With the Best Wishes from OCPA for 2024

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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.



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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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H. Highlights

H.1 42nd Session of the UNESCO General Conference focused on climate and innovation

The 194 Member States of UNESCO met at the General Conference in UNESCO, Paris, from 7 to 22 November 2023. The General Conference sets the programmes and the budget of UNESCO. It also elects the Members of the Executive Board and appoints, every four years, the Director-General. The programme of the 42nd Session was marked by high-level debates on how UNESCO is addressing major global challenges presented by climate disruptions and new technologies.

UNESCO Program and Budget for 2022 – 2025: Major Program IV: Culture (41 C/5

In 2022-2025 and in line with the four strategic objectives of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029, Major Program IV (paragraphs 05000 - 5063) will continue to support Member States to promote culture and the creative economy, and safeguard cultural and natural heritage in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Major Program IV will contribute directly, through six products, to the achievement of Outcome 5: "Strengthen the protection and promotion of the diversity of heritage and cultural expressions" of Strategic Objective 3: "Build inclusive societies by promoting freedom of expression, cultural diversity and education for global citizenship, and by protecting heritage.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the fragility of the cultural sector and its contribution to the global economy. The global crisis affects the entire creative value chain and considerably weakens the professional, social and economic position of artists.

The Culture Sector will continue to encourage the implementation of the six culture-related conventions and associated recommendations, which will serve as platforms for cooperation, as well as to support Member States in translating the provisions of these conventions into national policies and strategies to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

With a view to achieving SDG 11 (inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements), Major Program IV will continue to provide strategic support and strengthen the

capacities of Member States, notably through their cities in the framework of the UNESCO Cities Platform and through its contribution to the monitoring of global SDG indicator 11.4.1.

Actions undertaken by the Culture Sector will contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, notably the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, and in particular Aspiration 5 (Africa with a strong cultural identity, common values, ethics and heritage), the outcome document of the Samoa SIDS Pathway, the Istanbul Program of Action for LDCs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015) and the New Urban Agenda (2016).

The consequences of the climate emergency on culture will also be addressed and the role of culture in mitigating climate change and adapting to its effects will be strengthened, in particular by integrating the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage into Member States' policies and strategies on climate change, based on normative instruments and policies.

Urbanization which continues to gain ground all over the world, adding to the widening imbalances linked to the aging of populations in certain regions and the demographic explosion in others, as well as the worsening of inequalities social, make today more evident than ever the need to protect heritage and unleash the potential of the creative economy.

In addition, the Culture Sector will strengthen its action in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property, including underwater heritage, and the consequences of this trafficking on peacebuilding processes, by encouraging the implementation of policies and measures consistent with the 1970 and 2001 conventions, by promoting the return and restitution of cultural objects.

The role of museums in development, peace and social inclusion will be promoted in accordance with the Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections (2015). Digital technologies and the meteoric rise of artificial intelligence, which are transforming the way in which cultural expressions are produced, disseminated and accessible and how heritage is safeguarded already occupy a central place in the creative economy.

In this area, the Culture Sector will step up its efforts to develop local creative economies, which are both dynamic and inclusive, with cities and major cultural institutions as centers of experimentation and social transformation, through strategic advice and technical support, in particular to address new challenges linked to media diversity, the status of artists and cultural professionals and access to cultural goods and services in the digital environment.

Global Priority Africa - Africa will remain a priority of Major Program IV during the 2022-2025 quadrennial period. The Culture Sector will strengthen its support to African Member States in the implementation of the Organization's normative instruments and targeted programs in the field of culture with a view to promoting cultural diversity and the creative economy as well as to safeguard heritage with a view to achieving the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want of the African Union and its ten-year implementation plan (2014-2023).

Particular attention will be paid to strengthening the capacities of African States with regard to preventing and combating illicit trafficking of cultural property and supporting the development of museums, notably through programs aimed at improving the implementation Conventions and Recommendations and to promote the return and restitution of cultural property.

Global Priority Gender Equality - The Culture Sector will continue to support Member States in expanding the creative horizons of women and girls and empowering women as key actors in the preservation and safeguarding of heritage, as well as the creative economy, to contribute to the achievement of SDG 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls".

Priority groups - Young people, as agents of change and partners, will be a priority group for the Culture Sector. Building on the results of the Operational Strategy for Youth (2014-2021),

UNESCO will encourage the active participation of young men and women in the design and implementation of programs in order to exploit the potential of culture and heritage.

Recognizing the unique vulnerable position of many Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Major Program IV will intensify efforts to protect and promote culture in SIDS in order to strengthen their resilience and advance sustainable development.

Read the program at https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380868

A. News from OCPA

Activities of the Executive Director and the staff members of the Secretariat

The Executive Director, Lupwishi Mbuyamba, had abundant activity throughout the month of November 2023, at OCPA Headquarters, as well as in Africa and around the world.

A.1 Mission to Ouagadougou

We will recall his stay on mission in Ouagadougou the previous month where he took part in the international conference at the Joseph Ki-Zerbo University, followed by the 19th edition of the International Theater and Puppet Festival, FITMO, major events organized by the Espace Culturel Gambidi (ECG).

We can note on this occasion the signing of a Framework Cooperation Agreement between the ECG and the OCPA as well as the facilitation of the signing of the Framework Agreement between the CERAV and the International Theater Institute, and the recognition shown, at the end of the various actions carried out in the country "of men of integrity" in particular the operationalization of CERAV, a decoration of Mr. Mbuyamba as Knight in the order of merit of arts, letters and communication of the Government of Burkina Faso.

