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Bottom left: Jamaica's delegation ie Bernard Jankee, Dr Maria Smith, Debra Kay Palmer, David Brown and Everton Hannam

MINISTER GRANGE, IN JAMAICA, CHAIRS 15TH SESSION OF UNESCO'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF ICH



General for Culture and Tim Curtis, the 2003 Convention Secretary.

The deliberations which lasted six days included approximately 140 countries and saw the launch of a new tool **Dive into living heritage and sustainable devel-**

This 15th session was conducted online for the first time due to

the COVID 19 pandemic with Jamaica/Hon Minister Olivia Grange as Chairperson of the Committee.

She conducted the deliberations with the support of **UNESCO'S** Secretariat in Paris. They were led by the Ernesto Ottone Ramirez, Assistant Director-

opment that points to the interconnectedness of the elements inscribed on the lists of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the international community for 2030.

During the opening, UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azouley stressed that "intangible heritage is indeed a powerful way of





take pride in it, and renew it.”

The session kept to a restricted agenda that focuses on listing mechanisms (2020 inscriptions, number of files to be examined in the coming years, establishment of the Evaluation Body for the 2021 cycle), the examination of periodic reports of Urgent Safeguarding List elements, and the date and venue for the 16th session of the Committee.

For the first time this year, Finland, Malta, Paraguay and Singapore had inscriptions on UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists, which now feature elements from a total of 131 States.

This year saw the highest number of multi-country nominations, with 14 inscriptions testifying to the ability of intangible cultural heritage to bring people together and promote international cooperation.

Hon Minister also had her delegation in Bernard Jankee, David Brown Dr Maria Smith, Debra Kay Palmer and SG Everton Hannam.

(Further info: <https://ich.unesco.org/> & <https://ich.unesco.org/en/15com>)

Hon Minister is flanked from left by Yuri Peshkov, Janice Archibald, Sharon Robinson, Director Sanchez and Elena Constantinou

healing the wounds in our societies. This is true for tears in the social fabric; it is also true for the fracture between humanity and nature. (...) Intangible heritage is also a resource that can be used to rise above political disputes, acknowledging the ties between people.” Ms Azoulay ended her address “Because respecting heritage is not only about protecting it; it is also about making it known to future generations. This means ensuring that young people can appropriate heritage,



Prof Opal Palmer Adisa in conversation with Director Saadia Sanchez and team from the UNESCO Caribbean Cluster office

Bottom: Bernard Jankee, Head of Jamaica’s delegation and Lenford Salmon, Head of Technical Team



SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

International Meetings:

- 27th session of International Bioethics Committee, 17 December
- 210th Session, Executive Board, 2-10 December
- 40th Anniversary of IPDC, 24 November
- ResiliArt online debate, 19 Nov (4:00am)

Jamaica: “Music and Murals” South South Collective (26 May)

- International Online Conference “Cultural Heritage & Multilateralism: Regional & International Strategies for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Berlin, 16-18 November
- 2003 Convention: 3rd meeting of the Bureau, 30 October
- Online conference, UNESCO Open Science & Decolonization of Knowledge, Caribbean region (webinar), 15 October
- Disparities & Inequalities in battling COVID19 in the Caribbean: a look at some ethical issues, UWI/NBCJ webinar, 16 October
- Executive Board Preparatory meeting, 14-15 October
- ICH Bureau meeting, Paris, 10 October
- Online UNESCO City of Design Subnetwork Meeting 2020, 5 to 7 October 2020. (City of Graz, Austria)

Other Meetings:

- UNESCO Talk: Spotlight on Gender Equality & Artificial Intelligence, 1 Dec
- 15.com Preparatory ICH, 24 November
- UNESCO IPDC online symposium “Contending with Fake news & Disinfor-

mation in the COVID19 Crisis, 19-20 November. Hosted by St Kitts/Nevis Natcom with reps from Roots FM and NCU radio

- Online meeting of national IFAP Committee with IFAP Council, 5 Nov
- Series of planning meetings for the International Leadership Conference (October-November)
- NBCJ meeting, 25 November
- MOEYI/UNESCO TVET workshop, 19 November. E.Hannam moderated
- Series of planning meetings for the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (October)
- National Working Group for ICH Revival submission, 15 October

- JFUCCA/JCDC Way Forward meeting, 13 October

STAFF NEWS

Farewell

Amb Sheila Sealy-Monteith completed her tour of duty as Permanent Delegate to UNESCO on 20 Dec. 2020
JNC-UNESCO places on record its sincere appreciation for the excellent collaboration between the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO and the National Commission and wishes for Ambassador Sealy-Monteith all the best on future assignments.



