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Concept Note

UNESCO Chairs and Partners Forum

# Transforming Knowledge for Africa's Future

Under the patronage of H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, Monday 30 September to Wednesday 2 October 2024

## Context

At this inflection point in global development, the future of humanity faces an urgent choice between “breakdown or breakthrough”. The “choices we make, or fail to make, today could result in further breakdown and a future of perpetual crises, or a breakthrough to a better, more sustainable, peaceful future for our people and planet”.<sup>1</sup> It is an existential choice between continuing on an unsustainable path, or radically changing course.<sup>2</sup> Knowledge is key to radically changing course toward a more just and sustainable future. Knowledge is what gives meaning to the world around us, shapes our understandings, and guides our actions. Yet, dominant models of knowledge generation, validation, distribution, and ultimately use, can no longer respond effectively to the intersecting multi-dimensional crises we face today.<sup>3</sup> Radically changing course to ensure more just and sustainable futures requires a transformation of the ways in which we generate and use knowledge. Additionally, there is need for reformulation of the public dimension of knowledge, science, and innovation, particularly as it has implications within the education and skills development systems in Africa. We must transform knowledge if we are to shape alternative futures of humanity. This is also encapsulated in Agenda 2063, Africa’s development blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future, with the vision of “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the global arena”.<sup>4</sup>

The future of humanity is inextricably linked to Africa’s future. Yet, established narratives around the future of the continent continue to reflect the long-standing imbalances in knowledge production and in academic research on Africa. Research remains largely dominated by institutions in, or with close links to, the Global North. Reframing the narrative around Africa’s future requires the mobilization of diverse knowledge traditions. Africa is a continent with immense potential for growth and development. However, one of the key challenges hindering progress is the limited access to and utilization of knowledge resources. Transforming knowledge systems is crucial for Africa to overcome the existing barriers and unlock its full

<sup>1</sup> UN. 2021. [Our Common Agenda](#). Report of the Secretary-General. New York.

<sup>2</sup> UNESCO. 2021. [Reimagining Our Futures Together: A new social contract for education](#). Report of the International Commission for the Futures of Education.

<sup>3</sup> UNESCO. 2022. [Transforming knowledge for just and sustainable futures](#).

<sup>4</sup> African Union Commission. 2015. [Agenda 2063: The Africa we want](#).

potential for sustainable development. The opportunities offered to younger generations for many decades to come will be shaped by how well Africa harnesses knowledge and innovation. There is therefore need for a paradigm shift in how knowledge is generated, shared, and used in Africa, paving the way for a more just, sustainable, and prosperous future. There are profound implications for the futures of higher education and research. A new 'planetary consciousness', drawing upon all the 'archives of the world', is needed to pave the pathways of tomorrow in the context of today's 'techno-ecological' crises.<sup>5</sup> Acknowledging, valuing, and mobilizing diverse ways of knowing and understanding the world in the current juncture of global development has implications for the ways in which we design and conduct research, with whom, and for what purposes.

The co-construction of a shared research agenda for the future of Africa must draw from diverse yet complementary forms of knowledge, perspectives and contexts. It implies interdisciplinary, inter-sectoral, cross-cultural, and forward-looking approaches nourished by diverse ecologies of knowledge, that includes valuing and integrating indigenous knowledge systems. A collaborative research agenda further calls for fair and equitable partnerships among universities, think tanks, industry, the youth, as well as civil society organizations, social movements, and communities. More inclusive and collaborative partnerships are key to strengthening the capacity of African research and development ecosystems to transform knowledge generation and use for more just and sustainable futures for Africa and the world.

## Aim and objectives

The UNESCO Chairs and Partners Forum *Transforming Knowledge for Africa's Future* aims to strengthen interdisciplinary and collaborative research capacity in Africa, including through more inclusive and effective South-South and South-South-North research partnerships.

By mobilizing diverse regional and international research networks, the objectives of the UNESCO Chairs and Partners Forum are to:

- Examine the implications of diverse future scenarios of Africa for research, science, innovation and development ecosystems on the Continent;
- Strengthen collaborative research partnerships and networks between higher education institutions and other research partners in the region and globally;
- Examine and discuss policies and frameworks needed to support knowledge-based economies and innovation-driven societies in Africa;
- Identify and discuss strategies for enhancing access to knowledge, particularly for marginalized communities and underrepresented groups, and dialogue between knowledge systems;
- Discuss the roles of education and capacity-building in nurturing a knowledge-driven society and building a skilled workforce for the future, especially at the tertiary level;
- Create a platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and collaboration among research stakeholders from Africa and beyond.

