



THE POWER  
OF AFRICA  
CONFERENCE



Conference Book  
**The Power of Africa**  
*“Africa as a Stronger Actor on the International Stage”*  
Paris, May 2nd-4th, 2012





## The Power of Africa Paris, May 2nd-4th, 2012



### Thank you!

The ICD would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all those in the organisation of the conference and to the entire Cultural Diplomacy in Africa & Mediterranean team including: Dragos Prodan, Pauline Soudier, Rudolf Sulik, Shizuka Arai, Ksenija Kovacic, Madalina Puiu and Julia Richter.

Special thanks go to team leaders: Youssef Benbakka and Myriam Zekagh for all of their hard work, inspiration and dedication to the success of the conference.

Finally, the ICD and all of the organisers would like to thank the participants and speakers, whose enthusiasm and participation were a vital contribution to the phenomenal success of this exciting and vibrant international event that was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.

In cooperation with





## The Power of Africa Paris, May 2nd-4th, 2012

### Introduction

The Power of Africa is the third of a series of three conferences dedicated to Africa that were held in 2012. The first two stressed the importance of trade and culture in the rise of the African continent; this one focused on the possibilities and barriers that the African countries are facing in terms of economic and political bargaining power as well as the prospect of speaking with one voice on the international stage.

The program consisted of lectures, seminars, debates and panel discussions featuring leading figures from international politics, diplomacy, academia, civil society, and professors. It provided everyone with an extraordinary opportunity for networking both in a formal and informal way, during the conference, but also during group dinners and breaks.

This series of conferences on Africa has been organised by the Cultural Diplomacy in Africa & the Mediterranean program, a program of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy. CDAM aims at sharing the ICD's philosophy that diplomacy must transcend mere discussion and include practical implementation of theory, for the reason that sometimes actions speak louder than words: cultural diplomacy must show rather than tell. For this conference, the ICD had the pleasure of benefiting from the support of our partner organisation IRCNL, and from the kind assistance of the French National Assembly, which opened its doors to welcome this event during the very last days of the French presidential campaign.

The following report is a summary of the "Power of Africa" conference. It provides key themes, information on speakers including lecture topics and keynote interviews, and an analysis of the conference as a whole.



## The Power of Africa Paris, May 2nd-4th, 2012

### Speakers

**H.E. Amb. Albert Agossou**

Ambassador of the Republic of Bénin to France

**Lindi Mminele**

Second Counsellor, Embassy of South Africa to France

**Prof. Dr. Léon Koungou**

Tocqueville Chair Professor in Safety Policies, Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix

**H.E. Amb. Muhamedin Kullashi**

Ambassador of Kosovo to France

**Nicolas de Rivière**

Assistant Secretary for United Nations Affairs for the French Foreign Ministry

**H.E. Amb. Agron Buxhaku**

Ambassador of Macedonia to France, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO

**Dr. Damien Helly**

Senior Research Fellow, EU Institute for Security Studies

**Eugen Brand**

Director General, ATD Fourth World

**H.E. Amb. Jacques Kabale**

Ambassador of Rwanda to France

**H.E. Amb. Osman Faruk Logoglu**

Former Turkish Ambassador to the United States

**The Hon. Prof. Khalid Naciri**

Director of the Higher Institute of Administration, Former Minister of Communications and Moroccan Government Spokesperson

**Meral Duran**

Managing Director, International Relations Consulting Network and Lobbying (IRCNL)