ICH deliberations chaired by Hon Minister Grange



The warmth of reggae marked the opening as well as during music breaks 15TH SESSION OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF ICH AS REGGAE CHILL MOMENTS)

JFUCCA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

The online International Youth Leadership Conference was held 26 November with participants, moderators and presenters from Kazakhstan, Russia, Jamaica, Nepal, Mexico, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago and USA.

The programme consisted of presentations from three sessions

- Educational Technology: A tool for attaining success during a pandemic
- Mental Health and Wellness: Tools to thrive during a pandemic: Addressing depression and anxiety among youth Environment: Youth in action for sustainable communities
- Creative Economy: A key strategy for sustainable development and commenced with a Youth Networking session.

At the Opening Ceremony Minister Terrelonge expressed his thanks to the organizers for bringing together over 200 youth from all over the world on the theme **“Refocusing on Agenda 2030: Youth engaged in the Nextnormal”**.

He made mention that 75 years ago when the United Nations was founded it was to build global peace coming out from the terrors of the World Wars. He charged the youths that they are the adults of tomorrow and they are to take advantage of the challenges that the COVID 19 pandemic has

brought and face it with resilience. He said that this unseen enemy must be challenged with so that the poor are less affected, education less disrupted with better technological devices so that we are better prepared for 2030

As UNESCO youth advocate for change and leverage the technology to your advantage.

He concluded that he is looking to them to challenge the status quo. Remember the best is yet to come and that it starts with you.

JFUCCA IN COLLABORATION WITH JNC UNESCO INVITES YOU TO THEIR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Get updates from industry experts on the following topics:

1. Educational Technology
2. Monetizing your Creativity
3. Environmental Advocacy
4. Mental Health Awareness

Hon Alando Terrelonge, Minister of State
Ministry of Culture Gender Entertainment and Sport (MCGES)

Saadia Sanchez, Ph.D.
New Director and Representative
UNESCO Clearing Office for the Caribbean

Cultural Performances

Youth Networking Session

26TH NOVEMBER VIA ZOOM

WORLD DAY FOR AUDIOVISUAL HERITAGE: YOUR WINDOW TO THE WORLD

Excerpt from Hon Minister Grange remarks

Today I am pleased to join with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, the Jamaica Archives and Records Department, the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the Library and Information Association of Jamaica, agencies of my own Ministry (National Library of Jamaica and the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO) as well as our international partners, UNESCO, in celebrating the Audiovisual Heritage of Jamaica and the Caribbean on this World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. In this regard, I pay tribute to the pioneering work carried out by UNESCO in this area, particularly through the Memory of the World Programme.

We salute the National Library of Jamaica, through its Legal Deposits, for ensuring that much of our audiovisual heritage has been preserved for posterity within its halls and which through their outreach, continues to be accessible to the wider Jamaican population. We also want to recognize our creatives for their talent and industry in creating new ways of doing and being and for their willingness to donate samples of their audiovisual works to the NLJ. Through these actions in preserving our audiovisual heritage for posterity we continue to open up the windows of our creative imagination to the

world, thereby enhancing Brand Jamaica, generating incomes for the creators, producers and promoters, and contributing to the national coffers.

As we celebrate World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport commits to the work and collaborations necessary for the expansion and enhancement of our audiovisual content. We also commit to ensuring that those professionals and institutions whose remit is the preservation of our audiovisual heritage, receive the resources and recognition due to them to ensure that our audiovisual heritage is protected, preserved and promoted for the benefit of our people, including generations yet unborn.

Today we celebrate the work that has been done over the years through our institutions to ensure the preservation of a rich documentary heritage in the region. In doing so, I want to recognize those professionals and institutions whose leadership in the creation and preservation of audiovisual content has allowed us to stand among the powerhouses of audiovisual heritage within the Small Island Developing States.

