



CONCEPT NOTE NZUKO¹ 2023 – AFRICA WEEK

CONTEXT

With some 40 percent of its population aged 15 years and younger as against the global average of 25 percent², research studies refer to Africa as the continent of the future³. In contrast, almost 60% of Africa's youths between the ages of 15 and 17 are out of school⁴. Yet we are talking about the continent where the world's oldest universities were built⁵. Africa's children have no logical excuse for lagging behind in education. Researchers and experts have inextricably linked the reasons for this anomaly to the instability resulting from and exacerbated by armed conflicts in many regions of Africa as well as fallout from [humanitarian crises](#) such as famine, lack of drinking water, and outbreaks of diseases such as [malaria](#) and [Ebola](#), among others⁶. It is doubtful that the world fully realises that good intentions are not sufficient to get Africa out of where it is today, and accusations of spoliation will continue to be directed at the world powers whether justified or not. Despite the many hopeful speeches, actions that point to change are minimal. This has equally made bolder the question mark about whether aid to Africa is help or hindrance to its development.

TOWARDS A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT MODEL

A reversal relationship based on an open, equal partnership and development-oriented manner has been fronted as highly desirable to build the needed trust in Africans, Afro-descendants and their true friends. A world where they are allowed the genuine space to communicate and treat issues of concern to them, like people in other continents. Take the example of the so-called overwhelming "invasion" of the West by African immigrants as a case study. As long as Western policy makers are unwilling to acknowledge that the phenomenon is driven by the human need for greener pastures, their migration policies will continue to amount to treating the symptoms rather than the disease. All hopes are not lost however, when one takes a look at recent policy documents of an isolated number of countries. They contain a sense of realisation that economic empowerment of Africans and Afro-descendants in the migration source countries and a fairer legal migration policy will be proof of the obvious: that Africans do not need to look beyond their shores to thrive and survive.

ABOUT US

AfricaFora is facilitating the purposeful conversation with its suite of activities, AfricaFora actively seeks partnership with Africans and their true friends in the international community to redirect both the conversation and the actions to activate accelerated change. The imperative of our time in history as global citizens is for Africans to be at the centre of the long overdue conversation around rewriting the professional and personal relationship and objective representation of their image, in an open, equal partnership and development-oriented manner with the world at large. Given its history and current activities in Africa, France and its African citizens in particular have an enhanced role to play in the emergence of the envisaged new relationship.

¹ Nzuko (Igbo) – meeting/reunion



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Promote intra-Africa trade and cultural relations and interactions,
- Promote new narratives about Africa and the diaspora
- Promote equal partnership between Africa, the diaspora and the world
- Promote and facilitate the activities of African business communities at home and abroad
- Enhance market presence of African Products and services
- Boost the “African” brand

DATE & VENUE

The 3rd edition of AfricaFora’s **Nzuko – Africa Week** will hold on May 25 & 27, 2023 online and in Paris. Our **2 previous editions** took place from **May 24 - 26, 2021 and 2022 respectively**. We had participants from over 10 African and Friends of Africa countries like Libya, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the United States, Uganda and France, among others for the 1st edition; and over 16 African, Afro-descendant and friends of Africa countries for the 2nd edition. Also, we had very good audience on both occasions.

For video coverage of previous editions see [here](#).

For press reports, please see below:

- breezynewsnigeria.com/2022/04/24/1594/
- breezynewsnigeria.com/2022/05/23/conference-on-africa-economic-week-begins-tuesday/
- westernafricamagazine.org/view-magazine/ (pages 84-99)

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

AfricaFora is actively seeking speakers who have interest in speaking to the areas of our expected outcomes. To express interest, kindly favour us with a 300-word executive summary as well as your summary profile of not more than 200 words and a headshot.

Submit your application to admin@africafora.com, preferably not later than 20 February 2023.

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