



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.](#) A limited amount of tickets will also be sold at the door.

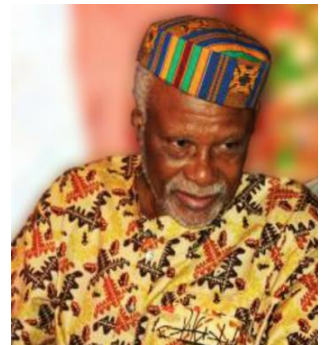
Speakers

Online Conference

25 May

Chinweizu – Opening remarks speaker

Chinweizu (a pen name) is a renowned journalist and historian. A member of the founding team of the Lagos newspaper *The Guardian*, he is also a prolific author, including *The West and the Rest of Us* (1975), and *Decolonizing the African Mind* (1987). His poetry book *Invocations and Admonitions* won the Association of Nigerian Authors' poetry prize in 1986; his latest work *Centuries of Recorded Science and Technology in Black Africa* will be published this year. Chinweizu also contributed a chapter to Vol. 8 of UNESCO's General History of Africa.



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 renowned 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 exposing 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 book entitled *Nsibidi: The Markings and Movements of Ancient Africa*. Dr. Hales works in collaboration with the Council of Igbo States in America (CISA) and the Igbo (Ebo) Landing Project. Professor Hales is filming 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).



Dr Emmanuel Igah

Dr Emmanuel Igah is a professor at IPAG Business School (Paris). A teacher for over 30 years, he was also a consultant on development-related projects with the UN, World Bank, EU, as well as the Nigerian and French Governments, which have taken him to a great number of countries in Europe, Middle East, Africa, and North America. Dr Igah was instrumental in the Escravos Gas-To-Liquids Project, a nine billion dollar gas transformation mega-plant, empowering the local communities through employments, subcontracts, capacity building, gender inclusivity and corporate social responsibility, earning him the “Bridge Builder Award”. Dr Igah is the Editor of the *Atlas of Nigeria*, published for the Federal Government of Nigeria, and publisher of the periodical compendium, *Nigeria Handbook – Knowing Nigeria*, which showcases Nigeria to investors, business leaders, academia and administrators. He was conferred the French National Order of Merit Award for his outstanding professional achievements.

**Emmanuel Dupuy**

Emmanuel Dupuy is the National Secretary of the French political party Les Centristes, where he oversees defence issues. He has served in two ministerial cabinets (Secretary of State for Defence and Veterans). Dupuy has also worked as a parliamentary assistant at the French Senate, the French National Assembly, the Ile-de-France Regional Council and the European Union's Committee of the Regions. He has taken part in several presidential campaigns (Jean-Pierre Chevènement in 2002, as Secretary-General of the Antenne radicale, Corinne Lepage in 2007, François Fillon in 2017). He is a founding member of La Gauche Moderne (Jean-Marie Bockel, 2008), Les Progressistes (Éric Besson, 2007) and Union des Républicains Radicaux (2006). Dupuy was also UDI National Secretary for Defence Issues (2012-2017).

**Jean-Paul Kasende**

Jean-Paul Kasende distinguished himself by his support for the Lumumbist nationalists, for the establishment of democratic rule in the Congo, following the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, Congolese politician, independence leader and Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). For nearly 30 years, he has organized tributes to Patrice Lumumba and his companions. Appointed Ambassador of the Myriam Makeba Prize in the DRC in 2016, he was unable to carry out his activities due to the country's political situation. He is currently preparing the celebrations for the centenary of Patrice Lumumba's birth in July 2025.



Madeleine Aba-Bowé-Bouniol

Madeleine Aba-Bowé-Bouniol is an employment advisor at Pôle emploi Spectacle, one of many illustrations of her dedication to empowering women and artists. Driven by a passion for the arts and professional integration, she has coordinated numerous events aimed at promoting the integration of women artists, including conferences on gender equality in the entertainment industry and the promotion of equal opportunities. Highly sensitive to issues of gender equality in the workplace, she has made this a strategic focus of her day-to-day work. She works within a network, and has launched a number of initiatives, the latest being "Seule(s) en scène". She is completing a thesis on the professional integration of qualified immigrant women who hold jobs in France in line with their level of training.