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<sup>5</sup> Mbembe, A. 2023. [Pathways of tomorrow: contribution to thinking commensurate with the planet](#). Education Research and Foresight Working Paper 32. Paris, UNESCO.

## Approach

Convened within the framework of the AU Year of Education, the Forum will critically engage with scenarios of projected probable futures and creatively explore alternative possible futures for Africa. In doing so, the Forum will address a range of issues such as: health and well-being; educational transformation; youth, employment, and work; women's rights and gender equality; the ecological and digital transitions; open science, technology and innovation; peace and security; development financing; and governance. The Forum will also explore the implications of these diverse scenarios on research approaches, priorities, and capacity and the way in which networks and partnerships can be diversified in order to strengthen African higher education and research ecosystems. It will therefore contribute to Campus Africa, one of the Flagship Programmes of UNESCO's Priority Africa (2022-2029), and the review of the African Union's Continental Education Strategy for Africa (2016-2025) and planning for the future. The Forum aims to catalyze a collective effort towards building a knowledge ecosystem that serves the continent's unique needs and aspirations, and ultimately a brighter future for all Africans.

The Forum draws inspiration from the African Union's 2063 vision, as well as the upcoming UN Summit for the Future and the *Pact for the Future*. It will further draw on the report of the International Commission on the Futures of Education, *Reimagining our Futures Together: A new social contract for education (2021)*, the report of the independent expert group on universities and the 2030 Agenda, *Knowledge-driven Actions: Transforming higher education for global sustainability (2022)*, as well as UNESCO's Higher Education Roadmap 2030, *Beyond Limits: New ways of reinventing higher education*.

## Participants

Organized jointly by UNESCO and the African Union Commission, Department of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (AU/ESTI), the in-person Forum will convene some 500 participants, primarily from the regional and global network of UNESCO Chairs. They will be joined by participants from African and international research partners and networks, African think tanks, civil society organizations, industry representatives, as well as other regional and international development partners.

## Provisional agenda

Day One – Monday 30 September Envisaging Africa's Future	
08:00-09:30	<b>Registration and welcome coffee/tea</b>
09:30-12:00	<b>High Level Opening Session</b> <b>Welcome Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Stefania Giannini</b>, Assistant Director for Education, UNESCO</li><li>• <b>AU Representative</b></li></ul> <b>Opening Address</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde</b>, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the International Commission on the Futures of Education</li></ul> <p>-----</p> <b>Interlude</b> <b>Injairu Kulundu-Bolus</b> , Senior Lecturer, Rhodes University, South Africa <p>-----</p> <b>Panel Debate Transforming Knowledge for Africa's Future</b> <i>This Panel brings together leading African thinkers who will bring different perspectives to the theme of the Forum. The speakers will consider the visions of the future presented at the Summit of the Future and Africa's contributions.</i> <b>Moderator: Firmin Edouard Matoko</b> , Assistant Director-General, Priority Africa and External Relations, UNESCO Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Achille Mbembe</b>, Professor, Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research University of Witwatersrand, South Africa</li><li>• <b>Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba</b>, Founder, P.L.O. Lumumba Foundation, Kenya</li><li>• <b>Oby Ezekwesili</b>, Senior Economic Advisor, Africa Economic Development Policy Initiative at Open Society Foundation, Nigeria</li></ul> <b>Closing Remarks: AU Representative</b>
12:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	<b>Plenary Panel Discussion</b> Envisaging Africa's Future (all speakers TBC)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rika Preiser</b>, Associate Professor at Centre for Sustainability Transitions, Stellenbosch University, South Africa</li> <li>• <b>Kais Hammami</b>, Director for Foresight and AI, ICESCO</li> <li>• <b>Toyin Ojora Saraki</b>, Founder-President of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa, Nigerian Philanthropist based in the UK</li> <li>• <b>Sylvestre Kouamé Kouassi</b>, Titulaire de la Chaire UNESCO Anticipation, Prospective et Territoires Durables</li> </ul>
15:30-16:00	Tea/coffee break
16:00-18:00	<p><b>Parallel Workshops I</b> (all speakers TBC)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transforming learning and skills development in Africa to accelerate SDG4 and Continental Education Strategy for Africa commitments  <b>Sophia Ashipala</b>, Director of Education, Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI), African Union Commission  <b>Solomon Shiferaw Bogale</b>, Senior Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Education, Ethiopia or <b>Adama Coulibaly</b>, Inspector-General, Ministry of National Education, Côte d'Ivoire (members of the Sherpas Group, SDG4-Education2030 High-level Steering Committee)  <b>Dorcas Beryl Otieno</b>, UNESCO Chair on Entrepreneurship Education for Sustainable Development, Kenyatta University  <b>Jean-Marc Bernard</b>, Head of Country Programmes, Education.org  <b>Brad Olsen</b>, Senior Fellow, Centre for Universal Education, Brookings Institute  <b>Susannah Hares</b>, Director, Education Policy and Senior Policy Fellow, Centre for Global Development  <b>Benjamin Piper</b>, Director, Global Education Programme, Gates Foundation  <b>Albert Nsengiyumva</b>, Executive Secretary, ADEA</li> <li>2. Peace and Security</li> <li>3. Financing for Sustainable Development (Including public policies, debt swaps, share of young people)</li> <li>4. Science, Technology, Innovation and Digital Cooperation</li> <li>5. Youth and Future Generations</li> <li>6. Transforming Africa: Unlocking Knowledge with Generative AI  <b>Abtar Darshan Singh</b>, UNESCO Chair, Asia Pacific University of Technology &amp; Innovation (APU), Malaysia  <b>Sandile Motsa</b>, Dean, University of Eswatini (UNESWA), Eswatini  <b>Maurice Nkusi</b>, Manager, Academic Development &amp; Support, Namibia University of Science &amp; Technology  <b>Janeth Kigobe</b>, UNESCO Chair Program Manager, Open University Tanzania (OUT), Tanzania  <b>Jonathan JS Kovilpillai</b>, UNESCO Chair Program Manager, APU, Malaysia  <b>Fahd Raza</b>, UNESCO Chair Researcher, APU, Malaysia</li> </ol>

