

2024 APN ASSEMBLY

Collective Freedom From Collective Struggles

MONDAY 4TH - FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE



Acknowledgments

We extend our gratitude to the APN Membership for all their insights and invaluable contributions.

We acknowledge the guidance of the board of directors, the dynamic advisory planning team comprising of selected APN member organizations, and youth leaders from across the continent. The 2024 APN Assembly would not have been possible without solidarity and unwavering support from all Assembly participants, our partners and friends.

Lastly, we thank our sponsors for their invaluable financial support.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Ford Foundation

Monday, 4th November 2024

Pre-Assembly: Welcome Reception

08:00 – 16:00	Arrivals and Airport Transfers
11:00 – 18:00	Registration at the Elephant Hills Resort
18:00 – 20:00	Welcome Reception

Tuesday, 5th November 2024

Day One: Policy and Practice

09:00 -10:00	Plenary 1:	Opening Ceremony of the APN Assembly by recognizing the power of African giving in transforming collective struggle to collective freedom. Celebrating our collective agency, collective value and collective power
		Ubuntu Monologue by Daves Guzha, Artist
	Remarks	Welcome to Zimbabwe by Tendai Murisa, SIVIO Institute
		Remarks by Justice Rutenge, APN Chair
		Objectives and Methodology by Stigmata Tenga, ED APN
	Official Opening	Mr. Nicholas Moyo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Sports, Recreation Arts and Culture, Zimbabwe
Appreciation	Word of Appreciation by Evans Okinyi, Advisory Planning Team Chair	
10:00 – 11:00	Plenary 2:	Telling the tale of APN: from seed to forest by Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Janet Mawiyoo and Bhekinkosi Moyo
11:00 – 11:30	Mid-Morning Break	
11:30 – 12:00	Plenary 3:	Keynote Address: Celebrating our commitment to Ubuntu/Utu by Diakhoumba Gassama, Program Officer, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
12:00 – 12:30		Reflections, Perspectives, and Insights
<p>On Day 1, we will examine the relationship between philanthropy policy and practice. If enabling policies are necessary building blocks, then only by realising them into practice will we begin to build just and fair societies. As we re-assess the nexus between policy and practice, how do we continue to foster symbiosis between the two? These discussions will reflect on African philanthropy’s potential to drive systemic change, and examine how actors could work together to celebrate and own indigenous practices as distinctly African and thus relevant to reshaping future philanthropy, as well re-imagine practices for contemporary application.</p>		
12:30-13:30	Community Dialogues 4:	These sessions, participants will take a deeper reflection on issues of concern, suggest concrete actions, effective strategies and the co-created solutions for collective response.
	4A:	Turning the Tide: Intersecting Realities in Climate Justice
	Description:	Local communities and marginalized groups play an instrumental role in climate change adaptation solutions, yet they remain systematically under-represented in climate governance. How do we turn the tide? How to enable gender-transformative and locally-led climate adaptation action for good? The session will generate a dialogue on key levers with the highest potential to bridge the gap between global commitments and national/local practices, to empower the collective agency of local communities and