A.2 Participation in the Njingiritana Festival in Maputo

Returning to Maputo, he took part in the opening ceremony of the Njingiritana Festival, an annual festival of children's arts trained and supported by lessons organized by the Xiluva company created and directed by Madam Melinda Matsinhe, Vice-President of Arterial.

Missions in Europe and North Africa (November 13 – 28, 2023).

A.3 Participation in the 42nd session of the UNESCO General Conference

In France, in Paris, he took part in the 42nd session of the UNESCO General Conference and more especially in the work of Commission IV of this gathering devoted to the culture program.

A.4 Consultations with OCPA partners on the sidelines of the General Conference

In this context, he endeavored to discuss with the national partners of the Member States as well as with the non-governmental delegations of partner organizations on the major subjects on the agenda, in particular

- the recommendation relating to the protection and promotion of museums and collections in their importance and diversity;-
- the adoption of the proposal for an International Day of Intangible Cultural Heritage, on October 7;-
- the return and restitution of cultural property;-
- the level of implementation of the recommendation on the status of the artist.-

Among the sub-regional partners of OCPA in West Africa, he met with the heads of the "Culture" departments of ECOWAS and UEMOA.

In particular, he had a working session and regular contacts with Mr. Indrassen Vencatacellum, Advisor to the management of the World Crafts Council/World Crafts Council-International formally created in 2012 and established in Mons in Belgium.

After discussions initiated with OCPA over the past 3 years, the two parties agreed that a Framework Agreement be considered and that both sides exchange a project to indicate the arrangement of the priorities of each party.

A.5 Participation in the Conference on the preservation and development of Angkor

Before the formal opening of the work of Commission IV, Mr. Mbuyamba participated in the opening of the 4th international conference organized within UNESCO dedicated to the preservation and development of Angkor, one of the emblematic world heritage sites. This conference was co-chaired by the Director General of UNESCO in person and the Crown Prince of Cambodia.

A.6 Participation in the funeral of Henri Lopes

Previously and already on the eve of the work of the Commission, he had participated in the funeral organized in memory of Mr. Henri Lopes, former Assistant Director for Culture of UNESCO, in the Saint Francois-Xavier Church in Paris, occasion for him to meet numerous and eminent personalities from UNESCO and the Republic of Congo-Brazzaville.

In Morocco, Lupwishi Mbuyamba participated in 3 events:

A.7 Participation in the meeting of the African regional group of the International Music Council

The meeting of the African regional group of the International Music Council had on its agenda the operational problems of the African regional secretariat of the CIM, the African Music Council, the CAM, which has its headquarters in Brazzaville and which is encountering problems with its route, precisely on this seat as well as to the personnel in charge of operating it. It was decided that a meeting of the CAM General Assembly, the 6th, scheduled for the 1st quarter of 2024, could examine the proposed solutions to these cases after a factual report.

But in the meantime the Council will continue to prepare for the implementation of outstanding program activities.

A.8 Participation in the General Assembly of the International Music Council

The 40th General Assembly of the International Music Council of which OCPA is an active member was the 2nd activity of this mission. It closed with elections to the Board of Directors which now includes 2 representatives from Africa, Emilie Achieng Akuno from Kenya and Mamou Daffe from Mali.

The new president, Sheila Woodward, elected for 2 years, is also partially African since she shares her South African nationality with US citizenship.

A.9 Participation in the 10th edition of the Visa for Music Festival

The third activity of this stay was participation in the 10th edition of the Visa for Music Festival, an event which attracted artists from more than 67 countries. On this subject, the emphasis of

the participation of the Executive Director of the OCPA was focused on the opening ceremony, the interest of which lay in the historical review of this initiative and the concert of the Bantu orchestra of the capital, one of the pioneers of Congolese Rumba, music and dance recently included on the list of works of intangible heritage of humanity.

A.10 Meetings and exchanges on the sidelines of conferences

On the sidelines of these events, the opportunity was, as always, given to a series of meetings, two of which deserve to be noted:

- the meeting of delegates from two member organizations of the RICADIA network, CERDOTOLA in the person of Professor Charles Binam Bikoi, and Mr. Mamou Daffe, President of the Niger Festival. The interviews generally revolved around the activities scheduled or to be scheduled in 2024, avoiding the conflict of agendas;-
- the meeting with an Advisor to the Minister of Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco with whom the need for a technical meeting was discussed before the end of the current year in order to define the strategy and launch the structure of the permanent secretariat of the CAC (African Capitals of Culture) whose headquarters are in Morocco and for which the STP4 Conference of Ministers had expressed its appreciation.-

A.11 Visit to the Higher Institute of Arts and Culture of Mozambique

Mr. Mbuyamba returned to Maputo on November 29, 2023 to attend the 4th academic graduation ceremony on December 1 for the winners of the promotion of the Higher Institute of Arts and Culture of Mozambique.



B. News, events and projects in Africa

B.1 Afrik Demain: Togo Art Connection!

This hands-on training will give you the tools to thrive in today's artistic world. Find out how: Build a strong and authentic artistic image? Navigating the ever-changing arts industry? Using social media to grow your online presence?