7. Transformation of Knowledge in ECCE: Evolution and Future Directions in Africa

**George Evans Owino**, Coordinator, Knowledge Generation Working Group of AU Cluster for Early Childhood Education and Development

**Hasina Ebrahim**, University of South Africa, UNESCO co-Chair on Early Childhood Education, Care and Development

**Lynette Okengo**, Executive Director, Africa Early Childhood Network

**Oumar Barry**, University of Cheikh Anta Diop of Senegal, and UNESCO co-Chair on Early Childhood Education, Care and Development

8. What is the future of the right to education: a consultation with UNESCO Chairs

**Farida Shaheed**, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to education

**Moira Faul**, Executive Director, NORRAG

**Ann Skelton**, UNESCO Chair in Education Law in Africa, University of Pretoria

**Nina Beatriz Stocco Ranieri**, UNESCO Chair in Right to Education, Universidade de Sao Paulo

**Mark Bray**, UNESCO Chair in Comparative Education, University of Hong Kong

**Andrea Broderick**, UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Peace, Maastricht University

**Emmanuel Ganse**, UN SDG Young Leader (2022-2024)

**Mustapha IJJAALI**, UNESCO Chair in Lifelong Learning, Université Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah de Fès

**Susan Osireditse Keitumetse**, UNESCO Chair on African Heritage Studies and Sustainable Development, University of Botswana

**Oomandra Nath Varma**, UNESCO Chair for Higher Education, Mauritius Institute of Education

**Winnie V. Mitullah**, UNESCO Chair in Women and Community Health, University of Nairobi

9. Learning Counts: Spotlight on basic education completion and foundational learning in Africa

**Manos Antoninis**, Director, Global Education Monitoring Report;

**Sophia Ndemutilla Ashipala**, Head of Education, African Union;

**Elifas Tozo Bisanda**, UNESCO Chair on Teacher Education and Curriculum, The Open University of Tanzania, Tanzania;

**Marleen Temmerman**, UNESCO Chair on Youth Leadership in Science, Health, Gender and Education, Aga Khan University, Kenya