Presenting on the work being done in the Caribbean were:

Peter Scholing - Aruba National Digital Collection Coordinator; Marlene Phillips, St. Kitts Department

The poster for the 2020 World Day for Audiovisual Heritage event is primarily purple and orange. At the top left, it features the logo of The Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO. The main title '2020 WORLD DAY AUDIOVISUAL HERITAGE' is written in large, bold, white and yellow letters. Below the title, a quote reads: '“YOUR WINDOW TO THE WORLD PRESERVING AUDIO VISUAL HERITAGE FOR POSTERITY”'. A black banner indicates the event is held 'Via Microsoft Teams'. A green circular graphic on the right shows the date '27 OCT TUESDAY' and the time '11:00am - 1:00pm'. The event is organized by the 'Ministry of Education Youth & Information'. It is in collaboration with several organizations, including the National Library of Jamaica (NLJ), Jamaica Archives & Records Department (JARC), and the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). The contact person is Doolarie Hopkinson, with phone numbers +1(876) 967-9893 and +1(876) 618-1332, 1333.

of Culture ; Avril Belfon - Caribbean Regional Branch International Council on Archives (CARBICA) and Tricia Lawrence Powell-Director, National Library of Jamaica.

Bringing remarks to this Window To The World event were: Everton Hannam, JNC - UNESCO; Christine McKenzie -President, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions; Mark-Jeffrey Deans, President, Library & Information Association of Jamaica and Saadia Sánchez, Ph.D, new Director and Representative, UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean.

CONTACT US

Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO

72-76 Harbour Street
Ground Floor, Air Jamaica Building
Kingston
P.O. Box 202, Kingston 5, Jamaica

Phone: (876) 967-9893 (Lime)
(876) 618-1332/3 (Digi)
Fax: (876) 922-7603

Email:
jamaicanatcom@jncunesco.gov.jm
jnclibrarian@yahoo.com

For more information on the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean please visit:
www.unesco.org/kingston

For more information on the global UNESCO please visit:
www.unesco.org

PUBLICATIONS



In the new publication **Culture in crisis: Policy guide for a resilient creative sector**, UNESCO provides guidance to policymakers on how to effectively address culture in COVID-19 recovery plans and rebuild the creative industry stronger..

The real-life examples are categorized into **three types of interventions**: 1) Direct support for artists and cultural professionals, 2) Support for sectors of the cultural and creative industries, and 3) Enhancing the competitiveness of cultural and creative industries. Readers will find that countries including Germany and the United Arab Emirates have commissioned and purchased works of art as a form of relief and income generation for artists. Brazil, Canada and Senegal have all accelerated payment of aid and subsidies in order to address the lack of liquidity among creators and cultural bodies.

Contending with Fake News and Disinformation in the Caribbean During the COVID-19 Pandemic

"The sun kills corona virus"
"Drinking tea prevents infection with COVID-19"

These were just some examples of false remedies that people spread in the Caribbean in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Misinformation and disinformation are often shared unknowingly through social media and private messaging applications. But during health crises, the lack of swift responses to counter unverified news about treatments and the development of vaccines, can be life-threatening for the public, and widen mistrust between citizens and the institutions that are suppose to protect them. In order to combat the scourge of fake news and disinformation in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, journalists from all over the Caribbean participated in the 2 day training course.

The training was organized by The University of the West Indies Open Campus St Kitts and Nevis and the St Kitts and Nevis National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean, with support of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). It arose out of a feedback from a 2019

REGIONAL NEWS

workshop and a project was submitted to IPDC. It was refocussed due to the pandemic and expanded to include 20 Caribbean countries. Each country was asked to submit 3 participants including a student and a female journalist as per UNESCO's priority areas of youth and gender.

With the support of resources like UNESCO's publication **"Journalism 'Fake News' & Disinformation"**, the training helped journalists to better understand how to develop strategies for dealing with disinformation during the pandemic.

Like other countries, the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were affected by the misinformation and disinformation milieu, in a context of limited access to credible and authoritative sources in the sub-region.

According to the report "COVID-19's Impact on Journalism in the Caribbean" by the Media Institute of the Caribbean, 40% of journalists in the Caribbean sub-region reported that government officials were reluctant to share information about COVID-19. In addition, 27% who reported that the government only shared information through press releases and press conferences. These journalists also stated that the flow of information was insufficient and that they had not received the information in a timely manner.