		marginalized groups to be change agents, policy influencers and custodians of natural resources and to confront current inequities in climate finance, governance structures and social norms.
	Host(s):	ACTIVE, People and Wildlife Africa, CASA Socio-Environmental Fund, APN Youth
	Room:	Kalala
	4B:	Disability Politics
	Description:	Disability politics and inclusion alert us to the ways that discriminatory policies shape our environment, and are reflected on social attitudes and stigmas. It reminds us that people living with disability are only impaired as far as policy is not inclusive. This session will discuss and highlight effective practices and the challenges of amplifying gender equity and equality in disability inclusion. With a disability lens, the participants will explore the symbiosis between philanthropy policy and practice.
	Host(s):	Vision Ability Zimbabwe, Able Child Network, APN Youth, Foundation for Civil Society
	Room:	Matetsi
	4C:	Enabling Environment: What Role Can Civil Society Actors Play
	Description:	The context of Africa Philanthropy is characterised by a shrinking civic space and limited trust between CSAs and government. There is a general failure to tap into resources, which is indispensable for the resilience of civil society and development in Africa. Few countries have progressive tax incentives and discouraging legal requirements for mobilising resources. This session will focus on regulatory frameworks that affect the growth of philanthropy including the recently released AfCFTA protocol on Women and Youth in Trade. Do the policy promises in practice reflect the needs and interests of people and promote economic development.
	Host(s):	SIVIO institute, The Rise, TrustAfrica, Zimbabwe Institute of African Integration
	Room:	Kazuma
	4D:	Own Your Power: Who is Really in Charge?
	Description:	Traditional power structures, rooted in historical, cultural, and institutional frameworks, have long played a significant role in perpetuating social inequities. Governmental bodies, economic systems, religious institutions, and social hierarchies maintain and reinforce disparities based on race, gender, class, and other social categories. This has contributed to ineffective participation of the community in decision making. This session will focus on understanding power dynamics' role in community participation and agency. How is power routinely lost or abused in African communities? What does new power look like?
	Host(s):	FCS, CivFund, Global Fund for Children, Kenya Community Development Foundation
	Room:	Gwayi
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break	
14.30-16.30	Community Dialogues 4:	Resume and Wrap up Community Dialogues.
16:30 – 17:00	Plenary 5:	Day One Wrap-Up
	End Day One:	Summary of Day's Events and Announcements
17:00	Afternoon Break & Networking	
18:30 – 21:00	Event:	Dinner at A'Zambezi

Wednesday, 6th November 2024

Day Two: Knowledge Production

<p>Day 2 is about knowledge production and the stories we tell ourselves about African philanthropy. How much do indigenous insights and wisdoms contribute to our research, methods of analysis, decision making and doing? We will also examine the use of language, both our native tongues /vernacular as well as rhetoric in furthering or hindering meaningful participation of community as rightful investors in their development. We will explore key questions including: how can philanthropy counter inequalities and power imbalances? And how can we build solidarity towards narratives that showcase African philanthropy as a relevant driver of community-led transformation?</p>		
09:00 – 10:00	Performance:	“NHIMBE” by Daves Guzha and Chirikure Chirikure, Artists
	Plenary 6:	Ignite Talk: Decolonizing Knowledge & Centering African Wisdom by Brian Kagoro, Managing Director of Programs at the Open Society Foundations.
	Description:	This session will explore the importance of and contribution of wisdom in the context of African philanthropy and adaption actions for narrative building. It will look at the challenges and opportunities for an African minded approach and interrogate where ecosystems complement or fail to incorporate the existing efforts and initiatives of the indigenous communities. What narratives/stories are we telling ourselves about ourselves by decentering our own indigenous wisdoms?
10:00-10:30		Reflections, Perspectives, and Insights
10.30-11:00	Mid-Morning Break	
11:00 -13:30	Community Dialogues 7:	These sessions, participants will take a deeper reflection on issues of concern, suggest concrete actions, effective strategies and the roadmap for collective response.
	7A:	The Disruptive Role of Truth Tellers in Our Communities
	Description:	This session will contemplate the role of the disruptors in development today. Actors like media practitioners and artists have historically chronicled the truth of life even when it has been dangerous. How do we maintain the disruptive potential of these industries? How can we shift towards a collaborative relationship with these practitioners for the success of our shared value in collective freedom.
	Host(s):	APN, Gender and Media Research Journalist, Rooftop Promotions Artist
	Room:	Kalala
	7B:	Community-Led Approaches to Realising Sustainable Development
	Description:	There is a decline in value of the crucial role that community philanthropy plays in Africa’s quest for equity and social cohesion. Wisdoms and philosophies like sharing collective joys and burdens with those we are in community, which are realized through practices like pooled resources, crowdfunding for weddings, burials and other communal rituals. There is a need to closely examine founding and indigenous models and ways of knowing, and reintegrate them into our conceptualization of community-led development interventions.
Host(s)	Initiative for Community Advancement, SGS Consulting, Zambia Governance Foundation, Africa Women’s Development Fund	

