Event Details

Title of event
Door of Return – A New Pan-African Era

Organization Details
Organization: UCLG Africa
Organization Country:

Summary

The Door of Our Return is a collaborative project co-convened by UCLG Africa with partners from across the globe including the African Diaspora that is made up of two distinct groups: i) African Diaspora that were taken from Africa during the Transatlantic Slave trade with over 55.9 million African descendants in Brazil, 46.4 million in USA, and 2.8 million in Jamaica; ii) Modern day emigration has seen a second wave of Africa diaspora leave the continent adding to the rich diversity of Africa culture across Europe with 3.8 million in France and 2.5 million in the United Kingdom. This session will explore the intangible cultural heritage of migration and diaspora and role they play in the sustainable development of Africa.

This session will highlight the Door of Return a Pan-African initiative promoting cooperation between Africa and the Diaspora alongside the work of RAPEC and the Founder and President John-Ayite Dossavi, that championed the role of the Diaspora with the support of UNESCO to adopt the World Day of Africa and Afro Descendants now celebrated every year on the 24th January.

The objectives of the Door of Our Return are

- Break and dismiss the emotional and psychological beliefs and assertions– the Doors of No Return, which served as prison exits from Africa and gateways to brutal slavery and years of lynching in the Americas, must become The Doors of Our Return, where this diaspora group return home to heal and connect with their cultural heritage.

- Africa World’s Fair and Economic Development – bring together leading indigenous African and global Black-owned enterprises that will serve as a push forward for Black-owned enterprises and a strong global African economy. Foster Africa-USA cities strategic partnerships leading to economic development. Provide access to investment and economic opportunities.

- Tourism & Travel – THE DOOR shares a deep commitment to expose and promote Africa as a primary tourism destination Time Magazine further noted that the power of a rising generation of Black millennials is creating what is being called the Black Travel Movement. Africa must be a central focal point in this new travel revolution, linking medical tourism, business travel, educational exchanges, and faith tourism in this movement.

- Youth movement and a millennial revolutions. creation of formidable networks of young people, allowing these rich, duly-endowed millennial game changers who are tech savvy and well equipped with education, creativity and time to be the great innovators of a progressive future where Africa is at the core.
• Promote and Rebrand Africa – For hundreds of years, Africa has been marginalized, misunderstood, and stigmatized. Reinforce, with pride, the strength and power of Africa and its people will serve as a microphone that amplifies all that is good and positive about Africa.

This session will explore “what next” after the successful launch of Door of Return initiatives in 2019 and how we can build on this with partners. We will discuss the importance of the diaspora in the regeneration of the continent reinforcing the intangible cultural heritage that binds us together and the contribution these groups will make to creating a new empowered innovative Africa with high self-esteem and confidence.

**Other Organization name**
UCLG World Secretariat and Culture Committee; Door of Our Return; and UNESCO

**Prospective moderator, speaker(s) or panelist(s)**

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<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi</td>
<td>Moderator</td>
<td>UCLG Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>John Ayite Dossavi</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>President of ONG-RAPEC (Réseau Africain des Promoteurs et Entrepreneurs Culturels)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Soham El Wardini</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Mayor of Dakar</td>
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<td>Abike Dabiri-Erewa</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Chairperson/CEO Nigeria Diaspora Commissioner</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Macoura Dao</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>President of REFELA Mayor of Foumbolo, Côte d’Ivoire</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Fouad Oki</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>African Sister Cities Association</td>
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