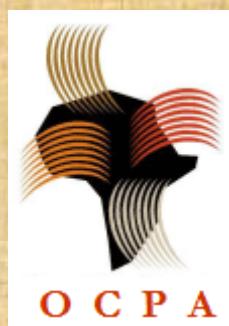


# Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa

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

**No 448**

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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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*Le Mont des Arts, Kinshasa*

*\*\*\**



*\*\*\**

*This issue of the monthly Bulletin has been transformed into a quarterly Bulletin of circumstance due to the death on January 23, announced on January 31, of its editor, Máté Kovacs, whose funeral took place on March 19.*

*A tribute is paid to him in the Editorial of this issue, in anticipation of a tribute ceremony to be organized by his institution, the Observatory of cultural policies in Africa.*

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**XXX**

### **Editorial**

The sudden death of Máté KOVACS is felt by his family, colleagues and friends as a priceless loss. So whatever words may attempt to express on this occasion can never match the grief felt by those closest to him. Affable, attentive and human, he was a clever mind, an enlightened mind, a spirit of rigor, of that very academic rigor which guided his steps, who is gone. In his relationships as in his bearing and approach, but also in his career, notably at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which was the backbone of his international public service.

Máté was a member of the technical team behind some of UNESCO's most memorable international gatherings: the first MONDIACULT in Mexico City in 1982, the Intergovernmental Conference in Stockholm in 1998, and throughout the period between these two major events, which served as a reference and guide for those responsible for cultural policies worldwide, the ten years proclaimed by the United Nations as the "World Decade for Cultural Development".

In addition, during the implementation of the Decade's activities, we focused on identifying and supporting the Continent's human resources, making a significant contribution to building their capacities, particularly in the highly prized field of cultural development.

An attentive observer of the history of cultural policies in Africa will easily be able to identify its action in the particular fields of each of the programs followed in what were the Institut Culturel Africain (ICA), the Centre régional de l'action culturelle, the CRAC and the Collège Itinérant.

When it comes to his contribution to a broader and more contemporary history and space, OCPA, the Observatory of cultural policies in Africa, the testimony is even more eloquent.

Máté KOVACS was the first Director of the structure when it was set up, providing technical support in the preparation of the basic texts, taking part in the initial negotiations and organizing regional seminars on the theme of cultural policies in Africa and the economic dimension of the cultural and creative industries.

But above all, as editor of the OCPA Newsletter, OCPA News, he has endowed our House with an effective instrument that has become its calling card. OCPA News enables OCPA to follow and share initiatives, fuel reflection and influence the evolution of cultural policies in Africa.

Firmly backed by its initiators and committed players, and reassured by the support of its sponsors, UNESCO and the African Union, OCPA News has become an essential tool for the development of cultural policies in Africa.

Firmly supported by its initiators and those involved in the project, and reassured by the support of its sponsors, UNESCO and the African Union, the OCPA knows that from now on it has a duty to safeguard and protect its elders, to protect a founding heritage to which Máté KOVACS has made a major contribution, and to which we bow.

Maputo, March 19, 2025  
Lupwishi Mbuyamba



## **H. Headlines**

### **H.1 UNESCO: The 43rd UNESCO General Conference will be held in November 2025 in Samarkand (Uzbekistan)**

On the occasion of this session, which will see the election of a new Director-General of UNESCO, a first African candidacy, that of Mr. Firmin Édouard MATOKO of the Republic of Congo Brazzaville and currently ADG for Cooperation, has been registered.

### **H.2 UNESCO: Ceremony to announce the commemoration of the World Day for African and Afro-descendant Culture**

On January 22, 2025, at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, the ceremony to announce the commemoration of the World Day for African and Afro-descendant Culture (WDACC), instituted by UNESCO in 2019 on the initiative of the Togolese government and the NGO RAPEC and its president John DOSSAVI, will take place. JMCA is celebrated worldwide on January 24 of each year, the date corresponding to the adoption of the Charter of the African Cultural Renaissance.

Source:<https://www.uciga.org/news/commemoration-de-la-journee-mondiale-de-la-culture-africaine-et-afrrodescendante-jmca-2025/>

### **H.3 Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on the 2005 Convention**

The eighteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions was held at UNESCO headquarters from February 11 to 14, 2025.

During this session, the Committee examined the recommendations drawn up by the reflection group on the diversity of cultural expressions in the digital environment, as well as the recommendations prepared by the intergovernmental reflection group on the implementation of Article 16 “Preferential treatment for developing countries”.

Source:<https://www.unesco.org/creativity/fr/statutory-meeting/eighteenth-session-intergovernmental-committee>

## **A. News from the Secretariat**

### **A.1 Activities of the Executive Director and Deputy Research Coordinator**

The working month of January, already shortened by the long vacation period in the southern region of the continent, was shortened by the sad news mentioned above. The remainder of the period under review for this newsletter was marked by meetings at Headquarters, missions to the region and professional exchanges and meetings.

a). During January, the Executive Director of OCPA took part online, from the UNESCO office in Kinshasa on January 22 and 23, in the African Regional Consultation in preparation for the UNESCO MONDIACULT of September 2025 scheduled to take place in Barcelona, Spain.

b) The Deputy Research Coordinator, Mr. Hamadou MANDÉ, represented OCPA at the 21st Festival sur le Niger, held annually in early February in Ségou. This year's event was of particular political, economic and cultural importance, especially for AES member countries in West Africa and the Sahel region.

c) He also took part in the 29th edition of FESPACO held from February 22 to March 1, 2025 in Ouagadougou, in two round tables organized by the Centre Régional pour les Arts Vivants en Afrique (CERAV/Afrique) and the African Cultural Fund (ACF), and in a Master Class given by the Institut Koré des Arts et Métiers (IKAM) and the Espace Culturel Gambidi.

d) In mid-February, at the invitation of Sweden's SELAM, Mr. Lupwishi MBUYAMBA took part in the 2nd Summit of PANAF, a network supporting freedom of expression, held on the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar.

e) At the invitation of Maputo's Portuguese Cultural Centre, the Camões Institute, he took part in February in the opening of the "FICO A VER O LA DAQUI" exhibition, featuring works of plastic art by Jorge Dias, known for his impetus to Mozambique's contemporary art movement since his return from the Rio de Janeiro School of Art.