**Ann Skelton**, UNESCO Chair in Education Law in Africa, University of Pretoria, South Africa

10. Youth participation, intergenerational learning and sustainable futures

**Ahmmardouh Mjaya**, University of Malawi, Malawi

**Catherine M. Jere**, University of East Anglia, UK

**Turuwark Zalalam Warkineh**, University of Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

**Abiy Menkir**, University of Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

**Tizita Lemma**, University of Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

	<p>11. Table ronde sur le rôle des femmes dans les sciences et l'innovation</p> <p><b>Tabué Nguma</b>, Chef du Secteur des SHS du Bureau régional de l'UNESCO pour l'Afrique e l'Ouest</p> <p><b>Marema Toure Thiam</b>, Sociologist, CODESRIA, Senegal</p> <p>12. South-South Cooperation to advance science, technology and innovation for sustainable development in Africa and the Global South</p> <p><b>Francesc Pedró</b>, Director, UNESCO IESALC</p> <p><b>Xiaojun Grace Wang</b>, Director a.i. UNOSSC</p>
18:00-21:00	<p><b>Welcome reception and cultural performances</b></p> <p><b>Official launch of the Amharic and Kiswahili versions of 'Reimagining our Futures Together: A New Social Contract for Education', the report from the International Commission on the Futures of Education</b></p>
<p><b>Day Two – Tuesday 1 October</b> Implications for Africa's Research Ecosystems</p>	
09:00-10:00	<p><b>Plenary Panel Discussion</b> Futures of Higher Education in Africa</p> <p><b>Moderator: Firmin Edouard Matoko</b>, Assistant Director-General, Priority Africa and External Relations, UNESCO</p> <p><b>Souleymane Konate</b>, Secretary General CAMES, Burkina Faso</p> <p><b>Olushola Oyewole</b>, Secretary General AAU, Ghana</p> <p><b>Abdoulaye Salifou</b>, Chief Education, UNESCO Liaison Office Adis Ababa, Ethiopia</p> <p><b>Jean Koulidiati</b>, Rector of Pan African University/AUC</p> <p><b>Alain Kiyindou</b>, Regional Director AUF for Central and Great Lake Africa</p> <p><b>Guédégbe Samson Igor Bidossessi</b>, Titulaire de Chaire UNESCO, Droits de la personne humaine et de la démocratie, Benin</p> <p><b>Rita Bissoonauth</b>, Director, UNESCO Liaison Office Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</p>
10:00-10:30	<p><b>Overview of UNESCO's Operational Strategy for Priority Africa</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Firmin Edouard Matoko</b>, Assistant Director-General, Priority Africa and External Relations, UNESCO</p>
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee/Tea break
11:00-12:30	<p><b>Parallel Workshops II</b></p> <p><b>Operationalizing UNESCO's Strategy for Priority Africa</b> (all speakers TBC)</p> <p>1. Flagship Programme 1: Campus Africa: Reinforcing Higher Education in Africa Convenor: Abdoulaye Salifou, (FU/ADI)</p> <p><b>Rita Bissoonauth</b>, Director, UNESCO Liaison Office to the African Union (AU),</p>

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and UNESCO Representative to Ethiopia.

**Sobhi Tawil**, Director, Future of Learning and Innovation, UNESCO

**Dimitri Sanga**, Director UNESCO Regional Office for West Africa

**Valerie Verdier**, CEO, IRD, France.

**Elizabeth Colucci**, Director of International projects, Obreal Global, Spain.

**Souleymane Konaté**, Secretary General, Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l'Enseignement Supérieur (CAMES), Burkina Faso.

**Saidou Madougou**, Director Department ESTI, AUC, Ethiopia.

**Jean Kouliadiati**, Rector, Pan-African University (PAU), Cameroon.

**Alain Kiyindou**, Regional Director Central and Great Lakes Africa, Cameroon.

**Emmanuel Barry**, Director Departement Health, Education and Real estate (BOAD)

**Amadou Tchambou**, Director Department of Higher Education and TVET of UEMOA, Burkina Faso

2. Flagship Programme 2: The General History of Africa – Transforming Knowledge Systems Through the Teaching and Learning of the General History of Africa

Convenor: Maria Mathilde Stoleroff (ED/GCP)

**Mamadou Ndoye**, Expert in Education Policies, former Minister of Education of Senegal

**Cecilia Barbieri**, Chief of the Section for Global Citizenship and Peace Education, UNESCO

**Nazreen Dasoo**, UNESCO Chair in Values Education-Learning to Live Together, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

**Leon P Tikly**, UNESCO Chair in Inclusive, Good Quality Education, University of Bristol, United Kingdom

**Karine Silva**, UNESCO Chair on Education towards Racial Equality, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil

**Elifas Bisanda**, UNESCO Chair on Teacher Education and Curriculum, The Open University of Tanzania

**Hemant Bessoondyal**, UNESCO Chair on Higher Education, Mauritius Institute of Education

**Augustin Holl**, Professor, Chair of the Scientific Committee for the drafting of new GHA volumes

3. Flagship Programme 3: Fostering Cultural Heritage and Capacity Development

Convenor: Sonia Zerroualy (CLT/CEM)

