

## PANELISTS & MODERATOR BIOGRAPHIES

SESSION VI

### ROUNDTABLE ON HUMAN CAPITAL: CULTURE AND HERITAGE, UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL

Friday 28 May, 2021 – 10:00am - 12:00 pm

#### PANELISTS



**MS. THOKOZILE RUZVIDZO**

Director of the Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo is the Director of the Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division that leads United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)'s work on Poverty, Social Protection, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Employment, Youth Migration, Urbanization and various other aspects of Social Development. The Division leads the research and policy support to African member States in the above-mentioned areas of work, as well as in responding to COVID-19 and putting in place measures to build back better. The Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division works closely with the African Union Commission in all areas of social development. Thoko has over the last 40 years held leadership positions in various institutions. As a social development and gender expert she has country, regional, continental and international experience. She works extensively on human and women's rights, gender equality and women's empowerment.



**MR. JOACHIM EMMANUEL GOMA-THETHET**

Full Professor at the Universities of the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES)

Professor Joachim Emmanuel Goma-Thethet is a native of Congo and Senior Lecturer at CAMES in contemporary history in the Department of History and Doctoral Training History and Civilizations of the Faculty of Letters, Arts and Humanities (FLASH) of Marien Ngouabi University (UMNG) - Brazzaville (Congo). He is a specialist in the contemporary history of Africa and the political history of Congo. He is coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Africa Research Group (IGRAC) and editor of the igRAC journal Les Cahiers. Since 2019, he has been vice-president of the Scientific Committee set up by the Ministry of Culture and Arts for the inscription of Congolese rumba as a UNESCO intangible heritage.



**PROF. OLA UDUKU**

Acting Joint Head of Architecture, Manchester University

Professor Ola Uduku, is a British African architect who took up a Chair in Architecture at the Manchester School of Architecture in 2017. Prior to this she was Reader in Architecture, and Dean International for Africa, at Edinburgh University. She is also a member of the Nigerian Institute of Architects and the Royal Institute of British Architects. Her research specialisms are in modern architecture in West Africa, the history of educational architecture in Africa, and the contemporary issues related to

social infrastructure provision for minority communities in cities in the 'West' and 'South'. She also has interests in environmental design and supporting equality in Academia.



**MR. STANLAKE SAMKANGE**

Senior Director for Strategic Partnerships, World Food Programme (WFP)

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Mr. Stanlake J.T.M. Samkange serves as the Senior Director for Strategic Partnerships Division of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), a position he assumed in April 2018. Prior to that, he served WFP as Director of the Policy and Programme Division (2013-2018); Regional Director for East and Central Africa (2011-2013). From 2008 to 2011, he was the WFP Representative and Country Director in Uganda, managing an operation that included emergency, transition and development responses. From 2003-2007 he served in Rome as WFP Director for Policy, Strategy and Programme Support. Prior to that, he served as Director of Research for the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty and was a Member (Rapporteur) of the Security Council's Panel of Experts set up to investigate the violation of sanctions against UNITA in Angola. Mr. Samkange served in the Office of the Secretary-General as a Speechwriter from 1993-1996, and as a Political Officer in the Department of Political Affairs from 1996-1998. He practiced law in Washington DC with Covington & Burling, and was educated at Harvard University(A.B.), Oxford University, and Stanford University Law School (J.D.). He is a national of Zimbabwe.



**PROF. CHARLES BINAM BIKOI**

Research Director and Executive Secretary, International Centre for Research and Documentation on African Traditions and Languages (CERDOTOLA), Cameroon

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Professor Charles Binam Bikoi is originally from Cameroon. He is Director of Research and Professor of Universities with a specialization on ancient civilizations and oral tradition. He is also the author of numerous publications on traditional African literature.