f) On March 12, a technical meeting was held with the artist Henrique MACUACUA, with, on the agenda, the preparation of Africa Week 2025, which will be celebrated with an intense cultural and artistic program in Mozambique from May 25 to 30.

g) Finally, the OCPA has been asked to accompany the celebration of the Journée de la Francophonie in Maputo on March 20, and in particular to take part in the Round Table expected to be held on the theme of "La dynamique de la francophonie au Mozambique sur les plans politique, économique et culturel".

h) But the day before, on March 19, the OCPA secretariat was in communion with the deceased's biological family as Maté KOVACS, an eminent member of the Staff, was laid to rest in Budapest Cemetery, Hungary.  
i) The OCPA Director has had repeated exchanges with Mr. Marc VERRIÈRES, President and Founder of the historic renaissance of the "Olympic Arts", whose Charter was signed in July 1995 by 65 countries at UNESCO. The year 2025 will mark the 30th anniversary of this "renaissance".

In order to publicize the celebration of the Olympic arts and to prepare with dignity for the organization of the first modern Olympiad to be held in 2027, the Movement's central structure proposed to the OCPA that an African regional office be set up to prepare African artists without delay for their participation in the 18 selected disciplines, starting with the creation of national committees in various countries of the Continent.

## **A.2 News from RICADIA (Network of Cultural Institutions in Africa and the Diaspora)**

Activities and initiatives by RICADIA members during the period included:

- a) CBAAC: CBAAC held a literature festival in Abuja in January, during which Prof. Lupwishi MBUYAMBA delivered a message of welcome to participants on behalf of OCPA and RICADIA.
- b) CERDOTOLA: CERDOTOLA presented its international journal of science, culture and heritage, "La Nouvelle pensée Africaine", at the Salon du Livre Africain in Paris on March 14, 15 and 16, 2025.
- c) SILANG: SILANG announced the organization of its 6th Edition, scheduled to take place at the Joseph Ki-zerbo University in Ouagadougou in November 2025. OCPA and RICADIA will help coordinate this activity.
- d) FESPAM: FESPAM is actively preparing the 2025 edition of its Symposium, scheduled for July in Brazzaville. OCPA and RICADIA are contributing to the mobilization of experts for this purpose.
- e) GKAC: The Groupe Korè des Arts et de la Culture, under the impetus of its founder, the Minister in charge of Culture of the Republic of Mali, Mr. Mamou DAFFÉ, has coordinated the event. Mamou DAFFÉ, has coordinated a number of important initiatives, including the 21st edition of the Ségou'Art festival on the Niger, the holding of the États généraux de la culture and the initiative to launch a common AES cultural policy adopted by the three member countries of the confederation.
- f) ACALAN: On January 22, 2025, the African Academy of Languages launched the 4th edition of African Language Week. Its Executive Secretary Dr Lang Fafa DAMPHA gave an overview of this celebration.

Source: <https://www.ceoafrica.com/newsdetails.php?tabnews=106188>

## **A. 3 News from other partners**

a) UNESCO: UNESCO invited OCPA to take part on January 22 and 23 in the African Regional Consultation in preparation for the 3rd World Conference on Cultural Policies, to be held in Barcelona, Spain, from September 29 to October 1, 2025. OCPA was represented by its Executive Director, Mr. Lupwishi MBUYAMBA. The consultation was chaired via teleconference by the Kenyan government, with technical support from UNESCO's Nairobi-based Regional Office for East Africa.

b) AU: The African Union has invited OCPA to contribute to the 2025 theme of "Reparations". The OCPA plans to organize a Round Table of experts on this subject during the 4th quarter of 2025.

c) Indian Ocean Commission: As part of the Indian Ocean Commission project financed by the Agence Française pour le Développement, for which the OCPA is one of the 3 members of the Consortium for its implementation, a contract was signed in February, stipulating that the Observatory will take special responsibility for lobbying the public authorities on behalf of the cultural and creative industries.

d) FESNAG: The Festival Pende de Gungu in the Democratic Republic of Congo is preparing to celebrate its 100th anniversary. Its Director, Mr. Célestin FASO, has requested OCPA's expertise in the conception and technical organization of an international scientific symposium on the contribution of the arts to the affirmation of African identity and cultural unity.

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

### **B.1 Burkina Faso: 29th FESPACO**

At an opening ceremony punctuated by speeches and dance performances, the President of Faso, Captain Ibrahim TRAORÉ, and his counterpart from the Republic of Chad, Marshal Mahamat Idriss DEBY Itno, kicked off the festival of African cinema. The theme of the event is "African Cinemas and Cultural Identities". The 29th edition of FESPACO saw the inauguration of the Rue des étoiles. A total of 140 personalities from Burkina Faso and around the world were honored in the "Rue des étoiles" on Avenue Kwame-Nkrumah. The

steles of these honorees were unveiled on Saturday February 22, 2025. At the unveiling ceremony, Maurice KONATÉ, President of the Special Delegation of the Ouagadougou Commune, noted that the event marked a significant step forward in the valorization of cultural and historical heritage. For him, the “Rue des Étoiles” is much more than a simple urban project, it is a reflection of our collective memory. It is a tribute to 116 Burkinabè and 24 figures of other nationalities who, through their talent, courage and dedication, have left their indelible mark on world history,” he added.

a) The International African Film Market (MICA)

The MICA officially opened its doors in Ouagadougou on Sunday February 23, 2025, in the presence of Burkina Faso's Ministers of Culture and Trade and their counterparts from Mali, Niger, Togo, Senegal and Chad. FESPACO PRO, a privileged framework for exchanges and promotion of African cinema and audiovisual, is an essential platform for all the different players.

Source: <https://kulturekibare.com/2025/02/23/fespaco-2025-le-mica-est-ouvert/>

a) Tribute to Ousmane SEMBÈNE

The non-governmental organization (NGO) Dialogue sans frontières, the Pan-African Federation of Filmmakers (FEPACI) and the Ouagadougou Pan-African Film and Television Festival (FESPACO) have organized, on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at the Azalai Hôtel in Ouagadougou, a high-level workshop on the pan-African legacy of Ousmane SEMBÈNE, which proposes a rethinking of the archive, and a renewed understanding of the past through a cross-fertilization of perspectives. The history of Africans must be told by Africans, to remain faithful to reality and the facts.

