

# 'Africa, African Diaspora and the Prospect of Global Cultural Dialogue'

by  
H. E. M. Olabiyi Babalola Joseph Yai  
Chairman of Executive Board, UNESCO

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Elders, Excellencies, Dear Friends,

*Bharatkiyatraparana, mereliyeeksapnekapoorahonahe.  
MeremannmaiMahatmaGandhiaurRabindranathTagoreke  
liye aapaar shraddha aur samman ki bhavana hai. Mujhe  
yahaanakarbahootkhushihorahihe.*

In this international year of languages, it is indeed a pleasurable duty to greet you in an Indian language, even at the risk of hurting your ears.

Allow me to thank the India International Centre for inviting me to address this august audience. This is indeed a great honour and a challenge. For all Africans of my generation who were nurtured in the sayings of Mahatma Gandhi, Tagore and the Upanishads, and therefore have, in the words of Octavio Paz, the great Mexican poet and ambassador to this land, some 'Glimpses of India', coming to India is equivalent to a pilgrimage to the cradle of wisdom.

---

1. *VislumbresdelaIndia*