Performing arts professionals in Togo (artists, producers, promoters, presenters and tour operators) can join the Togo Art Connection and connect with other ambitious artists.

The Togo Art Connection project implemented by Afrik Demain and its partners, acknowledges the support of the AWA Program piloted by the Institut Français de Paris / Center Culturel Kôrè Ségou Consortium, and thanks the financial support of the ACP EU Culture Program supporting the sectors of culture and creation in West Africa-AWA.

Source: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064589919250

B.2 Botswana: UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage: The 18th session of the Intergovernmental Committee (Kasane, 4 – 9 December 2023)

The Committee will examine the nominations for inscription of 55 cultural practices submitted by 72 State Parties. The event will also mark the 20th anniversary of the

UNESCO Convention, which has considerably strengthened the world's legal arsenal for the protection of culture.

At the session, the 24 State Members of the Committee - representing the 181 State Parties - will examine 55 nominations for inscription on the Lists of the Convention. The Committee will also decide on 2 requests for international financial assistance submitted by Zimbabwe and Paraguay, and will examine a series of reports on the state of previously inscribed practices.

The 2023 Committee session also marks the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage's 20th anniversary. The anniversary is an opportunity to look back on, and celebrate the immense progress the Convention has made since its adoption in 2003. Now counting 181 State Parties, UNESCO's international standard-setting framework has been ratified at an exceptionally fast rate in the last decade.

The Convention has also helped to boost recognition of the crucial role local communities and indigenous peoples play in preserving living heritage, and has supported several states in building laws, policies and specialized institutions in order to catalogue and protect it.

Press contacts: Thomas Mallard, <u>t.mallard@unesco.org</u> and Lucía Iglesias Kuntz, <u>l.iglesias@unesco.org</u>

B.3 Congo-Kinshasa: Report from the National Forum on Culture

Initially scheduled for November 16 to 18, 2023 in Kinshasa, the National Summit on culture and **copyright** in the Democratic Republic is postponed for next year.

The National Forum on Culture and Copyright in the DRC is a personal initiative of the Head of State, Félix Tshisekedi with the aim of revitalizing the cultural sector in the DRC and also proposing adequate solutions to the problem of copyright management.

On the political level, the goal is to clean up the cultural sector and provide recommendations which contribute to improve the working conditions of artists and cultural entrepreneurs.

The ideal is to make culture a real engine of economic development.

Read the original article at <u>https://laprosperiteonline.net/report-du-forum-national-sur-la-culture-balufu-bakupa-nous-have-rencontre-des-difficultes-dues-a-diverses-contraintes/</u>

B.4 Senegal: Sédhiou - A conference aims to highlight the place of culture in local development

A three-day conference, inviting us to "revisit" the history of Pakao to make it the basis of the economic and social development of this southern part of Senegal, opened in Sédhiou, in the presence of several experts who came of the diaspora, particularly from border countries, Gambia and Guinea Bissau.

The theme of this meeting focuses on "Sédhiou: history, culture and development". It will be an opportunity to revisit the history and culture that should serve as a basis for local development.

Habib Léon Ndiaye, also a former governor of this region, noted that the organizers of this event have as their sights "the development of Sédhiou, which is today the main issue", namely "pooling energies to create jobs for young people, exploit the enormous potential of our country.

This reflection on history and culture is important for human dignity which must impact the population, the youth who must carry the destiny of the region, rejoiced the President of the Board of Directors of the Museum of Black Civilizations, Abdoulaye Racine Senghor.

Read the original article <u>https://aps.sn/sedhiou-un-colloque-veut-mise-en-exergue-la-place-de-la-culture-dans-les-processus-de-developpement-local/</u>

B.5 Guinea: The Sabou Ciné talents project officially launched in Conakry

The management of Saboutech incubator carried out this October 27, 2023, the official launch of Sabou ciné talents, for a year of training. The launching ceremony took place in the presence of the French ambassador to Guinea and a few other personalities.

Diogo Barry, general director of Saboutech incubator, spoke about the this training.

"There are three axes in the program: training and production. We are going to train around ten young people who will all carry out timing together. And then we will also perpetuate the action, digitalize the training and ensure that after this funding that we can still train and with an objective of training 500 people. The selection is made on file, each candidate must present an application file CV, name and there is a selection committee which will be set up The overall cost of the project is €200,000," said the director.

Please note that female candidates are strongly desired, according to the director. The deadline for submitting applications is November 27.

Read at https://aminata.com/guinee-le-projet-sabou-cine-talents-officiellement-lance-a-conakry/

B.6 Mozambique: INICC launches a second capacity development training in cultural management

The second round of capacity development training in cultural management will take place from Monday, November 20, 2023 in the premises of the National Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries (INICC, IP).

The training, which lasts two weeks, covers civil servants from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and private operators from the provinces of Maputo, Inhambane, Nampula and Zambia.

This training is part of three cycles of intensive training, mentoring and consulting within the framework of the Building with Music project, a joint initiative of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the non-governmental organization AGAPE of Italy, in partnership with Comune di Milano, Milano Música and Diapason Progetti M and financed by the Italian Development Cooperation Agency (AICS)

The objective of this training is to train public institutions in better functioning of policies, encourage the private sector and open new forms of dialogue in the creative sector in Mozambique.

