

NZUKO 2024



AFRICA WEEK

AfricaFora proudly presents our speakers for Nzuko 2024 – Africa Week, to celebrate Africa Day, and bring Africans, Afro-descendants and their friends together. Again, this year's event will be hybrid; gathering an international crowd during our online conference on **Saturday, May 25th** on the theme of Good Governance and Accountability.

We welcome kids, and grown-ups alike, friends and curious passers-by to our festival in the Paris region, on **Sunday May 26th**, for a rich programme of economic and cultural activities (including food, drinks, music and more)!

Check out our programme to learn more about the various activities, expert panels and high-level conversations. Activities will include panels, cultural displays, food sales and more. You can register now for the FREE online conference and buy tickets for the festival by contacting admin@africafora.com. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Speakers

Hon. Collins Nweke – Patron of AfricaFora

Hon. Nweke is the first naturalised Belgian to be elected to political office in West Flanders, where he is executing his third mandate. Former chief executive and chairman of Nigerians in Diaspora in Europe, Nweke has been active in consultancy and advocacy in the field of socio-economic development for Nigeria and for Africa in general. He is the current Vice President of the Rebuild Nigeria Initiative and was awarded as Doctor of Governance (Honoris Causa) in 2014.



Dr Tope Ojeme – Moderator of Nzuko 2024 – Africa Week

Dr Tope Ojeme is a Media Executive, music and media expert as well as a visiting lecturer in Mass communications at BAZE University. He is the Managing Director and CEO F-an-H Communications, as well as an Executive member of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR). Dr. Ojeme has previously worked as senior broadcast journalist and manager of programmes at Radio Nigeria HQ, and also served as Director for Communications at NALDA. He is the recipient of several awards, including several **Presenter of the year**, **Producer of the year** and **Programmer of the year** awards (Nigeria Media Merit Award) and the **People's Broadcaster** (Rotary Club International).



Jane Elliott

Jane Elliott is a world renown teacher, lecturer and diversity trainer. Creator of the famous 'Blue eyes/Brown eyes' exercise after the assassination of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, she has dedicated her work to exposes prejudice and bigotry as an irrational class system based upon purely arbitrary factors. A recipient of the National Mental Health Association award for **Excellence in Education**, Elliott has been the focus of documentaries, including “Eye of the Storm” and “A Class Divided”. She continues to lead lectures or diversity training, for corporations including General Electric, Exxon, IBM, the FBI, and more.



Philomé Robert

Philomé Robert is a Haitian journalist, essayist and novelist. A former reporter for Radio Vision 2000 in Port-au-Prince and RFI in Paris, he is now presenter of the weekend morning show on France 24. Robert is the author and co-author of several books, including *Exil au crépuscule* (Twilight exile; 2011), *Haïti réinventer l'avenir* (Haiti: reinventing the future; 2011) and *Haïti, de Michel Martelly à Jovenel Moïse* (Haiti, from Michel Martelly to Jovenel Moïse; 2019). He has also reported on numerous subjects in Haiti, France, Austria and the United States, and continues to train professional journalists in Haiti and elsewhere. Alongside his activities as a journalist and author, Robert is a volunteer trainee lawyer at the Bureau des Droits Humains in Haiti, as well as a masterclass instructor for journalism students.



Khawla Ksiksi

Khawla Ksiksi is a Gender equality, diversity, and inclusion advisor at the International Rescue Committee. She is a Tunisian jurist, advocate for environmental justice, and engaged in feminist, anti-racist, intersectional activism. She has over a decade's years of experience in managing development projects in climate justice, gender equality, community mobilization, sustainable agriculture, decentralization, and local development. After the Tunisian Revolution in 2011, she joined Mnemty (My Dream), an association that fights against all forms of discrimination and promotes unity, peace, and justice. Ksiksi then co-founded Falgatna (We're Fed Up), a queer-feminist movement which defends women's rights and lobbies against sexual violence in Tunisia. She also co-founded the collective “Voices of Black Tunisian Women” which offers a safe space for self-expression, addresses issues affecting black women in Tunisia and promotes research about their social conditions.



