



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

**UNESCO Future Forum  
Africa #2**

**Decolonizing African Futures:  
Exploring and Realigning Alternative Systems**

6 December 2013  
10:00 am to 5:30 pm  
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room IV

*Organized by the UNESCO Foresight Section,  
Bureau of Strategic Planning*

# UNESCO Future Forum Africa #2

Decolonizing African Futures:  
Exploring and Realigning Alternative Systems

*This Future Forum carries on the discussion initiated at the previous Future Forum, held in Paris on March 11, 2013 on "Imagining Africa's Future: Beyond Models of Catch-up and Convergence". The conversations at this Future Forum will also contribute to an All Africa Futures Symposium to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa in March 2014.*

Picking up the thread of the questions posed at the UNESCO Future Forum Africa #1 regarding the adequacy of existing frameworks used to think about the future of development, this second edition will drill deeper into the ways that planning and strategic thinking are essentially ways of exploring and creating futures. The aim is to move beyond extrapolations that colonize the future by using today's models to imagine tomorrow's world. Too often vision(s) of Africa's future have been limited, reduced to a set of familiar options for organizing human development and well-being. Shaking off these constraints to thinking about the future calls for conscious efforts that assess the relevance and efficacy of existing and new futures literacy tools, ways to build the capacity to explore and construct the transformative futures that will help identify current choices consistent with human values and aspirations. Facilitating transformation and the capacities necessary to make it happen in a sustainable way, demand a greater appreciation of the systemic nature of change.

As with previous Forums, UNESCO Foresight is trying to encourage the use of recent advances in methods for thinking about the future. In large part this is intended to facilitate platforms for asking new questions and to open up the anticipatory assumptions that typically limit the way the future is envisioned or constructed. The Forum is also intended to demonstrate that there are important changes taking place in the way the future is conceptualized. Both outcomes are expected to contribute to the formulation of the issues to be raised and discussed at the All Africa Futures Symposium as it questions the nature and expectations related to the future of development planning in Africa.



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## *Programme*

**10.00 - 11.00**

*Opening session Room IV*

Welcome remarks by Hans d'Orville, Assistant Director General for Strategic Planning and Lalla Ben Barka, Assistant Director General, Africa Department

Presentation by Alioune Sall

**11:00 - 12:00**

*Session 01 Governance*

**12:00 - 13:00**

*Session 02 Economy and Innovation*

**13:00 - 14:30**

*Lunch break*

**14:30 - 15:30**

*Session 03 Education and Learning*

**15:30 - 16:30**

*Session 04 Culture*

**16:30 - 16:45**

*Coffee break*

**16:45 - 17:30**

Presentations by Alinah Segobye and Geci Karuri-Sebina  
*Closing session*

## *Speakers*



***Alinah Segobye***  
***(Botswana)***

***Deputy Executive Director,  
South Africa,  
Human Sciences  
Research Council (HSRC)***

***Alinah Kelo Segobye*** is Deputy Executive Director and Head of Research Use and Impact Assessment unit at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) in South Africa. Before joining the HSRC she was Associate Professor of Archaeology and Acting Coordinator of the Master's in Development Practice Program (School of Graduate Studies) at the University of Botswana. She has worked as a consultant for the African HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Partnerships (ACHAP). Segobye researches in the areas of the archaeology of southern Africa, indigenous knowledge systems, heritage studies and development in Africa. Segobye has served as an

advisor, facilitator and expert for a number of international organizations. She has served and continues to serve on the board of a number of organizations including ACHAP Botswana.

She has authored and co-authored a number of essays and book chapters on a diverse range of themes including the future of the past in Africa.



***Geci Karuri-Sebina***  
***(Kenya)***

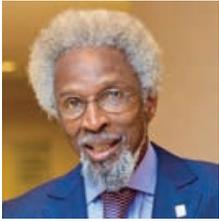
***Executive Manager  
South African Cities Network***

***Geci Karuri-Sebina*** joined the South African Cities Network in 2011 as Executive Manager. Prior to this she was a Specialist at the Neighborhood Development Programme of the South Africa National Treasury Department under the Budget Office. She has worked with numerous organizations including the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Human Science Research Council (HSRC), and the Advanced Policy Institute of the then- UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research in Los Angeles, California.

Ms. Sebina also serves as a director for the South African Node of the Millennium Project, is an associate of the Institute for

Economic Research on Innovation, and was recently appointed as a Council Member on the South African Council for Planners. Among numerous other interests and associations, she also edits and occasionally contributes to several international academic journals and publications on various topics including foresight, development and innovation in Africa.

Ms. Sebina holds Masters degrees in Urban Planning and in Architecture & Urban Design, both from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). She is currently a doctoral candidate in planning and innovation studies at Wits University.



**Alioune Sall**  
(Sénégal)  
Executive Director,  
African Futures Institute

**Alioune Sall** is the Founder and Executive Director of the African Futures Institute, a Pan-African think-tank established in 2004 and specialized in foresight exercises, research and capacity development. The Institute, headquartered in Pretoria (South Africa), has provided technical support to more than 20 African countries engaged in long term perspectives studies or operationalisation thereof, and has also consulted for the African Union Commission and its NEPAD agency.

Prior to that, Alioune Sall had a distinguished career in UNDP United Nations Development Programme, where he held several positions from 1979 to 2003. Holder of an advanced degrees in Philosophy, Development studies and a PhD in Sociology, he has worked with the Dakar-based UN Institute

for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and ENDA as researcher and lecturer (1975 to 1979). Alioune Sall is Director of several international NGOs and member of editorial board of scholarly journals and policy-oriented publications, including the foresight journal "Futuribles". He is the author of several publications, prominent among them are: "*Africa 2015: what possible futures for sub-saharan Africa?*" and "*The future competitiveness of African economies*". In his personal capacity, Alioune Sall has recently served as special advisor to Her Excellency President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia in her capacity as co-Chair of the UN High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

### **Moderators/Discussants**

- William Benichou**, Diplomatic Counselor, Center for Long Term Strategic Studies (CEPS)  
**Ousmane Blondin Diop**, Former Deputy Permanent Delegate of Senegal to UNESCO  
**Daniel Etounga-Manguelle**, Author "*L'Afrique a t-elle besoin d'un ajustement culturel?*"  
**Alpha Oumar Ndoye**, Futurist, University of Reims, University of Houston  
**Sibry JM Tapsoba**, Director, Fragile States Department at the African Development Bank  
**Marie-Ange Théobald**, UNESCO Bureau of Strategic Planning



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