Speakers TBC

4. Flagship Programme 4: Harnessing New and Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development in Africa

Convenor: SC Sector

**Rita Bissoonauth**, Director, UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office to AU and UNECA

**Lydia Gachungi**, CI Regional Adviser, UNESCO Addis LO,

**Prateek Sibal**, Programme Specialist, Digital Policies and Digital Transformation Section, CI Sector

**Lishan Adams**, Research ICT Africa Network

**Souhila Amazouz**, Senior ICT Policy Office, Department of Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission

**Abdoulaye Salifou**, Chief of Education, UNESCO Addis LO  
**Admire Mare**, Researcher, AI Expert and Professor, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

5. Flagship Programme 5: Enhance Open Science, Innovation and Technology – UNESCO's initiative towards open access in Africa

Convenor: **Amal Kasry**, Chief of Section, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO  
**Shaofeng Hu**, Director of the Division of Science Policy and Basic Sciences, UNESCO

**Malik Maaza**, UNESCO Chair in Nanosciences and Nanotechnology, South Africa

**Ponnadurai Ramasami**, UNESCO Chair in Computational Chemistry, Mauritius

**Tshenolo Phinah Leso**, UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Manufacturing and Innovation Technologies

**Patrice Kenfack Tsobnang**, University of Dschang, Cameroon

**Rim Benali-Cherif**, Abbes Laghrour Khenchela University, Algeria

**Thematic Parallel Sessions** (all speakers TBC)

1. Continental Education Strategy for Africa – Consultations II

Speakers TBC

2. Transforming research for just and sustainable African futures: Towards new ecologies of knowledge

**Leon Tikly**, UNESCO Chair on Transforming Knowledge and Research for Just and Sustainable Futures, University of Bristol, UK

**Catherine Odora Hoppers**, Professor, Gulu University, Uganda and former Technical Adviser on Indigenous Knowledge Systems to the Parliamentary Committee on Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, South Africa

**Moira V. Faul**, Senior Lecturer Geneva Graduate Institute and Executive Director NORRAG, Switzerland.

**Divine Fuh**, Director of the Institute for Humanities Africa, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

**Crain Soudien**, (retired) Chief Executive Officer of the Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

**Rajesh Tandon**, UNESCO Co-Chair on Community-based Research & Social Responsibility in Higher Education, Founder-Dean, PRIA International Academy, India

3. Embracing Diversity for Africa's Future: Integrating Indigenous Philosophies in African Education

**Samuel Amponsah**, Associate Professor, University of Ghana, Ghana

**Kewulay H. Kamara**, UNESCO Chair in Futures Education, University of Makeni, Sierra Leone

**Winnie V. Mitullah**, UNESCO Chair in Women and Community Health, University of Nairobi, Kenya

**Darla K. Deardorff**, UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competences, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

**Rasha Metawi**, UNESCO Chair on Cultural Heritage Education, Helwan

University, Egypt

4. Research Reimagined: AI's role in Africa's future

**Sandile Motsa**, Dean, University of Eswatini (UNESWA), Eswatini  
**Jonathan JS Kovilpillai**, UNESCO Chair Program Manager, APU, Malaysia  
**Fahd Raza**, UNESCO Chair Researcher, APU, Malaysia

5. Science, Technology and Innovation Foresight for African Countries

**Alexander Sokolov**, UNESCO Chair on Future Studies, HSE University, Russia  
**Mlungisi Cele**, NACI, South Africa  
**Petrus Letaba**, University of Pretoria, South Africa  
**Driss Guerraoui**, University of Dakhla, Morocco  
**Jonathan Calof**, UNESCO Chair on Anticipatory Systems for Innovation and Venture Creation, University of New Brunswick; University of Ottawa, Canada; HSE University, Russia; North-West University, South Africa  
**Tanja Hichert**, UNESCO Chair in Complex Systems and Transformative African Futures, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

6. Assessing AI Research and Innovation Capacities for Africa's Leapfrogging in the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution [MAYBE LOOK AT FLAGSHIP 4 HERE?](#)

**Kiran BHUJUN**, Director, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research Division, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, Govt of Mauritius, Secretary General, Mauritius National Commission for UNESCO  
**Mr. Ngandeu Ngatta Hugue**, Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa  
**Diana Nyakundi**, Research Fellow at Research ICT Africa, Lead National Researcher for the RAM in Kenya  
**Claude Migisha**, Digital Development Expert, Lead National Expert for the RAM in Rwanda  
**Joyce Nakatumba-Nabende**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Science, Makerere University (Uganda) **or Neema Mduma**, Senior Lecturer, Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Tanzania  
**Taye Girma**, Deputy General Director, Research and Development Cluster, Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute, Ethiopia  
**Gloria Iyawa, Chairholder**, UNESCO Chair for Gender and Digital Technologies, Namibia  
**Yoslan Nur**, Programme Specialist, Natural Science Sector, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa  
**Anthony Mshandete**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Research and Innovation at Nelson Mandela African Institution for Science and Technology (NM-AIST) in Arusha, Tanzania. Chairholder, UNESCO Chair in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) and Leadership (Tanzania)

7. Transforming lives, shaping futures: Enhancing student health and well-being in Higher Education

**Didier Jourdan**, UNESCO Chair Global Health and Education  
**Amon Chaka**, Manicaland State University of Applied Science, Zimbabwe  
**Martin Lemond**, student at Kabwe Institute of Technology  
**Eunice Manela**, student at Copperbelt University  
**Harrison Phiri**, Technical and Vocational Teachers' College, Zambia  
**Viola Nilah Nyakato**, University of Science and Technology, Uganda

	<p><b>Vincent Nacidze</b>, UNESCO, Zambia  <b>Pennelope Kasere</b>, UNESCO, Zimbabwe</p> <p>8. Stronger Higher Education Doctoral Education for a stronger African Continent</p> <p>Convenor: Hilligje van 't Land (IAU)</p> <p><b>Jouhaina Gherib</b>, UNESCO chair holder, University of Manouba, Tunisia  <b>Hilligje van 't Land</b>, Secretary General, International Association of Universities (IAU)  <b>Nana Aba Appiah Amfo</b>, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana, Ghana  <b>Wondwosen Tamrat</b>, President, St Mary's University, Ethiopia  <b>Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah</b>, Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Abuja, Nigeria  <b>Sunungurai Dominica Chingarande</b>, Vice-Chancellor, Women's University in Africa, Zimbabwe</p>
12:30-14:00	<p><b>Reception to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA)</b></p>
14:00-15:30	<p><b>Plenary Panel Discussion</b> (all speakers TBC)  Diversifying Knowledge and Fostering Inclusive Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (The International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development)</p> <p><b>Sobhi Tawil</b>, Director, Future of Learning and Innovation Division, UNESCO  <b>Shaofeng Hu</b>, Director of Natural Science Sector, UNESCO  <b>Tshilidzi Marwala</b>, Rector, United Nations University  <b>Saïdou Madougou</b>, The Africa Union Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation  <b>Alexandra Xanthaki</b>, UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights</p>
15:30-16:00	<p>Tea/coffee break</p>
16:00-18:00	<p><b>Plenary Keynote Lecture and Panel Discussion</b> (all speakers TBC)  <b>Futures of Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa</b></p> <p><b>Amal Kasry</b>, Chief of Basic Sciences, Research Innovation, and Engineering Section, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO  <b>Birhanu Nega</b>, Minister of FDRE Ministry of Education  <b>Belete Molla</b>, Minister of FDRE Innovation and Technology  <b>Losenge Turoop</b>, Director, Pan African University Institute for Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PAUSTI), Kenya  <b>Jelal Ezzine</b>, Chairholder, Chaire UNESCO sur la politique de la science, de la technologie et de l'innovation, Ecole Nationale d'Ingénieurs de Tunis (ENIT), Tunisia</p>