	Room:	Matetsi
	7C:	Feminism as an Approach for Interrogating Power Dynamics and Crisis Response
	Description:	African feminism centres indigenous ways of knowing that encourage collectivism. It refuses subjugation as the norm and is critical of how power is wielded. This session will explore and build on the significant impact and collective power of pan-African & feminist philanthropies, especially during crises like pandemics, national conflicts and the rise of the anti-gender movement that has continued to be more visible with discourse and actions in opposition to the concept of gender, in the social, political and legal context, as well as the increase in opposition to the transformations secured by the struggles of feminist movements.
	Host(s):	Urgent Action Fund-Africa, APN Youth-SRH Specialist, Masimanyane Women Rights Organization
	Room:	Gwayi
	7D:	The Role of Language in Knowledge Production and Community-led Development
	Description:	Africa is home to over 3000 languages. The top ten most spoken languages being Amharic, Berber, Oromo, Igbo, Yoruba, Hausa, French, Swahili and English. English is undoubtedly the most dominant. All these affects knowledge we produce in various ways. In this community dialogue we will be sharing experiences and reflecting on key questions, i.e., What is the function of language (both mother tongue and rhetoric) in development? How do we incorporate diversity and inclusion via language in our social justice work? How do we name and challenge harmful power dynamics? How do we interrogate the influence of colonialism in development language?
	Host(s):	APN, Uganda National NGO Forum, West Africa Civil Society Institute
	Room:	Kazuma
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break	
14:30 – 15:30	Stations 8:	#The2024APNAssembly Thought Stations
	Room:	Kalala
	Description:	Participants become “thought stations”, sharing tools and approaches for empowering communities’ responses to their collective struggle, as well as lessons and insights from their experience (success and failures), and set out good-practice narratives that showcase creativity and lived experience. Tested mechanisms for inclusion and alternative resources, challenging the existing lines of thinking. The APN Assembly “thought stations”, endorses the “ <i>law of two feet</i> ”: if the conversation is not working for you, you are free to move on to another stall. Great for networking and getting inspired.
	Thought Station 8A:	A case for the relationship between Rights and Heritage: Reclaiming Basarwa Land Rights in the Central Kalahari, Botswana
	Facilitator:	Brilliant Modise Kodie, APN Researcher
	Thought Station 8B:	“Matchmaking”: Integrating of Cooperate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environmental Social Governance (ESG) practices to enhance the financial resilience and strategic investments of civil society actors.
	Facilitator:	Justice Rutenge, Foundation for Civil Society
	Thought Station 8C:	Regulatory mechanism and certification as a tool for rising civil society actor’s legitimacy in Burkina Faso,

	Facilitator:	Abdoulaye Sawadogo, Association Burkinabe de Fundraising.
	Thought Station 8D:	Southern Feminist funds and their impact in social justice: West and Central Africa Case.
	Facilitator:	Wendyam Kabore, Pananetugri Initiative for Women's Wellbeing (IPBF)
		Live Online Directory: Launch of Africa's First Fiscal Hosting Platform
	Facilitator:	Barbara Sematimba, CivSource South Africa
15.30-16:00	Plenary 9:	Day Two Wrap-Up
	End Day:	Summary of Day's Events and Announcements
16.00	Mid-Afternoon and Network Break	

Thursday, 7th November 2024

Day Three: Movement Building

Day 3 is about movements; purposeful organising towards a collective vision for the liberation of African communities. We will share experiences on how movements are responding and directing resources where they are needed the most, and are driving social and systems change. Intervening in the power dynamics that shape how resources are mobilized, distributed and utilized. We will examine what fosters a relevant, resilient and genuinely impactful movement, what solidarity for movements by people we are in community with looks like, and how to mobilise for and with movements without co-opting or losing a movement's integrity.