Mail: Instituto Nacional das Indústrias Culturais e Criativas, Matilde Muocha matilde.muocha@ocpanet.org

B.7 Angola: Luanda Biennale focused on UNESCO operational strategy

The Luanda Biennale will contribute to the implementation of UNESCO's operational strategy and its programs defined as priorities for Africa (2022-2029), namely the promotion of cultural heritage and the strengthening of higher education and capacities of the continent, said, Friday, the Angolan ambassador to Ethiopia, Miguel César Domingos Bembe.

Miguel Bembe, who is also the Permanent Representative of Angola to the African Union (AU) and the ECA, was speaking at the conference entitled "Cultural and creative industries and restitution of African cultural heritage", held under the aegis of the UNESCO, the AU and the

International Organization of the Francophonie. He stressed that one of the outcomes, in the medium and long term, was the creation of an inclusive vision of African history and heritage.

The Luanda Biennale will take place from November 22 to 24 under the theme "education, culture of peace and African citizenship as tools for the sustainable development of the continent."

Source: https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/202310300317.html



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

C.1 Mali: The Minister of Crafts, Culture, Hospitality Industry and Tourism, at the 9th United Cultures Forum in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

The United Cultures Forum of Saint Petersburg opened on November 17, 2023 at the Hermitage Museum under the presidency of the Russian Minister in charge of Culture, Mrs. Olga Lubimova.

The opening of the Forum was marked by speeches from the ministers in charge of culture and heads of delegation under the general theme of the Forum "Cultural sovereignty, basis of the identity of a State".

The Minister of Crafts, Culture, Hospitality Industry and Tourism, Mr. Andogoly GUINDO, in his speech, recalled the quality of relations between Mali and the Russian Federation. In his intervention, he developed the three themes of the Forum, namely: knowing history through Culture, artificial intelligence: advantages and disadvantages for culture and culture as a foundation for the construction of a modern society.

Source: <u>https://www.facebook.com/CultureArtisanatTourisme.ml/</u>

C.2 Ethiopia: High Time to Restitute African Cultural Treasures

Cultural assets portray a given community's or society's way of life. Sculpture, manuscripts, monuments, and artifacts are some of the artistic works of Africans that articulate the continent's ancient civilization.

These cultural assets, which showcase the ancient civilization of Africans, disappeared or were not found in their actual present. These heritages were either looted by African colonizers or robbed by the greedy sons and daughters of Africans who wanted to gain some wealth by selling and collecting these materials.

Experts estimate that 80-90% of Africa's cultural heritage can be found in European museums, or, in their storage. The looters display or exhibit these cultural works of Africans in their museums and generate income. The restitution of the cultural heritage of Africa is not a matter of recovering art objects; it aims to preserve and translate our history, values, and culture for future generations. Thus, the restitution of African cultural assets needs the close collaboration of African countries with the countries holding cultural goods.

The importance of enhancing African heritage has increased recently, especially the classical African art works that are still located outside our continent. This enables our culture to shine throughout the world.

Africa is going through a transformative cultural revolution. Increasingly, the creative and cultural industries have become a very soft power in global computation, as art is one of the rapidly growing sectors.

Preserving and fostering an appreciation for cultural heritage entails a concentration on monuments, artistic works, and cultural practices and traditions that mirror the identity of a society or human community.

Read the original article <u>https://press.et/herald/?p=84303</u>

C.3 Morocco: SILEJ - The field of Moroccan publishing lacks figures and statistics

Casablanca — During this conference organized under the theme "Publishing children's books: Revealing figures and facts", the speakers indicated that access to information from the various actors in children's literature remains very difficult, while the Statistics relating to publications intended for young audiences constitute a very useful development indicator for those involved in this field.

Nadia Essalmi, founder of the Moroccan publishing house Yomad, noted that in the book industry, "the statistics are wrong, "the only number we are sure of is the number of books produced, we do not know how many children's books are sold.

One of the reasons for this is the distribution circuit, distributors are not interested in the meager profit they generate from Moroccan books, since Moroccan publishing houses are fighting to lower the price of children's books, in order to to make them available to "small budgets".

The show, which continues until November 22, will bring together no less than 255 exhibitors from 33 countries for more than 100,000 copies of books on display.

Read the original article at <u>https://www.mapnews.ma/fr/actualites/culture/silej-le-domaine-de-l%C3%A9dition-marocaine-manque-de-chiffres-et-statistiques</u>

C.4 Africa: US\$1 billion from Afreximbank for the creative sector

(Cairo) - At the Creative Africa Nexus Summit, a momentous event that marks a new chapter in the history of creativity, innovation and collaboration in Africa, it was also announced that the Afreximbank currently has a reserve of over \$600 million.

An envelope intended for transactions in the fields of cinema, music, visual arts, fashion and sports, ranging from tickets worth \$2 million to transactions well in excess of \$150 million.

A momentum motivated by the fact that Africa and its diaspora are beginning to take their rightful place in the value chain of the global creative and cultural industry.

But, says Ms. Awani, the continent's players are fully aware that they have their work cut out for them if they, as a collective industry, want to exploit and sustain this growth trajectory.

For her, Africa is a continent brimming with artistic brilliance, vibrant cultures and untold stories. "From shimmering Saharan sunsets to the rhythms of bustling cities, there is a rich tapestry of inspiration waiting to be woven into masterpieces that will captivate the world."

Africa is booming in all facets of the creative and cultural industries, including cinema and audiovisual productions, music, arts and crafts, sports, fashion and even culinary arts. Despite this, the continent does not seem to be exploiting the potential of its cultural industry.