Since 2006, Professor Charles Binam Bikoi has been executive secretary of CERDOTOLA, an international institution responsible for the preservation, promotion and enhancement of African traditions and languages. At the initiative of an African Development Pact for Emergence by Traditions (PADETRA), he has just launched the innovative Concept of Industrialization of Africa, advocating the industrial transformation of African traditions, within the framework of culturally sustainable development.



**PROF. SHADRECK CHIRIKURE**

Head of the Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town

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Professor Shadreck Chirikure, is a national of Zimbabwe and graduated with the degrees of Master of Arts in Artefact Studies and PhD in Archaeology from the University College London. He is Professor in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cape Town where he directs two research facilities, the African Heritage

Hub and Research Centre and the Archaeology Materials Laboratory. In addition, he is a British Academy Global Professor in the School of Archaeology at Oxford. He is also Honorary Research Associate in Cambridge. Chirikure's undergraduate and postgraduate training covered African history, anthropology, heritage management and political economy.



**MS. EMILY DRANI**

Co-founder and former Executive Director of the Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda)

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Ms. Emily Drani, holds a Master of Philosophy in Development Studies. She is a co-founder and former Executive Director of the Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda, an organisation dedicated to promoting the value of 'culture in development' approach. Emily has over 16 years professional experience in development work, of which the last 14 years focused on cultural rights, heritage development and promotion at all levels. As the Vice Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the International National Trusts Organization, and the UNESCO Evaluation Body for the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Emily has been actively promoting the safeguarding of our heritage for the current and future generations.



**PROF. HAMADY BOCOUM**

Director, Museum of Black Civilizations, Senegal

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Professor Hamady Bocoum is originally from Senegal and an archaeologist by training. He is the author of several scientific articles and books. He has held several positions: Director of the Fundamental Institute of Black Africa (IFAN) at Sheikh University, Anta Diop from 2011 to 2016, Director of Senegal's Cultural Heritage (2001 and 2015), first expert at the African World Heritage Fund (2010-2014) and subsequently at the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (2012 to 2015). He has been actively involved in the preparation of several World Heritage listings, including, the megalithic circles of Senegambie, the Saloum Delta and the Bassari Country, cultural landscapes Bassari, Peul and Bedik. Today, he serves as Director General of the Museum of Black Civilizations in Dakar.



**DR. ISHANLOSEN ODIUAU**

Senior Social Development Specialist, Social Sustainability and Inclusion Global Practice, World Bank

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Dr. Ishanlosen Odiaua a national of Nigeria, is a Senior Social Development Specialist in the Social Sustainability and Inclusion (SSI) Global Practice of the World Bank. Prior to joining the Bank in 2019, she was a consultant to various international organisations including UNESCO, African Development Bank and the World Bank working in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Middle East and North Africa regions. A trained architect, with a cumulative experience as an architect, university teacher and cultural heritage specialist - having practiced as an independent architect and worked as a program specialist at the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO.



**MS. ERINNA DIA**

Principal Adviser on Early Childhood Development, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Before moving to UNICEF's Headquarters as Principal Advisor on Early Childhood Development, Erinna Dia worked as Chief of Education in West and Central Africa, the Middle East and South Asia where, with the teams under her leadership, she has achieved critical results for children in complex and nonpermissive political and operational environments. Prior to joining UNICEF, Dr. Dia held technical positions in the human development and economics departments of the African Development Bank. In these capacities, she worked with Regional Member Countries on the elaboration and implementation of education and protection projects to foster social transformation and generate growth through improved access to education, skills, technology and employment. She has co-authored several papers and journal articles on education challenges and opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**MODERATOR**



**MR. BRYAN KOFFI OPOBY**

African World Heritage Specialist, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO

Mr. Bryan KOFFI OPOBY, African World Heritage Specialist, is a professional with degrees in Diplomacy and Public Affairs, from HEIP Paris, School of Advances International and Political Studies. After undertaking different experiences at global level advocating for cultural and educational awareness of the youth and for a better involvement of culture in international cooperation strategies, he is now working at UNESCO World Heritage Centre on the safeguarding and promotion of African World Heritage.