The emergence and rapid increase of the use of social media in the Caribbean has challenged both traditional media and other long-established channels for mass and targeted communication.

During the IPDC project, local trainers, such as Wesley Gibbings, founder of the Association for the Caribbean Media Workers, and Kiran Maharaj, Director of the Media Institute of the Caribbean provided solutions and insights, as well as prompting brainstorming and interaction with question and answer segments.

Secretary General, St Kitts & Nevis National Commission for UNESCO, Dorothy L Warner speaking at the Opening Ceremony

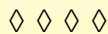
The significance of culture



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Due to Coronavirus Outbreak

- *Artificial Intelligence Conference , 11-12 March 2010, Jamaica postponed to March 2021*

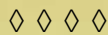


International Days:

13 February - World Radio Day

8 March - Int'l Women's Day

22 March - World Water Day



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Linkedin ([JNC-UNESCO Jamaica](https://www.linkedin.com/company/jnc-unesco-jamaica))



REGIONAL NEWS

Tobago's North-East region has been declared a biosphere reserve by the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. The decision was communicated 28 October 2020.

Andorra, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Luxemburg and Trinidad and Tobago join the MAB Network this year with the designation of their first sites: Ordino Biosphere Reserve, Fogo and Maio Biosphere Reserves, Mwali Biosphere Reserve, Minett Biosphere Reserve and North-East Tobago Biosphere Reserve respectively.

This distinction places Northeast Tobago on a list of 714 UNESCO biosphere reserves worldwide.

Tobago's North-East region is now the largest MAB site in the English-speaking Caribbean Small Island Developing States; the only larger UNESCO Biosphere reserve in the Caribbean is located in the French territory of Guadeloupe.

Northeast Tobago's Main Ridge Forest Reserve, widely known as

the oldest tropical rainforest reserve in the western hemisphere, played an integral part in the area receiving the UNESCO designation. This rainforest,

located in Tobago's Main Ridge – a long, narrow, raised land formation with sloping sides that's considered to be the island's backbone – presents a rare, largely intact Caribbean island ridge-to-ocean ecosystem.

The biosphere features 41 endemic species and as many as 83 of the species living there appear on the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species**. The most outstanding species in the biosphere, according



to UNESCO, is the **Campylopterus curvipennis**, more commonly known as the White-tailed Sabrewing Hummingbird. This rare and stunning creature, endemic to Tobago, was once believed extinct after Hurricane Flora destroyed most of Tobago's rainforest habitat in 1963.

Nature enthusiasts trek along the Gilpin Trace Rainforest Trail at the Tobago Main Ridge Forest Reserve, which was first established in 1776. Photo by Alvar Ruukel on Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0.



UNESCO TALK



UNESCO Talk:
Spotlight on Gender Equality and Artificial Intelligence
1 December 2020, 09:30 am (GMT -5)

SPEAKERS

Dr. Saadia Sanchez
As Director and Representative of the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean based in Kingston, Jamaica, her regional mandate covers twenty (20) countries and territories in the English and Dutch-speaking sub-region of the Caribbean.
Saadia Sanchez is a sociologist with a degree from the University of Zurich (Switzerland), a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University (USA) and a Ph.D. in Information Science from the University of California at Berkeley (USA).

Jennifer Britton
Regional Coordinator and Lead Technical Adviser on ICT for Development (ICT4D) at the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat. Jennifer Britton is committed to amplifying ICT as a powerful catalyst for political, economic and social empowerment of women, and a tool to promote gender equality, in the Caribbean Community.

Ingrid Riley
Ingrid Riley is a Digital Media Entrepreneur, award-winning tech blogger, podcaster and event producer and is behind SiliconCaribe, the brand that kickstarted the Tech Startup Scene in Jamaica. She is a Caribbean pioneer and leader who's been helping to build the Caribbean Tech Ecosystem. Ingrid is also the founder of Rebel Girl Media, a digital media company that creates content and events that disrupts old Caribbean narratives and amplifies the New Caribbean emerging.

Jennifer Breslin
As the Executive Director of Futuristas, a non-profit organization, Jennifer Breslin focuses on building inclusive and socially responsible STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics). She has worked for over 20 years on Science, Technology, Innovation (STI) and Organizational Learning in the UN System. Most recently, she participated as a contributor to the UNESCO report Artificial Intelligence and Gender Equality.

