



STATEMENT OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD (ARCMoW) FOLLOWING THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN FIRE

We have learned with dismay about the terrible fire which spread to the University of Cape Town 19 April 2021. The reports reveal serious damage to the University Library – many valuable, historic collections have been lost. This is an inestimable loss for South Africa, the African continent, and all of humanity.

We can only hope that these important documentary heritage assets have been previously digitized and secured outside of the library and university premises.

In these painful circumstances, the African Regional Committee of Memory of the World (ARCMoW), along with the community of documentary heritage professionals across Africa, expresses its compassion and solidarity with its South African colleagues.

As African documentary heritage professionals (archivists, librarians, museum professionals, academics and researchers), we stand ready to provide our South African colleagues, and the University of Cape Town in particular, with any support possible.

Papa Momar DIOP

Vice-President of ARCMOW

Dakar, Senegal

19 April 2021