The World Alliance for Arts Education WAAE – IDEA, InSEA, ISME, WDA - and all their member-associations and partners in the world, demand transformative action for arts education as being integral to sustaining communities and meeting the needs of all people in the face of critical global challenges.

180 experts from 47 countries found in this International Conference, Oct. 2019, with reports from all countries: The realization of UNESCO’s “Seoul Agenda” needs urgent comprehensive activities!

We assert the rights for all in formal, informal and non-formal education, to an enriching and humanising education in, with and about the arts – dance, drama, music and visual arts in all their diverse forms.

UNESCO stated 2010: “The Seoul Agenda calls upon UNESCO Member States, civil society, professional organizations and communities to recognise its governing goals, to employ the proposed strategies, and to implement the action items in a concerted effort to realise the full potential of high-quality arts education to positively renew educational systems, to achieve crucial social and cultural objectives, and ultimately to benefit children, youth and life-long learners of all ages” (Preamble Seoul Agenda, UNESCO, 2010).

Seoul Agenda Goals:
1. Ensure that arts education is accessible as a fundamental and sustainable component of a high quality renewal of education – especially “comprehensive studies in all arts fields for students at all levels of schooling as part of a broad and holistic education” (1.a.(i))
2. Assure that arts education activities and programmes are of a high quality in conception and delivery
3. Apply arts education principles and practices to contribute to resolving the social and cultural challenges facing today’s world.


Noting the importance of Education for Sustainable Development which “aims to help people to develop attitudes, skills, perspectives and knowledge to make informed decisions and act upon them for the benefit of themselves and others, now and in the future” with a view to helping “the citizens of the world to learn their way to a more sustainable future” as an important aspect of culture and cultural diversity, empowered by cultural and arts education.
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WAAE and its national associations’ networks in countries around the world calls upon:

1. All education leaders, policy leaders and civil society to acknowledge that the arts, in their diversity, and arts educators play a critical role in fostering and transforming humanity,
2. UNESCO, leaders in civil society and policy leaders to recognize and resource arts education as a vital pillar for fostering and nurturing a culture of sustainability in society, where arts educators work with young people in order to develop artistic practices and 21 C competencies that bring about sustainable development as outlined within the UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals,
3. Arts educators and other educators to form collaborative partnerships with governments, civil society, professional organizations and communities to establish local specific action plans that contribute to the UNESCO sustainable development goals and to understand and transform the present ecological collapse and its impacts on the social, cultural, economic and spiritual lives and institutions of all peoples throughout the world.

The Frankfurt Declaration celebrates the unprecedented arts performances linked to climate change movements led by children and young people throughout the world. It asserts arts education as a right for all towards the nurturing of a paradigm of solidarity, cooperation and good living,

4. UNESCO to continue and strengthen the advocacy and support for the implementation of the Seoul Agenda at local, national and international forums.
5. UNESCO to evaluate the progress of Arts Education according to Seoul Agenda in all their member states.

WAAE challenges UNESCO - to respond directly to this call - to focus on the contribution that arts and arts education make to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals - to urgently bring together decision-makers, teachers, artists and all who advocate for arts education in a 3rd World Congress on Arts Education to face the challenges of the world today!

Frankfurt/Main, Germany, 2019 November 1st, WAAE 9th Global conference, WAAE-council and participants.

In consultation with the German Federation for Arts Education and Cultural Learning; German Cultural Council and with respect to the German National Commission for UNESCO, 2016—2020 Strategy.