from one another and gives them an identity would not be possible. It also protects its inheritors from loss and displacement when facing political threats and pressures like wars that disperse individuals and groups. Heritage, both tangible and intangible, represents an essential aspect of present life and the future to be built. The American folklorist Herskovits (1895–1963) considered

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heritage synonymous with culture, meaning it is an integral part of a people's culture and not separate from it.

The term "heritage" has also undergone significant changes in recent decades by **UNESCO**, partly due to the legal instruments it developed. Thus, cultural heritage is not limited to historical monuments and collections of artworks and antiquities but also includes traditions and various forms of living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed down from generation to generation, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and knowledge and skills related to traditional craftsmanship.

Therefore, intangible heritage plays an important role in preserving cultural diversity in the face of growing globalization. Its importance lies not only in its outward appearance but also in the social value it carries across cultures and in encouraging mutual respect for others' ways of life.

As for the types of heritage according to **UNESCO**, the year 2002 was designated by the United Nations as the **Year of Cultural Heritage**, during which a list was established— not as an exhaustive enumeration but rather a classification of subjects, places, and practices considered by people to be of heritage value, classified as follows:

Figure 1: Represents the Forms and Types of Cultural Heritage

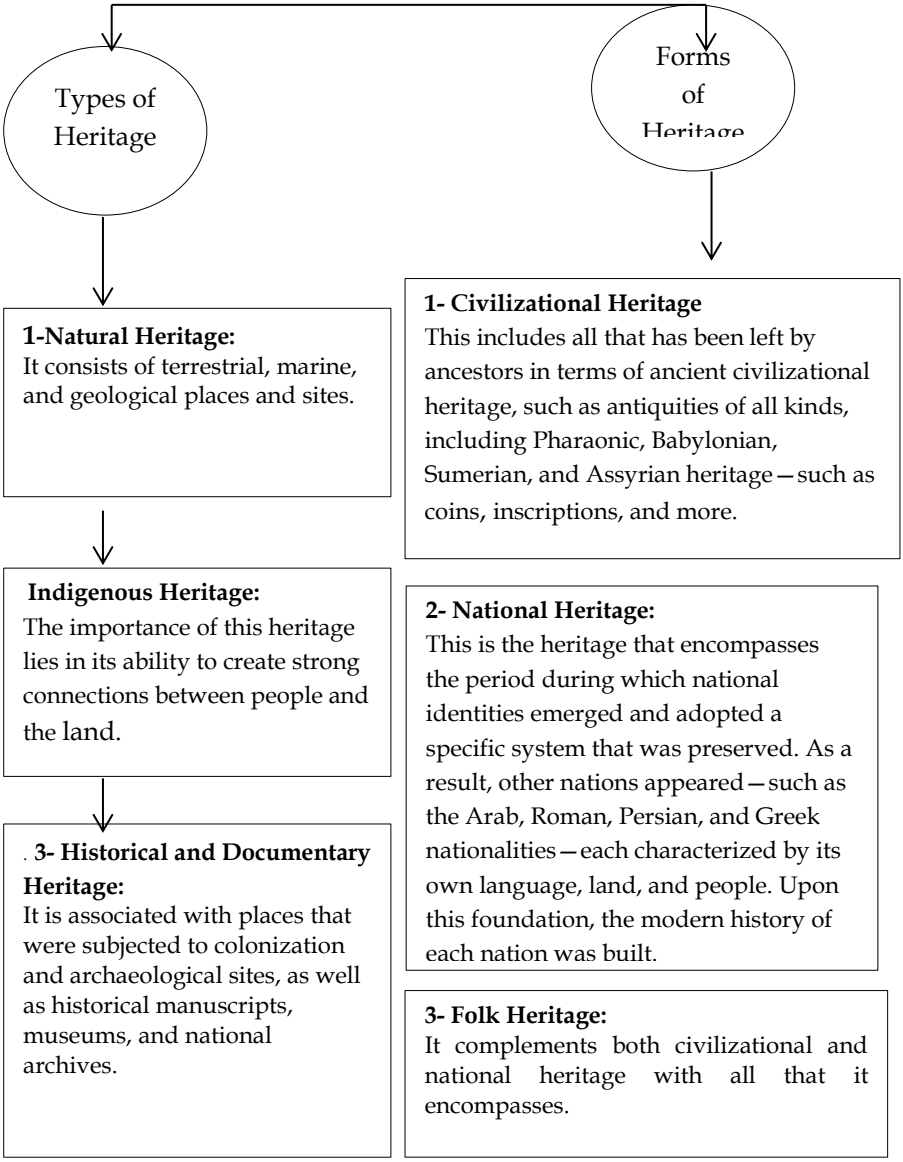
Cultural Heritage Sites	**Historic Cities**	**Cultural Landscapes**	**Sacred Natural Sites**	**Underwater Cultural Heritage**	**Museums**	**Documentary and Digital Heritage**	**Cinematic Heritage**	**Oral Traditions**	**Festive Events**	**Performing Arts**
Examples:	**Examples:**	**Examples:**	Places revered and respected by people	**Examples:**	**Examples:**	**Examples:**	**Examples:**	**Examples:**	**Examples:**	**Examples:**
- Archaeological sites	- Natural landscapes	- Parks		- Shipwrecks	- Cultural museums	- Archives	- Films and the ideas they convey	- Stories	- Festivals	- Theatre
- Monuments	- Urban area	- Gardens			- Art exhibitions	- Materials depos		- Tales	- Carnivals	- Drama

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Cultural Heritage Sites	**Historic Cities**	**Cultural Landscapes**	**Sacred Natural Sites**	**Underwater Cultural Heritage**	**Museums**	**Documentary and Digital Heritage**	**Cinematic Heritage**	**Oral Traditions**	**Festive Events**	**Performing Arts**
	s					ited in libraries				
- Historic buildings	- Destroyed cities	- Farms			- Handicrafts			- Unwritten traditions	- Religious rituals	- Dance
		- Pasture lands						- Languages	- Music	- Traditional medicine
									- Traditions	- Literature

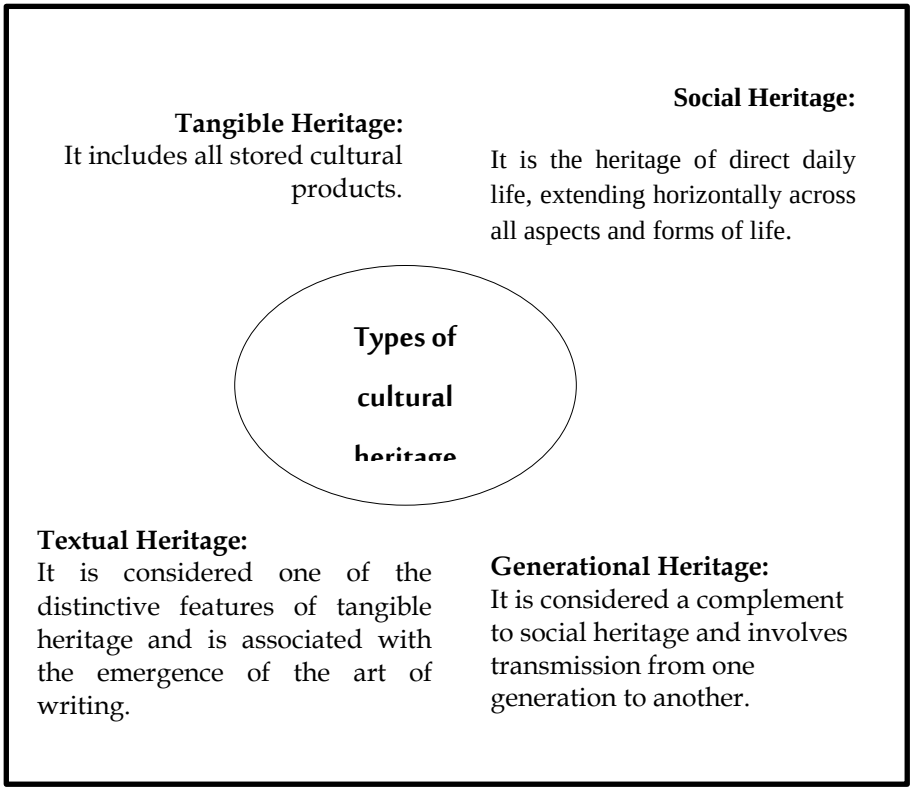
Source: Prepared by the researchers with adaptation

Figure 2: Represents the Types of Heritage According to Erikson's Classification



Source : Prepred by researchers

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Source: Prepared by researchers

2. Sustainable Development and Its Dimensions:

The concept of sustainable development has attracted global attention over the past 15 years, as developmental sustainability has become a global intellectual school adopted across most developing and industrialized countries alike. It is embraced by scientific organizations and institutions that call for its implementation and design plans to achieve it—all to ensure access to the essentials of life in

the present and future, across all fields: cultural, civilizational, social, political, economic, health, and others.

2.1. The Concept of Sustainable Development:

The concept of sustainable development is one of the modern concepts that has entered economic and legal sciences in particular. It was used for the first time in the report entitled "*Our Common Future*", prepared by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987, known as the Brundtland Commission—named after the Prime Minister of Norway, who was assigned by the United Nations General Assembly to chair the commission. Sustainable development was defined as:

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs…"

Sustainable development is also called "comprehensive, continuous, coherent, or balanced development." It is derived from the English word *sustainable* and the French word *durable*.

The United Nations Development Programme and Environment Programme define it as: "Development that allows the fulfillment of the needs and requirements of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs." The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations defines sustainable development as: "The management and protection of the natural resource base and the direction of technical and institutional change in a manner that ensures the continuous satisfaction of human needs for current and future generations. It protects land, water, and plant and animal genetic resources and does not harm the environment. It is technically and economically appropriate

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and socially acceptable." The World Bank defines it as: "Development concerned with achieving continuous equity that ensures the same opportunities available today for future generations, by maintaining or steadily increasing human capital over time." This is done by setting development programs aimed at fulfilling human needs without harming natural resources, while taking into account the preservation of standards of justice and social, economic, and environmental equity between generations.

2.2. Dimensions of Sustainable Development:

Sustainable development has various dimensions identified by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held from August 26 to September 3, 2002, in Johannesburg. The summit adopted a political declaration and an action plan that included provisions covering a range of activities and measures aimed at achieving development while taking into account environmental preservation. The summit witnessed the participation of more than 100 heads of state and government and tens of thousands of representatives from governments and non-governmental organizations.

These dimensions are: social, environmental, and the content of these dimensions is as follows:

2.2.1. Economic Dimension:

This involves taking a long-term economic perspective to solve problems in order to save effort, money, and resources, considering that the environment is an integrated economic entity and a base for development. Any pollution or depletion of its resources ultimately weakens its future development potential.

2.2.2. Social Dimension:

This represents the natural human right to live in a clean environment, within which individuals can carry out all their activities, while ensuring their right to a fair share of natural resources and environmental and social services to meet their basic needs, as well as their complementary needs for improving living standards—without reducing the opportunities available to future generations. This dimension relies on the human aspect in terms of achieving high levels of social well-being while maintaining population growth stability, considering that rapid and unstable growth places severe pressure on natural resources, which affects governments' ability to provide services. This inversely correlates with social welfare levels.

2.2.3. Environmental Dimension:

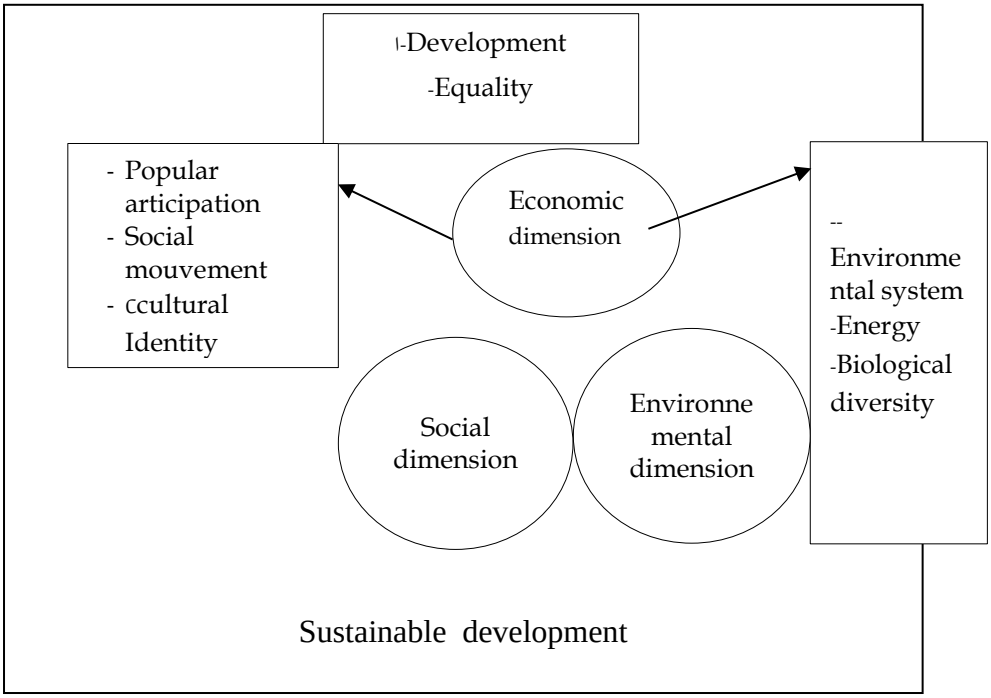
Introducing the environmental dimension into development has changed its concept from merely increasing the exploitation of scarce resources to meet the various and renewable human needs into the concept of continuous or sustainable development. This form of development ensures that future generations are not burdened with the task of repairing environmental damage caused by the current generations. Economic development theories now distinguish between development that considers environmental aspects—referred to as green, continuous, or sustainable development—and purely economic development that neglects the environmental dimension.

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Table 2: Represents the Evolution of the Concept of Development

Stage	Approximate Time Period	Concept of Development
1	End of World War II – mid-1960s	Development = Economic growth + Fair distribution
2	Mid-1960s – mid-1980s	Development = Economic growth
3	Mid-1970s – mid-1980s	Comprehensive development = Equal focus on all economic and social aspects
4	From the second half of the 1980s	Sustainable development = Equal attention to all economic, social, and environmental aspects

Source: Ahmed Massoudi, Nour El-Sabah Aknouch, *Public Health Policy in Algeria*, Algerian Journal of Security and Development, Volume 10, Issue 03, July 2021, p. 72



Source: Ghalem Ilham, previously cited reference, p. 501.

3. Contributions of Cultural Heritage to Achieving Sustainable Development According to the 2030 Agenda:

Cultural heritage is a link whose impact on sustainable development cannot be ignored. It is part of reality and the essence of the past, which together form an element of continuity and existence. Therefore, heritage today is considered one of the most important issues addressed by sustainable development. Accordingly, we will discuss in this section:

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2.1. The Content of Sustainable Development Goals According to the 2030 Agenda:

On September 25, 2015, during the special summit on sustainable development, heads of states and governments adopted the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, which are broken down into 169 targets. This plan also aims to address the challenges of globalization based on the three components of sustainable development: environment, society, and economy, in addition to its 231 unique indicators.

The 2030 Agenda is unequivocally rooted in human rights and clearly embedded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties and other relevant instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development (paragraph 10). The Sustainable Development Goals seek to realize human rights for all (Preamble to the 2030 Agenda, applicable to both developed and developing countries alike, while ensuring implementation of this plan in a manner consistent with international law, paragraph 18).

The main goals can be stated as follows:

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.
- Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.
- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.
- Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda differ from the Millennium Development Goals in that they are:

a. **Universal:** While the Millennium Development Goals applied to developing countries, the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 constitute a global

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framework for all countries to make progress, face shared challenges, and achieve sustainable development.

b. **Transformative:** As a plan for "people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership," it marks a shift from the traditional development model and offers a transformative vision centered on humanity and the Earth, based on human rights and gender equality.

c. **inclusive:** The agenda covers all aspects of human rights, including civil, economic, cultural, political, and social rights, as well as the right to development.

d. **Integrative:** The 2030 Agenda aims to include everyone without exception or exclusion, affirming the responsibility of all states to protect and promote human rights without discrimination of any kind based on custom, gender, color, language, religion, political or other opinions, or national and social origin.

2.2. The Role of Cultural Heritage in Achieving Sustainable Development According to the 2030 Agenda:

Since heritage is synonymous with culture, today the discussion of cultural heritage, especially in the age of globalization, focuses particularly on the role it plays in promoting sustainable development and achieving benefits for societies and states through this sector—especially since it does not harm the environment as it is part of it. Everyone now wants to protect, preserve, and restore what has been damaged. Hence, the need to build heritage for tomorrow allows us to go far beyond the concept of personal ownership rights as in Roman law, for it is public and

collective property. In this context, Sandrine Basilico, a researcher in human heritage, says:

"... The definition of heritage is evolving and changing... Heritage is continuously and increasingly opening up to the contemporary social, economic, and cultural reality. There is architectural, archaeological, rural, religious, maritime, industrial, urban, scientific, and linguistic heritage... Cultural heritage is no longer a marginal sector but occupies the heart of societal development—not only in its cultural dimensions but also in its economic and political ones. Because, through globalization and the emergence of the network society that uses new communication technologies, humanity has moved from the industrial economy to the post-industrial information society, where development relies more on the cultural economy (investment in heritage) and information than on traditional primary resources and energy sources. Thus, 'cultural heritage' in the broad sense of the term has also become a source of prosperity and well-being."

The researcher adds: "As long as heritage is a fundamental factor in cultural identity, it is also a source of intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, and citizenship."

This is the new form that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seeks—placing great hope on heritage. It relates to citizens' strong aspirations to search for landmarks and references expressed through memory and new models of development.

Today, heritage means everything that bears witness to the development of society and preserves the memory of significant human activities that are on the path to neglect, especially as cultural heritage is now integrated into the context of the global economy.

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The definition of human heritage must today, according to the 2030 Agenda, be framed from the perspective of the public interest of all humanity and linked to cultural human rights as a factor of development and prosperity. Sustainable development is connected to the economic, social, and environmental dimensions due to its contribution to democracy, economic prosperity, and social cohesion in a globalized society. Therefore, it has become a prominent element at the core of sustainable development through its function as a carrier. This is evidenced by the Helsinki Declaration (1996), which defines the role of heritage as a factor of sustainable development, and the Bern Convention (1979) on the conservation of wildlife and the natural environment, which considers that wild animals and plants constitute a natural heritage of aesthetic, cultural, recreational, economic, and essential value that must be preserved and passed on to future generations.

Thus, cultural heritage is linked to the three dimensions of sustainable development through:

- **The economic dimension:** (its inclusion in globalization)
- **The social dimension:** including the factor of identity and integration.
- **The environmental dimension:** due to the rarity of natural landscapes, since humans must be included in the history of our planet—nature has changed significantly due to human intervention, whether consciously or unconsciously.

This is the philosophy of sustainable development and the role of heritage within it. There must be a reconciliation between development and the environment, ensuring the needs of future generations—resources, atmosphere, unpolluted water, the natural environment, and quality of

life—are met. In fact, heritage is part of "quality of life," a natural and cultural integration.

Heritage also plays a role in mobilizing productive capacities for integrated and sustainable local regional development. Thus, the discourse on investing in heritage in projects has grown—that is, "integrated heritage preservation through measures and actions that ensure its continuity in its suitable natural and human environment and its rational use to benefit from its advantages in the present and the future." This reflects the interdependence of the concepts of heritage and development and the integration of the historical dimension into development programs—linking past, present, and future in the logic of transformation and intergenerational solidarity.

Since heritage is a non-renewable resource, referring to it in terms of preservation or valorization is one of the legitimate forms of sustainability on a global scale. Heritage is a continuous resource strongly linked to the question of memory and identity, and its use by local decision-makers is also an economic resource, especially from the tourism perspective. Heritage is a means to enhance spaces and territories, and in every development project, one of the essential approaches to valorizing cultural heritage is integrating it into a strategy aimed at promoting cultural tourism—through the promotion of cultural heritage, regardless of its classification and value, and preserving it across generations in an environment that embraces protected cultural diversity. This includes introducing effective and successful digital and technological methods to activate the digitization of cultural heritage in the service of sustainable tourism development, protecting cultural heritage from erosion and disappearance, and marketing it as an attractive electronic cultural tourism product. This

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modernizes the sector and thereby valorizes tangible and intangible heritage assets.

From a social and civilizational perspective, tourism based on cultural heritage is a bridge for communication between the cultures and human knowledge of nations and peoples. It is a natural outcome of the development of societies and the rise in the standard of living of individuals. On the environmental level, tourism is considered an important factor in satisfying the desires of tourists by increasing access to natural sites and discovering their terrain, environmental resources, and wildlife. Additionally, it allows for familiarization with the social and cultural environment. Moreover, tourism revenues can contribute to covering the cost of preserving the natural features and historical and archaeological resources of these sites— especially for places that do not have sufficient financial means to implement nature conservation programs and protect archaeological and historical heritage.

In addition to the cultural industry and its role in producing and distributing cultural goods and services, the latter includes all activities that, upon examining their nature, aspects, and purpose, appear to embody or transmit forms of cultural expression, regardless of their commercial value. These activities arise from the creativity of individuals, groups, and communities that carry cultural content, in that they convey symbolic meanings, artistic dimensions, and cultural values derived from or expressing cultural identities. They also generate income for the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and others and contribute to poverty reduction.

Conclusion

There has been a renewed awareness of the importance of heritage in our contemporary world. It is linked to a global context marked by major transformations and crises at intellectual, political, social, financial, cultural, spatial, and environmental levels. These levels have interacted to restore importance to the cultural dimension through the urgent search for meaning and new ways of coexisting and building civilization while preserving the environment. The world has sought to restore focus on cultural matters through cultural heritage and regard it as a key entry point for achieving sustainable development according to the 2030 vision—spreading values of justice and equality, consolidating security, and confronting destructive conflicts by involving everyone in this plan without marginalization or exclusion. This is to be done through respect for cultural identity and cultural diversity, protecting and valuing tangible and intangible heritage, and encouraging citizens to participate in cultural affairs, considering heritage as a driving factor for creativity, economic development, and wealth creation.

To achieve this vision (2030) and the role of heritage in it, states and governments must work on:

- Continuously renewing heritage.
- Giving communities a role in heritage development under globalization: through organizing workshops on methods of creating inventory lists within the same communities that hold intangible cultural heritage, as a means to develop participatory methods to reach the best ways to preserve and protect heritage. Also, by supporting the elders who are bearers of intangible cultural heritage in those

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communities to become teachers and trainers of intangible cultural heritage within their societies, and by strengthening the relationship between the heritage-bearing communities and the institutes concerned with heritage research.

- Giving institutions a role in disseminating heritage through coordination between various ministries such as education, culture, social development, municipalities, governmental and non-governmental bodies, cultural centers, and schools, by establishing a comprehensive institutional framework for all entities to support this system and allocating a financial system for it.

Educational institutions in the country may also promote cooperation between heritage specialists and school curriculum authors to discuss and study local cultural heritage and become familiar with it. They may also establish exhibitions on different forms of cultural heritage while considering gender and age as factors in the transmission and dissemination of heritage within society.

All of this will work to ensure that heritage plays a role in achieving sustainable development according to the 2030 Agenda, by increasing income levels, providing jobs for community members, stimulating tourism activity, and increasing its revenues for the state—thus achieving sustainable development that meets the needs of the present generation and preserves the rights of future generations in a sustainable environment.

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