

Leveraging Documentary Heritage for Sustainable Development in Africa

CONSULTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNESCO RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF, AND ACCESS TO, DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE INCLUDING IN DIGITAL FORM

June 25-27, 2018
Abuja, Nigeria



CONTEXT

UNESCO's *Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form*, adopted on 17 November 2015, represents a significant milestone in UNESCO's efforts at preserving documentary heritage, providing universal access to it, and raising public awareness of its shared cultural value.

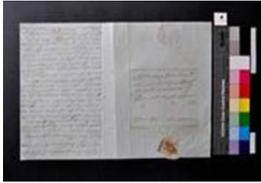
The *Recommendation* provides a coherent normative framework for addressing the felt needs and specific contexts of Member States in their individual and collective efforts to implement it through formulating and adopting appropriate policies, strategies and legislation across five key areas of documentary heritage *identification, preservation, access, policy and cooperation*.

In 2019, UNESCO Member States will be expected to report formally on measures taken to implement the *Recommendation* within their own jurisdictions. Consequently, the MoW Secretariat has taken it upon itself to arrange a series of regional consultations to enhance such reporting preparedness among UNESCO Member States.

As such, the Africa-regional Consultation targets key memory institutions – archives, libraries, museums, other educational, cultural and research organizations as well as government authorities. The broad aim is to map out an implementation framework for the *Recommendation* in Africa, including by offering technical assistance to African countries seeking to identify and nominate documentary heritage for possible inscription nationally, regionally or internationally. Such assistance will incorporate efforts to revive and strengthen the Africa Regional Committee for the Memory of the World (ARCMoW).

This also reflects the call by the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the MoW Programme to encourage and support developing countries that are represented inadequately in the MoW International Register.

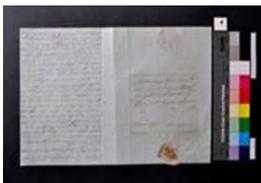
Furthermore, the Consultation will serve to reinforce Agenda 2063, particularly Africa's aspiration for a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics.



OBJECTIVES

In this context, this Consultation aims to:

- Raise awareness about the *Recommendation* and put in place an action plan for implementing it effectively in Africa.
- Contribute towards greater understanding of the MoW Programme in Africa.
- Build the capacities of national memory institutions in identifying the significance of documentary cultural heritage for possible inscription on MoW national, regional and/or international registers.
- Increase the representation of Africa on the MoW International Register.
- Encourage African countries to establish national and sub-regional MoW Committees as part of a wider strategy to strengthen the Africa Regional Committee for Memory of the World (ARCMoW).
- Encourage memory institutions in Africa to collaborate with the appropriate professional associations to enhance and share their technical knowledge as well as to contribute to the ongoing development of international standards in the MoW field.
- Provide a platform for sub-regional stakeholders like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to support the development of academic curricula for digital preservation, enhance networking activities for more effective implementation of the MoW Programme as well as promote the exchange of experiences based on good practices from other regions.



EXPECTED RESULTS

Against the above objectives, this Consultation aspires to achieve the following expected results:

- Preparation of an implementation framework for the *Recommendation* in Africa.
- Increased knowledge of the *Recommendation* among memory institutions in Africa.
- A reinvigorated ARCMoW.



PROGRAMME TRACKS

- **Plenary sessions**, introduced by a keynote speaker on aspects of the *Recommendation*.
- **Panel debates**, focused on the operational aspects of the *Recommendation* whose conclusions will feed into an eventual implementation framework to be adopted by the Consultation participants.
- **Sub-regional caucuses**, led by UNESCO's Information and Communication Advisors (ACIs) and National Programme Officers (NPOs), with a focus on the establishment of sub-regional and national committees of the Memory of the World.
- **Exhibitions**, led by memory institutions in Nigeria (libraries, archives, museums, research organizations, educational institutions, etc.).



KEYNOTE & OTHER SPEAKERS

The Consultation will bring together an interdisciplinary ensemble of keynote and other speakers across the full spectrum of documentary heritage – librarians, archivists, museologists, researchers, academicians, policymakers, etc. Such speakers will include international experts from other parts of the world, along with African MoW luminaries who helped to set up, and are keen on, revamping the ARCMoW.



MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME

The Consultation is being led by the Memory of the World (MoW) Programme Secretariat in Paris, in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja, as part of its broader strategy to build Member States' institutional capacities and preparedness in response to the implementation of and reporting on the 2015 Recommendation within their respective jurisdictions.



PARTICIPANTS

Over 100 participants – drawn from UNESCO Member States' archives, libraries, museums, other educational, cultural and research organizations as well as relevant governmental and intergovernmental organizations – will gather in Abuja, with possible UNESCO funding for at least one participant per country. Allocation of travel grants will be determined in consultation with UNESCO field offices in Africa, with the following criteria applicable, among other pertinent considerations:

- Recommended or proposed by a National Commission for UNESCO or National MoW Committee, where available;
- Willingness and ability to take part as a speaker or interlocutor in any of the four programme tracks listed above;
- Prior involvement in MoW activities, including conferences, workshops, etc.; and
- If the participant comes from an African country listed as Least Developed (LDC).

National Commissions or National MoW Committees wishing to recommend or propose names of potential participants are encouraged to send an email to:

Fackson Banda (f.banda@unesco.org); and
 Raji Pajany (r.pajany@unesco.org), on copy.



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

An Organizing Committee, made up of the following, is driving preparations for the Consultation:

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