Source: [https://www.artistesbf.org/fespaco-2025-hommage-aux-anciens-combattants/#google\\_vignette](https://www.artistesbf.org/fespaco-2025-hommage-aux-anciens-combattants/#google_vignette)

c) 29th FESPACO international symposium

“Cinemas of Africa and cultural identities”, the theme of the 29th edition of FESPACO, was the subject of an international scientific symposium that brought together a number of academics, film and media professionals in Ouagadougou from February 24 to 25, 2025.

Source: <https://oxygensemag.info/2025/02/25/fespaco-2025-ouverture-officielle-du-colloque-international/>

d) CERAV/Afrique technical and financial partners' round table

The 29th edition of FESPACO was an opportunity for the Centre Régional pour les Arts Vivants en Afrique (CERAV/Afrique), a UNESCO Category 2 Center based in Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso), to exchange views with the technical and financial partners (PTFs) present in Ouagadougou around a round table. The objectives of the CERAV/Africa technical and financial partners' round table were to: Present the issues, challenges, orientations and projects of CERAV/Africa; Encourage the interest and support of technical and financial partners for CERAV/Africa's programs and concerns, by identifying opportunities for collaboration and partnerships; Strengthen the visibility, roots and partnership network of CERAV/Africa; Gather the assessments and recommendations of technical and financial partners with a view to better positioning the Center on a regional scale.

The Round Table took place on Monday February 24, 2025 in the FESPACO Pro conference room. It was attended by Mr Gilbert Pindgwendé OUEDRAOGO, Minister of Communication, Culture, Arts and Tourism, spokesman for the Government of Burkina Faso, under the patronage of His Excellency Mr Youssef SLAOUI, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Burkina Faso. Mr. Ousmane BANGRE, Director of Planning, Studies and Training at CERAV/Afrique, presented the institution's achievements and prospects for sustainable financing. Dr Hamadou MANDE, CERAV/Afrique and OCPA expert, former Director representing the Africa Regional Council of the International Theatre Institute (CRA/IIT) on the CERAV/Afrique Board of Directors, moderated the proceedings.

Source: <https://www.infomobileuzandoma.net/2025/02/25/fespaco-2025-cerav-afrigue-tient-une-table-ronde-des-ptf-en-vue-de-mobiliser-des-ressources-financieres/>

e) African Cultural Fund (ACF) round table: Towards innovative African solutions for financing CCIs.

During FESPACO 2025, the African Cultural Fund (ACF) organized a round table on innovative financing mechanisms for the cultural and creative industries (CCI) in Africa. The event, held on February 24, 2025 at the Yennenga Connexion marquee (Burkina Faso), brought together experts and leading figures from the cultural sector to discuss the challenges of accessing financing and strategies to strengthen the sector's resilience and autonomy. Mr. Mohamed DOUMBIA, Executive Director of the ACF Fund, opened the discussion by highlighting the impact of the health crisis on the cultural sector, making access to financing more difficult. He emphasized the importance of CCIs as an engine of entrepreneurship for young people and

women, generating jobs and wealth. Mr. Abdoulaye KONATÉ, co-founder of the Fund, recalled that it was born of the contribution of the artists themselves, who chose to donate their works to feed the fund, thus mobilizing several billion. Soura YAYA, a specialist in cultural management, presented the fund-raising strategies implemented in Burkina Faso, which are beginning to inspire other countries in the sub-region. Irène TASSEMBEDO, choreographer and head of a dance structure, shared her experience of funding difficulties, pointing out that existing mechanisms are often difficult to access. Donipko KONÉ, UEMOA representative, asserted that the cultural sector is not lacking in financial resources, but that players need to structure themselves better to take advantage of them.

Source: <https://cpccaf.org/fespaco-2025-vers-des-solutions-africaines-innovantes-pour-le-financement-des-icc/>

#### f) Dani KOUYATE crowned Étalon d'or de Yennenga

On March 1<sup>er</sup>, 2025, Burkinabe director Dani KOUYATÉ was honored with the Étalon d'or de Yennenga at the 29<sup>e</sup> edition of FESPACO. His film, Katanga ou la danse des scorpions, an adaptation of William Shakespeare's tragedy Macbeth transposed to an African context and shot in Mooré, won over the jury with its narrative depth and cultural roots. This is the third Étalon d'Or for Burkina Faso, 28 years after Gaston KABORÉ's last in 1997 with Buud Yam. Katanga ou la danse des scorpions explores the twists and turns of power through the story of Katanga, a military leader who, after betraying and murdering his king, seizes the throne and descends into a spiral of violence and paranoia. The film also won several other awards, including the Audience Award with an average score of 9.18/10, the Sembène Ousmane Award from the Ecobank Foundation, the Special Award from the Fonds de Développement Culturel et Touristique (FDCT), the UEMOA Special Award for Feature Fiction and the Paulin Soumanou Vieyra African Critics' Award.

The resounding success of Dani KOUYATÉ and his work testifies to the vitality and richness of African cinema, which continues to shine on the international scene. With a brilliantly successful 29th edition, FESPACO confirms its status as a showcase for cinema.

Source: <https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article136448>

#### B.2 13th Edition of FIDO

The 13th edition of the Ouagadougou International Dance Festival (FIDO) was held from January 18 to 25, 2025. According to FIDO promoter Irène TASSEMBEDO, some thirty dance companies took part, including traditional, contemporary and urban dances. These included companies from Burkina Faso, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Italy, Niger, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Slovenia. The guest companies took part in various festival events, including master classes, workshops, professional meetings and conferences.

Source: [https://vk.com/wall-216965535\\_95976](https://vk.com/wall-216965535_95976)

#### B.3 Mali: Launch of the General States of the Culture, Tourism, and Handicrafts Sectors

The launch of the General States of the Culture, Tourism, and Handicrafts Sectors were launched on Thursday January 9, 2025. This event, which ended on Saturday January 11 in Bamako, is part of the decision by the President of the Transition, Army General Assimi GOITA, to dedicate the year 2025 to culture. This ambitious project aims to build a "Mali Kura", a new Mali, by transmitting fundamental Malian values to future generations, while restructuring the cultural sectors to make them drivers of economic and social development. The general objective was to open an inclusive and participatory national debate with all stakeholders, in order to take stock of the three problematic sectors: major constraints, conditions for revival, proposals for sustainable solutions, and to put forward relevant recommendations for development. Proposals were made by all the commissions at the end of the work coordinated and led by coordinator Salia MALLÉ and moderator Samba NIARÉ.

