

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

THE SLAVE ROUTE PROJECT

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First session of the International Scientific Committee for the "Slave Route" project

(Ouidah, Benin, 6-8 September 1994)

FINAL REPORT

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CONTENTS

INTROD	UCTION	2
I.	Sources: Archives, bibliography, documentary sources and oral traditions	3
II.	Files and data banks	Ą
III.	Historical research	5
IV.	Ethno-archaeological research	5
V.	Linguistic research	6
VI.	Pluridisciplinary research	6
VII.	Educational programmes	7
VIII.	Museums and exhibitions	8
IX.	Publications	9
Х.	Heritage	9
XI.	International co-operation and networks	10
XII.	Cultural tourism	11
XIII.	Meetings	11
XIV.	Institutional proposals	11
XV.	Miscellaneous	13

ANNEX

List of members of the International Scientific Committee for the Slave Route

INTRODUCTION

The International Scientific Committee for the "Slave Route" project met at the Maison de la Culture in Ouidah (Benin) from 6 to 8 September 1994.

After adopting its agenda, the Committee elected its Bureau, having due regard for the need to ensure balanced representation of all the geographical regions involved in the project. The Bureau is composed of the following members:

Chairman: Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow (Senegal)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr Elisée Soumonni (Benin)

Mr Hugo Tolentino Dipp (Dominican Republic)

Mr Joseph E. Harris (United States)

Mr Jean-Michel Deveau (France)

Rapporteur: Mr Rex Nettleford (Jamaica)

In the absence of Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, Mr Joseph Harris and Mr Rex Nettleford, the Ouidah meeting was chaired by Mr Hugo Tolentino Dipp (Dominican Republic), who also presented its final report.

The Scientific Committee hereby submits to the Director-General of UNESCO the recommendations it adopted at the meeting on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference launching the project.

The Committee began by examining the geographical context of the project. It was decided to give priority to the Atlantic slave-trade route, although other routes involved in slaving, such as the trans-Saharan route to the Middle East, and the Indian Ocean and other routes, would not be disregarded.

Going on to discuss the duration of the project, the Committee considered that a period of ten years would be needed to complete the many different types of research entailed. The Committee would need to meet once a year during the first three years of the project. It was also decided that the programme would be evaluated every two years.

The participants proposed unanimously that National 'Slave Route' Committees be established, in order to foster the participation in the project of the intellectuals, artists and general public of the countries concerned and to ensure that the findings would be more widely publicized.

Mr Barnet proposed that the Committee's next meeting should be held in Matauzas province in Cuba in September 1995. The Cuban Government would be sending UNESCO an official invitation to that effect. The proposal was approved unanimously.

INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee decided to set up five Subcommittees, as follows:

- 1. Documentary sources, archives and data banks
- 2. Research
- 3. Education and publications
- 4. Physical heritage, museums and cultural tourism
- 5. Artistic activities and information.

The members of the Scientific Committee are invited to sit on the Subcommittee(s) of their choice.

- I. SOURCES: ARCHIVES, BIBLIOGRAPHY, DOCUMENTARY SOURCES AND ORAL TRADITIONS
- 1. Survey of document collections on the slave-trade and the black Diaspora held in national or provincial archives and religious institutions, with priority being given to Spanish and Portuguese archives. It was decided to set up a Subcommittee for this purpose.
- 2. Compilation of an index of archives in order to allow readier access to the collections they contain.
- 3. Preservation and/or rescue of archive collections on the slavetrade and the black Diaspora that are at risk, such as the documents in the archive collection in Luanda.
- 4. Assistance for the identification, publication, critical evaluation and processing of archives.
- 5. Support from UNESCO in approaching government authorities and religious and other institutions with a view to obtaining readier access to documentation on the slave-trade and slavery. The Committee considered that such approaches could make it easier to reconstruct Afro-American history in countries like Colombia.
- 6. Establishment of a research programme on oral tradition and written documents on slavery in Africa. The University of Ghana at Legon proposed that a research project on oral tradition relating to slavery be set up on the coast of Ghana.

7. Establishment of a programme for analysing all documents available in the ports of embarkation.

II. FILES AND DATA BANKS

1. Creation of a remote-access computer file of:

the legal and illegal slaving expeditions of the countries of Europe and the Americas;

wrecks of slaving ships from all countries;

researchers and institutions studying the slave-trade and the black Diaspora.

