

AWHF FEATURES AT THE 33RD AFRICAN UNION HEADS OF STATE ASSEMBLY IN ADDIS ABABA,

- ETHIOPIA -

1. AWHF HOSTS AN ADVOCACY EVENT CHAMPIONED BY
HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. IBRAHIM BOUBACAR KEITA,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALI AND AFRICAN
UNION CHAMPION FOR ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE –
9TH FEBRUARY 2020



Left to Right: Mr. Vusumuzi Mkhize, AWHF Chairperson, H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali and AU Champion for Arts, Culture & Heritage, H. E. Mrs. Amira Elfadil Mohammed, African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs ©AWHF



On 9th February 2020 during the 33rd African Union Heads of State Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, an AWHF Advocacy Luncheon Event was hosted at the renown African Union Multipurpose Hall at a platform provided by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), His Excellency, **Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat**. This auspicious event was championed by His Excellency, **Hon. Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita**, President of the Republic of Mali and African Union Champion for Arts, Culture and Heritage, with the aim to profile the Fund at a Presidential level and support the AWHF resource mobilisation programme to pursue its work of identifying, protecting and promoting Africa's rich and outstanding heritage.

The event gathered dignitaries from various Member States namely: Heads of State from **Mali, DRC, Ghana, Guinea, Niger, Senegal and Zimbabwe**, Prime Ministers from **Gabon, Morocco and Mozambique**, Former Heads of State, First Ladies, Ministers, Ambassadors, the

United Nations Secretary General and **UNESCO** representatives and government officials. The Programme Director, **Mrs. Amira Elfadil Mohammed**, AU Commissioner for Social Affairs stressed the importance of preserving Africa's heritage and showed gratitude to have Member States rally behind the AWHF initiative through the president of Mali. **Mr. Vusumuzi Mkhize**, Chairperson of AWHF, reiterated the objective of the Advocacy event which aimed to reinforce programmes engagement of Heads of State and high-level decision makers to support the protection of heritage and sustainable development in Africa. **Mr. Firmin Matoko**, Assistant Director General of UNESCO went on to share UNESCO's role in supporting the Fund as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO since 2009. **H. E. Hon. Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita** after opening the floor to other Heads of State present at the event, concluded the luncheon by encouraging Member States to play their part in taking up a leading role in ensuring that Africa's rich heritage is developed and sustained.



Left to Right: H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali and AU Champion for Arts, Culture & Heritage delivering his speech, Heads of State and Delegations in attendance and H. E. Mrs. Amira Elfadil, African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs as Programme Director with Mr. Souayibou Varissou, Executive Director of AWHF ©AWHF

2. AWHF CHAIRPERSON, MR. VUSUMUZI MKHIZE HOSTS A STAKEHOLDERS' ROUNDTABLE ENGAGEMENT FOR PRIVATE SECTOR – 8TH FEBRUARY 2020



Group photo: Hon. Dr. N'Diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo, Minister of Culture – Mali, Hon. Mr. Nathi Mthethwa, Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture - South Africa, Mr. Vusumuzi Mkhize, Chairperson of AWHF and various Private Sector Representatives from the African continent. ©AWHF

Preceding the Advocacy Event, Mr. Vusumuzi Mkhize, Chairperson of AWHF, hosted a Stakeholders Roundtable Event on 8th February which featured Hon. **Dr. N'Diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo**, Minister of Culture of Mali and Hon. **Mr. Nathi Mthethwa**, Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, South Africa and gathered more than fifteen (15) Private Sector representatives from various parts of the African continent. The two Ministers shared the importance of having private sector and business participation on this platform and ultimately having them viewing heritage and the work AWHF as an opportunity for partnership and for sustainable business. The aim of the event was to enlighten Stakeholders on the pivotal role they can play in supporting the sustainable development and conservation of Africa's rich heritage. AWHF also hoped to strengthen relationships with private sector and business through joint projects to be conducted at World Heritage Sites in Africa. The same private sector participants were also given an opportunity to be part of the main AWHF Advocacy Event on 9th February.



3. ADVOCACY EVENT OUTCOME



Mali

TWELVE (12) AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE COMMIT THEMSELVES TO SECOND MALI IN THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY AND FAILITATION FOR ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

In the same logic as the AWHF Advocacy Event and on the sidelines of the 33rd AU Assembly, twelve (12) Heads of State solemnly accepted the invitation by **H. E. Hon. Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita**, President of the Republic of Mali and African Union Champion for Arts, Culture and Heritage to act as his co-champions and to assist him in carrying out his mission. The twelve Heads of State along with the **Republic of Mali**, from the various regions of the continent, are:

President of **Cape Verde**, Jorge Carlos Fonseca, President of **Ghana**, Nana Akufo-Addo, President of **Nigeria**, Muhammadu Buhari, President of **Equatorial Guinea**, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of **Congo**, Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, Felix Tshisekedi, Kingdom of **Morocco**, His Majesty Mohamed VI, President of **Egypt**, Abdel Fattah al-Sissi, President of **Kenya**, Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Federal Republic of **Ethiopia**, Mrs. Sahle-Work Zewde, President of **South Africa**, Cyril Ramaphosa, and President of **Namibia**, Hage Geingob.

The African World Heritage Fund thanks and congratulates our leaders for their high-level engagement. The African Union Theme for 2021 is thus declared, **“AU year for Culture and Heritage”!**



Cape Verde



Democratic Republic of Congo



Congo Brazzaville



Egypt



Equatorial Guinea



Ethiopia



Ghana



Kenya



Morocco



Namibia



Nigeria



South Africa



4. MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

AWHF's involvement at the 33rd African Union Assembly generated intense media coverage pre, during and post event in Ethiopia and the entire African continent at large through press statements, television interviews, social media engagement and one on one interaction, thus contributing favorably towards promoting awareness on the work of AWHF and the need to protect/conservé Africa's valuable heritage.

You Retweeted
Min. Nathi Mthethwa @Nath... · 3d
 I also hosted the @African_WH_Fund Stakeholder Roundtable meeting with the aim to find more ways to support the resource mobilisation for the @African_WH_Fund so it can continue to pursue the work of identifying, protecting & promoting Africa's rich natural & cultural heritage.



You Retweeted
Min. Nathi Mthethwa @Nath... · 3d
 The @African_WH_Fund has played a significant role in the conservation & management of World Heritage Sites on the African continent. Thus far it has provided financial & technical support to 27 successful inscriptions of African Sites to the World Heritage List. #AUSummit2020



Amira Elfadil Mohammed Elfadil · 2d
 Today, @ausocialaffairs organized a Lunch on the Advocacy for the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), attend by AU Heads of States and government. HE @IBK_PRMALI the President of Mali has made a great speech focused on the importance of Preserving the African heritage.



UNESCO Liaison Office to AU · 3d
 #HappeningNow HE Ibrahim Boubacar Keita @PresidenceMali The #Champion of Culture at AU and HE @AUC_MoussaFaki @AfricanUnion host an advocacy event in favour of @African_WH_Fund to seek more African states support the protection and promotion of African World Heritages. @UNESCO



BCW Africa @BCWAfrica · 2d
 @RobynDeVilliers and @Yabagersh representing BCW Africa and #PrologueBCW while engaging with @African_WH_Fund team members about supporting Africa's heritage for the benefit of its people today and for the generations to come.

#AUSummit2020



Firmin E. Matoko @eddymatoko
 33eme sommet UA. African World Heritage Fund Advocacy Event. With H.E. Ibrahim B. Keita, AU Champion for culture





5. WAY FORWARD FOR THE AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE FUND

The two AWHF events held during the 33rd African Union Assembly in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) were a buildup of a series of events within a year long programme. AWHF is pleased with the turnout of events of both the Advocacy Event on 9th February as well as the roundtable of private sector actors on 8th February. The targeted focus for AWHF going forward for 2020 and as a build-up for 2021 within the African Union Theme on **CULTURE AND HERITAGE** will include the following actions:

- Engagements and follow up with the African Union Commission aiming at building toward the 34th AU Assembly under the “Culture and Heritage” theme;
- Engagement and follow up with the African Union Champion and the 12 Co-Champions for Arts, Culture and Heritage for awareness and resource mobilization programmes;
- Engagement and follow up with African and non-African countries having expressed high-level interest in support to the work of AWHF;
- Stakeholders events to promote and harness support for the protection of African natural and cultural heritage.

6. DECLARATION OF ADVOCACY EVENT FOR THE AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE FUND

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, participating to the Advocacy Event for the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), during the 33rd African Union Assembly on 9 February 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:

1. **COMMEND** His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali for his engagement and leadership as African Union Champion for Arts, Culture and Heritage for an improved protection and promotion of African heritage.
2. **ENCOURAGE** the African Union Member States to accelerate the processes of ratification and implementation of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance.
3. **CALL UPON** African Union Member States and Private Actors to support the work of the African World Heritage Fund for the protection and promotion of African natural and cultural heritage.
4. **REQUEST** the African World Heritage Fund to organize a fundraising event in 2021 under the leadership of the African Union Champion of Arts, Culture and Heritage and in collaboration with the African Union Commission.

WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO ALL THE PARTNERS WHO MADE THIS ADVOCACY EVENT POSSIBLE FOR THE BENEFIT OF AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE!