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*In 2022 OCPA Celebrates the 20th Anniversary  
of the Launching of its Activities*

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# Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa

The Observatory is a Pan African international NGO created in 2002 with the support of African Union, the Ford Foundation, and UNESCO. Its aim is to monitor cultural trends and national cultural policies in the region and to enhance their integration in human development strategies through advocacy, information, research, capacity building, networking, co-ordination, and co-operation at the regional and international levels.



## OCPA NEWS

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OCPA News aims to promote interactive information exchange within Africa and between Africa and the other regions. Please send us information for dissemination about new initiatives, meetings, research projects and publications of interest for cultural policies for development in Africa. Thank you for your co-operation.

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### Editorial

#### H. Highlights

##### **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (21 May) - Message from Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO**

In the words of former United Nations Secretary-General Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, “cultures need to assemble, but not to resemble one another”.

These words encapsulate the fundamental aim of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development and the UNESCO culture conventions alike – to remind us that diversity is just as essential for the cultural world as it is for the living world. In the midst of crises, from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic to wars and conflict, we can recognize more than ever both the importance and the urgency of defending cultural diversity and tangible and intangible heritage. Indeed, culture is our most powerful ally for crisis management and recovery.

It is a means by which each and every one of us can cultivate and enrich our inner life; it allows us to come together, to remember the past and to think about the future. It allows us to understand that our differences provide the opportunity to celebrate the richness of the human mind, to expand our horizons and to achieve unity in diversity.

Yet, cultural diversity continues to be weakened, be it by COVID-19, conflict or climate change. The closure of cultural sites and the cancellation of festivals, concerts and ceremonies owing to the COVID-19 pandemic have affected the sharing of culture and impacted professionals, in particular independent creators.

Although the rapid advancement of the digital world has broadened access to culture and inspired creativity, it also exacerbates inequality and can be a vector of cultural homogenization. This is the reason behind UNESCO's intention to devise new, strong, public policies for culture based on the opinions of those involved in the field; these have been collected over the course of the 355 UNESCO ResiliArt debates held across 115 countries.

These reflections informed the UNESCO report Re|shaping policies for creativity, which was published this year.

On this Day, UNESCO would like to call upon everyone to celebrate cultural diversity, through which we will be able to build the intellectual and moral solidarity of humankind.

Source: [https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381619\\_eng](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381619_eng)

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#### A. News from OCPA

Activities of the Executive Director and members of the OCPA Secretariat

The month of June 2022 was marked at the OCPA by an activity centered on the events in preparation of a pan-African nature whose nerve center of action is located in Central Africa. But at the same time the secretariat continued to develop its commitments around the world.

Activities undertaken within the framework of pan-African cultural events in preparation, we can recall

### **A.1 Mission to the DRC for the preparation of the Second Biennial of Contemporary Art**

The Executive Director traveled to Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo where he had several meetings with the Kin Art Studio, gathered around the artist Vitsois Mwilambwe, Artistic Director of the Second Biennial of Contemporary Art, whose opening is scheduled for September 16, 2022 and which will be organized this time in cooperation with the OCPA and its local partner, the Mont des Arts, member of the RICADIA Network, on the theme "The breath of the ancestors".

The particular participation of OCPA in the organization will focus on the International Symposium and the Scientific and Professional Days which will host in Kinshasa, from September 18 to 20, an international symposium whose key elements have been decided: the Argumentary, the sub-themes of the panels, the composition of the Scientific Committee and the terms of the call for papers.

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### **A.2 Contacts in Brazzaville with representatives of FESPAM, CAM and the Panel of Eminent Persons of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)**

From Kinshasa, Mr. Mbuyamba traveled to Brazzaville in the Republic of Congo where he had two significant meetings. The first meeting took place with the Commissioner General of FESPAM, a pan-African music festival, an initiative of the African Union and which provides one of the vice-presidencies of the African Music Council whose headquarters are located, until now, in the capital Brazzaville. In preparation for the session of the Executive Committee of the CAM scheduled for July 22, it was essentially a question of examining the situation of the functioning of the Board and of bringing together the essential elements for the continuation and improvement of working conditions.

The second meeting consisted of an exchange with Dr. Honoré Mobonda, Member of the Panel of Eminent Persons of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) representing Central Africa in this initiative of the African Union. The exchanges with this personality responsible for evaluations in Equatorial Guinea, Chad, the Seychelles and Djibouti, will bring to OCPA a significant contribution in the knowledge and evaluation of the cultural policies of the countries and regions of its field of action.

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### **A.3 Consultations with CERDOTOLA on the preparation of the conference “Assizes for a New African Thought” (Yaounde, October 25 to 27,**

These consultations included exchanges between OCPA 2022 and CERDOTOLA, an essential partner, founding member of RICADIA: CERDOTOLA, which is preparing this conference. As you can imagine, intense preliminary consultations took place between the OCPA and the Initiator and Organizer of the conference, in particular Professor Charles Binam, the Executive Secretary and Dr. Jean Eudes Biem, the Scientific Director of CERDOTOLA in particular on the call for papers that has been launched.