**Nathalie Goulet**

Member of the French Senate

**H.E. Amb. Teshome Toga**

Ambassador of Ethiopia to France

**The Hon. Minister Yasar Yakis**

Former Foreign Minister of Turkey, President of ICD Young Leaders Forum



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### Participants

Oyekanmi I. Adewoye

Edna Adewoye

Mohammed Alghefili

Mohammed Alowairdh

Prof. Dr. Kocra Lossina Assoua

Harriet Atim

Femmy Bab-oke

Katelyn G. Baldwin

Addingi Chia

Honita Cowaloosur

Kate Dargis

Dimitra Dimitropoulou

Mohamed El Mongy

Hicham Elkamouni Alaoui Moulay

Isabel Mercedes Da Silva Feijo

Audu O. Fidelis

Mausi Gandonu

Mina Girgis

Anne L. A. Hanan

Mayu Imafuku

Mary Anne Iwara

Verena Lechner

Stacey Links

Natasha Lwenya

Mariana Moscardo

Prof. Chijoke C. Ohuruogu

Daniel Putu Kambol

Davinia Gomez Sanchez

Anja Seiler

Dimeyo Simukwai

Kim So Jeong

John Manyitabot Takang

Drissia Zouyar



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### Participant Papers

A number of academic papers were delivered from participants as part of the Paris Conference. Papers on a variety of subjects related to Africa and its role on the international stage were presented by the following participants:

**Anne Lassen Hanan**

Assistant professor of business culture/global communication, University College North Denmark, developer of the "Africa - Open for Business" program

**Honita Cowaloosur**

Researcher on Chinese special economic zones in Africa, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews

**John Manytabot Takang**

PhD candidate and research/teaching assistant in international environmental law at the Chair of American Law, the University of Cologne

**Mina Girgis**

Applied ethnomusicologist and cofounder of the Nile Project cultural initiative

**Mohamed El Mongy**

Marketing and promotion manager, Egyptian African Company for Investment and Development, holder of MSc degree in environment and development, University of Edinburgh

Summaries of these papers are now exhibited on the website of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, and are available through the following link:

[http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/culturaldiplomacynews/index.php?en\\_participants-papers](http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/culturaldiplomacynews/index.php?en_participants-papers)



## The Power of Africa Paris, May 2nd-4th, 2012

# Conference Summary

Wednesday, May 2nd, 2012, Assemblée Nationale

**10:00**

*Welcome & Registration*

**10:30**

*Welcome Words*

**Meral Duran, Mark C. Donfried**

**11:00**

*Lecture & Discussion*

**H.E. Amb. Teshome Toga**

**11:30**

*Coffee Break*

**12:00**

*Lecture & Discussion*

**The Hon. Minister Khalid Naciri**

**13:00**

*Lunch Break*

**14:30**

*Lecture & Discussion: How ATD Fourth World sees the contributions of Africa to shaping a world freed of the injustice of extreme poverty, a world at peace*

**Eugen Brand**

**15:30**

*Lecture & Discussion*

**Nathalie Goulet**

**16:30**

*Coffee Break*

**17:00**

*Panel Discussion: The Global Perceptions of Africa: Past, Present and Future*

**Mark C. Donfried, Meral Duran, Nathalie Goulet, the Hon. Prof. Khalid Naciri, the Hon. Minister Yasar Yakis**

**18:00**

*Welcome Group Dinner*



## The Power of Africa Paris, May 2nd-4th, 2012

# Conference Summary

Thursday, May 3rd, 2012, Assemblée Nationale

**10:30**

*Lecture & Discussion*

**H.E. Amb. Albert Agossou**

**11:00**

*Lecture & Discussion*

**Nicolas de Rivière**

**11:30**

*Coffee Break*

**12:00**

*Lecture & Discussion: From Crisis to Sustainability: The UCN Approach to Doing Business in Africa*

**Prof. Anne Lassen Hanan**

**13:00**

*Lunch Break*

**14:30**

*Lecture & Discussion:*

*Perspectives on the Europe-Africa relationship*

**H. E. Amb. Muhamedin Kullashi**

**15:30**

*Lecture & Discussion: Africa and its Willing to Grow: a Bet for the Future*

**Prof. Dr. Léon Koungou**

**16:30**

*Coffee Break*

**17:00**

*Lecture & Discussion: The Nile Project as a Case Study of Enhancing Strong Interregional Relations Within the Continent*

**Mina Girgis**

*Lecture & Discussion: International Environmental Norms: Opportunities and Challenges for African Countries*

