

BIOGRAPHIES

SESSION IV

ROUNDTABLE ON HARNESSING CULTURE AND HERITAGE FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Thursday 27 May, 2021 (10:00am - 12:00 pm)

PANELISTS



H.E. MS. AMIRA ELFADIL

Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, African Union Commission

Her Excellency Amira Elfadil was elected as the Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development at the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in January 2017. Before being elected as Commissioner she served the Government of the Republic of the Sudan as Minister of Welfare and Social Security between 2010 and 2013 and as Minister for Social Affairs for the Khartoum State Government between 2009 and 2010. She served as Member of Parliament and was on the Foreign Relations Committee from 2015 until she assumed her current role. With her passion in addressing children, girls and women's empowerment issues, she has held various senior roles in the Sudanese Women General Union, was Director General of the Society Studies Centre in Khartoum and Secretary General in the Sudan National Council for Child Welfare in addition to chairing various committees and boards on social development. She brings to the Commission a wealth of experience as a veteran politician, a renowned activist for women's rights and empowerment, an ardent advocate for the rights and welfare of the child notably through Saleema Initiative on Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation and End Child Marriage Campaign, and a well-known campaigner for health, youth empowerment, education and poverty eradication.

With a results oriented leadership approach she has contributed to the strengthening of various social institutions in the Sudan. Her vision is to provide sound leadership, to strengthen the prioritisation of national social policies, to promote human empowerment and development towards a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Her focus is to contribute to the achievement of the social development aspects of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Her Excellency Amira Elfadil holds a Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies from the London Diplomatic Academy at the University of the Westminster and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Khartoum. She is citizen of the Republic of Sudan. Arabic is a mother tongue while English is used as a second language



MS. AHUNNA EZIAKONWA

Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa is UNDP Assistant Administrator, Director Regional Bureau for Africa, leading a over \$1billion annual development programme in 46 African countries. Her vision contained in "Africa's Promise: The UNDP Renewed Strategic Office in Africa". She established Africa Influencers for Development

(A14D); UNDP-Tony Elumelu Foundation Partnership; Africa Young Women Leaders Initiative; Africa Innovates Magazine; and Africa Borderlands Centre. She served in Ethiopia, Uganda and Lesotho as UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and was Chief (Africa) at UN OCHA. She is a graduate of Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School Executive Programme and University of Benin.



MR. PATRICK KABANDA

Author on Arts and Culture, Africa, Intellectual Property, International Trade and Development

Mr. Patrick Kabanda's first book *The Creative Wealth of Nations* was published in May 2018 by Cambridge University Press, with foreword by the philosopher and Nobel economist Amartya Sen. A Juilliard-trained organist and a Fletcher-trained international affairs professional, he received Juilliard's William Schuman Prize for outstanding achievement and leadership in music in 2003, and from 2012 to 2013 he was a Charles Francis Adams Scholar at The Fletcher School. Besides concertizing and lecturing worldwide, he has taught at Phillips Academy, consulted for the World Bank's Office of the Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, and contributed to the World Development Report 2016 and to UNDP's 2015 and 2019 Human Development Reports. He was awarded the 2013 Presidential Award for Citizenship and Public Service from Tufts University, Massachusetts. (www.musikaba.net)



PROF. GEORGE HENRY OKELLO ABUNGU

Founding Chairman of Africa 2009, the International Standing Committee on the Traffic in Illicit Antiquities, and the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa

Mr. George Henry Okello Abungu is a Cambridge-trained archaeologist and Emeritus Director-General of the National Museums of Kenya. He is the founding Chairman of Africa 2009, ISCOA (the International Standing Committee on the Traffic in Illicit Antiquities), and CHDA, the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa. He is a recipient of the "Ife Prize in Museology" 2007, Congo Brazzaville; Distinction of "Passeur du Patrimoine by Ecole du Patrimoine Africain 2009 Benin Republic; Lifetime Achievement in Defense of Art 2012, ARCA Italy and USA; Chevalier de l'Ordre de Arts et des Lettres 2012 the Republic of France; African World Heritage Fund Award 2016, AWHF, South Africa; and Ordre National Du Lion Chevalier, 2018 the Republic of Senegal.

He has been an advisor to the Aluka project of the Mellon Foundation USA, the Global Heritage Fund USA, Vice President of International Council of Museums (ICOM) Paris, France, and a Member of the International Jury of the UNESCO Melina Mecouri International Prize for Safeguard and Management of Cultural Landscapes and a member of the International Experts of the Humboldt Forum, Berlin, Germany.

