

Remarks by

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Chairperson of the Executive Board

**Africa Week 2024**  
**Closing gala**

*24 May 2024*

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Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear friends,

The annual celebration of Africa Week is a most colourful event here at Headquarters, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the African continent.

Over the past few days, we travelled far without leaving Paris and I would like to thank the organizers of this year's event, His Excellency the Ambassador of Rwanda and His Excellency the Ambassador of Morocco for putting on such a wonderful show.

Through music, food, art and culture, the vast diversity of the continent was on display and was admired and enjoyed by everyone.

This evening, as the celebrations come to an end for another year, I wish to thank everyone concerned for bringing UNESCO alive with the colours and sounds of Africa.

Africa's creativity is vibrant – from rhythmic beats of traditional drums that echoed through the building, transporting us to the savannah, to the dramatic colours of contemporary art that captivate the world, Africa's creative spirit is boundless.

Its storytellers, musicians, and artists draw from ancient traditions and modern experiences, crafting narratives that resonate with universal truths and unique perspectives. The continent's creativity is not just a testament to its history but an inspiration for its future, encouraging generations to dream boldly and redefine possibilities.

In every song, every piece of art, and every story told, Africa's boundless ingenuity and profound cultural legacy shine brilliantly, touching hearts and minds across the globe.

Thank you.