	<p><b>Sujatha Raman</b>, UNESCO Chair on Science Communication for the Public Good, the Australian National University, Australia</p> <p><b>Qiuming Cheng</b>, UNESCO Chair on Deep-time Digital Earth and Mineral Resources, China University of Geosciences (Beijing), China</p> <p><b>Giselle Venancio, Chairholder</b>, UNESCO Chair on "Global and Social Inequalities: Innovative Approaches", Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil</p> <p><b>Fawaz Hazza Abu Sitta</b>, Foresight Research Director, UNESCO Chair in Futures Studies: Anticipatory Systems for Prosperous Futures, Center for Futures Studies - University of Dubai, United Arab Emirates</p> <p><b>Abdul Rahman Lamin</b>, Social and Human Sciences Sector, UNESCO</p>
18:00-21:00	<b>Official Dinner and Cultural Event</b>
<b>Day Three – Wednesday 2 October</b> Strengthening Collaborative Research Partnerships across Africa and beyond	
09:00-10:00	<b>Dialogue on Strengthening Collaborative Research Partnerships</b> <b>Speakers TBC</b>
10:00-10:30	Coffee/tea break
10:30-11:30	<b>Parallel Workshops III</b> (all speakers TBC) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Round table on Partnerships BSP Director and UNESCO’s work Speakers TBC</li> <li>2. Health and Education: Innovating for Sustainable Development Focus – Human rights and sexual, reproductive and affective health Convenor: Joelle Mignot Speakers TBC</li> <li>3. Enhancing Collaborative Research Partnerships through Generative AI Convenor: Abtar Darshan Singh <b>Abtar Darshan Singh</b>, UNESCO Chair, Asia Pacific University of Technology &amp; Innovation (APU), Malaysia <b>Maurice Nkusi</b>, Manager, Academic Development &amp; Support, Namibia University of Science &amp; Technology <b>Janeth Kigobe</b>, UNESCO Chair Program Manager, Open University Tanzania (OUT), Tanzania <b>Fahd Raza</b>, UNESCO Chair Researcher, APU, Malaysia</li> <li>4. Rethinking the Curriculum: The need for endogenous education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Convenor: Gertrude Nambuiru Speakers TBC</li> <li>5. Fostering global partnerships: Advancing sustainable postsecondary research collaboration between African higher education and historically Black</li> </ol>

universities in the United States

Convenor: Christopher Brown II,

**Christopher Brown**, Executive Director, Payne Research Center, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, United States

**N. Joyce Payne**, Founder, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, United States

**Tymon M. Graham**, Director of Research Strategy, Payne Research Center, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, United States

6. Transforming Knowledge for Africa's Future: Rethinking the role and contribution from the Social Sciences and the Humanities

Convenor: Hugue Ngandeu Ngatta

**Abdul Rahman Lamin**, Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa

**Dzodzi Tsikata**, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, UK: The Right to Science, Academic Freedom and the Safety of the Social Scientist in Africa

**Ngandeu Ngatta Hugue**, Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa

**Christine Noe** - Principal College of Social Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam

**Karuti Kanyinga**, Research Professor of Development Studies, Director of the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi

**Lettie Tembo Longwe**, Interim Director /Head of Secretariat Tana Forum, Institute for Peace and Security Study at Addis Ababa University

**Luka Biong Deng, PhD**, Professor of Peace, Development, and Security Studies at the University of Juba, Managing Director of the Sudd Institute Sudd Institute and the Institute of Peace, Development and Security Studies, University of Juba

**Rika Preiser or Prof. Tanja Hichert**, UNESCO Chair on Complex Systems and Transformative African Futures, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

**Tabue Nguma**, Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Regional Office for Western Africa

**Peggy Oti-Boateng**, Executive Director, The African Academy of Sciences

7. Putting African Indigenous Knowledge to work for the Future of Africa

Convenor: Rajesh Tandon

**Yaya Sangare**, Director-General of Fonds pour la Science, La Technologie et l'innovations (FONSTI) Ivory Coast

**Helene Kienon-Kabore Timpoko**, Professeur des universités (CAMES/Professeur Titulaire), Archéologue, Historienne, Anthropologue, Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny de Cocody, Côte D'Ivoire

