



# 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 25<sup>th</sup>** 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 26<sup>th</sup>**, for a rich programme of economic and cultural activities (including food, drinks, music and more)!

AfricaFora is delighted to welcome **H.E. Ambassador Dr. Hajo Sani, OON** as this edition's special guest of honour. The permanent Delegate of Nigeria to UNESCO will be joining us for a special address.

### Special guest of honour

26 May

#### H.E. DR Hajo Sani, OON

Dr. Hajo Sani is Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Nigeria to UNESCO in Paris, France. an Educationist and Policy Analyst with many years of experience in teaching and public administration. She was a school principal for twelve years before her appointment as Minister of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (1997- 98). During her tenure, she led a delegation to the United Nations. Dr. Sani was previously the Secretary-General of the West African Women Association (WAWA), Nigeria Chapter.

Dr. Hajo Sani is a gender and leadership advocate, policy analyst and a prolific writer. She advocates for the recognition of women's potential and contribution to the development and establishment of the worth of womanhood. Her contributions to women's development continued after her ministerial assignment. She researches and documents women issues leading to the writing of her first book, *Women and National Development: The Way Forward*. A founder of Women and National Development (WAND), an NGO that focuses on promoting women's issues particularly the recognition of their historic achievements and education of the girl-child, later publishing her second and third books *First Ladyship and Empowerment Programmes in Nigeria* and *Women and Leadership*. She continues to this day her efforts to promote women achievements and has most recently embarked on writing a book titled *Women in the New Era*, a compendium and collection of write-ups by resource experts on different areas of women development. Dr. Sani belongs to several national and international associations and professional bodies, including the UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG). She is also recipient of many awards and recognitions as well as a National Honour in the rank of Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON). She has worked with the Society for Family Health (SFH), a lead public health NGO and development partner in Nigeria. She was a Director at the Bill and Melinda Gates



Foundation, before she disengaged with the SFH. She was also previously appointed Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the President, serving as Chief of Staff of the First Lady and later reappointed as Senior Special Assistant to the President on Women Affairs and Administration, Office of First Lady of Nigeria.