Source: <https://africa24tv.com/mali-lancement-des-etats-generaux-des-secteurs-de-la-culture-du-tourisme-et-de-lartisanat>

#### B.4 Holding of the 21st edition of SÉGOU'ART Festival on the Niger and the 1st edition of the AES Fraternity Week

The opening ceremony of the 21st edition of SÉGOU'ART Festival on the Niger coupled with the launch of the 1st edition of the National Fraternity Week of the Confederation of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) took place on Tuesday February 04, 2025. These two events were held respectively under the theme: "Cultural

diversity, peace and unity” and “Three sovereign states, one common vision, one common destiny”. These two key events on the 2025 agenda were attended by a large delegation from Burkina Faso, the guest country of honor.

A number of activities were scheduled as part of the AES's Fraternity Week, an event designed to promote the integration of the region's peoples, and its cultural and artistic heritage. On the morning of January 04, 2025, the Ministers of Culture and Crafts of the three countries of the Confederation of Sahel States signed two important documents at the Koré Cultural Center in Ségou: a memorandum of understanding on the adoption of the Common Cultural Policy, and a memorandum of understanding on the common strategy for the development of crafts.

The Ségou colloquium on the theme “La construction d'un État confédéral au Sahel : enjeux et perspectives” was held under the chairmanship of His Excellency Abdoulaye DIOP, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Mali. It featured a presentation by Dr Hamadou MANDE of Joseph Ki-Zerbo University and OCPA.

Source:<https://www.unesco.org/fr/articles/lunesco-louverture-de-la-21-edition-de-segouart-festival-sur-le-niger-edition-2025>

## **B. 5 Death of Malian filmmaker Souleymane CISSÉ**

The death of Malian filmmaker Souleymane CISSÉ has left the world of the 7th art in mourning. While he was expected in Ouagadougou to preside over the jury for feature-length fiction films at the 29th edition of FESPACO from February 22 to March 1, Souleymane CISSÉ passed away on February 20 at the age of 84. The news saddened cinema professionals. According to his colleagues in Burkina Faso, he was considered a baobab and a role model in the world of cinema. Souleymane CISSÉ was a great director who guided many African filmmakers.

Source: <https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article136264>

## **B. 6 Rentrée littéraire du Mali 2025 under the theme “l'Afrique des jeunes”**

From February 18 to 22, the Malian capital was the scene of fruitful discussions on books. These enlightened exchanges took place under the theme “Africa of the Young”. Once again, the event provided an opportunity for the general public and writers, academics, researchers and artists from all over the world to celebrate “books, words and ideas” for five days.

This year's event welcomed 100 writers and researchers, including 40 international guests from five continents. With an estimated audience of 50,000 young people, it provided an unprecedented platform for exchange and engagement. At the closing ceremony on February 22, several prizes were awarded. Kabiné Bemba DIAKITE was awarded the Massa Makan Diabaté prize, for his work “La haine dans la forge”, published by Éditions Tombouctou.

Source: <https://analysedelasemaine.com/la-rentree-litteraire-du-mali-clap-de-fin-sur-une-note-doptimisme/>

## **B.7 Morocco**

### **a) The Marrakech African Book Festival**

The Marrakech African Book Festival (FLAM) 2025 places women at the heart of cultural and even political reflection. The third edition of the Marrakech African Book Festival (FLAM) took place in Marrakech, Morocco from January 30 to February 2, 2025. This literary and artistic event, organized by the WE ART AFRICA association, brought together African writers and thinkers of local and international renown. The event also featured book signings, interviews and debates, with a particular focus on the female presence on the African cultural and literary scene.

The opening of this third edition of the event focused on the central theme of women, and the spotlight on African women's voices, with an inaugural round table discussion on the role of women in transforming society, featuring personalities from the intellectual sphere such as Christine TAUBIRA and Najat VALLAUD-BELKACEM. The latter gave an inspiring speech on the difficulties encountered by women in the political sphere, particularly in the decision-making process, or in the face of cyclical and structural crises.

Source:<https://cafrad.io/la-troisieme-edition-du-festival-du-livre-africain-de-marrakech-flam-place-la-femme-au-coeur-de-la-reflexion-culturelle-et-meme-politique/>

### **b) The 1-54 Marrakech Contemporary Art Fair celebrates African art under the Moroccan sky**

The sixth edition of the 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair was held in Marrakech from January 30 to February 2, 2025, confirming its status as a must-attend event for lovers and professionals of contemporary

African art. Spread between the emblematic La Mamounia hotel and the DaDa multidisciplinary art space in the heart of the Medina, the event brought together over 30 galleries from 15 countries, including a strong African representation. The event enabled collectors, curators and art lovers to discover an exceptional wealth of works by emerging and established artists.

Among the works exhibited, textile installations, vibrant paintings and conceptual sculptures made a lasting impression. Of particular note were the abstract creations of Ousmane BÂ, the enchanted world of Rahma LHOUSSIG, and the textile pieces of Abdoulaye KONATÉ. Founded in 2013 by Touria El GLAOUI, 1-54 (referring to the 54 countries of the African continent) has become the first internationally recognized art fair dedicated exclusively to African and diaspora artists. A visionary, Touria El GLAOUI has established 1-54 as an essential platform, contributing to the growth of the African art market. In particular, to the recognition of its talents worldwide.

An edition marked by major acquisitions: This year, London's Tate Modern marked the event by acquiring "Blank Stare" (2021). A work by Ghanaian painter Amoako BOAFO, whose work explores the representation of black bodies through bold pictorial techniques. This acquisition was made possible by the Catalyst Fund of Tate's Africa Acquisition Committee, in partnership with 1-54 and Gallery 1957. This is not a first for Tate: since the creation of its Africa Acquisition Committee in 2011. The museum has integrated more than 58 works by 42 African artists into its permanent collection. This is part of an ongoing effort to diversify global artistic narratives and offer greater visibility to artists from the continent.