09:00 – 09:15	Performance:	“PADARE” by Daves Guzha and Chirikure Chirikure, Artists
09:15 – 10:30	Plenary 10:	Investing in Infrastructure and Movements for African philanthropy
	Description:	Mamo Mohapi, C S Mott Foundation; Bongiwé Ndong, Hlanganisa Community Fund for Social & Gender Justice; Dzimakai Bere, ZimRights; Isabella Luz, Brazil Procomum Institute
10:30-11.00	Mid- Morning Break	
11.00-13.30	Community Dialogues 11:	Connecting, sharing perspectives, lived experiences, resonances, co-reflecting, deepening collective insights and co-creating solutions.
	11A:	The Role and Power of Informal Philanthropy in Movement Building
	Description:	Across the continent, social movements are rising to tackle the challenges like natural disasters, climate change, political violence shrinking civic spaces. The urgency of these crises demands rapid action, far beyond the sluggish pace of international aid. So, if international aid isn't stepping up fast enough, who is really funding these movements on the front lines? And are these funders recognized enough to continue to incentivize their giving?
	Host(s):	Global Fund for Community Foundations, Kenya Community Development Fund, STAR Ghana Foundation
	Room:	Kalala
	11B:	Learning from Survivor-Led Communities
	Description:	This session will discuss the approaches, types of support services including resources and partnerships most valued by survivor leaders to support their collective struggle for social justice. It will also seek to understand challenges including leadership, resourcing, organizing, safety and security, mental health, wellness and healing, legal representation and movement infrastructure, such as safety housing as some of the challenges they face.

	Host(s):	Hlanganisa Community Fund for Social and Gender Justice, Legal Resource Foundation, Amani Communities Africa, ChargéE Suivi Africa
	Room:	Gwayi
	11C:	Shifting the Power: Transforming Funding Relationships in Development.
	Description:	Development has often happened to people living in the Global South, not with them. Funding frequently reflects the priorities of donors rather than local partners, creating a cycle of short-term fixes rather than lasting solutions. The concept of "Shifting the Power" challenges business as usual, exploring new ways of deciding and doing that are people-centered. This session will explore what it looks like to upturn traditional power structures in funding relationships, the challenges in navigating funding structures; while maintaining core principles and integrity, the gains that indicate real progress, and the work that is still needed to achieve transformative change.
	Host(s):	STAR Ghana Foundation, West Africa Civil Society Institute, Tilitonse Foundation, Zambian Governance Foundation, Comic Relief.
	Room:	Matetsi
	11D:	Path Towards Prosperity: Partnership between State, Markets and Civil Society for Collective Response.
	Description:	We no longer have the luxury of working in silos. How do we ensure open dialogue across planes; i.e., with the government, private markets, and community-led institutions? This session will explore "necessary" alignment for the advancement of African communities. It serves as a safe space to connect and build a consensus on how best to define and implement the desired balance between development stakeholders in the pursuit of achieving equitable development. For instance, how private sector agility and innovation can be a critical catalyst to accelerate efforts to tackle systemic challenges. The session will also delve into the key ingredients for successful collaborations between communities, governments, civil society actors, and private enterprises.
	Host(s):	Southern Africa Trust, Pan African Leadership Institute, Ruaha Assets Ltd; Vodacom Foundation
	Room:	Kazuma
13:30 – 14:30		Lunch Break
14:30 - 15:00	Plenary 12:	Day Three Wrap-Up
		Summary of Day's Events and Announcements
15.00 – 16:00	Plenary 13:	Debate: Is Philanthropy a Means to Achieve Collective Freedom?
	Room:	Kalala
	Description:	This session offers a deep dive into the complexities of Africa's youth demographic bulge, focusing on how to strengthen this ecosystem and leverage opportunities for meaningful inclusion. This session aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the realities faced by young people and explore collective strategies for enhancing solidarity towards youth-led philanthropy and social impact policy and practice.
	Host (s):	APN Youth
16:00 – 16:15		Mid-Afternoon Break
16:15 – 17:00	Plenary 14:	Closing Ceremony
18:30 – 19:00		Departure to the Boma
19:00 – 22:00	Event 15:	Gala Dinner

	Dress Code:	African Attire (<i>bring anything that reflect your culture or a preferred culture</i>)
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Friday, 8th November 2024

Day Four: Members Meeting & Visiting Victoria Falls (Mosi-ao-Tunya)

10:30 - 13:00	Event 16:	APN Members Meeting
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06:30 - 16:30	Event 17:	Participants will commute to Victoria Falls (Mosi-ao-Tunya). Shuttles will be organized from the Elephant Hills Resort.
		Self-organized -Hotel Shuttles & Hired Transport

Saturday, 9th November 2024

Day Five: Departures

06:00 – 19:00	Event:	Airport transfers from the Elephant Hills and Other Hotels
	Host:	APN Secretariat