



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



African World Heritage Fund  
under the auspices of UNESCO



African World  
Heritage Fund



**WEBINAR**

**“Cultural Perspectives for Peace Building in the context of  
COVID-19 in Africa”**

**25 May 2020**

**14:00 – 15:30 Johannesburg Time (GMT + 2)**

## CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES FOR PEACE BUILDING IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 IN AFRICA

Peace remains a permanent ideal and aspiration. As an ongoing process of political, economic and cultural negotiation, peace requires constant engineering and active participation. It implies commitment and a long-term vision, and this entails a blend of traditional and contemporary ways of understanding the roots of conflicts, ways of mitigating violence, and paths towards reconciliation and healing. In this context, culture emerges as an essential factor for both sustainable development and lasting peace. The road to inclusive social and economic development, environmental sustainability, peace and security is firmly grounded in culture, understood in its spiritual, material, intellectual, and emotional dimensions and encompassing diverse value systems, traditions and beliefs.<sup>1</sup>

The African Union’s theme for the year 2020 is “Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa’s Development”. Silencing the Guns is a commitment to achieve the Aspirations of Africa's Agenda 2063, specifically Aspiration 4, which envisions a peaceful and secure Africa, thereby making peace a reality for African people. This aspiration talks directly to the Sustainable Development Goal 16 of the United Nations Agenda 2030, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. Although it is widely acknowledged that culture-aware approaches contribute to understanding, preventing, mitigating and recovering from conflicts, the question remains: how can culture and heritage contribute for peacebuilding and sustainable development of Africa?

As the continent celebrates Africa Day under the theme “Health & Security in the Context of Covid-19” the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) will host a webinar on “Cultural Perspectives for Peace Building in the Context of Covid-19 in Africa”. The occasion will also be used to launch a social media campaign [#MyAfricanHeritage](#) aimed at profiling one African World Heritage Site each week on AWHF’s social media platforms. Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls World Heritage Site (Zambia and Zimbabwe) will launch the campaign.

### DRAFT AGENDA

Organiser	African World Heritage Fund (AWHF)
<b>Time</b>	25 May 2020 (14:00 – 15:30) Johannesburg Time
<b>14:00 – 14:05</b>	Welcome by Program Director Dr Albino Jopela Head of Programmes - African World Heritage Fund (AWHF)
<b>14:05 – 14:10</b>	<b>Endogenous mechanisms for culture of peace in Africa</b> Mr Komi N’kegbe Foga Tublu Coordinator of the Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies (CELHTO)-African Union, Niger.
<b>14:10 – 14:15</b>	<b>Cultivating cultures of peace in Africa</b> Dr Kendi Borona Conservation and Heritage Practitioner, Kenya
<b>14:15 – 14:20</b>	<b>Protecting the shrines of the soul of a people to sustain peaceful societies</b> Dr Olga Bialostocka Senior Research Specialist Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), South Africa
<b>14:20 – 14:25</b>	<b>An archaeological perspective of pandemic outbreak in Africa</b> Prof. Shadreck Chirikure University of Cape Town, South Africa
<b>14:25 – 15:15</b>	Engagement Session (Debate, Questions and Answers) led by Programme Director
<b>15:15 – 15:25</b>	<b>Launch of #MyAfricanHeritage Campaign</b> Profiling Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls World Heritage Site Mr John Zulu, Site Manager (Zambia) & Ms Amanda Vambe, Site Manager (Zimbabwe)
<b>15:25 – 15:30</b>	<b>The way forward: #MyAfricanHeritage Campaign</b> Dr Albino Jopela (Program Director)

<sup>1</sup> Preis, A-B. & Mustea, C. S. 2013. *Peace and Reconciliation: How Culture Makes the Difference*. UNESCO.