Source: <https://www.ellecotedivoire.com/1-54-marrakech-celebre-lart-africain-sous-le-ciel-marocain/>

## **B. 8 Benin**

### **a) Festival International des Arts du Bénin (FInAB) in Cotonou**

The third edition of the Festival International des Arts du Bénin (FInAB), aimed at promoting culture and the arts as engines of development for the African continent in general and Benin in particular, was held from February 21 to March 2, 2025. Under the theme "Weaving links: African storytelling through art", the event took place simultaneously in three cities in southern Benin, namely Cotonou, Porto-Novo and Ouidah. Speaking at the ceremony to launch the event's activities, festival promoter Ulrich ADJOVI noted that this geographical expansion aims to highlight the unique cultural heritage of each region, while boosting the local tourism sector. "By anchoring the festival in several cities, we are strengthening the links between artists and communities. Art is a vehicle for transformation", he asserted. The 2025 edition of this event offers a program ranging from contemporary art exhibitions to concerts, dance performances, film screenings and meetings.

As part of this edition, a panel discussion was held on Wednesday February 26, 2025 at the EYA Centre in Cotonou on the theme: Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) are positioning themselves as a key driver for the Beninese economy. Bringing together influential figures from the cultural world, this panel explored the challenges and opportunities of the CCI in the Beninese context. The panel highlighted the potential of CCIs as a vector of economic growth and sustainable development for Benin, while underlining the importance of close collaboration between cultural players, institutions and the government.

Source: [http://french.china.org.cn/foreign/txt/2025-02/22/content\\_117727741.htm](http://french.china.org.cn/foreign/txt/2025-02/22/content_117727741.htm)

### **b) Vodun Days Festival: Ouidah in trance!**

The historic city of Ouidah vibrated to the rhythm of Vodun cults on January 9 and 11, 2025, with the 2nd edition of the Vodun Days Festival, combining ceremonies, music and traditional shows. Following the resounding success of the first edition, which drew over 100,000 participants, Ouidah vibrated for three days of rare intensity, under the banner of spirituality and the transmission of ancestral knowledge. The Vodun Days festival returns with an even richer and bolder program, celebrating the diversity and vitality of Benin's traditions.

From January 9 onwards, the city comes alive with cultural events, culminating in a grand opening concert on the beach. The summit meeting between the West Indian group Kassav' and the Togolese stars of Toofan promises a moment of intense musical communion, happily blending Caribbean and African sounds. January 10 marks the climax of the festivities with the grand Vodun ceremony, a high point dedicated to the deities Kooro, Thron and Nana Yosi. Sacred rituals, traditional dances and artistic performances follow one another for a day of contemplation and celebration. The Beninese ballet and its Brazilian counterpart, the Balé Folclórico da Bahia, will put on a breathtaking show, testifying to the unbreakable ties that unite the two cultures. For this year's edition, the organizers have placed particular emphasis on the educational dimension of the event. Specially-trained cultural guides will offer guided tours in several languages, enabling festival-goers to discover Ouidah's sacred sites and understand the deeper meaning of the rituals. Introductory

workshops in traditional dance and percussion will also be offered, providing a complete immersion in the fascinating world of Vodun cultures.

The festival takes in the city's emblematic sites, from Place Maro to the Esplanade du Fort Français, via the Temple des Pythons and the Sacred Forest of Kpassè. A village dedicated to local crafts and gastronomy will enable visitors to discover traditional know-how and sample Benin's culinary delights. To protect the environment, the organizers have set up a waste sorting system, encouraged the use of recyclable materials and raised public awareness of ecological issues. Free shuttles will link the various festival sites, encouraging environmentally-friendly travel and limiting the event's carbon footprint.

Source: <https://www.gouv.bj/article/2945/vodun-days-2025-zangbeto-demonstration-esplanade-fort-francais-lieu-charge-histoire/>

### **B.9 Senegal: Dakar Music Expo (DMX) held its 6th edition in Dakar, showcasing jazz and world music**

African jazz opens up to the world with Dakar Music Expo (DMX): panels, workshops and concerts by jazz groups and artists from Africa and around the world. Now in its sixth year, the Dakar Music Expo (DMX) brought together jazz musicians from the continent and around the world. Held at the French Institute in the capital, Dakar, from February 20 to 23, the event brought together young African jazz artists, music industry professionals, producers, managers and festival organizers. Panels and workshops were held during the day, and concerts by jazz bands and artists from Africa and around the world were presented to the public in the evening. Bands and artists from Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Guinea, Republic of Congo, Mali, Burkina Faso, France, USA, Austria, Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland took part in this year's DMX. DMX organizer Dudu SARR is also the manager of world-famous Senegalese musician Youssou NDOUR.

Source: <https://www.aa.com.tr/fr/afrique/s%C3%A9n%C3%A9gal-le-jazz-africain-souvre-au-monde-avec-dakar-music-expo-dmx/3492960>

### **B.10 Cameroon hosts the 11th edition of the Yarha Festival in Yaoundé**

The 11th edition of the International First Film Festival "Yarha Festival" was held from January 19 to 26 under the theme: "The Future of Cinema in Africa in the Age of AI". The Yarha film festival, which is an international platform for promoting cinematographic works, concluded in Cameroon, with new ambassadors of culture for the year 2025. This 11th edition allowed the recognition of many actors with trophies for African talents, especially Cameroonian ones, who stood out on the cinematic scene, making them ambassadors of culture for the year 2025. According to the promoter of the Yarha festival, Sylvie NWET, the 2025 edition of Yarha was a moment rich in teachings, opportunities, but also rich in joy of living. Among the many people awarded was Burkinabé director Salam ZAMPALIGRÉ, who received the award for Best Documentary Film with his documentary titled "The Taxi, Cinema, and Me," a production already awarded in the same category in Cameroon in 2023 at the Écrans Noirs festival. Achraf AJRAOUI, for his part, received the trophy for Best Short Film with "The Mermaid is Getting Married." Beninese-born screenwriter Simon MOUTAÏROU distinguished himself in the "International Feature Film" category by winning the Yarha Gold Award for Best First International Film with the work "No Chains, No Masters." In total, 13 categories were selected for the competition this year.

Source: <https://africa24tv.com/cameroun-salam-zampaligre-designe-meilleur-documentaire-au-festival-yarha>

### **B.11 Egypt: 56th edition of the Cairo International Book Fair, theme "Read at the beginning"**

Strong participation and a joyful atmosphere at the opening of the 56th Cairo International Book Fair – Egypt. The 56th edition of the Cairo International Book Fair welcomed the public in an atmosphere filled with enthusiasm and joy. The first hours of the fair saw remarkable participation from various age groups, eager to explore the literary treasures on display. Organized this year under the theme "Read... In the beginning was the word," the fair presents a mix of local and international publishers showcasing a wide range of books in various fields, including literature, history, personal development, and science. The event is further enriched by cultural activities and workshops suitable for all ages, attracting both families and students. Don't worry if you miss the book in the first week. The fair will run until February 5 and hosts a variety of cultural and artistic events featuring prominent Egyptian, Arab, and international authors and intellectuals. This year, 1,345 publishers and official entities from Egypt, the Arab world, and beyond, representing 80 countries, will participate, along with 6,150 exhibitors, highlighting the global strength and importance of the fair. Oman is the guest of honor for this year's edition, while Romania and Qatar are expected to take on this role in the upcoming 57th and 58th editions, respectively. This reflects the commitment to fostering cultural dialogue

with nations worldwide. The Cairo International Book Fair, one of the largest fairs in the Middle East, began in 1969 during the millennium celebrations of Cairo and has since evolved to attract millions of people each year. The previous edition hosted more than 550 events and 5,250 exhibitors, attracting around 4.8 million visitors.

Source: <https://journalafrigue.com/photos-forte-participation-et-ambiance-joyeuse-a-louverture-de-la-56e-foire-internationale-du-livre-du-caire-egypte/43428/>

## **B.12 South Africa: Tributes to South African theater legend Athol FUGARD**

Athol Fugard, internationally renowned South African playwright, novelist, director, and actor, passed away at the age of 92, leaving behind a considerable artistic legacy.

Among his international works are Blood Knot (1961), Boesman and Lena (1969), Sizwe Banzi is Dead (1972), The Island (1972), the Oscar-winning film Tsotsi (1980), and The Road to Mecca (1984).

He received the Order of Ikhamanga (Silver) in 2004, and a theatre bearing his name was inaugurated in the District 6 of Cape Town in 2010. President Cyril RAMAPHOSA described him as “an extraordinary storyteller in an extraordinary time and the moral conscience of a generation.”

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

## **C. News concerning politics, institutions, and cultural resources in Africa**

### **C.1 Ethiopia: Election of the President of the African Union Commission**

H.E. Mahmoud Ali YOUSOUUF, H.E. Ambassador Selma Malika HADDADI, and 4 commissioners elected to supreme positions during the African Union Commission elections. H.E. Mahmoud Ali YOUSOUUF (Djibouti, Eastern Region) was elected President of the African Union Commission. He will be assisted by Vice-President H.E. Mrs. Selma Malika HADDADI (Algeria, Northern Region), for a four-year term, renewable once. The two leaders were elected and sworn in during the 38th Ordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government held on February 15 and 16, 2025. The two elected officials received the required two-thirds majority of votes from the 49 member states with voting rights. Six (06) member states of the AU are under sanctions and are not eligible. H.E. Mahmoud, aged 60, will succeed the outgoing President, H.E. Moussa Faki MAHAMAT (Chad, Central Region), who has served two consecutive terms since 2017. H.E. Mahmoud is the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Djibouti and has previously held positions such as President of the Arab League Council of Ministers and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), among other key roles. He competed against H.E. Raila Amolo ODINGA, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya, and H.E. Mr. Richard RANDRIAMANDRATO, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar. The AU President is the head of the executive, the legal representative of the AU, and the head of the Commission's accounting. The president is elected by the Conference for a four-year term, renewable once. The duties of the president include, among others, overall responsibility for the administration and finances of the Commission; promoting and disseminating the objectives of the AU and enhancing its performance; consulting and coordinating with key stakeholders such as member states, regional economic communities, development partners, CERs, and other stakeholders; appointing and managing the Commission's staff; and serving as the depositary of all treaties and legal instruments of the African Union and the Organization of African Unity.

Source:<https://au.int/sites/default/files/pressreleases/44499-pr->

[ELECTIONS CP DCP COMMISSIONERS PR FRENCH.pdf](#)

### **C.2 Gabon: National consultations at the Ministry of Culture and Arts for the development of the CEMAC cultural strategy and plan**

The Ministry of Culture and Arts hosted a training seminar on Thursday, February 27, 2025, related to national consultation days. The Secretary-General of the ministry, in place of the minister, opened the work of these days in the presence of representatives of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC), UNESCO, and cultural actors.

The national consultations bore fruit. The seminar held at the Gabonese Ministry of Culture and Arts allowed participants and experts to exchange on the matter. The Secretary-General of the ministry, in the absence of the minister, explained that this consultation day is part of the follow-up to the World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development. It is also part of the launch for the development of the CEMAC cultural strategy.

The goal of the national consultations, it should be emphasized, is to gather information, proposals, and ideas from all stakeholders who can contribute to the development of the CEMAC cultural strategy and its action plan. The CEMAC cultural strategy and its action plan aim to be tools for promoting regional cooperation and integration in cultural development among the member states of CEMAC.

The goal is also to equip the six member states—Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Central African Republic, and Chad—with a strategic tool for promoting cooperation and regional integration in cultural development. This sub-regional tool will help meet the cultural stakeholders' expectations regarding cultural promotion, protection, development of training, and cultural strengthening. The engagement of CEMAC is commendable.

Source:<https://www.gabonews.com/fr/actus/arts-culture/article/des-consultations-nationales-au-ministere-de-la>

### **C.3 Strategic study on the Creative Industries sector by AFD**

Africa: The cultural industries, a sector with high economic value. Every year, cultural and creative industries generate approximately \$45 billion on the African continent, according to a study conducted by the French Development Agency (AFD) in collaboration with the consulting firm Bearing Point. This report highlights the economic weight of the sector while emphasizing the challenges related to formalizing jobs and protecting copyright. The study aims to assess the contribution of the cultural and creative industries (CCI) to the African economy, particularly in terms of revenue, employment, and the integration of the informal sector. The results are impressive: \$45.3 billion in revenue annually on average and nearly 16 million jobs created across the continent. The main activities involved are music, cinema, performing arts, and fashion, which constitute major pillars of the African cultural industry. Sub-Saharan Africa leads the way: Sub-Saharan Africa is the most dynamic region on the continent, with \$30.36 billion in revenue and 15.1 million jobs. South Africa stands out as the top-performing country, generating \$10 billion and employing 1 million people. In this country, each household spends an average of 3.81% of its income on cultural expenses. Meanwhile, North Africa records an annual turnover of \$14.5 billion, dominated by Egypt, where the sector generates \$8.15 billion and employs 416,000 people.

