

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AMONG AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN MUSEUMS

Museum Directors' Workshop in Dakar, Senegal, April 2023

DECLARATION OF DAKAR

We, museum directors from 38 countries in Africa and Europe, who are gathered at the Museum of Black Civilizations in Dakar (April 25 to 27, 2023), affirm our ambition to build together a common future through cultural dialogue, following the approach of one of its greatest advocates, Léopold Sedar Senghor.

Convinced that museums have a major role to play in promoting peace and mutual understanding, we are committed to building and strengthening partnerships in order to meet contemporary challenges and to share with future generations a spirit of mutual trust and respect.

The primary function of museums is to bridge the past, present and future, as well as places and people and to promote mutual understandings. Our museums should therefore be places of dynamic inspiration for forward looking contemporary heritage, rather than places of nostalgia.

We have long looked at the heritage of Africa through an ethnographic lens, yet it is a living wealth with potential to change contemporary and future societies due to the impact of visual representations and their interpretations.

We are committed to mobilising efforts to document, preserve and reinterpret collections with communities in Africa and Europe and to make them available to the public through digitization, research, education, and exhibitions.

We will rethink together our practices by relying more on cultural knowledge and expertise to better adapt to climate issues and work on environmentally friendly spaces.

We consider that the development of joint traveling exhibitions by multiple partners, circulating in Africa and Europe, has the potential to promote new partnerships and to transform the narratives that shape our world.

These ambitions inspired us to build a sustainable network aligned with global cultural governance in the field of museums as embodied by UNESCO.

We commit ourselves here collectively and individually, each in our country, to promote this vision.

Dakar on April 27, 2023

Christian Schicklgruber, Weltmuseum, Austria

Bart Ouvry, AfricaMuseum, Belgium

Guido Gryseels, Belgium

Siska Gebrugge, AfricaMuseum, Belgium

Christian Sune Pedersen, National Museum, Denmark

Emmanuel Kasarhérou, musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, France

Anne-Solène Rolland, Musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, France

Lars Christian Koch, Ethnologisches Museum, Germany

Hartmut Dorgerloh, Humboldt Forum, Germany

Barbara Plankensteiner, MARKK Hamburg, Germany

Hermann Parzinger, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Germany

Wiebke Ahrndt, Übersee Museum Bremen, Germany

Gaia Delpino, Museo della Civiltà, Italy

Matteo Lucchetti , Museo della Civiltà , Italy

Marieke Van Bommel , Museum of World Cultures, Netherlands

Annette Schmidt, Museum of World Cultures, Netherlands

Kjersti Larsen , Museum of Cultural History, Norway

Annette Bhagwati, Rietberg Museum, Switzerland

Lissant Bolton , British Museum, UK

John Giblin, National Museum of Scotland, UK

Hughues Heumen Tchana, Musée National, Cameroon

Philippe Adoum Gariam, Musée National, Chad

Joseph Ibongo, Ministère de la Culture, DR Congo

Henri Kalama, Académie des beaux arts, DR Congo

Germain Owono Essono, Musée National des Arts, Rites et Traditions, Gabon

Willis Davy Koumbi Ovenga, Musée de recherche de l'Université, Gabon

Demerew Dagne, National museum, Ethiopia

Mamitu Yilma, Creative Art Institutions Development, Ethiopia