2. Creation of a collection of documents covering the history, iconography and visual aspects (photographs, video recordings, films and new technologies) of:

the coastal forts;

the embarkation points;

the main disembarkation points.

- 3. Promotion of the creation of data banks on slavery and the slave-trade at Ouidah and on the island of Gorée.
- 4. Compilation of photographic documentation with a view to mounting exhibitions on Diaspora communities.
- Establishment of an audio-visual data bank consisting of slides and photographs illustrating the traditional culture of Martinique.
- 6. Support for the compilation of a directory on the geography of the ritual objects of Africa, with data banks in all the countries of Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean.
- 7. Establishment of a data bank listing works of art on the slavetrade held by museums, by means of an international programme of co-operation between museum curators and collectors.
- 8. Establishment of a data bank pilot project using interactive images of the Diaspora (CD-ROM technology).
- 9. Assistance for the relevant African institutions in upgrading their infrastructural facilities, including technical improvements allowing readier access to means of communication and information on the slave-trade and the Afro-American Diaspora.
- 10. Use of modern electronic aids, such as computers, electronic mail, INTERNET electronic bulletin-boards, and so on, for

establishing international communication, so that research findings can be made readily available to users in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

III. HISTORICAL RESEARCH

- Plotting of maps and compilation of documentation relating to significant locations, such as slave markets in Africa and the Americas, the home regions and ethnic origins of slaves, the points of embarkation in Africa and points of arrival in the Americas, the escape routes taken by slaves, Maroon communities, etc.
- Establishment of a research programme on the areas where slaves were captured and their population, with emphasis on the economic, social and demographic consequences.
- 3. Establishment of a research programme on the Portuguese period of the slave-trade.
- 4. Encouragement of research on black freemen and on fugitive slave movements ("marronage") and Maroon communities both at the time of the slave-trade and in the present day.
- 5. Encouragement of research on the return to Africa of members of the black Diaspora (cf. the Afro-Brazilians).
- 6. Establishment of a programme on the different types of legislation concerning slaves.
- 7. Encouragement of research on the emancipation of slaves (dates and circumstances) in the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa and the Indian Ocean.
- 8. Establishment of a research programme on relations between people of African origin and the Amerindian population.

IV. ETHNO-ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

- 1. Promotion of the study of black Diasporas all over the world, especially in the Americas and the Caribbean.
- 2. Encouragement of comparative research on:

the different Afro-American communities and the communities of Africa;

Afro-American cultural manifestations, such as carnivals, dances and other forms of African cultural expression.

3. Study of transfers of technology and know-how from Africa to the Americas and in the other direction through, inter alia:

the research programme of the Universidad Javeriana entitled "Ethnic and biomedical profiles of the black communities of Colombia";

the 'South Atlantic' project of the Colegio de México and the University of Dakar;

the Howard University Africa/America collaboration project for the study of the bones found in the "African burial ground". The possibility could be examined of having this project included in UNESCO's World Heritage List;

the genetic research project of the University of Southern Florida.

- 4. Encouragement of archaeological research on the slave route by fostering co-operation and exchanges between researchers in the Americas, the Caribbean and Africa.
- 5. Establishment of a submarine archaeology research programme to identify and investigate the hulks of slave-ships wrecked off the coasts of Europe, Africa and the Americas.

This interregional and pluridisciplinary programme is aimed at integrating and expanding on the work of the "Marine archaeology research group" whose specific programme "The sunken memory of the slave-trade" has been granted UNESCO's World Decade for Cultural Development label. As a result of the excavations conducted by the group and the finds that these are expected to add to the collections of museums and documentation centres specializing in the slave-trade, the programme represents an important adjunct to the tourist development programmes being carried out elsewhere. It also offers particularly promising practical scope for scientific, technical and cultural co-operation and exchanges between the countries concerned.

6. Examination of the possibility of including the wreck of the slave-ship "Henrietta Marie", discovered in Florida, in UNESCO's World Heritage List.

V. LINGUISTIC RESEARCH

Use of the collection and study of the different forms of discourse on slavery as a basis for compiling a glossary of terms on slavery used in the different African languages.

VI. PLURIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

Establishment of a programme of historical, genealogical, archaeological and linguistic research and collecting oral

traditions from Maroon villages, such as those of the "Palenque" in Colombia, the Indians of the Boni community in French Guyana, etc.