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Activities planned at global level

### **A.4 Contacts with the Global Cultural Relations Initiative (GCRI, Brussels)**

The OCPA was recently, since May, contacted by representatives of a planetary cultural cooperation initiative based in Brussels near the European Institutions, the Global Cultural Relations Initiative (GCRI). Established in 2011 and comprising members such as the Goethe Institute, Kultura Nova Foundation, the Institut Français and the ArabFund for Arts and Culture, this Initiative campaigns to sensitize world leaders to give a stronger place to culture in external

relations of the European Union and beyond. An online conference lasting nearly two hours thus brought together three of its active members with the OCPA with a view to getting to know each other better. The continuation of these contacts will be made public at a later stage.

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### **A.5 Invitation to the 2nd MONDIACULT Conference**

Finally, the OCPA has received from UNESCO an official invitation to the 2nd MONDIACULT convened in Mexico City from September 28 to 30, 2022. It has confirmed its participation and is preparing for it through a broad debate that it leads with representatives of the various professions. and areas of culture at the end of the Pan-African Regional Consultation organized in January/February 2022.

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### **A.6 OCPA Research Activities (Summary)**

Over the 20 years of its existence research has always been a priority for OCPA. In this field the Observatory has realized namely the following main activities:

*Cultural indicators of human development in Africa* - In this respect OCPA, in partnership with the Interarts Foundation (Barcelona), dedicated particular attention to the problems of cultural indicators of health, peace, poverty and governance. (Framework design in 2004, Development of indicators in 2007 – 2010).

*Regional Studies for the UNESCO World Report on Cultural Diversity in Africa* included papers for identifying specificities concerning the cultural diversity in development policies in Africa produced for a regional report in view of the preparation of the second UNESCO World Report on cultural diversity (2005).

*Regional Research on Cultural Policies for Local Communities and Cities in Africa* – This research was carried out with the participation of experts from 10 African countries with the support of AECID (Madrid) and TrustAfrica (Dakar) on the basis of the recommendations of the two experts meetings held respectively in Maputo (2007 and 2008) and the Workshop organized with CERDOTOLA (Yaoundé, 2008).

*Development of methodological tools* - The work carried out in this field has lead to the publication of the documents on “*Guidelines to Designing National Cultural Policies in Africa*”, OCPA, Maputo, 2005 (57 pages). The English version was published in 2008, the French in 2009. The text is also available in Portuguese. An up-dated version of the Guidelines was published in 2012.

*Documentary research on cultural policies in Africa* - The continued documentary research effort lead to the publication of the *Compendium of Reference Documents for Cultural Policies in Africa* (396 pages, including decisions, recommendations and declarations adopted since 1960, namely by the OAU/AU and UNESCO). This work contained also a historical overview of cultural policy priorities in Africa and a bibliography of some 600 documents. The concise version of this book was distributed in the First Session of the African Union of Ministers of Culture (Nairobi, 2005). The English version was published in 2006, the updated Compendium was published in English, French and Spanish both in printed form and on-line in the series ACERCA/AECID in 2009.

*The study on the Situation and problems of the Regional Cultural Institutions in Africa* was realized for the preparation of the Round Table on “Strengthening Partnership between African Cultural Institutions and the African Union” convened by the AU Commission on the occasion of the 2nd Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Culture (Algiers, October 2008) which mandated OCPA to prepare a draft strategy for the implementation of the recommendations of

the Round Table. This strategy was discussed in the 2nd SICADIA conference (Yaoundé, April 2009) and OCPA was entrusted to coordinate the implementation of that strategy. This mandate was also confirmed by the 3rd session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Culture, Abuja, 25 – 29 October 2010) to which OCPA presented a report at the invitation of the AU Commission on the efforts made in following up the recommendations of the Algiers Round Table. This led to the creation of RICADIA (Network of Cultural Institutions in Africa and the Diaspora).

*Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue: Instrument of the Strategy for Development - A Survey of Cultural Policies in Southern Africa (2011)* - This report was established for the UNESCO Windhoek Office by Lupwishi Mbuyamba, OCPA Executive Director with the contribution of Ms Moliehi Ntene, Interim Director of Culture (Lesotho) and Mr Stanley Dlamini, Senior Officer for Culture of Swaziland. It focused on the respect of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue in the development agenda.

*Contribution of Culture to Poverty Reduction in Africa (2011 – 2012)* – Supported by AECID, the research was undertaken in the perspective of the UN General Assembly Resolution on Culture and Development emphasizing the role of culture in human development”. The results were published in a book in 2013.

*Regional Research on «Anticipating African Cultural Policies 2030» (2015 -2019)* - Under contract with Africalia (Brussels, Belgium) OCPA carried out this research through the preparation of country papers and thematic studies published in a book after a validation workshop organized by Africalia.

*Contribution on the strategy of the implementation of the AU Charter for African Cultural Renaissance* - This research was organized for contributing to the strategy of the implementation of the AU Charter for African Cultural Renaissance with the participation namely of the OCPA Technical Committee members.

*Research and Publication on «Cultures and Religions: Problems and Experiences of Enhancing Intercultural Dialogue for Conflict Prevention and Promoting Culture of Peace in Africa”* - Carried out with the support of UNESCO, the project was implemented with the participation of researchers of countries in various sub-regions of the continent.

*Regional study on Cultural Policies in Africa* - This regional study, coordinated by OCPA, was undertaken for UNESCO as an input for the elaboration of the working document of the World Forum of Ministers of Culture (19 November 2019).