He has sat on the World Monuments Watch panel of the World Monument Fund, New York and was Kenya's Representative to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, and Vice-President of its Bureau (2004-2008). He is a Fellow of the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Stellenbosch South Africa and was Elizabeth Eddy Professor of Applied Anthropology, University of Florida,

Gainesville, USA. He is the founding Professor of Heritage Studies, at the University of Mauritius and currently serves as a Special Advisor to the Director General of ICCROM, Rome, Italy.



DR. HARRIET DEACON

Expert on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Intellectual Property Law, Visiting Research Fellow, Coventry University, United Kingdom

Dr. Harriet Deacon is a Visiting Research Fellow, Coventry University, UK and an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Cape Town (South Africa), specializing in intangible heritage and intellectual property law. She trained in history and anthropology at the University of Cape Town, South Africa and worked at Robben Island Museum as research coordinator from 1999-2003. She has a PhD in History (Cambridge, 1994) and a MSc in Management of Intellectual Property Law (Queen Mary University of London, 2016). Since 2010, she has consulted to UNESCO on the global capacity building programme for implementing the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and is a member of the global network of facilitators for the Convention. She has also worked as a consultant to WIPO. Since 2018 she has worked on projects in India and Kyrgyzstan assisting communities using heritage-sensitive intellectual property and marketing strategies (HIPAMS) to explore the connections between intangible heritage and sustainable development. She has been doing research on cultural rights and intellectual property law in Kenya. She has published widely in the fields of heritage, law and culture, including in the International Journal of Cultural Property, the International Journal of Heritage Studies, African Studies and Critical African Studies.



DR. ISMAIL ALI EL FIHAIL

Director General of the House of Heritage, Sudan

Dr. Ismail Ali El Fihail holds a Ph.D. Ethnology, Geography and Islamic Studies from Bayreuth University, Federal Republic of Germany, February 1989. Since 2017, he has been the Director General of the House of Heritage: El Fihail Training Center, Khartoum, El Fihail for Art, Culture, Media Production and Documentation. He has extensive research and advisory expertise in issues of cultural heritage, including serving as Intangible Heritage Advisor, Expert and Head of Research Section, Intangible Heritage Department, Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2003--20016) and as Senior Researcher, Zayed Center for Heritage & History, Al Ain, UAE (1999-2001), Researcher, Special Project African Identity, Bayreuth University, Federal Republic of Germany (1984-1989), and Researcher and Editor, Ministry of Culture and Information, Sudan (1977-1984). Dr El Fihail is a member of various boards, including Sudan's National Council for Heritage and Language Development; Evaluation of the Arab Heritage Prize 2014-2015, established by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO); and of local UNESCO team of experts who formulated Abu Dhabi Cultural Heritage Management Strategy (2003-2005).



MS. MARISA HENDERSON

Chief, Creative Economy Programme, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Dr. Marisa Henderson is the Chief of the Creative Economy Programme in UNCTAD, a programme which aims to support developing countries to maximise the trade and development gains of the creative economy and to use their rich supply of creativity and cultural assets to generate employment and to reduce poverty. Marisa believes that “UNCTAD’s data driven insights on trade in creative goods and services make a unique contribution to understanding the creative economy. UNCTAD’s mandate to conduct research, build consensus, and provide technical cooperation remains as valid and important today as it was fifteen years ago when the UNCTAD’s Creative Economy Programme started”. Marisa has been working in UNCTAD for over twenty years. Prior to her current position, she worked for UNCTAD Geneva in different capacities including in the Office of the Secretary-General. She also spent three years as the Chief of the UNCTAD Office in New York and three years as the Chief of Staff of the Division of Trade and Commodities in UNCTAD, where she provided authoritative strategic advice and guidance to the Senior Management Team on the vision, mission, mandate and operations of the Trade Division as well as substantive inputs on a range of trade-related development issues. Marisa received a PhD in International Political Economy from the University of Warwick, U.K, and a master’s in international Relations from FLACSO, Argentina. Before joining UNCTAD, Marisa worked at the Mission of Argentina in Geneva, dealing with WTO issues and at the House of Commons in London working with for the then Labour Shadow Minister on Development. She has taught at University level both in the England and Argentina. Marisa has a number of publications on international trade issues, including the latest “Creative Economy Outlook (UNCTAD, 2019), publications and training material for UNCTAD’s Commercial Diplomacy and Trade Negotiations Branch as well as a number of parliamentary reports on trade and development issues.

MODERATOR



MR. MUHAMMAD JUMA

Chief of Africa Unit, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO

Mr. Muhammad Juma is the Chief of Africa Unit, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO. Mr. Juma has worked as an urban planner and urban conservator in Zanzibar, Tanzania. He is an expert in historic cities in Africa and endeavours to promote and safeguard African natural and cultural heritages by advocating a balance between development and promotion of culture to enable and drive sustainable development.