The UN Agenda 2030 recognizes culture & heritage clearly in Target 11.4 to “protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage” in order to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” (Goal 11), as well as in other Targets such as 4.7 (Education for a culture of peace and cultural diversity), 8.9 and 12.b (Sustainable Tourism that promotes local culture).

Cultural heritage is not just monuments. It is identity, memory and sense of place. Heritage has a crucial role within the urban development process: Creating social cohesion / stimulating growth / reducing poverty / fostering socio-economic regeneration / increasing the density of urban cores and containing the anarchic spread of new buildings / enhancing long-term tourism benefits by preserving cultural resources / strengthening social fabric and enhancing social well-being / enhancing the appeal and creativity of regions. 

We must take up the challenge of conserving this fragile, non-renewable resource for current and future generations.

ICOMOS international council on monuments and sites
ICOMOS supports the Sustainable Development Goals

ICOMOS works for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places. It is the only global non-government organisation of this kind, dedicated to promoting the application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques to the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage. ICOMOS is an Advisory Body for the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, reviewing nominations and ensuring the conservation status of properties. Through decades of studies, conferences and discussions, ICOMOS has built the philosophical and doctrinal framework of cultural heritage on an international level, and helps the evolution and distribution of these ideas through its advocacy. Our strength lies in the high standard of integrity which our members set themselves in their work to meet local and global needs, and in the professional and geographic diversity of our membership.

ICOMOS working groups and scientific committees, through their work with the multiple aspects of cultural heritage, engage with a great range of sustainable development issues:

- Sustainable Development Goals WG
- Climate Change & Heritage WG
- Our Common Dignity Initiative: Rights-Based Approaches / Culture-Nature Journey
- Emerging Professionals WG / Anqa: Heritage of Syria & Iraq