

## **Message of Congratulations from the Chairperson of the African World Heritage Fund on the Election of Professor Khaled El-Enany as Director-General of UNESCO**

On behalf of the Board of Governors and the entire African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) family, I wish to extend our warmest congratulations and profound joy on the historic election of Professor Khaled El-Enany, Patron of the AWHF, as Director-General of UNESCO.

This outstanding achievement is not only a tribute to Professor El-Enany's remarkable personal accomplishments but also a moment of great pride for Africa and for all those who share a deep commitment to the ideals of education, culture, and heritage. His election—by an overwhelming majority of UNESCO Member States—bears testimony to the confidence and respect he has earned through decades of dedicated service to heritage, scholarship, and international cooperation.

As Patron of the AWHF, Professor El-Enany has been an inspirational champion of Africa's heritage. His visionary leadership, eloquent advocacy, and steadfast belief in the transformative power of culture have significantly advanced the Fund's mission of protecting, conserving, and promoting Africa's cultural and natural heritage. From his pivotal role in hosting the high-level side event on Africa's heritage priorities during the 47th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris to his consistent support for capacity-building and heritage financing, Professor El-Enany has consistently placed Africa at the heart of the global heritage discourse.

We are confident that under his stewardship, UNESCO will continue to uphold the principles of dialogue, inclusion, and multilateral cooperation that are essential for safeguarding the world's shared heritage. His vision—anchored in empowerment, partnership, and innovation—resonates deeply with the aspirations of African peoples and with AWHF's enduring mission to strengthen Africa's presence and leadership within the World Heritage Convention.

The AWHF celebrates this milestone with immense pride and renewed optimism. We look forward to continuing our close collaboration with UNESCO under Professor El-Enany's guidance, united in our shared commitment to ensuring that Africa's heritage remains a source of identity, inspiration, and sustainable development for generations to come.

With heartfelt congratulations and the highest esteem,

Vusithemba Ndimba

**Chairperson**

**African World Heritage Fund (AWHF)**

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