UNESCO Talk: Spotlight on Gender Equality and Artificial Intelligence in the Caribbean was an interactive forum that aims to discuss how to imagine, design and develop an emancipatory Artificial Intelligence that undermines gender binary societal norms.

While AI poses significant threats to gender equality, it is important to recognize that AI also has the potential of making positive changes in our societies by challenging existing gender norms. For example, while an AI-powered recruitment software was found to discriminate against women, AI-powered gender-decoders help employers use

gender-sensitive language to write job postings that are more inclusive in order to increase the diversity of their workforce. AI therefore has the potential of being part of the solution for advancing gender equality in our societies.

Revivalism submitted for UNESCO inscription



Revivalism, a religious practice in Jamaica, has been submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for inscription on its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

“Since the Inscription of Reggae in 2018, I instructed my technical committee that going forward, Jamaica should submit one or more of its cultural practices for inscription by UNESCO. Everyone would remember the worldwide celebrations after reggae was inscribed at the meeting in Mauritius. We are hoping for the same result with our file on revivalism” said Minister Olivia Grange

Inscription is a much sought after designation and States Parties to the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage need to demonstrate that they have put in place strategies to document and store their cultural elements. State Parties also need to ensure that safeguarding initiatives are undertaken with the full and prior consent of communities associated with the cultural practices.

Notable inscriptions include rumba in Cuba and India's yoga.

“Jamaica’s dossier on revivalism is currently under review for an announcement in 2021 at the 16th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

“I am encouraging Jamaicans at home and in the Diaspora to learn more about the process, and I believe this is also a good resource for students doing their SBA’s, as well as theologians, and is a useful way to create more awareness of Jamaica’s Intangible Heritage,” she said.

The announcement comes ahead of the virtual staging of the 15th Session of the Inter-governmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity from December 14 to 19, 2020.

Grange has the distinction of being only the fourth woman to be selected to chair the Inter-governmental Committee which first met in November 2006.

CMC



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

OPEN SCIENCE

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN CONTEXT: WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

A forum organized within the framework of the **Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Initiative**

Thursday
December 10, 2020

10:00 am - 11:30 am
EST

Register here:
bit.ly/CaribbeanAIForum1

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Cluster Office for the Caribbean
BROADCASTING COMMISSION

International Webinar Series
Open Science & the Decolonization of Knowledge

Logos: University of the West Indies, Canadian Commission for UNESCO, The Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO, University of the West Indies, UTECH, UWI, UWI, Brock University.

Caribbean Region

Speakers

Paul Golding



A Professor of Information Systems, former Dean of the College of Business and Management and former Head of the School of Computing and Information Technology at the University of Technology, (UTech) Jamaica; Paul Golding is an academic, an innovator, consultant, guest columnist, author and philanthropist. He is a multiple winner of several of UTech's most prestigious awards for excellence including for research, community service, teaching; and innovation.



Erica Simmons is Executive Director for the Centre for Digital Innovation & Advanced Manufacturing (CDIAM) at the Caribbean Maritime University in Jamaica with a 25-year career in the software industry. She is a patented inventor, technology practitioner and scientist.



Eldon Marks is a social entrepreneur, software developer & educator on a personal mission to create enabling environments for innovation and tech industry growth in Guyana.

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO & the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education are collaborating on an international webinar series that support the UNESCO consultations on the creation of a 'Recommendation on Open Science', an international normative document to be adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in November 2021.

The sessions deliberated answers to questions such as **why and how should science be 'open'?** And, whether this openness also enables citizens globally to contribute to science, such as through citizen science or participatory action research projects.

The Speakers for the Caribbean region webinar were:

Dr. Ronald Young (JNC-UNESCO Science Advisory Committee, Jamaica),

Dr. Liette Vasseur (Canadian Commission for UNESCO/ Brock University, Canada),

Dr. Brian Cockburn (University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago),

Dr. Colin Depradine (University of the West Indies - Cave Hill Campus, Barbados)



**The Jamaica
National Commission
for UNESCO**

The Chairperson,

Secretary-General,

Members of the National Commission & the
Secretariat uses this medium to wish all our
readers

“a safe and prosperous 2021”



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