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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Tenth anniversary of the African World Heritage Fund

Address

by

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President

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Excellencies,
Madam Director-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure for me to join on this occasion, the 10th anniversary of the African World Heritage Fund.

It is a fact that the African World Heritage Fund holds a very special meaning for Africa since its establishment in 2006 in South Africa.

Since its establishment, the African World Heritage Fund has undertaken successful capacity-building workshops that have resonated throughout a whole new generation of African heritage professionals, who can now train others and trigger the so-called “snow ball effect” that further encourages, in virtuous circles, training activities to bring direct economic benefits to local communities.

But World Heritage is not only about economic development and return on investments. World Heritage is about our identity. It brings a testament to who we are, where we come from and what can be transmitted to future generations.

In this regard, I wish to congratulate the African World Heritage Fund for its efforts, together with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, to increase youth participation in the safeguarding and promotion of natural and cultural heritage sites. The World Heritage Youth Forum to be held in South Africa next year, will no doubt be a milestone event heralding the dawn of a new vision for the future.

The youths are not only the present, but they are also the future ducts of our countries. We need to create favourable conditions for our youth, in order for them to participate meaningfully in development activities. The youth constitute an integral part of the global development agenda.

Despite decades of conflict and tragedy, Africa bears hope for a sustainable future, building on the power of the bulging young population. Cultural heritage, as the collective memory of a community, is essential for building inclusive societies and should be further protected, further enhanced. For this reason, and particularly at times when cultural heritage increasingly becomes a target of deliberate destructions, the African World Heritage Fund is a key player, an essential partner, in the Organization's global action.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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