VII. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

1. It is recommended that UNESCO support all activities designed to facilitate and promote teaching about the conditions surrounding the deportation and slavery of population groups and the consequences of this. Research in this field should take account of the political and social context in which violence was perpetrated. The result should be to ensure that people receive broad-based instruction in ensuring respect for human rights, focusing on a thorough knowledge of the basic legal instruments.

For this purpose, support should be given to producing a multilingual teaching kit on the slave-trade and slavery. A pluridisciplinary study group is being set up in La Rochelle and Benin and is expected to provide teaching notes drafted jointly on the basis of classroom experience, as in the case of La Rochelle.

- 2. Promotion of the study of African and creole languages and their teaching in universities in the Americas and the Caribbean.
- 3. Development of studies in social anthropology and theology dealing with African and Afro-American religious cosmogonies.
- 4. Promotion of the study of the history of the black peoples in the Americas following the abolition of slavery from an interdisciplinary standpoint covering the cultural output of the black peoples, the psychological impact of the encounter between cultures, the mechanisms by which social inequalities were reproduced and the ways in which these came to be introduced into American political life.
- 5. Production of films based on the Slave Route.
- 6. Encouragement of efforts to make research findings known to the population at large, by including them in the social and political components of education and music programmes, including those carried out by the relevant world organizations.
- 7. CEDRA (the International Centre for Studies and Research on the Black Diaspora and its relations with Africa), which is due to be established in Ouidah, comes within this context. This project, which was adopted by UNESCO in 1983 at the Meeting of Experts on the Cultural Contributions of Blacks of the Diaspora to Africa, held in Benin, is starting to be implemented in connection with an interregional project entitled "The Slave Coast and the Black Diaspora".

- 8. Encouragement for the creation of a programme of fellowships for young African, American, Caribbean and European students concerned by the problems of slavery and of the slave-trade and its consequences.
- 9. UNESCO is requested to encourage the training of young African, American, Caribbean and European researchers, in particular by earmarking special funds in each of UNESCO's research fellowship programmes for projects involving teamwork.

VIII. MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS

- 1. Establishment and development of museums on the slave-trade on both sides of the Atlantic and in the Indian Ocean; mounting of permanent and travelling exhibitions; and training for the local personnel needed to operate them.
- Information of ICOM, ICOMOS and the other museums concerned of UNESCO's wish to see museums (and art galleries) adopt a more dynamic approach to presenting and interpreting the history of slavery.
- 3. Request to UNESCO to use its authority and influence to encourage, facilitate or mobilize funding for the following museum activities involving the study, preservation and interpretation of the history of slavery:
 - (a) field research and the acquisition of objets d'art and documentation relating to them;
 - (b) conservation and storage of objets d'art;
 - (c) preparation of teaching materials and programmes for museums.
- 4. Encouragement of the organization of lectures by museum curators and instructors responsible for collections dealing with the slave-trade, with the aim of expanding the role performed by museums in presenting the history of the slavetrade.
- 5. Establishment of documentation centres in the main embarkation and disembarkation ports and training for the local personnel needed to operate them.
- 6. Establishment, implementation and promotion of plans for exhibitions on the slave-trade and slavery mounted by teams from all the geocultural regions, priority being given to proposals emanating from Africa and the black Diasporas.

IX. PUBLICATIONS

It is recommended that UNESCO:

- provide assistance for the publication and dissemination of research on the slave-trade and the black Diaspora;
- provide assistance for the publication of important archive documents, for example the documents in the archives of Mauritius and the manuscripts of Hannibal Abraham, Antoine-Guillaume Amo, Jacobus Captain and other early writers among the black Diaspora (seventeenth to eighteenth centuries);
- provide assistance for the collection of proverbs, tales and mottoes, with a view to compiling a compendium;
- publish the proceedings of the symposium held in Port-au-Prince (Haiti) in 1991 and those of the 1994 Ouidah Conference. The Centre Départemental de Documentation Pédagogique (CDDP) in La Rochelle would be responsible for the publishing work;
- give support to America Negra (Columbia) and Odu (Journal of West-African studies, Nigeria. For many years these periodicals have been mediums through which African and Afro-American cultures have spread beyond the black world. The help requested should enable them to increase their print-run and widen their distribution. It is being understood that the two periodicals will contribute to making known the activities of the UNESCO Project "The Slave Route".
- set up one or more journals dealing with intercultural relations between Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe.