To confirm the good trend in the industry, Ms. Awani cited Statisca's 2023 report which states that music streaming revenues in 2022 reached 17.5 billion US dollars worldwide.

Which, according to him, is the highest figure ever recorded and more than six times the 2015 figure, which was \$2.7 billion.

Before notifying that Dataxis predicts that annual revenues from music streaming in Africa will increase from US\$92.9 million in 2021 to US\$314.6 million in 2026.

Source: https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/202311100174.html

C.5 Algeria: Call for creating mechanisms for the development of the cultural economy

Participants in a conference on the economy of culture called for creating appropriate mechanisms to achieve sustainable development objectives based on the economy of culture.

Speaking at an international conference entitled "Mechanisms for activating the cultural economy", researchers and experts in the development of the cultural industry noted the importance of investing in the cultural sector, considered a "generator of wealth" and a "catalyst" for other economic sectors.

The president of the conference, Khaled Rouaski, also rector of the University of Algiers 3, in his speech considered it "imperative to establish a strong cultural economy", inspired by the "successful" experiences of other countries in the field. of the economics of culture.

Algeria, he said, has elements of heritage (tangible and intangible) capable of creating wealth and achieving economic, social and cultural objectives.

The researcher Mahboub Benhamouda, for his part, spoke of the importance of this conference which must be sanctioned by recommendations from experts and researchers on the mechanisms to be put in place for a cultural industry that creates wealth.

Other speakers also addressed themes linked in particular to the impact of the cultural economy and its role in stimulating cultural tourism, the marketing of cultural products as well as pioneering international experiences in the field.

Read the original article at <u>https://www.aps.dz/culture/162421-appel-a-la-mise-en-place-de-mecanismes-pour-le-developpement-de-l-economie-culturelle</u>

C.6 Libya joins convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

November 12, 2023 - Mrs. Mabrouka Toghi, Minister of the Development of Culture and Knowledge of the Government of National Unity since 21 March 2021, has said that Libya's accession to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage aimed at the protection and highlighting Libya's cultural heritage.

She added, during her participation in the 42nd session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), that she hopes that all national efforts will be combined to highlight Libya's cultural role and list all Libyan sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The Ministry of Education for its part announced the submission of Libya's ratification of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage to UNESCO.

During the ceremony, 8 other countries submitted their documents to ratify the Convention to UNESCO covering several fields, including education and cultural heritage.

Source: <u>https://libyaupdate.com/libya-joins-convention-for-the-safeguarding-of-intangible-cultural-heritage/</u>

C.7 Kenya's Pioneering Steps Towards a Thriving Creative Economy

A policy brief on the promotion of creative industries in Kenya was launched at workshop organized by the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO on 26 October 2023.

In a significant stride towards fostering the growth of Kenya's cultural and creative industries, the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO convened a workshop to launch a policy brief entitled "Towards the Promotion of Inclusive, Dynamic Culture and Creative Industries in Kenya." This undertaking follows a series of extensive consultative meetings with a diverse array of stakeholders.

The convening underscores the importance of culture in sustainable development, as enshrined in Article 11 of the Kenyan Constitution, which recognizes culture as "...the foundation of the nation and as the cumulative civilization of the Kenyan people and nation". It also affirms the rising prominence of the creative economy.

Kenya's creative economy is not only a source of jobs, but a beacon of innovation and unity. Let's craft policies that shape a brighter canvas for our nation's culture and creative industries.

In the context of a rapidly expanding digital landscape that fosters the creation and accessibility of creative goods and services, Kenya is committed to establishing a solid and resilient policy and legislative framework to facilitate the sector's prosperity.

Drawing inspiration from the declaration of the Ministers of Culture World Conference — Mondiacult — which affirms culture as a "global public good" and reflects a unanimous global commitment to enhancing public policies in this sector, the participants engaged in discussions centered on the main challenges and opportunities for creating an enabling environment for its growth. This included the imperative for a cohesive policy and legislative framework, robust physical, digital, and financial infrastructure, capacity-building initiatives, training and skills development, and measures to facilitate sustained development.

Sixteen key recommendations were put forward during the forum, aimed at mitigating these challenges. These encompassed the necessity for the government to institute coherent policies and ensure their strategic implementation.

KNATCOM firmly believes that sound cultural policies will enhance the creation of opportunities for decent work, poverty reduction, social resilience, gender equality inclusive education, and well as contribute to solutions to climate change and environmental challenges.

This endeavor entails seeking alignment with the newly formed Ministry of Gender, Culture, the Arts, and Heritage. This alignment will be crucial to addressing the sector's key challenges and implementing policy actions and recommendations intended to unlock its vast potential, under the guidance and approval of the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry in charge of Culture.

Source: <u>https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/kenyas-pioneering-steps-towards-thriving-creative-economy</u>



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

D.1 55 new cities join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network on World Cities Day

Paris, 31 October 2023 – On World Cities Day, 55 cities join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), following their designation by UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. New cities were acknowledged for their strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity as part of their development strategies, and displaying innovative practices in human-centred urban planning. With the latest additions, the Network now counts 350 cities in more than one hundred countries, representing seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music.

The new members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network from Africa are namely are: Asaba (Nigeria)– Film, Bissau (Bissau Guinea)– Music, Ouarzazate (Mauritania)– Film and Umngeni Howick (South Africa)– Crafts and Folk Art.

Newly designated cities will cooperate with Network members to strengthen their resilience the face of evolving threats such as climate change, rising inequality, as well as rapid urbanization, with 68% of the world's population projected to live in urban areas by 2050. They are invited to participate in the 2024 UCCN Annual Conference (1 - 5 July 2024) in Braga, Portugal, under the theme "Bringing Youth to the table for the next decade".

It is worth to mention that the **World Cities Culture Summit (WCCS)** will convene in <u>Dubai</u> next year from 30 October - 1 November 2024. With over 40 member cities worldwide, this forum seeks to underscore the multifaceted impact of culture on global cities, emphasising culture's pivotal role in societal and economic growth and sustainable urban development.

Web site <u>https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/2018-revision-of-world-urbanization-prospects.html</u> Contact: t.mallard@unesco.org

*** D.2 Venice: Capacity-building course on the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

This virtual course is run, from September 2023 to January 2024, as part of UNESCO's global capacity-building programme for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage

Organised by UNESCO through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice) in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Culture, the capacity-building course on the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Italy will equip participants with the skills, knowledge and competencies needed to effectively safeguard living heritage, contributing to the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The aim of the training, which is part of UNESCO's global capacity-building programme for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, is to enhance the knowledge of participants regarding the safeguarding of living heritage.

Web site: <u>https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/capacity-building-course-safeguarding-intangible-cultural-heritage-italy?hub=701</u>

D.3 UNESCO conference on "Challenges for cultural heritage in the 21st century (Naples)

From 27 to 29 November, UNESCO and Italy are organising this international conference in Naples, Italy with theparticipation of dozens of experts and representatives from UNESCO Member States who are expected to discuss the new ways of safeguarding our tangible and intangible heritage, as well as the contemporary challenges related their conservation.

The conference will celebrate heritage in all its forms, building upon the many achievements of the World Heritage Convention - which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022 - and those of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention - which celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2023.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the participation of local and indigenous populations in the creation of safeguarding policies. The conference will culminate in a Call to Action, to be presented on 29 November by Ernesto Ottone, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, alongside representatives from Italy.

Web site: <u>https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/naples-conference-cultural-heritage-21st-century</u> Contact: Lucía Iglesias Kuntz, <u>l.iglesias@unesco.org</u>

D.4 Towards the Inclusion of Culture in "A Pact for the Future": UNESCO Presents Report on Culture and Sustainable Development at the General Assembly

New York: On 6 October 2023, UNESCO presented the report on culture and sustainable development at the Second Committee of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, highlighting the growing momentum in acknowledging culture's agency for sustainable development.

Addressing the Committee, Mr. Eliot Minchenberg, Director of Office and UNESCO Representative to the United Nations in New York, introduced the Report on Culture and Sustainable development which offers a comprehensive review of the implementation of the General Assembly Resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development. He began, highlighting that, for the first time, culture is explicitly integrated as a dedicated commitment within the Political Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, a milestone achievement that underscored culture's profound impact on sustainable development. He also recalled another pivotal moment, UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies – MONDIACULT 2022, where 150 countries endorsed a declaration outlining the roadmap for policy engagement to leverage culture for sustainable development.

Mr. Minchenberg concluded by noting the report's call for positioning culture as a global public good and as a development goal in its own right within the post 2030 agenda. He also highlighted the call for strengthened advocacy for the inclusion of culture in the Summit of the Future, and renewed engagement towards sustainable financing of culture.

Read more at <u>https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/towards-inclusion-culture-pact-future-unesco-presents-report-culture-and-sustainable-development</u>

D.5 International Music Council elects new leadership at Visa For Music

Members of the International Music Council gathered in Rabat (Morocco) for the 40th IMC General Assembly (**Rabat**, 21 to 23 November 2023), elected a new leadership and adopted an ambitious work plan for the next two years.

Dr. Sheila Woodward (South Africa/USA) was elected President." Throughout the past four years, Dr. Woodward has served as Executive Vice-President and has been a driving force within IMC's Executive Board, dedicating herself to advocate for the values of the IMC embedded in the Five Music Rights.

The General Assembly elected a new Executive Board composed by Emily Achieng' Akuno (Kenya), Dorothy Conaghan (Ireland), Mamou Daffé (Mali), Ardavan Jafarian (Iran), Sanni Kahilainen (Finland), Anothai Nitibhon (Thailand), María Claudia Parias (Colombia), Federico Rinaldi (Italy/Belgium) and Roel Vanhoeck (Belgium).

Delegates were able to participate to the 10th anniversary edition of Visa For Music (22-25 November), the unique event bridging Africa with the international music ecosystem to showcase the artistic creation of the continent and boost its industry through showcases, networking opportunities and conferences.

A special moment for the IMC community was the presentation of the 2023 Music Rights Award. This year it was given to the Santuri Electronic Music Academy from Kenya.

Press contact: Davide Grosso - d.grosso@imc-cim.org



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 ***

ALL SOLD

E.2 Selected information from Allafrica

Ethiopian Army Regains Control of Lalibela World Heritage Site After Fano Withdrawal Cape Town - The Ethiopian army has regained control of Lalibela, following a pull-out by a regional armed militants Fano on November 9, 2023 who had overrun much of the historic town on November 8, <u>Al Jazeera</u> reports. Lalibela is home to 13th Century churches registered as Unesco World Heritage sites. Fano, a militia operating in the surrounding Amhara region, is battling the Ethiopian army since it was ordered to disband and <u>reintegrate</u> into the Ethiopian police or army. Forces in Amhara said that Ethiopian government's plan will prevent the region from providing armed resistance to any future threat. This apparently allowed the Ethiopian government to regain control of major towns and cities including Lalibela, which had been seized by Fano. Source: <u>https://allafrica.com/stories/202311090340.html</u>

Seychelles: Zenn Artis Kreolofone - 61 Young Artists Showcase Traditional Fashion

Around 61 young artists from Seychelles are paying homage to traditional fashion in this year's Zenn Artis Kreolofonn (Young Creolophone Artist) competition while the local arts council is seeking to get international participants for next year's edition. The Zenn Artis Kreolofonn is a competition held annually during the Creole Festival to showcase the artistic talents of youngsters aged 14 to 21. "We are currently working to re-introduce the participation of young artists in the region for next year's edition." the arts development officer at the National Arts and Crafts Council (NACC), Norifa Accouche, told SNA.

Source: https://allafrica.com/stories/202310300460.html

SILA 2023: Conference on African thought and self-affirmation in the 21st century

"African thought and self-affirmation in the 21st century", title of the first conference marking the opening of the activities of the African Space at the 26th International Book Fair of Algiers (SILA), was moderated by a panel of African writers and academics, who advocated for the richness and cultural plurality of Africa, as a "factor of unity and autonomous development". Scheduled as part of the 26th SILA, this first conference revealed the cultural richness and diversity of this great continent, the cradle of humanity. Present at this conference, the Minister of Culture and Arts, Soraya Mouloudji, recalled that "Africa, guest of honor of the 26th SILA, was an opportunity to celebrate the grandeur and heritage richness of the African continent,

reiterating the desire of Algeria to continue its efforts to move forward for its unity and development. Source: <u>https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/202310270525.html</u>

Africa: Round table on "cultural and creative industries and restitution of cultural property" Addis Ababa - This round table which was marked by the participation of Ethiopian officials, senior officials of the African Union and the UN system, the diplomatic corps accredited to Addis Ababa and several other personalities, was punctuated by panels covering, among other things, "the place of the restitution of cultural property in the creative industries", "creative industries and restitution of cultural property: what public policies?" and "examples of successful returns: the case of Benin". Source: <u>https://www.francophonie.org/addis-abeba-table-</u>ronde-sur-les-industries-culturelles-et-creatives-et-la-restitution-des-biens



F. Info from newsletters and information services

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

International conferences and events concerning cultural development and policies In the recent period there is plenty of international activity at national government level including concerning cultural policy, incuding

- the <u>42nd session of the UNESCO General Conference</u> (see details under item H.1)
- the World Cities Day (October 31, 2023 (see details under item D.1 above)
- Assembly of the <u>fifth United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Culture Summit</u> in Dublin from 28 November – 1 December 2023. The Summit will discuss the Culture Goal proposal, included in UNESCO's Mondiacult declaration in 2022. The gathering seeks to send a clear message to the international community that culture is integral to sustainable development.

Tunisia: Hearing in the Committee on Tourism, Culture, Services and Handicrafts

10 November 2023 - In her speech, the Minister of Cultural Affairs, Ms Hayet Ketat Guermazi presented during this session the various points of the strategic directions program of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, which is based on the importance of supporting cultural and creative industries as a lever for comprehensive development, dedicating a more developed and attractive infrastructure and cultural facility that balances between the regions, in addition to achieving a more effective disposal of heritage in preservation, preservation, valorization and promotion by continuing studies on the creation of important projects such as the project of the International Center for Calligraphy Arts "Iqraa" and the Regional Center for Underwater Heritage in Mahdia, and working on the registration of New elements of cultural heritage on the World Heritage Lists, as well as the implementation of the programme of mechanisms for cultural and tourism crises. Web site: <u>https://www.culture.gov.tn/?p=155422</u> E-mail: **Contact.culture@mac.gov.tn**

Morocco promotes artists and creators through a new institution created by the State The Moroccan government has decided to establish a new entity to assist national artists and creators, with legal personality and financial independence, as reported by Al-Arab. Among the

functions of this institution are to improve the social and material conditions of this group, to publicly recognise their activity through various activities and events, and to provide them with social services, especially for those in greatest need.

Source: https://www.atalayar.com/en/articulo/culture/morocco-promotes-artists-andcreators/20231024123417192657.html ***

\$100 Million Film City Project Planned In Nigeria To Elevate Creative Sector

In an announcement at the 12th Africa International Film Festival (AFRIFF) press briefing, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Governor of Lagos State, Nigeria's cultural capital, revealed plans for a \$100 million African Film City Project in Epe, a town situated on the eastern edge of the state. Lagos, as one of the fastest-growing cities in the world, plays a pivotal role in shaping the cultural landscape of Nigeria, serving as a hub for various artistic expressions, including music, film, literature, fashion, and visual arts. Source: <u>https://www.forbesafrica.com/current-affairs/2023/10/20/100-million-film-city-project-planned-in-nigeria-to-elevate-creative-sector/</u>

Web site: <u>http://www.ifacca.org</u> Contact: <u>info@ifacca.org</u>

F.2 Africultures

Death of Henri Lopes, writer, former Assistant Director-General of UNESCO and Prime Minister of Congo

The former plenipotentiary ambassador of Congo to France, recognized author, died on November 2, 2023. Politician, diplomat and, above all and always, writer, the Congolese Henri Lopes was born "on the other side of the river", in Léopoldville, in 1937. After schooling between Brazzaville and Bangui, then higher studies in France, between Nantes and Paris, he returned to Brazza in 1965, where he taught at the École Normale Supérieure d'Afrique Centrale. In 1969, the history professor became Minister of Education, then Foreign Affairs (1972), then Finance (1977-1980), after having been Prime Minister (1973-1975). He then served as Deputy Director General for Culture and External Relations of UNESCO for fifteen years, before taking up his duties as Ambassador of the Congo to France (1998-2015). Source: <u>https://www.jeuneafrique.com/mag/1033757/societe/henri-lopes-au-congo-lindependance-faait-peur/ et https://africultures.com/lenfant-de-poto-poto-sen-est-alle/</u>

Web site: https://africultures.com/contact/

F.3 Agenda21culture

Climate Action - A global call to the UNFCCC to include cultural heritage, the arts and creative sectors in climate policy

Artists and cultural voices from across the world are uniting to call for climate negotiators at COP28 UN Climate Conference to put cultural heritage, arts and creative industries at the heart of climate action. The Call stresses: We are asking for a ground-breaking 'Joint Work Decision on Culture and Climate Action', a UN process which would trigger policies and frameworks to enable culture to contribute fully to climate solutions. To strengthen global climate action, we must harness the extraordinary potential of cultural heritage, arts and creative sectors to help people imagine and realise low-carbon, just, climate resilient futures. **If you recognise culture as an indispensable pillar of climate action, sign up to support the campaign, and share it with your networks and communities. Read more at https://www.climateheritage.org/jwd**

Web site: <u>http://www.agenda21culture.net</u> Contact: <u>info@agenda21culture.net</u>

F.4 The Prince Claus Fund

Arab Documentary Photography Open Call

If you are a socially engaged documentary photographer from and working in the Arab region, you may be interested in applying to the 2023 Arab Documentary Photography Program Open Call. Every year, ADPP supports up to 8 photographers with a \$7.000 grant and a mentorship program to work on their documentary photography projects. Over the past nine years, the Arab Documentary Photography Program has been dedicated to supporting unconventional, compelling, non-stereotypical visual documentation of social issues and narratives relevant to the Arab region. The program has proved itself to be a major springboard to emerging Arab photographers, granting access to the needed resources and adequate professional support to initiate and complete compelling documentary photography projects. In addition to the yearly ADPP Open Call, we are introducing the new Arab Documentary Photography Fellowship— a commitment to continue our support for ADPP alumni. That is why the newly established Fellowship aims to provide ADPP alumni with the further support and resources they need while facilitating regional and international exchanges between established and emergent photographers. Source: https://princeclausfund.org/open-calls/open-call-arab-documentaryphotography-program-

2023?utm_source=Prince+Claus+Fund+Newsletter+Masterlist&utm_campaign=058808708d-EMAIL CAMPAIGN 2021 05 17 12 15 COPY 01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0 85 5e0a8b14-058808708d-111637238&mc_cid=058808708d&mc_eid=69dd083c0d

Web site: <u>https://princeclausfund.org</u> Contact: <u>info@princeclausfund.nl</u>

F.5 Cyberkaris Interarts Foundation

Interarts Content Highlights: New A(RT)CTION Toolkit

In the framework of the A(RT)CTION project, a Toolkit has been drafted to provide artists and creatives with the essential resources and tools for adopting green practices in the arts. The Toolkit gathers the conclusions of the focus group sessions developed by each of the project partners in the 4 target countries, and the necessary techniques for artists and creatives to become green entrepreneurs. This Toolkit, divided into two main chapters (*Soft Skills* and *Hard Skills*), provides tips that will help artists navigate the usually difficult road from aspiring artist to successful professional, as well as to stand out as green agents of change. The creative and cultural sectors are thriving in a new direction and perspective that will not only open new opportunities for innovation and professional development, but also lead to more meaningful work and the shaping of a more sustainable future. Access the document at https://www.interarts.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/ARTCTION-Toolkit PR3-Final.pdf

F.6 Artmailer Art Go News (South Africa)

Andani: Africa National Visual Art Survey

The National Visual Arts Survey is South Africa's largest research initiative in the visual arts, and was first undertaken in 2009, resulting in the first major report on the visual arts in 2010. This year, the survey is being undertaken again to assess the changes and developments in the sector since then. The research is being undertaken by the creative economy insights agency Andani. Africa, guided by a reference panel of experts. The survey is for artists, practitioners working in visual arts professions such as curatorship, administration, research etc., as well as businesses and organisations. In order to get in depth data that truly reflect the visual sector as a

whole, the survey asks a wide range of questions, often in significant detail. These questions include educational and demographic information, financial information, experiences of selling art and engagements with galleries, intellectual property and copyright concerns, funding etc. The information will be used to inform recommendations made to the South African government, but will also be shared publicly with the visual arts sector as a whole. In 2010 recommendations included some successful actions such as the establishment of a Visual Arts Task Team, The establishment of the South African National Art Bank, and the inclusion of new intellectual property right regimes for the support of artists such as the Artist Resale Right. More at <u>https://www.visualartsurvey.co.za/</u>



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