John Kofi Annan

John Kofi Annan is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Phynance Gold Limited in Nigeria and the Innovative Digital Entrepreneurship Academy in both Ghana and Nigeria. A serial entrepreneur with over 15 years of experience in corporate administration, and management in ICT, social media and digital marketing, he is an expert in cyberethics and responsible leadership, corporate law & finance, leadership & corporate governance and entrepreneurship. Annan is a public speaker and pan-Africanist who advocates for the unity of Africans. He champions digital education in Africa and has trained over 11,000 youths from over 30 countries in Africa and beyond in tech skills acquisition and entrepreneurship for economic prosperity.



Pierre Mugabo

Pierre Mugabo is a political scientist with expertise on socio-economic development in Africa, particularly addressing issues related to new technologies and youth empowerment. He currently works for the youth of the Rwandan Diaspora Association of Belgium, as he coordinates and supports socio-economic projects that have an impact on Belgium and/or Rwanda. He is also a member of the Diaspora Advisory Board, a program under the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Valuing the diaspora's expertise and commitment, he actively contributes to migration-related projects in Belgium and Luxembourg, emphasizing their crucial role in these initiatives. Currently employed as a consultant in finance and sustainability, his commitment extends to helping businesses achieve the digital transformation they desire. His primary focus lies in assisting companies in becoming sustainable entities, emphasizing the importance of environmentally conscious and socially responsible practices.



Dr. Chika Esiobu

Dr. Chika Esiobu is an expert in African studies whose academic and research interest centres on the central role of indigenous knowledge in Africa's advancement discourse. Dr. Esiobu is the author of numerous publications, including *Indigenous Knowledge and Education in Africa* (2019). Her insights on indigenous knowledge (in particular in relation to education, health, agriculture, politics and economy) have led her to contribute or speak at TED Global, Yale University, the Pan-African Parliament, the African Union, and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, among others. In addition to her research, she has served as a consultant for various international organizations including the World Bank, Swedish International Development Agency and multiple United Nation's agencies, among others. Currently, Dr. Esiobu serves as a visiting assistant professor of African studies at Soka University of America in California.



Dr Kevin J. Hales

Kevin J. Hales is a public scholar active in communication studies and Africology, who studies the lives of everyday African-descended people worldwide. Dr. Hales studies ethnicity (“race”), Africanity, rurality, diversity, social justice, conflict, and communication across cultures, receiving funding and patronage from the J. William Fulbright Scholar Program, Fulbright-Hayes Program, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), United States Department of State/Bureau of African Affairs, Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, and many more. In 2014, Hales became the first African American in Nigeria to initiate into Ekpe/Mgbe. More recently, he published a pioneer and unique paper *Nsibidi: The Markings and Movements of Ancient Africa*. Dr. Hales works with the Council of Igbo States in America (CISA) and the Igbo (Ebo) Landing Project, while he works on a documentary that highlights the reconnection efforts between continental Africans and those in the African Diaspora.



Dr Valentin Achidi Agon

Dr Valentin Achidi Agon is the Director of the APIPHARMA R&D microbiology laboratory, a para-university institute in Benin, and Managing Director of API-BENIN INTERNATIONAL Sarl, a pharmaceutical company. He is an expert in regional development, social geography, sustainable development and health. He co-founded APIVIRINE Pharma R&D Inc. in Canada, and to date is the co-owner of several health product brands and patents. Dr Agon is an accredited expert of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the UN in the CATI project (Technology and Innovation Support Centers), has published several hundred publications, and is currently a university lecturer in Benin. IPA Champion 2016 for API-PALU, and winner of the gold medal at the Geneva Invention Fair in 2009, Dr Agon is currently in business and research collaboration with North American companies working on the anti-Covid19 innovation APIVIRINE.



Aboubakar Dolo

Aboubakar Dolo is a Malian diplomat and staunch believer in Africa's bright future. Convinced that the continent's development can only be achieved by building extremely close and robust links between the ruling classes and the African people, Dolo is also an expert in international strategy, and author of the book *La crise malienne et les mutations géopolitiques dans le G5 Sahel : les enjeux d'un nouveau partenariat dans la lutte contre le terrorisme*. Dolo is a graduate of the École Nationale d'Administration du Mali (ENA) and the Institut des Relations internationales et stratégiques de Paris (IRIS-Sup).