*Regional prospective research on “Anticipating Cultural Policies in Africa by 2030* - This regional research was realized with the support of Africalia (Belgium)” and led to the publication of a book in 2019.

*Other research activities* - OCPA prepared concept papers, reports, working document and presentations in order to contribute to important conferences like the various sessions of the AU Conferences of Ministers of Culture and Pan African Cultural Congress. OCPA contributed also to the establishment of the Cultural Charter for African Renaissance (revised version of the 1976 Cultural Charter for Africa adopted in 2006) and the Nairobi Plan of Action for the Development of the Cultural Industries in Africa (a revised version of the 1992 Dakar Plan of Action) approved in Algiers in 2008.

The members of the OCPA team have also published some fifteen academic studies, articles and occasional papers on timely issues related to cultural development policies in Africa.

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**For previous news and OCPA activities click on**  
<http://www.ocpanet.org/activities/news/index-en.html>

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## **B. News, events and projects in Africa**

### **B.1 Tunisia: Kairouan - A forgotten heritage**

Kairouan was in its heyday a capital of knowledge, to which scholars from the Maghreb and the Mashreq turned to who wanted to perfect themselves in various fields, including philosophy, poetry, medicine and mathematics.

Moreover, it occupies a privileged place in the hearts of Tunisians after Mecca and Medina. Heiress of the first camp in Ifriqiya of the Muslim conquerors, it was royal capital, then holy city. Moreover, Oqba Ibn Nafaâ, the conqueror of the Maghreb, who founded Kairouan in 670, was so inspired by the predispositions of this city that he prayed to God to preserve it until the end of time.

As Kairouan has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1988, several renovation actions have been undertaken to restore the historical monuments and the multitude of white domes scattered between the terraces and which mark the tombs of Muslim saints and zaouias.

Among the major projects, which have transformed the monuments, the souks, the houses and the alleys which still remain an eloquent testimony to the past of Kairouan, we could cite the rehabilitation of the entire tourist circuit within the Medina completed in 2017.

Source: <https://lapresse.tn/129657/kairouan-un-patrimoine-tombe-dans-loubli/>

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### **B.2 The PANAF to Be Launched in The Gambia**

The Pan-African Network for Artistic Freedom (PANAF) initiative was launched in The Gambia on 18th June 2022. PANAF was established in November 2021 in response to the need of an active and inclusive regional voice in the creative sector that could raise awareness of incidents of artistic freedom violations and collaborate with artistic rights advocates in regional and national advocacy efforts.

The project will include capacity building, policy support and lobbying, research, workshops and report publication as well as monitoring and documentation of violations with the goal of forming alliances for knowledge exchange and cooperative advocacy campaigns. Since the dawn of the new dispensation (2017),

The Gambia has found a new lease of freedom for the creative sector which is thriving given the proliferation of artistic platforms in the country. However, in the rest of Africa this is not the case with a number of cases where artists have faced challenges while practising their art.

Read the article at <https://thepoint.gm/arts-and-culture/panaf-to-be-launch-in-gambia>

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### **B.3 Tunisia before the Human Rights Council - What about cultural rights?**

In Tunisia, culture is marked by almost total centralization and direct interventionism on the part of the State in the management of cultural policies. The years that followed the Tunisian revolution of January 14, 2011 brought out in the Tunisian public space artistic and cultural potentials to be initiated, thus requiring on the part of the State, to take into account the



evolution of society. of today by ensuring the readjustment of state policies with the current cultural dynamics.

Tunisia is currently in a very fragile democratic context. By applying article 80 of the constitution on July 25, 2021, the President of the Republic set up a state of exception, thus generating a whole state of vagueness with regard to the fate of Tunisian institutions and democracy, reads -on in the report. That said, this situation may aggravate the already existing marginalization of certain sectors such as the cultural and artistic sector. In the name of morality, creative freedom could at any time be weakened in the face of populist power. The absence of interest in cultural and artistic rights in previous UPR sessions in the reports of stakeholders has imposed the need to draft recommendations specific to this category of rights.

Web site: <https://www.tap.info.tn/fr/Portail-%C3%A0-la-Une-FR-top/15083932-la-tunisie-devant>

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#### **B.4 East African African Arts and Culture Festival Hosted in Addis Abeba**

Addis Abeba — Ethiopia's capital city Addis Abeba is hosting the East African Arts and Culture Festival which kicked off at Meskel Square on Wednesday 14 June under the theme "Arts and Culture for Regional Connection." Representatives from Uganda, Burundi, South Sudan, and Somalia as well as representatives from various regional states in Ethiopia are attending the festival, which will last from 14 - 19, according to Ethiopia's Ministry of Culture and Sport.

Speaking at the opening of the festival, the Minister of Culture and Sports, Kejela Merdassa, on his part said the festival, which is organized by the Ministry of Culture and Sports in collaboration the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is believed to be of great significance in the efforts to unite East African countries.

The time is ripe to lay the centuries old relations between Eastern African countries on unity and strong foundation, Kejela said, and highlighted the importance of understanding the facts that no one can be a winner by running alone, therefore the need to "strengthen our unity."

He added that East African countries could combine natural resources and cultural assets as a means to strengthen people-to-people relations and a source of pride for tourists coming from all over the world.