**Wangoola-Wangoola Nduwala**, Nabyama (Founder) of the Mpambo Afrikan Multiversity in Busoga Kingdom, Uganda

**Alois Porokwa**, A Maasai Elder, Executive Director, NALEPPO, A Maasai NGO located in Emboreet, Manyara, Tanzania

**Alice Lamwaka**, Director of Indigenous Medicine, Gulu University, Acholi territory, Uganda

8. Intersections of Intercultural Communication/Education and Digital Literacies

Convenor: Darla K. Deardorff

**Darla K. Deardorff**, UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competence at

Stellenbosch University, South Africa

9. Decolonizing the training of the next generation of African researchers: The African Knowledge for Change Centre

**Robert Juuko**, Co-Coordinator, African K4C Centre, Gulu University, Uganda

**David Monk**, Co-Coordinator, African K4C Centre, Gulu University, Uganda

**Mwalimu Musheshe**, Vice-Chancellor, African Rural University, Uganda

**Rene Oosthuizen**, Coordinator K4C Hub and Academic Lead, Rhodes University, Makanda, South Africa

10. Présentation jeu vidéo ludo-éducatif “Héros Africains”

Convenor : Tabue Nguma

**Gabriela Ramos**, ADG/SHS de l’UNESCO

**S.E. Claver Gatete**, Secrétaire exécutif de l’UNECA

**Mohamed Mehdi Bensaid**, Ministre de la Culture du Royaume du Maroc

**Samia Chelbi**, Directrice de Netinfo & Digiartlivinglab

**Tabue Nguma**, Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Regional Office for Western Africa

**Tony Bogue**, Professeur Brown University

**Cheick Tidiane Seck**, Artiste malien de renommée internationale

**Louise Freire**, Journaliste afro-brésilienne

**Aché Ahmat Moustapha**, écrivaine, productrice et influenceuse

**Rita Bissoonauth**, Directrice du Bureau de Liaison de l’UNESCO

11:30-12:30

### Thematic UNESCO Chairs/Network Meetings I (all speakers TBC)

1. Promoting gender equality in and through STEM education

Convenor: Elspeth McOmish

**Elsbeth McOmish**, Section of Education for Inclusion and Gender Equality, UNESCO

**Aminata Sall Diallo**, Executive Director of the Executive Board of the Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET), Senegal

**Simone Yankey-Ouattara**, Acting Coordinator, African Union International Centre for Girls’ and Women’s Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA), Burkina Faso

**Quentin Wodon**, Director, UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa

**Genevieve Mwayuli**, Board of Directors, Forum for African Women Educationalists, Kenya

2. Building Research Partnerships to Advance Production and Use of New Historical Knowledge: UNITWIN Network on the General History of Africa

Convenor: Lamine Diagne and Abdul Rahman Lamin

**H. E. Thabo Mbeki**, Former President of South Africa & Founder, Thabo Mbeki Leadership Institute, University of South Africa

**Abdul Rahman Lamin/Lamine Diagne**

**Idrissa Bah (CAD)/Kenneth Ombongi (UoN)/Mohamed Camara (Howard)**

**Lily Mafela**, University of Botswana, Botswana

3. Education Futures Network for Epistemic Justice and the Knowledge

	<p>Commons (EpiNet) – new research connections and partnerships  Convenor: Prachi Srivastava and Leon Tikly</p> <p><b>Prachi Srivastava</b>, Associate Professor, Western University, Canada  <b>Leon Tikly</b>, Professor, Bristol University and UNESCO Chair in Transforming Knowledge and Research for Just and Sustainable Futures, UK  <b>Catherine Hoppers</b>, Professor, Gulu University, Uganda, and former Technical Adviser on Indigenous Knowledge Systems to the Parliamentary Committee on Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, South Africa  <b>Moira Faul</b>, Executive Director, Network for International Policies and Cooperation in Education and Training (NORRAG), Global  <b>Maureen Reed</b>, Professor, University of Saskatchewan and UNESCO Chair in Biocultural Diversity, Sustainability, Reconciliation, and Renewal, Canada  <b>Rajesh Tandon</b>, Founder and President, PRIA and UNESCO Co-Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, India</p> <p>4. Enhancing Arts and Culture Education through Research Cooperation  Convenor: Cristina Cusenza</p> <p><b>Joel Kipkemboi Kiboss</b>, UNESCO Chair in Culture and Arts in Education for Sustainable Development, Kabarak University, Kenya  <b>Angela Martins</b>, Acting Director for Social Development, Culture and Sport, African Union  <b>Cristina Cusenza</b>, Associate Project Officer for Culture, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa  <b>Emily A. Akuno</b>, Professor of Music, The Technical University of Kenya, Kenya  <b>Jill Margaret Pribyl</b>, UNESCO Chair on Dance for Global Citizenship Education, University of Kisubi, Uganda  <b>Hemant Bessoondyal</b>, UNESCO Chair in Higher Education, Mauritius Institute of Education (M.I.E.), Mauritius</p> <p>5. Promoting Ecohydrological Nature-based Solutions in Africa  Convenor: Rahmah Elfithri and Alexandros Makarigakis  Speakers TBC</p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	<b>Thematic UNESCO Chair/Network Meetings II</b>
15:30-16:00	Tea/coffee break
16:00-17:00	<p><b>Closing Plenary</b></p> <p><b>Firmin Edouard Matoko</b>, Assistant Director-General, Priority Africa and External Relations, UNESCO</p> <p>Representatives of UNESCO and AU</p>

## Partners (to be confirmed)

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