

Press Release

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development Roundtable on Culture and Development in the post 2015 Development Agenda

When: **21 May 2015, 9.00 - 13.30**

Where: **United Nations Office in Nairobi, Conference Room 1**



“The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is an opportunity to unleash the creative potential of our different languages and traditions – and to ensure that these differences enrich and strengthen us, instead of dividing us. The words of UNESCO’s Constitution, drafted 70 years ago, have not aged a day: dialogue can vanquish all misunderstanding and open up an infinite horizon of possibilities for peace and development.”

- Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO

Culture is a vehicle for economic development, social cohesion, stability and environmental sustainability and brings about resilient communities. Culture consists of both tangible and intangible heritage, creative industries and all kinds of artistic expressions supporting and leading towards the development of dynamic and flourishing knowledge societies.

As of yet, culture was not included in the Millennium Development Goals neither in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals proposed by an Open Working Group established by the UN General Assembly. Therefore, the celebration of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development provides an opportunity and platform to mobilize national cultural sector stakeholders in order to create awareness about the role and importance of culture in sustainable development, as well as to highlight the importance of the inclusion of culture in the post-2015 SDG’s agenda.

UNESCO, together with the National Commission for UNESCO, the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and sister agencies in the UN, organises a **ROUNDTABLE** on *“Culture and development in the post 2015 Development Agenda: Dialogues from Kenya”*. The roundtable will be interactive in nature, involving speakers on the theme of culture and development who will touch upon aspects such as the creative economy, gender equality, youth empowerment as well as the need for synergy and coordination within the context of devolution. In addition to the panel, the audience will consist of diverse cultural stakeholders that represent different profiles in the sector. The outcomes of the discussions will eventually lead to the publication of the Report *“Culture and Development in the post-2015 Development Agenda: Dialogues from Kenya”*. Our cultural diversity is the common heritage of humanity. It is a source of renewal of ideas and societies, through which we open up to others and craft new ways of thinking.

In partnership with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, We also invite everyone to join the **“Do ONE Thing for Diversity and Inclusion”** campaign on Facebook and show your commitment to supporting diversity and commemorate World Day for Cultural Diversity! - <https://www.facebook.com/DoOneThingforDiversityandInclusion>

For contact:

Ms. Mulekeni Ngulube, UNESCO Cultural Programme Specialist: +254 (0)20 762 2621, md.ngulube@unesco.org

Mr. Masakazu Shiabta, UNESCO Public Information Officer: +254 (0)20 762 2347, m.shibata@unesco.org

Event Program

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

Roundtable on Culture and Development in the post 2015 Development Agenda

When: 21 May 2015, 9.00 - 13.30
Where: United Nations Office in Nairobi, Conference Room 1

9:00 - 9:30 **Registration**

9:30 – 9:40 **Welcome Remarks** by UNIC Director

9:40 – 9:50 **Remarks and UN Secretary General’s Message** by Director General, UNON

9:50 - 10:00 **Remarks and UNESCO DG Message** by Director, UNESCO Regional Office

10:00 – 12:00 **Presentations on Culture and Development**

The role of culture for national development: Vision 2030 and beyond

by Cabinet Secretary, Hon Dr. Hassan Wario Arero, Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts

UNESCO Conventions as opportunities for development: is Kenya on track?

by Dr Mzalendo Kibunja, Director General, National Museums of Kenya

The creative economy for wealth creation and poverty reduction: Kenya case study

by Dr. Joyce Nyairo, Managing Director, Santuri Media Limited, African stories; UNESCO expert on 2005 Convention

Furthering participation to achieve gender equality and youth empowerment

by Linda Ochiel, Commissioner, National Cohesion and Integration Commission

Synergy and coordination within the context of devolution

by Hon. Silverse Lisamula Anami, Member of Parliament, Shinyalu Constituency, Kakamega Count; UNESCO expert on 2005 Convention

Unity in Diversity: The role of culture for peace and social cohesion

by Professor Lumumba, Kenya School of Law

Moderator: **Ms Ngulube Mulekeni**, UNESCO Programme Specialist on Culture
Respondents: **Dr Evangeline Njoka**, Secretary General, National Commission for UNESCO
Prof. Karega-Munene, United States International University of Nairobi
Ambassador Mary Mbilo Khimulu, UNESCO

12:00 – 13:30 **Q & A, Wrap-up**

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch time

14:30 **Meeting of Experts on Culture and development in the post 2015 Development Agenda**

- Identification of possible Themes to be covered
- Modality of elaboration of papers