Cultural diplomacy is a prerequisite for economic and political diplomacy, the Minister said that the festival will expand its reach to include all countries of the continent in the coming years.

He thanked East African brothers and sisters for their decision to be part of "this historic event" and conveyed the message that their stay in Addis Abeba will be fruitful and enjoyable.

The festival will showcase multiple displays of artifacts, food, music, and exhibition of various cultural activities drawn from participating countries as well as from Ethiopia's diverse regions.

Web site: <https://addisstandard.com/art-culture-addis-abeba-hosting-east-african-arts-and-culture-festival/>

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#### **B.5 Angola: Ubuntu Cultural House hosts event production training cycle**

Luanda — The Ubuntu Cultural House hosted, in Luanda, an event production workshop for Angolan seventh art professionals.

The meeting, which aims to popularize the film industry in the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), brought together professionals from different fields, including journalists, film and theater actors, as well as producers of events.

Speaking to ANGOP, the Brazilian trainer Ilana Oliveira said that it was an experience of knowledge exchange with the participants for the development of all the stages of a project ranging from budget calculation, pre-production, production and post-production, programming to the dissemination of information on social networks and in the media.

Francisco Keth, co-organizer of the Portuguese Language Itinerant Film Festival (Festin), considers it a positive organization. He only regrets the fact that there is a low level of attendance at cinema sessions, due to the various activities taking place simultaneously, since Luanda is the CPLP's capital of culture.

The Itinerant Portuguese Language Festival (Festin) takes place in the spaces of the Art and Culture Foundation and Ubuntu, in Luanda, and is part of the program "Luanda Capital of Culture of the CPLP".

Source: <https://www.angop.ao/fr/noticias/lazer-cultura/casa-cltural-ubuntu-alberga-ciclo-de-formacao-em-producao-de-eventos/>

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## **B.6 Africa: Rabat capital of African culture – Statement by the Minister of Culture**

During the press conference on the occasion of the launch of the program of this event, organized in the period from June 2022 to May 2023 under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Mr. Bensaid underlined that the challenge consists in best represent African culture throughout this year which will be marked by celebrations as rich as they are varied in the city of Rabat. The organizers will also ensure the effective implementation of the program of festivities, so that Morocco positions itself as a model to follow in the field of the celebration of cultural heritage in Africa and in the world.

The program of celebrations for the Rabat Capital of African Culture event includes various fields including literature, poetry, visual arts, music, theatre, cinema, street arts, dance, digital arts, fashion shows, photography, popular arts, storytelling, circus arts, as well as forums and intellectual encounters, among others, he pointed out.

Web site: <https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/202206020590.html>

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## **C. News about cultural policies, institutions and resources in Africa**

### **C.1 Gambia: New Multipurpose Complex to Boost Country's Entertainment**

Solomelo's Music Venue is a new state-of-the-art multipurpose complex that aims at boosting the country's entertainment and avail young people the opportunity to showcase their talents. It was launched on 21 June.

The entertainment sector continues to grow while young people contribute their quota to the productive sector of our economy, Solomelo's will be a complementary effort in shaping the way forward to a better entertainment sector. While contributing to the socio-economic development of the country, the entertainment industry also provides job opportunities to many people.

In an interview with Sulay Sowe, a Musician and the managing director of Solomelo's Music Venue told this medium that he is a concerned Gambian and has been in the music industry for a long time. He stated that it ever be his wish to establish a place where Gambians can scout their talents and as well to have a platform where they can expose themselves.

Sowe who is the founder of the Gambia Music Union continued that when he traveled abroad, he had the opportunity to come back to the country and build a place that can be used for music concerts. He said the center can be used for Concerts, Seminars, Weddings, Workshops, Conferences, Rehearsals, Live Performances, Theatre Productions, Fashion Shows, TV Productions, and Product Launches, Youth Projects, and Exhibitions among others.

Web site: <https://thepoint.gm/arts-and-culture/new-state-of-the-art-multipurpose-complex-to-boost-countrys-entertainment>

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## **C.2 Tunisia: Opening of the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art**

Considerable efforts are being made to finally create the Macam (National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Tunis). Its doors will open towards the end of this year after a long and interminable wait caused by many annoyances such as the Covid crisis.

It is a heavy undertaking that requires total involvement to set up a space, a place and above all a collection to save, to preserve and to which it would be necessary to ensure sustainability and visibility. Our art is a living memory, a witness of our time, a national heritage and an ambassador of our culture, the role of a museum is an essential role in its promotion and development.

Since its creation in 2018, the building reserved for it in the heart of the Cité de la culture required action at more than one level, layout, lighting, scenography and optimization of space so that it could play its true role in the cultural, pictorial and plastic dynamics.

Today, the work is largely completed, the various spaces are ready for use, the bookshop, the Kids space, the Gallery, the documentation center, the reserves, the restoration workshop, the permanent exhibition and the annex room reserved for temporary exhibitions... This essential phase was presented during the press conference held on Wednesday evening on the premises and which allowed us to grasp the extent of the efforts supplied.

The director of the Museum, Rabaa Jedidi, made a point of providing some clarifications: "First of all, Macam Tunis's mission is to bring together the Tunisian pictorial heritage, restore it, preserve it, study it and share it. Created in 2018, the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art is the first museum dedicated to all forms of plastic and visual arts in Tunisia.

Read the article at <https://lapresse.tn/129260/ouverture-prochaine-du-musee-national-dart-moderne-et-contemporain-de-tunis-macam-la-concretisation-dun-projet-longtemps-attendu/>

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## **C.3 Signing of a joint action plan between the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication and UN agencies in Morocco**

A joint action plan has been signed between the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication and United Nations agencies in Morocco with the main objective of supporting the integration of young people into the economic fabric and entrepreneurial.

Signed during a ceremony presided over by the Minister of Youth, Culture and Communication, Mohamed Mehdi Bensaid, the plan of intended to promote multilateral cooperation between the two parties, as one of the main orientations of the Kingdom's foreign policy deployed under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the ministry said in a statement.

Mr. Bensaid underlined that multilateral international cooperation contributes to the realization of many important projects, specifying that his department is thus committed to instilling a new dynamic, particularly with a view to the integration of young people into the economic fabric.

In accordance with this joint plan, which concerns the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Morocco, UN-Habitat in Morocco, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Morocco and the UNESCO Office for Maghreb, strategic mechanisms will be strengthened to consolidate fruitful relations with regional and international organizations and to support the capacities of the youth, culture and institutional and technical communication sectors, in addition to carrying out pilot projects in different regions of the Kingdom.

It will thus focus on the support of the new generation to the role of youth, the analysis of the capacities of young Moroccans to strengthen their potential in the field of entrepreneurship.

Read the article at <https://www.mapnews.ma/fr/actualites/culture/signature-dun-plan-daction-conjoint-entre-le-minist%C3%A8re-de-la-jeunesse-de-la>

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#### **C.4 Nigeria: Lagos Govt Begins Construction of Cultural Village in Alimosho**

The Lagos State Government has begun the construction of a cultural village in Iran, Alimosho Local Government Area of the state. Speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony of the cultural village, Uzamat Akinbile-Yusuf, the commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, said the project would activate the rich, diverse culture and heritage resources in Alimosho. She Akinbile-Yusuf noted that this would promote the sustainable development of tourism as a viable sector of the economy.

According to her, upon completion, the centre will position Lagos as the next tourism destination as it is expected to attract tourists to Lagos and increase the GDP of the state.

"The idea of the cultural village is to replicate how the Yoruba people used to live in the past before the modern times and as a way of preserving our culture for the younger generation," the official said. It is designed to attract tourists from the diaspora; the project will include a traditional Oba's palace with a complete Yoruba cultural setting. There will be shrines for the celebrated Yoruba traditional gods like Ogun, Obatala and Sango, among others. The commissioner noted that tourists could also visit salons to have their hair made in the traditional style or eat at restaurants that will serve local cuisines and palm wine, among others.

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#### **C.5 Gambia: Minister Bah Presides Over Inauguration of New NCAC Board**

The Honorable Minister of Tourism and Culture, Mr. Hamat N.K Bah inaugurated the newly appointed Board of Directors of the National Centre for Arts and Culture (NCAC).

The inauguration ceremony took place at the Ministry's conference room in Banjul. The newly appointed Board of Directors are; Hon. Fafa E. Mbai, the new Chairman of the NCAC board, Nahla Tambadou, Momodou Jagne, and Foday Baldeh as board members.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Minister Bah expressed delight to state that His Excellency the President Mr. Adama Barrow has through him bestowed on this great duty of oversight of a very important sector- arts and cultural heritage.

According to him, this is one sector that has the greatest impact on each and every citizen of our Republic. He said, each and every citizen has a cultural energy, likewise, each Gambian is a user of arts and or a creator of arts. Therefore, he noted, the cultural and artistic sector concerns all of them and has a direct impact on all of them.

"This is why since we assumed power in 2017, we have done the singular effort to promote the sector through the institutional strengthening of the National Centre for Arts and Culture, through increment in budget support to the NCAC, and the disbursement of development budget

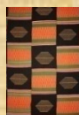
to enable NCAC implements its primordial mandate of conservation and interpretation of sites. Since 2017, various heritage sites have been refurbished and value added to protect them.

Significantly, Minister Bah added that during the past five years, the outgoing board has put the NCAC on a much better financial and administrative state and the staff strength has been augmented and capacitated to all levels.

For his part, the newly appointed Chairman of the NCAC Board of Directors, Hon. Fafa E. Mbai, on behalf of his fellow board members stated, they take their appointment as a call to maintain the noticeable vibrant dynamism in the artistic and cultural check under your engage leadership, vision and energy.

Web site: <https://www.motc.gov.gm/minister-bah-presides-over-inauguration-new-ncac-board>

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## **D. News, Institutions, Resources and Events in Other Regions**

### **D.1 New R&D and cultural heritage data release**

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) has just released the most recent Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) data on Research and Development (R&D) and cultural and natural heritage expenditure. The updated country-level data is now available in the R&D and culture sections of the UIS Bulk Data Download Service. Please find below a brief summary of the new releases and you can also find out more information on the UIS website including press releases and [an analysis report](#) for the heritage release.

The UIS has just released the second set of data for Indicator 11.4.1 related to culture for the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Agenda 2030. The updated country-level data contains information on around 50 countries and looks at both public and private expenditure. The accompanying analysis report also looks at the impact COVID-19 has had on expenditure as well as the negative impact that restrictions on movement have had on income from world heritage sites and the communities living in and around them.

According to the latest data, global investment in R&D has continued to grow despite the drawbacks in the global economic situation due to the pandemic. It represents an average annual growth rate of 4.7% over the last decade (2010-2020) when adjusted for inflation, though there was a slowdown in 2020, where global R&D went up only by 3%. This investment in R&D may have played an important role in surmounting the challenges faced in the global pandemic.

Web site: <http://uis.unesco.org/en/news/unesco-institute-statistics-releases-data-and-key-findings-cultural-and-natural-heritage>

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### **D.2 Conference of Ministers of Culture of the Euro-Mediterranean Region on Cultural Heritage (Naples, 16 - 17 June 2022)**

Threats to cultural heritage, such as climate change, conflict and illicit trafficking, were at the heart of discussions at the EU-South Partnership meeting of culture ministers.

This high-level summit, organized by the Italian Ministry of Culture – in coordination with the French Presidency of the European Union – brought together ministers of culture from the Euro-Mediterranean region, international organizations and other actors keys to civil society.

The topics of discussion focused on the protection and role of cultural heritage in the face of contemporary challenges, including climate change, conflict situations and illicit trafficking.

The summit proposed the creation of new European Union programs to support culture in the Mediterranean, based on the strategic objectives of the new European agenda for culture. Among other things, the ministers of culture also suggested the creation of a "Mediterranean capital of culture", a proposal according to which each year a city from the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Africa, Europe or the Balkans would become the capital of Mediterranean culture.

In his speech, PAM President, Hon. Migliore, identified culture as a common good and addressed the issue of looting and trafficking of works of art, which has become increasingly sophisticated, especially in territories where conflicts are ongoing, and has reminded that the PAM will continue to contribute to the fight against the international trafficking of works of art. In this regard, PAM is organizing in Naples, on June 20 and 21, a high-level conference on the revision of the Palermo Convention, against illicit trafficking of cultural objects.

It is not only crucial to protect heritage threatened by the effects of climate change, but it is also important to remember that sites and museums are also places of learning and education about the environment and how to respond to this global threat.

Web site: <https://www.pam.int/en/press-releases/le-president-migliore-addresses-the-naples-conference-of-ministers-of-la>

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### **D.3 Moroccan prehistoric heritage in the spotlight on June 17 at UNESCO in Paris**

Driven by the desire to ensure representativeness of the different categories of its multi-millennial heritage and to make an effective intellectual contribution to the concept of the heritage of humanity, "the Kingdom of Morocco is organizing on June 17, 2022 at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris an international symposium with the participation of researchers and specialists in prehistoric sciences from various Moroccan and international university institutions, specifies the text.

This symposium will be an opportunity to present "the richness and diversity of Morocco's prehistoric heritage and to highlight recent archaeological discoveries, such as the ornamental elements of the Bizmoune cave located near Essaouira, continues the same source.

Dated between 142 thousand years to 150 thousand years ago, these artifacts, which can be considered as the first objects of adornment of humanity, represent the oldest human symbolic behavior, the press release adds. Morocco was the cradle of civilizations such as history and geography have rarely offered. From this remarkable past, it has inherited a cultural heritage whose originality, scope and richness are recognized worldwide.

If the Kingdom can be proud of its sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, mainly imposing urban sites (cities and medinas), the fact remains that certain categories such as prehistoric heritage have not yet been hoisted listed as world heritage. Some elements of this precious heritage have nevertheless allowed the scientific re-reading of the history of human groups and fully deserve to be a candidate for the world heritage of humanity, the press release concludes.

Read at <https://www.mapnews.ma/fr/actualites/culture/le-patrimoine-pr% C3% A9historique-marocain-% C3% A0-lhonneur-le-17-juin-au-si% C3% A8ge-de-lunesco-% C3% A0>

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### **D.4 Prince Claus Fund: 2021 Annual Report**

Our 25th year marked a new era for the Prince Claus Fund. Since the Fund was founded, our mission has been to honour, support and connect artists and cultural practitioners doing

exceptional work. In subsequent years, we looked particularly for artists and organisations that worked under difficult circumstances, primarily in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe. We gave support in various ways, through awards, grants, networking, publications and exchanges.

We've been listening to our partners and thinking about their needs. We have also been examining our own practice. We realized that behind every good project and dynamic organization there is a person with initiative and drive. We decided the best way forward would be to invest in individuals and let them decide how best 'to develop themselves'.

In 2021, we focused our efforts through three categories of awards. The new Prince Claus Seed, Mentorship and Impact Awards are designed to support engaged artists in different ways at different stages of their creative development. In addition, we organise exchanges and opportunities for Awards recipients to meet and be inspired by each other. This second year of a worldwide pandemic kept people apart and forced many activities online. But, as 'necessity is the mother of invention', the pandemic has also offered the Fund new, creative opportunities for connection. By transforming our Exchanges and 25th anniversary celebrations to online activities, we were able to reach new audiences and engage many more people.

Web site: <https://princeclausfund.org/storage/documents/Prince-Claus-Fund-Annual-Report-2021.pdf>

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## **D.5 Culture on the program of the 2022 edition of the European Development Days (Brussels, 20 – 22 June 2022)**

Organized by the OACPS and the ACP-EU Culture Program the European Development Days include a Round Table: "Online and offline learning with cultural literacy: strengthening peace, education and resilience of young people vulnerable".

The roundtable will focus on innovation in online/offline digital education to build the resilience of vulnerable communities and improve youth culture in the digital age. Technology sometimes has mixed effects on society, but also opens up unexpected opportunities, especially in reaching fragile and hard-to-reach communities. With the preponderant place of digital technologies in our daily lives, the growing power of images, the proliferation of often unverified and oriented news with social networks, young people are confronted with media pressure and uncertain content on which they form their opinion. as a citizen and as a future professional. Digital education, including online learning with a culture-based approach, can help change narratives in schools and universities by challenging cultural norms and stereotypes, building critical thinking skills , and by building dialogue, mutual understanding and the restoration of the dignity of victims of conflict.

Speakers, drawn from academia and civil society and active in the fields of culture, social transformation, international law and technological innovation, will address topical issues such as education programs for peace, cultural literacy and education, psychosocial trauma support education, second generation victim education and intra-religious dialogue.

Web site: <https://eudevdays.eu/>

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## **E. Cultural Agenda in the African Press**

### **E.1 Links to portals**

<https://allafrica.com/arts/>

<http://www.africaonline.com/site/africa/arts.jsp>

<http://www.apanews.net/news/fr/rubrique.php?id=65>

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2003/646/culture.htm>

<http://english.alarabonline.org/display.asp?code=zculturez>

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### **E.2 Selected information from AllAfrica**

#### **Eritrea: Dancing for Cultural Preservation -**

With a dedicated instructor and coordinator to a group of youngsters relentlessly working to promote and preserve culture, Meras Dance Group has come a long way to garner the achievements it has registered so far in the Eritrean art. This dance group aims to helping young nationals get closer to their identity on top of promoting and preserving the culture through their unique and extraordinary choreographies and performances. Meras was founded in 2014 with a small number of dancers and have been actively working under the Commission of Culture and Sports ever since. At first, the group totally focused on choreographies that promote and preserve our culture and identity. After a couple of years, the dance group begun expanding its works to cultural dances with a modern twist in it. The main objective for the formation of this group is to preserve and promote the culture, history and identity that Eritreans possess. The fact that our members are young is also an advantage. They spread their culture throughout the younger generation and they present their culture throughout the world. More at <https://allafrica.com/stories/202206060341.html>

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#### **Kenya: Book Piracy Denying Publishing Industry Over 40% of Market Share**

The Kenya Publishers Association (KPA) has identified Nakuru County as a melting point of book piracy in Kenya, a vice that KPA says is denying the country's publishers up to 40 percent of the market share. According to the association, school textbooks are the biggest target as they make up to 90 percent of Kenya's book market, and their sales are virtually guaranteed. KPA Chairman Mr. Kiarie Kamau expressed regret that in many cases, pirated books are sold at the same price as the original versions, as few buyers can spot a fake, adding that counterfeited books not only cause publishers to incur heavy losses but also compromise the quality of education. A vibrant publishing industry is not only good for the economy but also as a custodian of Kenyan culture. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202206060029.html>

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#### **Namibia: A Melting Pot of Storytelling and Tradition ... Nama Cultural Festival**

THE annual Nama cultural festival, which took place this past weekend at Keetmanshoop in the //Kharas region, was a melting pot of storytelling and traditional cuisine and attire. The festival, which was initiated in 2018, is aimed at preserving the unique heritage of the Nama people, and creates a platform for the transgenerational transfer of knowledge. The chairperson of the festival, Valery Isaacks, says the festival exceeded the organisers' expectations. A highlight of the festival, held under the theme 'Unity is Our Strength', was the cultural village. The village hosted a real traditional wedding to teach young people the norms, values and reasons for cultural practices. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202206040108.html>

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## **F. Info from newsletters and information services**

### **F.1 News from the International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA – ACORNS)**

#### **Focus on Innovation for the Vitality of Arts and Culture Sector**

Diversity is just as essential for the cultural world as it is for the living world. This is at the heart of the message from UNESCO's Director-General Audrey Azoulay shared on 21 May for the *orld Day for Cultural Diversity for Development*. The value of the arts for human connectivity, social cohesion and mutual understanding was also strongly emphasised at the *World Economic Forum Annual Meeting*, which brought together over 2,000 representatives from government, business, civil society and media from 22-26 May 2022. The gathering in Davos reaffirmed the philosophy of collective action (including through public-private partnerships) as the starting point for a new era of global responsibility and cooperation. Delivering a common future will also be in focus at the upcoming 26th *Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting* (CHOGM) in Rwanda from 20-25 June 2022, which will bring together leaders of its 54 Member States in person for the first time since 2018. At the People's Forum held alongside this biennial meeting, the importance of diversity for participatory governance and in civic expression will be discussed in two sessions: one debating the most pressing challenges to free speech in the Commonwealth and the other showcasing innovations that give people a voice in shaping their institutions.

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#### **Ghanaians urged to respect each other's cultural values to promote national cohesion**

Madam Janet Edna Nyame, Executive Director, National Commission on Culture (NCC), has urged Ghanaians to respect each other's cultural values to promote national cohesion and unity and called culture the singular driving force of human progress and existence.