X. HERITAGE

- Establishment of a programme for the inventorying and promotion of historic monuments and places associated with slavery, and a programme for conserving and developing them.
- 2. It was suggested that UNESCO propose to all countries where slavery existed that public places and buildings be given names symbolizing the struggle against slavery, such as Condorcet (the French philosopher and political figure); the Abbé Grégoire (the Bishop of Blois and a member of the Revolutionary Convention of 1792, who was instrumental in having slavery abolished in France and its possessions); or Toussaint Louverture (the political figure who was the liberator of Haiti and the founding father of the country's first Republic); William Wilberforce (the British political figure and philanthropist); Granville Sharp (the British abolitionist);

William Lloyd Garrison (the founder of the American Anti-Slavery Society) or Theodore Dwight Weld (the American abolitionist), and so on.

3. It is recommended that:

steps be taken to restore and safeguard:

the monuments and sites of the slave-trade;

the forts used in the slave-trade, such as Fort James in Gambia, because of the contribution they can make to consciousness-raising among both nationals of the countries concerned and other people;

support be given to training local professionals for the restoration and operation of slave-trade sites.

XI. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND NETWORKS

- 1. Institution of an "abolition of slavery day" on which Africa's contribution to human civilization would also be commemorated.
- 2. Consideration of the possibility of UNESCO sponsorship of the House of Slavery and Human Rights at Lamentin, Guadeloupe.
- 3. Encouragement and support for programmes for international cooperation, such as:

the proposed study on the Afro-Argentine community by the Casa Afro-Indo-Americana;

the Afro-Peruvian research project on Africa's contribution to Peruvian music;

the project of the Fundación para la Cultura Negra Ecuatoriana for a meeting of Afro-Ecuadorian women, one component of which would deal with the collection of oral tradition.

- 4. Invitation to all States, and especially UNESCO's Member States, to include sites and monuments that are symbols and/or outstanding features of the slave-trade as part of the world cultural heritage.
- 5. Establishment of a network of comparative research institutions on the slave-trade and its consequences; inviting the countries concerned to submit to UNESCO a list of institutions that could form part of the network, for the Committee's attention.
- 6. Establishment of international study and research centres. Such centres could:
 - (a) act as focal points for the research undertaken in the countries or regions concerned by receiving or transmitting data on the network;

- (b) if necessary, act as clearing houses for new technologies (computerized data banks and networks);
- (c) act as "relay centres" (attached to the national archives or a university department or national museum) for visiting researchers, so as to enable them to have access to oral historical sources, hitherto unpublished sources and books only available locally.
- 7. Encouragement and establishment of twinning arrangements at different levels, such as between communities, schools, universities, research centres and museums.

XII. CULTURAL TOURISM

- Under the joint UNESCO-WTO joint programme for cultural tourism, support for the cultural tourism development measures to be launched by the governments and population of the countries concerned by the history of the slave-trade.
- 2. Encouragement for the project to develop cultural tourism among the Maroon communities in Suriname.

XIII. MEETINGS

- Organization of working seminars at which field workers in these communities can meet specialists in applied sciences, with the twofold aim of improving these communities' mutual awareness and the complementarity of their projects.
- Organization of international seminars on the different religions involved in the slave-trade, along with an international symposium proposed by the Caribbean Culture Center in New York, which would be attended by theologians of these religions and by researchers and students.
- 3. It is recommended that a symposium be organized on the ethnic groups involved in the slave-trade.
- 4. It is recommended that a symposium be organized at an early opportunity on quantitative data relating to the slave-trade.

XIV. INSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS

1. "Africanía"

The aim of the "Africanía" project of the University of Alcalá de Henares (Spain) is to undertake a comprehensive and

systematic analysis of the importance and historical formation of the national culture and identity of the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries of the Americas and Europe, and also activities along the following lines:

- (a) institutionalizing the convening of conferences on Afro-Ibero-American studies. In this connection, it is planned to hold the second International Conference in Côte d'Ivoire in 1995;
- (b) creating a travelling UNESCO chair in Afro-Ibero-American studies in co-operation with universities of Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa;
- (c) setting up an international association for Afro-Ibero-American studies;
- (d) creating an Afro-Ibero-American documentation centre in order to facilitate the study of 'Africanía'.

