**Contribution to Norway's report to the Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights.**

Whilst few direct, specific initiatives have been taken with reference to the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur, human rights, including cultural rights, are seen as a cornerstone of Norwegian cultural policy.

The fundamental principles of Norwegian cultural policy are providing the preconditions for and nurturing high artistic quality and excellence, with the application of the arm's length principle in the allocation of project funding.

Key principles are:

* making arts and culture accessible for everyone regardless of their social or economic status, age or background;
* a continued, high degree of public funding for arts and culture;
* and providing a strong, financial framework for an independent and vital civil society and voluntary sector.

On both the domestic and international level, Norwegian cultural policy recognises a strong and independent media, arts and cultural sector, as key to democracy and a vibrant civil society. Norway is committed to the freedom of speech and artistic expression. The Government confirms its commitment to these principles in its upcoming White Paper on cultural policy, which will be presented to the Parliament at the end of November, 2018.

This is furthermore reflected in Norway's ratification and implementation of a number of international instruments, such as i.a. UNESCO's 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Labour Organization's Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries and the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Diversity is recognised as the defining feature of arts, culture and civil society. Norwegian cultural policy aims at promoting a plurality of voices and expressions. The arts and cultural sector should reflect the inherent diversity of modern-day society. This means that public funding will be distributed in such a manner as to ensure diversity in arts and cultural expressions. Furthermore, governing bodies in Norway shall have a diverse composition when it comes to geography, gender and social background.

A number of measures relating to the indigenous Sami and national minorities are in place. Article 110 a of the Norwegian Constitution states that "It is the responsibility of the authorities of the State to create conditions enabling the Sami people to preserve and develop its language, culture and way of life." In addition to the allocation of an annual grant for arts and culture to the Sami Parliament, funding is provided to other measures, such as the Riddu Riđđu international indigenous festival, the International Sámi Film Institute and subsidies for Sami-language media. A National Sami Museum Network is also in place. Several government ministries and authorities provide funding to initiatives and measures relating to the safeguarding and promotion of the cultural expressions and cultural heritage of national minorities.

As issues regarding human and cultural rights are considered cross-cutting issues and key points of departure for the formulation and implementation of relevant policies, measures and legislation, they are not easily isolated for reporting purposes. For more in-depth information on existing policies, measures and initiatives, please refer to Norway's second (2016) and first (2012) Quadrennial Periodic Reports on the Implementation of UNESCO's 2005 Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and Norway's report on the implementation of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2014).