A largely informal sector: Despite these promising figures, the report highlights the predominance of the informal sector in African CCIs. Of the 15.77 million jobs created by the sector, more than 13.45 million are undeclared, which constitutes more than 85% of the total. This situation limits the income of workers and reduces the overall economic impact of the sector. Towards better valorisation of CCIs: Formalizing jobs and improving copyright protection systems could significantly enhance the profitability of African cultural industries. The music sector, in particular, suffers from insufficient collection of exploitation rights, depriving artists and creators of potential income.

According to UNESCO, CCIs represent nearly 2,500 billion euros globally and account for 8% of global employment. Africa, with its rich cultural heritage and abundant creativity, has enormous potential to increase its share in this flourishing economy.

Source:<https://mediaafriquenews.com/afrique-les-industries-culturelles-un-secteur-a-forte-valeur-economique>

### **C.4 Celebration of JMCA 2025: Announcement of the Brazzaville-Kinshasa Tandem as African Capitals of Culture for 2025-2026**

Established in 2019 by UNESCO at the initiative of the African Network of Cultural Promoters and Entrepreneurs (RAPEC), chaired by Mr. John Ayité DOSSAVI from Togo, the African and Afro-descendant Cultural Day (JMCA) is celebrated every January 24, coinciding with the adoption on January 24, 2006, of the African Charter for the Renaissance of African Culture by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union. This year, the Day was celebrated through a series of activities under the theme "Preserving and Promoting Ancestral Legacies: A Momentum for Intergenerational Brotherhood."

The commemoration of the 2025 edition of the JMCA was marked by a ceremony held on January 22 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris; the designation of the recipients of the JMCA KEKELI 2025 Honorary Award; the announcement of the Brazzaville-Kinshasa tandem as African Capitals of Culture for 2025-2026; and a conference-debate led by eminent panellists on the theme "Preserving and Promoting Ancestral Legacies: A Momentum for Intergenerational Brotherhood."

The Organization of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (CGLU Africa), represented by its Secretary General, Mr. Jean Pierre Elong MBASSI, is one of the actors of the JMCA 2025 celebration

alongside UNESCO and RAPEC. The event served as the framework for the announcement of the African Capitals of Culture program, an initiative led by CGLU Africa. After Rabat, the Capital of the Kingdom of Morocco, which was the very first African Capital of Culture for the 2022/2023 years, with more than 100 cultural events, the Brazzaville-Kinshasa tandem will take over for the 2025-2026 years. The African Capitals of Culture, during their term, are international platforms for celebrating African cultural authenticity and diversity. Brazzaville-Kinshasa will thus serve for two years as a showcase of African and Diaspora cultural and creative excellence and a venue for promoting its influence across Africa and the world.

Source: <https://mediaculture.info/celebration-de-la-jmca-2025-annonce-du-tandem-brazzaville-kinshasa-comme-capitales-africaines-de-la-culture-pour-les-annees-2025-2026/>

### **C.5 Mozambique: ISArC at the FESPACO 2025 Symposium**

As part of the development of its partnership with cultural and scientific institutions, ISArC (Instituto Superior de Artes e Cultura) participated in the 29th edition of the Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO), held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from February 22 to March 1, 2025.

Portuguese filmmaker and researcher Catarina Simão presented the results of a collaborative project titled [Percursos das imagens de Moçambique] "Archives and Counter-Archives: A Pedagogical Experience in Mozambique," conducted with her partners from Mozambique, including Mr. Paulo GUAMBE (assassinated following the post-election protests of 2024 in Mozambique) from ISArC and the National Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries of Mozambique (INICC).

This initiative was supported by the Portuguese Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (FCG) (Lisbon), through the program "Internacionalização das Artes Performativas, Artes Visuais, Cinema e Cruzamentos Disciplinares 2025" [Internationalization of Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Cinema, and Interdisciplinary Crossings].

Source: <https://catarinasimao.com/colloque-international-de-la-29e-edition-du-fespaco/>

### **C.6 Democratic Republic of Congo:**

- a) Inauguration of the Grand Cultural Center for Central African countries in Kinshasa, last February, a major event in the African cultural sector.
- b) Adoption of a bill on the status of artists and cultural professionals by the Council of Ministers before its submission to Parliament.

Source: <https://projetafriquechine.com/2024/12/17/la-rdc-inaugure-le-centre-culturel-d-afrigue-centrale-finance-par-la-chine/>

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

### **D.1 4th Edition of the African Book Fair in Paris**

From March 14 to 16, the 4th edition of the African Book Fair took place at the Halle des Blancs Manteaux in Paris. With Cameroon as the guest of honor and Brazil as the special guest, this year's event explored diasporic trajectories through the literary lens. Literature has always been a powerful vehicle for transmitting identities, memories, and imaginaries. For its fourth edition, the African Book Fair in Paris embraced this dimension by exploring the theme "Journey(s) in Diaspora(s)," a topic that resonates particularly in our contemporary world marked by mobility and cultural hybridizations. Held in the heart of the Marais district, in the historic setting of the Halle des Blancs Manteaux (48 rue Vieille du Temple), this literary event has now established itself as a must-attend event in the French cultural landscape. From March 14 to 16, 2025, over 300 authors and around a hundred publishers will converge at this venue of exchange and discovery, offering visitors a striking panorama of African and Afro-descendant literatures in all their diversity.

### **D.2 The 10th Edition of the 2025 Festival of Committed African Films (France)**

From March 5 to 18, 2025, La Flèche in Sarthe (France) will host the 10th edition of the African Cinema Festival, celebrating the richness and diversity of the continent's narratives. With eight films offering powerful perspectives, debates, and meetings, the event promises an in-depth immersion into contemporary African cinema. For a decade, the African Cinema Festival of La Flèche has been showcasing works from across the continent, challenging the often-reductive portrayals of Africa. Organized by the association Monde Solitaire, it has become an essential event for cinephiles and lovers of African cultures. Through a demanding and committed program, it gives voice to filmmakers who tell their world with strength, nuance, and authenticity.

<https://mondafrique.com/limage-du-jour/notre-semaine-culturelle-7-3-au-14-3-debute-avec-le-festival-des-cinemas-africains/>

### **D.3 The Cannes Museum of World Explorations Unveils its African Art Treasures on Saturday, January 25**

"Africa in Objects": A conference at the heart of Cannes. As part of "My Weekend at Museums," the Museum of World Explorations in Cannes revealed its African art treasures on Saturday, January 25 at 2:00 pm. A cultural mediator will unveil the symbolism of masks and figurines from Nigeria, Cameroon, Benin, and the Democratic Republic of Congo during a one-hour session. This free conference, with no reservation required and limited to 15 people, is part of an exceptional weekend where more than 38 museums on the French Riviera open their doors to the public. Located in the historic Suquet district, the museum houses a prestigious collection of primitive arts, including these African pieces that testify to the richness of the continent's traditions and craftsmanship. This conference, "Africa in Objects: A Cultural Journey," offers an immersion into the history of these emblematic works, which are true bridges between art, spirituality, and the daily life of the societies that created them. Nestled in the historic Suquet district, the Museum of World Explorations invites the public to a special conference on African art on January 25, 2025.

Source: <https://mondafrique.com/loisirs-culture/lafrique-en-objets-une-conference-au-coeur-de-cannes/>

### **D.4 Call for Proposals for "Spaces of Culture: Funding Scheme for Cultural Spaces in Sub-Saharan Africa (€350,000)"**

Spaces of Culture: A funding scheme for cultural spaces in Sub-Saharan Africa (€350,000) – Submit your application for the Spaces of Culture call for proposals. Are you a cultural and/or civil society organization in Sub-Saharan Africa looking to start or strengthen an Africa-Europe collaboration project in the cultural field? A total available budget of €350,000. Deadline: June 8, 2025.

Source: <https://afri-carrieres.com/.../postulez-a-spaces-of...>

### **D.5 Calls for Projects and Grants**

a) AAC "NORA 2025 Program": Project call for 2025 residences for artists, researchers, and cultural professionals

<https://www.fimeco-walter-allinial.com/mag-expert/appel-a-projet-culture-medias#:~:text=AAC%20%C2%AB%20Programme%20NORA%202025%20%C2%BB%20%3A,liens%20sur%20le%20long%20terme.>

b) International Festival of Theater and Puppetry of Ouagadougou / Burkina Faso Arts Festival (FITMO/FAB), the 20th edition is scheduled from October 25 to 30, 2025, under the theme "Arts, Environment, and Health."

Submit your application by filling out the form through this link : <https://bit.ly/fitmo20>

Deadline for submission: March 31, 2025, at midnight.

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

### **E.1 South Africa: A Play Traces the Legacy of Winnie Mandela**

In South Africa, a new play, inspired by the novel The Cry of Winnie Mandela by Njabulo Ndebele and performed at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg, portrays the life of Winnie Mandela, the wife of Nelson Mandela, a key figure in the struggle against apartheid.

According to the director, Momo Matsunyane, the play explores the fate of women who were abandoned like Winnie Mandela when their husbands were either in exile or in prison. It alternates between key moments in Winnie's life, including her banishment, her divorce, her hearing, and also the stories of women who lived through waiting and abandonment. Beyond the accusations against Winnie Mandela, she embodied the struggle. This play aims to give a voice to the major actions of this woman and highlight the efforts of women in South African history. The play runs until March 15, 2025.

Source: <https://fr.africanews.com/2025/03/05/afrique-du-sud-une-pièce-de-théâtre-explore-lhéritage-de-winnie-mandela/>

### **E.2 Tunisia: Copper Craftsmanship, A Dying Trade**

In the historic city of Kairouan, founded in 670 in Tunisia, copper craftsmanship is deeply rooted in tradition. This activity is especially prominent just before the month of Ramadan.

Coppersmiths begin their work each year to polish and repair copper kitchen utensils that Tunisians cherish for their longevity. However, this activity, passed down from generation to generation, is now at risk due to major challenges.

Source : <https://fr.africanews.com/2025/03/02/tunisie-lartisanat-du-cuivre-un-metier-en-peril/>

### **E.3 Angola: The "Carnival Angola 50" as a Prelude to the Independence Anniversary**

In Luanda, the capital of Angola, the country is experiencing its annual carnival rhythm just before the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the country's independence, with the theme "Preserving and Valuing Achievements, Building a Better Future." This event is marked by dances, music, and parades.

The 47th edition of "Carnival Angola" took place just days before the commemoration of Angola's half-century of independence from Portugal. According to the leader of the União da Bixila group, Benedito Jacinto, they are well prepared to offer the public a grand spectacle.

A total of 38 groups participated in the parade, with the top five being awarded. The Benedito group, which has participated since 2009, thus ranked in the top five of the carnival.

Source: <https://fr.africanews.com/2025/03/05/le-carnaval-angola-50-en-avant-gout-de-lanniversaire-de-lindependance/>

### **F. News from Bulletins and Information Services of Other Networks**

#### **F.1 Rwanda and AI: On April 3rd and 4th, 2025, Rwanda will host the 1st Global AI Summit on Africa**

The Rwandan capital, Kigali, will host a global summit on artificial intelligence in Africa from Thursday, April 3rd to Friday, April 4th, under the theme "AI and Africa's Demographic Dividend: Reimagining Economic Opportunities for the African Workforce." The summit will bring together global leaders, businesses, and academics to explore AI innovation opportunities, promote strategic policies, and mobilize investments. Participants will discuss ways to strengthen Africa's AI capabilities and foster inclusive growth. Artificial intelligence plays an increasing role in Rwanda's economic and social transformation, reinforcing its goal of becoming a technology hub in Africa.

Source: <https://www.wearetech.africa/fr/fils/breves/simple/rwanda-le-sommet-mondial-de-l-ia-sur-lafrique-se-tiendra-les-3-et-4-avril>