**John Manyitabot Takang**

**18:00**

*Social Program*



## The Power of Africa Paris, May 2nd-4th, 2012

# Conference Summary

Friday, May 4th, 2012, Assemblée Nationale

**10:30**

*Lecture & Discussion*

**H.E. Amb. Jacques Kabale**

**11:00**

*Lecture & Discussion:*

Why Africa Matters? European Perspectives Beyond Post-Colonialism

**Dr. Damien Helly**

**11:30**

*Coffee Break*

**12:00**

*Lecture & Discussion: The Role of Cultural Diplomacy in Building Confidence and Trust within Africa*

**Lindi Mminele**

**13:00**

*Lunch Break*

**14:30**

*Lecture & Discussion: Africa – a View From the Western Balkans*

**H. E. Amb. Agron Buxhaku**

**15:30**

*Lecture & Discussion: The Absentee Landlord: The African State in Chinese Special Economic Zones in Africa*

**Honita Cowaloosur**

*Lecture & Discussion: Africa 2.0 – a Manifesto of African Youth*

**Mohamed El Mongy**

**16:30**

*Conclusion*



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### Conference Voices



**The Hon. Prof.  
Khalid Naciri**

“Morocco was already the most open democratic, institutionalized society. This is the reason why the political society did not implode, like it did in Tunisia, Libya or Egypt”

“Democratization is a complex change, and refers to steps taken forward, and steps backwards. It is not linear, but dialectic. (...) democracy is a complex and unfinished process. In the case of the Arab spring, a changing regime does not equate democracy: in Egypt, for instance, there are too many open doors that are yet to close, in order to secure a democratic development.”

“Moroccan monarchy has deep roots – it is the oldest regime in the world, set up in the 9th century – and benefits today from the added value that the king is very popular, thanks to his involvement in social issues. Monarchy stems from a very particular historical process (like it did in the UK or in Denmark), and it has a stabilizing role in the country. In this respect, we are in a specific democratic situation.”



**H.E. Amb.  
Agron Buxhaku**

“Nationalism has been and continues to be the most important force in international relations today... but it is very different according to the country, it is an inherently historical phenomenon”

“Regional cooperation is one of the keys to economic success for Africa”

“Diaspora, with the knowledge and (possibly) the capital, will have more opportunities in Africa than in other countries abroad”



**H.E. Amb.  
Teshome Toga**

“The strategic role of Africa on the international stage is fourfold: security, stability, democracy, unity.”



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### Conference Voices



**Eugen Brand**

"Ethics of development cannot rely on a one size fits all approach; it should be to learn and build from each country's strength."

"There is much to do in the struggle against poverty, but we must offer freedom to each person, take the time to listen and understand. Misery or poverty will only end with the effort of each person."

"The drama of the poor is that they do not have a no history: they are in a historical black hole, nothing has been written down"

"Misery kills more people in our world than wars"

"The resilience of African youth should serve as an example for new development policies."



**Nathalie Goulet**

"Everyone wishes to engage in cooperation. Regarding France, economic cooperation is the most successful, much better than cultural cooperation, which does not necessarily have to focus on the promotion of French language."

"You have to be very precise about the money you can put on the table, and also about your aims."

"The new French minister of cooperation should rethink the relation with Africa."



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### Conference Voices



**Nicolas de Riviere**

“Many African leaders play an important role within the UN. African is quite well represented in the United Nations.”

“Over the last ten to twenty years there has been an increase in the willingness of the African Union to act together. It is a very positive evolution, to see that African people take their responsibility in a local stage.”

“The situation in Africa is not only negative; African people are changing their attitude about globalization from just receiving support in a rather passive way to becoming global actors, participating, cooperating, taking their own responsibilities as well.”



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[www.the-power-of-africa.org](http://www.the-power-of-africa.org)

Institute for Cultural Diplomacy

Ku'damm Karree, Kurfürstendamm 207-208, D-10719 Berlin

Tel.: +49 (0) 30 2360 768 0

E-mail: [info@culturaldiplomacy.org](mailto:info@culturaldiplomacy.org)

Website: [www.culturaldiplomacy.org](http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org)