2. "Afro-America: the third root"

This programme, which is centred in Mexico, looks forward to receiving support from UNESCO to enable it to go ahead with the following activities:

- (a) Research
 - Historical, sociological and cultural research enabling a global analysis to be made of African contributions to Latin American cultures.
- (b) Dissemination of information
 Having a 25-volume series published by MAPFRE in America, in collaboration with UNESCO, on the impact of African slavery in Hispano-America. It is also planned to organize an annual festival of Afro-American Arts, which would be held on a rotating basis in Africa, America and the Caribbean.
- (c) Dissemination of information and education
 Organization of an Afro-America 2000 travelling
 exhibition. By the time the exhibition has completed its
 tour, it is expected that it will have assembled the
 materials and documentation needed to set up a museum of
 Afro-American cultures.
- (d) Education
 Production of audio-visual teaching materials on the history and evolution of Afro-American cultures.
 Preparation of a higher-education syllabus on Afro-American subjects at the National School of Anthropology and History of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma of Mexico. Association of the University of Alcalá de Henares (Spain) with the UNESCO chair in Afro-Ibero-American studies.

3. The "Africa-America Bridge" project presented by the "Black America" Group of Colombia and Venezuela also comes within the scope of the 'Slave Route' programme. The aim of this project is to:

support the permanent symposium on expressions of the African soul and the Afro-American soul, which is being backed by African and Afro-American specialists from the countries of Africa and Latin America;

encourage the setting up of programmes in African studies in such countries of northern South America as Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama and Peru;

support the development of the "Africa-America Bridge" project as an academic vehicle for teaching, research and dissemination of information among the Afro-American communities of northern South America.

- 4. The subregional MERCOSUR project on the contribution of culture to the construction of present-day relations between the States of America and Africa, which has been set up by the Universities of São Paulo in Brazil and the Belgrano University of Buenos Aires in Argentina. This is a regional and interregional project through which it is planned to take part in the Africanía programme of the University of Alcalá de Henares and the Afro-America project of Mexico.
- 5. The project of the Fundación Afroamérica of Venezuela for recording and disseminating the music of the Diaspora of sub-Saharan Africa in the Americas and the Caribbean is aimed at setting up a programme for recording African music from Benin, Nigeria, Congo, Angola, Ghana and Senegal and, in a second stage, for recording the music of the receiving countries such as Cuba, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Brazil and the Dominican Republic.
- 6. The "Alternatives Toucouleurs" Association sponsored by more than 20 well-known performing artists, including Manu Dibango, Salif Keita, Archie Shepp, Claude Nougaro and Bernardette Lafont, plans to consolidate the action already undertaken, with a view to creating the following facilities in Africa:
 - (a) an Information and Advice Centre for musicians;
 - (b) a 'Maison de la Musique' for teaching African and Afro-American music.

XV. MISCELLANEOUS

The participants in the International Symposium on the 'Slave Route' invite the countries having withdrawn from UNESCO whose population includes descendants of the victims of the slave-

trade to support the action which UNESCO will be called upon to undertake in connection with the "Slave Route" project.

- 2. The Beninese National Committee for the "Slave Route" will ask the author of the Egbakoku-Graphie project to provide information on the project.
- 3. It was decided to also submit the following projects to the Committee:

"From the Slave Route to the Art Route", submitted by the Centro Orientamento Educativo of Milan;

"Feasibility study on the contribution of the Home of Humanism", submitted by the Africa Cultures International Institute and the World Council of Pan-African Organizations.

ANNEX LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR THE SLAVE ROUTE

1.	Kwasi AGBLEY	(Ghana)	Economist - Co-ordinator of the Ghana Slave Trade Project
*2.	Adeagbo AKINJOGBIN	(Nigeria)	Historian
3.	Samir AMIN	(Egypt)	Economist - Author of a large number of books on economic history, especially on North- South economic relations
*4.	Miguel BARNET	(Cuba)	Writer and anthropologist - Author of several novels based on first-hand accounts, including "El Cimarrón" (the story of a former Afro-Cuban slave)
*5.	Luis BELTRÁN	(Spain)	Political scientist - Vice- Rector of the University of Alcalá de Henares. Major publications on Africa, Spain and Latin America
*6.	Yvon CHOTARD	(France)	Jurist - President of the "Anneaux de la Mémoire" Association, Nantes
7.	Basil DAVIDSON	(United Kingdom)	Historian - Specialist on the political history of Portuguese-speaking Africa and South Africa -Author of "The African Slave Trade"
*8.	Jean-Michel DEVEAU	(France)	Historian - Author of "La Traite rochelaise" and "Histoire de la Traite négrière française"

^{*} Members of the Committee whose names are preceded by an asterisk are those who attended the Ouidah meeting.

9.	Howard DODSON	(United States)	Historian - Head of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, one of the main centres on Africa in the United States
10.	Robert W. FOGEL	(United States)	Nobel Prize for Economics 1993, Chicago - Author of "Time on the Cross" on the economics of slavery
*11.	Richard FOSTER	(United Kingdom)	Curator of the Atlantic Slave Trade Gallery, a permanent exhibition on the slave-trade in Liverpool
*12.	Dr Nina S. FRIEDE	MANN (Colombia)	Anthropologist - Author of a series of studies on the African influence in Colombia's culture, economy and society. Head of a permanent research team on the African presence in Colombia. Director of the review 'América Negra'
13.	Edouard GLISSANT	(Guadeloupe)	Writer
*14.	Max GUEROUT	(France)	Specialist in underwater archaeology - Is currently conducting major excavations on the coast of Africa (Gorée) and the West Indies
15.	Joseph E. HARRIS	(United States)	Historian - Specialist in the history of the African Diaspora and the trans-Indian slave-trade; contributor to the General History of Africa
*16.	Paulin J. HOUNTON	NDJI (Benin)	Philosopher - Former Minister of Culture of Benin
17.	Laennec HURBON	(Haiti)	Anthropologist - Specialist on Haitian voodoo

*18.	Marie-Denise JEAN	(Haiti)	Jurist - Former Secretary- General of the Haitian National Commission for UNESCO. Played a major role in the adoption of the project by the UNESCO General Conference
*19.	Luz María Martinez MONTIEL	(Mexico)	Anthropologist - Director of the "Nuestra Tercera Raiz" ("Our Third Root") research programme on the African presence in the Americas. Co- ordinator of the 'Africa en América' series of publications
*20.	Amadou-Mahtar M'BOW	(Senegal)	Historian - President of the Gorée-Almadies programme
21.	Harris MEMEL-FOTE	(Côte d'Ivoire)	Anthropologist - Former Dean of the Faculty of Letters of the University of Abidjan
22.	Toni MORRISON (U	nited States)	Writer - First African American to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature (1993)
23.	Abdias do NASCIMENTO	(Brazil)	Historian - Member of Parliament - Author of a large number of books on the black population of Brazil
24.	Rex NETTLEFORD	(Jamaica)	Writer and choreographer - Books and ballets on the art and culture of the black Diaspora. Member of the UNESCO Executive Board
25.	Djibril Tamsir NIANE	(Guinea)	Historian - Director of the "Société africaine d'édition et de communication", Conakry
*26 <i>.</i>	H.E. Ms Ana María OLIVEIRA	(Angola)	Anthropologist and Vice- Minister of Culture

27.	Eduardo PORTELLA	(Brazil)	Writer - Director of Research and Academician, Rio de Janeiro ; Director of the review "Tempo Brasileiro"
28.	Louis SALA-MOLINS	(France)	Writer and philosopher - Author of "Le Code noir. Le martyre de Canaan" and "L'Afrique aux Amériques. Le Code noir espagnol"
29.	Ousmane SEMBENE	(Senegal)	Film director
30.	Wale SEROTE	(South Africa)	Poet - Head of the ANC Culture Department
*31.	Elisée SOUMONNI	(Benin)	Historian - Co-ordinator of the Beninese Committee for the "Slave Route" project
32.	Wole SOYINKA	(Nigeria)	Writer - Nobel Prize for Literature 1986; contributed to the General History of Africa
*33.	Hugo TOLENTINO DIPP	(Dominican Republic)	Historian - Director of Research, Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo
*34.	Sheila WALKER	(United States)	Anthropologist - Head of the Department of African Studies, University of Texas. Member of the Provisional International Co-ordinating Committee for the "Slave Route" project

*18.	Marie-Denise JEAN	(Haiti)	Jurist - Former Secretary- General of the Haitian National Commission for UNESCO. Played a major role in the adoption of the project by the UNESCO General Conference
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32.	Wole SOYINKA	(Nigeria)	Writer - Nobel Prize for Literature 1986; contributed to the General History of Africa
*33.	Hugo TOLENTINO DIPP	(Dominican Republic)	Historian - Director of Research, Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo
*34.	Sheila WALKER	(United States)	Anthropologist - Head of the Department of African Studies, University of Texas. Member of the Provisional International Co-ordinating Committee for the "Slave Route" project