<https://newsghana.com.gh/ghanaians-urged-to-respect-each-others-cultural-values-to-promote-national-cohesion-unity/>

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#### **The Nordic Culture Fund Launches a Major Globus Call**

The Nordic Culture Fund's new programme *Globus* aims to encourage artists, institutions and other cultural actors to engage in wide transnational collaborations and long-term networks that extend beyond the Nordic region. Applicants from all parts of the world can apply by 3 October.

<https://internationalfederationofartscouncilsandcultureagencies.cmail20.com/t/i-l-qlykdz-tjhrhkkktd-iu/>

Web site: <http://www.ifacca.org>

Contact: [info@ifacca.org](mailto:info@ifacca.org)

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### **F.2 Africultures**

#### **The 9th Edition of Africities Summit, (Kisumu City, Kenya, 17 - 21 May 2022)**

For the first time ever, an intermediary city, Kisumu City – Kenya, will host the 9th Edition of Africities Summit, from the 17th to the 21st of May 2022. The theme for the 9th Edition is, 'The Role of Intermediary Cities of Africa in the implementation of Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and the African Union Agenda 2063'. Kisumu literally means a place of barter trade

“sumo” in the Luo language and is locally called ‘Kisumo’. It was the major port of Lake Victoria during the commonwealth of East Africa, then known as Port Florence. The town was founded in the early 19th Century mainly as the main inland terminal of the Asian-built Uganda railway. Asians once formed a quarter of the population of the town, with cultural and infrastructural evidence of this visible to date. Web site: <https://africities.org/>

Site web: <http://africultures.com/>

Contact: <http://africultures.com/contact/>

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### **F.3 Music World News - News of the International Music Council (IMC)**

#### **YouTube celebrates Africa Month, reaffirms commitments to the music industry in Africa**

YouTube has announced a series of events to run throughout the month of May in celebration of Africa month. The events are intended to reaffirm YouTube’s commitment to growing Africa's creator ecosystem and to spotlight and celebrate the artists and creatives who are driving the growth of Afrobeats and Africa's music industry. Content creators in Africa will receive support from YouTube through virtual and in-person training and workshops to help them grow their channels and improve their skills. These include a Creator 360 virtual workshop, which will allow African content creators to collaborate and share skills, and in-person Creator Day workshops, which will be led by industry experts and help aspiring creators learn the skills they need to continue thriving on YouTube. YouTube's longstanding commitment to the creator industry in Africa is evident in initiatives such as the #YouTubeBlackVoices Funds and the YouTube Shorts Fund, a \$100 million fund designed to reward creators for their contributions.

Web site: [https://www.pulse.ng/entertainment/music/youtube-celebrates-africa-month-reaffirms-commitments-to-creators-and-the-music/mctnjyh?utm\\_source=newsletter\\_376&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=music-world-news](https://www.pulse.ng/entertainment/music/youtube-celebrates-africa-month-reaffirms-commitments-to-creators-and-the-music/mctnjyh?utm_source=newsletter_376&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=music-world-news)

Site web: <http://www.imc-cim.org>

Contact: <http://www.imc-cim.org/contacti-us.html>

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### **F.4 Mawred – Culture resource Newsletter**

#### **Online Thesis Colloquium for Students of MA Program**

On 11 and 12 February 2022, an online colloquium was held for the 2020-2022 cohort of the Masters of Cultural Policy and Cultural Management program. The 17 students in this cohort have just completed their third semester and are about to embark on their MA theses. The two-day colloquium gave them the opportunity to present their thesis proposals and receive feedback from a pool of experts involved in the program. The MA program is implemented in collaboration with Hassan II University in Casablanca, Hildesheim University in Germany, the Hildesheim UNESCO Chair for Cultural Policies for Arts in Development, and the UNESCO Chair for Cultural Policies of Belgrade University. It aims to develop a new generation of researchers, cultural managers, policy makers, and academics equipped to contribute to cultural practices in their countries. More information at <https://mawred.org/slider/online-thesis-colloquium-for-students-of-ma-program/?lang=en>

Web site: <http://www.mawred.org>

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### **F.5 Aspire Art’s upcoming auction leads with highly collectable art from Africa**

Aspire Art will impress the art world with its first auction of 2022 in Cape Town. The collection of 111 works by 74 artists boasts a selection of highly collectable art historical treasures. Aspire is deeply committed to promoting art from the African continent and included on the auction are

renowned artists from Zimbabwe, Uganda, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Tanzania, the DRC and, of course South Africa. Headlining the sale is an intensely expressive charcoal drawing by William Kentridge. Drawing from Mine is one of 18 drawings produced as a still for the artist's 1991 animated film Mine. Exploring Figuration in Contemporary African Art starts the year for Strauss & Co-Figuration is a powerful conceptual thread linking historical, traditional, modernist, and contemporary art in Africa. Strauss & Co's first offering of the year will be a prestigious non-selling exhibition, Giving Direction: Figuration, Past and Present. On view at the historical homestead in Cape Town, the exhibition schedule of events will run from 14 to 20 February 2022, during the Investec Cape Town Art Fair. More at <https://artmail.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9b08b0eb495c694698e63cf7d&id=c26e556a32&e=89677845ed>

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**Please send addresses, information, and documents for the OCPA list serve, database, documentation centre and web site!**

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**Thank you for your interest and co-operation**

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