

New forms of agreements and cooperation in the field of return and restitution of cultural property

Round table - UNESCO HQ, Room XI, 27 June 2023

Provisional programme

09.30 – 09.45

Official Opening

Ernesto Ottone R., Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO

Rachel Annick Ogoula Akiko, Chairperson of the 23rd session of the ICPRCP, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Gabon to UNESCO

09.45 – 10.15

Dialogue I: The role of museums in the return and restitution of cultural property

Evelyn Centurión Cancino, Director of Recoveries, Ministry of Culture, Peru

Hamady Bocoum, Director General of the Museum of Black Civilizations of Dakar, Senegal

Yuegong Wang, Deputy Director of the Palace Museum, China (*online*)

10.15 – 11.45

Panel I: New perspectives on the return and restitution of cultural property

Moderator: **Anne-Marie Dias Borges**, Senior Journalist at BBC Business Africa, London

1. Case of the reunification of the Fagan fragment from Palermo's Antonio Salinas Museum with the Parthenon frieze at the Acropolis Museum and the loan of a 5th-century statue and amphora to Italy
 - **Caterina Greco**, Director of the Antonio Salinas Regional Archaeological Museum (*online*); **Vitantonio Bruno**, General Secretariat, Ministry of Culture, Italy
 - **Nikolaos Stampolidis**, Director of the Acropolis Museum (*online*); **Artemis Papathanassiou**, Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece
2. Restitution of textiles, clothing and ritual objects to the West Kalimantan region of Indonesia, including the creation of a local museum
 - **Mirjam Hoijtink**, Head of Research and Collection, National Museum of World Cultures, The Netherlands
 - **Sadiah Boonstra**, Collection Management and Curatorial Affairs, Indonesian Heritage Agency of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology, Indonesia (*online*) and **Siti Musrikah**, Museum of West Kalimantan
3. Return of 796 artefacts accompanied by the signature of a bilateral agreement on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property

- **Vitantonio Bruno**, General Secretariat, Ministry of Culture, Italy
 - **N.N.** China (*online*)
4. Voluntary restitution of 36 pages of a medieval manuscript after being identified on an online sales platform
 - **Thomas Bergqvist Rydén**, Affiliated researcher at the Lund University Historical Museum, Sweden
 - **N.N.** France
 5. Repatriation of 183 objects from the University of Manchester to the Anindilyakwa community on Groote Eylandt in the Northern Territory
 - **Georgina Young**, Head of Exhibitions and Collections, Manchester Museum - University of Manchester, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
 - **Ophelia Rubinich**, A/g Director, Return of Cultural Heritage Program and **Kris O'Sullivan**, Executive Director, Partnerships & Engagement Group at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Australia

11.45 – 12.30

Discussion

Lunch break

14.00 – 14.30

Dialogue II: Cooperation with law enforcement agencies: case studies and lessons learnt

Zeynep Boz, Head of Combatting Illicit Trafficking Department at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye

Jelena Bratonožic Stanisavljevic, Policy Advisor, Department of International Relations and European Integration, Ministry of Culture and Media, Serbia

Robert Mancene, Homeland Security Investigations Agent, United States of America

14.30 – 16.45

Panel II: New perspectives on the return and restitution of cultural property

Moderator: **Jorge Sánchez Cordero**, Legal practitioner and public notary, Judge at the Federal Electoral Court, Mexico

1. Restitution of 72 Benin City objects from the Horniman Museum to Nigeria as an example of ongoing relationships
 - **Nick Merriman**, Director General, Horniman Museum & Gardens, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (*online*)
 - **Prof. Abba Isa Tijani**, Director-General of the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Nigeria
2. Return of 8 historical artefacts
 - **Allison Davis**, Cultural Property Team Lead and Executive Director at the US Department of State

- **María Villarreal**, Legal Coordinator of the National Anthropology and History Institute (INAH), Mexico
3. Restitution of 26 pieces from the Royal treasures of Abomey, as part of a strengthening of cultural cooperation between the two states, including the renovation and rehabilitation of the Royal palaces of Abomey and the development of the Museum of the Kings and Amazons of Dahomey
 - **Emmanuel Kasarhérou**, Director of the Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac, France
 - **Alain Godonou**, Director of Museum Programs, National Heritage and Tourism Agency, Benin
 4. Conservation of 79 Yemeni objects at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art, due to armed conflict, before their future repatriation
 - **Allison Davis**, Cultural Property Team Lead and Executive Director at the US Department of State
 - **Adonis Fakhri**, Executive Advisor to the Yemeni Embassy in the United States of America (*online*)
 5. Restitution of a document from 1824 bearing the signature of Simón Bolívar, following its identification on an online sales platform
 - **Paul Fabel et Katharina Ribbe**, Desk officers at the Division for Cultural Property Protection, German Federal Foreign Office
 - **Jorge Prieto Hemmingsen**, Director of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peru (*online*)

16.45 – 17.45

Discussion

17.45 – 18.00

Closing of the day

Ernesto Ottone R., Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO