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1.0 Introduction

The Africa Philanthropy Network (APN) is an independent, not for profit, organizational member-based continent-wide network that was launched in July 2009 in Accra, Ghana as the Africa Grantmakers Network (AGN), and later rebranded to APN in July 2015, with a commitment to building a broad, multi-stakeholder understanding and recognition of the contribution of philanthropy as a field that bridges development and local ownership. APN believes that Africa can effectively mobilize and harness domestic resources for its own development.

APN is a critical player in providing leadership and guidance in mapping and defining the continental philanthropy space and positioning African philanthropy in the global development discourse in order to address the urgent need for African representation and leadership in the global philanthropy space.

APN’s Mission

APN envisions a strong and effective philanthropic community, striving to build equitable and just societies in Africa. It seeks to reclaim the power and elevate practices of African philanthropy by providing leadership on the development of philanthropy agendas in the continent through research, knowledge sharing and provision of thought leadership.

APN seeks to bring about change by conducting research in African philanthropy models, sharing knowledge and providing thought leadership as means to creating an enabling environment for promoting the culture of giving, which will contribute towards building equitable and just societies in Africa. The theory of change is delivered through programme areas aiming at bringing communities and philanthropists together to develop a philanthropy agenda and the field, build knowledge hub and connections, as well as strengthen emerging and successful models in African philanthropy.

About APN Assembly

The assembly was established as a means to convene grant-makers, social investors and delegates from all sectors of society including the social, the private, and the public sectors. The platform provides a unique opportunity for engagement across a broad spectrum of social issues and actors. The assembly serves as a key platform to advance the broader, ongoing agenda of APN to build the field of philanthropy and individual giving in Africa through:

a. Creating new knowledge about African philanthropy that shapes the debate about philanthropy in Africa;
b. Building the field of philanthropic practice in Africa;
c. Profiling the diversity of African philanthropists and philanthropic practices; and
d. Creating a more enabling environment for diverse forms of philanthropy to flourish in Africa.

Three assemblies had been held prior to the 2018 APN Assembly. Details of the previous events are shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Theme</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 - 5 November 2010</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>Building African Philanthropy in 21st century: A call to become a relevant drivers of social, political and economic changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 – 3 July 2015</td>
<td>Arusha, Tanzania</td>
<td>Philanthropy in Africa 2015: People, Policy and Practice</td>
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Assembly 2018

The APN Assembly 2018 was held on 8 – 9 November 2018 at the Intercontinental Balaclava Hotel in Mauritius. The assembly brought together more than 200 delegates from 26 countries across the world. The Assembly participants list is given in Annex 1. This Assembly with the theme: African Philanthropy: Who is Giving and Whose Power? was launched amidst plenty of excitement and anticipation from participants. It provided for APN members and their networks a very vital space to, not only exchange ideas about the field of philanthropy, but to also continue to celebrate the mutual partnership that is growing among philanthropic actors in Africa and beyond.

Dr. Awino Okech was the process facilitator for the Assembly. Awino is a lecturer at the Centre for Gender Studies at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Dr Okech brings over twelve years of social justice transformation work in Eastern Africa, the Great Lakes region, and South Africa to her teaching and research work. Awino has supported the work of a number international and inter-governmental organisations working on women’s rights, conflict transformation, policing and security sector governance.

This Assembly was organized to stimulate engaging and thought-provoking discussions around African philanthropy, giving practices and power relations. The Assembly program is presented in Annex 2. Sessions included:

- Plenary sessions, held in the presence of all delegates
- Lightning talks designed to provoke thoughts and discussions around topics discussed in plenary
- Breakout sessions zooming in on specific issues of interest to different groups of delegates,
- Networking breaks, and
- Gala dinner to celebrate African philanthropy practices.

Almost 10 years since its founding, APN has grown into a bigger network with greater diversity in its member-base. Still, it was very clear that as stronger relationships are being formed in the interest of promoting African philanthropy, APN’s vision is becoming more and more of a reality.

Dr. Awino Okech
2.0 Assembly Opening

APN was honored to have His Excellency Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Acting President of Mauritius to officiate the 2018 APN Assembly. Mr. Vyapoory’s opening remarks were centered on the need for philanthropic actors to address the deeper causes of poverty.

To get to this objective, the Guest of Honour believes that it is important to focus on enhancing the individual efficacy of the African people. “So, philanthropic work must be geared, not only to cater to the physical needs of the people, but to cater to their mental, emotional and spiritual growth. In so doing, they themselves become active in seeking their destiny, instead of being and remaining passive, sterile recipients of charity”, he remarked.

Mr. Vyapoory urged philanthropic organizations to work on building the self-worth and the self-pride of the people in need of assistance. Mr. Vyapoory closed by conveying his best wishes for the success of the event.

Official opening remarks by APN carried a lot of promise for the growth of the institution and field of African philanthropy. Dr. Stigmata Tenga, APN’s Executive Director welcomed delegates, and urged them to deeply reflect on key questions raised by the theme of the APN Assembly 2018, “African Philanthropy: Giving and Power”.

“This meeting is ours – the right time is now; the right people have come. This is not only about members – it is about you.”

Dr. Stigmata Tenga, APN Executive Director

APN’s interim board chair’s opening remarks challenged the group to forge further ahead. He emphasized on the need for greater unity in movement building.

“We would be amiss if we began to take our foot off the pedal. We must instead take this very unique opportunity to evaluate our present position and chart out a way forward for this institution to which we are constituents.”

...Francis Kiwanga, APN Board Chair

Francis Kiwanga was later confirmed as the APN Board Chairperson
Mauritius Council of Social Services' board chair noted that the assembly is an exceptional opportunity to reflect on the challenges that the philanthropy community faces

This assembly will help to create empowering strategies around the continent as a means to bringing about transformation and real social change."

Paramasiva Dana Chengan, MACOSS

Ms. Abigail Burgesson, the Chair of the APN Assembly 2018 Planning Committee thanks His Excellency Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoor, Acting President of Mauritius for officiating the 2018 APN Assembly. She goes ahead and acknowledges the APN funders; Mott Foundation, Ford Foundation, and others funders, participants and APN Board of Directors and APN Assembly 2018 Planning Committee for making APN Assembly 2018 possible.

She acknowledges and thankful to Mr. Dana Chengan, Chairman Macoss. Macoss was APN Assembly 2018 collaborating partner.

“I would like to thank the founding members of APN and all member of APN, without you, we could not come this far”

Abigail Burgesson,  
APN Assembly 2018 Planning Committee Chairperson
3.0 Highlights from the Assembly

Key Note Address on African Philanthropy: Who is Giving and Whose Power?
When considering African philanthropy, it is important to look at who is giving, to whom and how it is given. Power dynamics are still at play within the African philanthropy field. But being transparent, accountable, and forming strong partnerships are ways to manage these power issues, said Maurice Makoloo. Reclaiming African philanthropy will entail reclaiming our voice; our agency and ability to act; as well as our resources, he continued.

Mr. Maurice Makoloo, Regional Director, Ford Foundation East Africa, delivering the keynote address at the assembly

Some of the key insights emerging on this topic are listed below:

- Too often African philanthropists are on receiving end of disempowering language. For instance, the term "intermediary" takes away the knowledge, networks, skills local grant-makers have. African philanthropists need to stop passively accepting such labels as part of decolonizing African philanthropy.

- When faced with uncertain donor funding thus, local philanthropy is an appealing and more sustainable option that allows communities to contribute towards their own development.

- Philanthropy must not only provide physical needs, it must also promote the mental, emotional wellbeing of people.

- African agencies and Africans can no longer be passive/sterile recipients of charity. It is important to recognize our rights/responsibilities and act boldly to bridge gap between the have & have-nots.
PLENARY SESSION I: APN’s Journey from Ghana to Mauritius

APN is the only organizational member-based continent-wide network. Presently, that focuses more explicitly towards building the multi-stakeholder end of the philanthropy spectrum (emphasis on African philanthropic models, philanthropy as act of participation, dissent, empathy, solidarity, inclusivity), as a development tool. In short “philanthropy of the people” rather than “philanthropy of the wealthy.”

Panellists, who were also representing founding member organizations, shared key philosophies that underpinned the launch of, the branding and the way of working of APN over almost the decade. They shared about an evolution and the choices that APN has taken over the years in demonstrating this commitment, achievements, challenges encountered, opportunities, as well as lessons learned.

From Left to the right- Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, AWDF; Ezra Mbgori, MS TCDC; Janet Mawiyoo, KCDF; and Ebrima Sall, TrustAfrica.

This session allowed participants to look back and remember why the APN was set up and reflect on the network’s almost decade of existence. It was noted that when APN was created, it was a space for all players within African philanthropy to come together to work for a better future for Africa. But it quickly grew into a system for both formal and informal cross-learning, giving space to like-minded actors to grow together and overcome similar challenges that they were facing. APN, is the only network of its kind in the continent! There was general agreement and appreciation of the vital role that the network plays. However, questions were posed about what else APN should do to deepen its relevance and impact. More reflections from this session are documented below:

• We have common challenges around building our own African institutions, growing our own resources and around communicating. #APN can help us consolidate our issues, data, network, to understand ourselves and what we are dealing with.

• There is a great need to strengthen infrastructures for giving and support organizations such as APN if African philanthropy is to grow and prosper.

• African philanthropists need to do more research that enables reflection on and building better practice around agenda setting, policy reform and community transformation on the African continent.

• New power and forms of giving and old power and forms of giving need to collaborate more when it comes to strengthening African philanthropy.

• The work between APN and the Africa Philanthropy forum needs to be deepened for to realize better outcomes.
SUB-THEME 1: DECOLONIZING AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY
LIGHTING TALK 1: The need for a decolonized African philanthropy

The speaker, Halima Mahomed challenged participants to be careful and explicit about what forms of African philanthropy they mean when we talking about de-colonizing African philanthropy. This is because when we think of African philanthropy as institutionalized African philanthropy, we risk losing any focus on the important part of our giving practice and we end up feeding into the very colonised narratives that we have been railing against.

She added that institutional philanthropy should look very different from much of our current practice. We have internalised norms, standards and mechanisms from elsewhere that reinforce, rather than dismantle the influence of colonization. The speaker made a number of suggestions on how Africa philanthropy can be decolonized:

- There is a need to enable a pan African thinking to inform our analysis and actions, for enabling spaces for collective voices and agendas to develop and using our philanthropy to enable our funded partners to have the space to think about what this means in their work.
- There is a view that as philanthropists we need to remain above the activism – we need to fund it but not be part of it – it is beyond time that we interrogate what this means – and what we lose by doing so.
- It is not enough to decolonize philanthropy. If we are to remain relevant, we must ask what it means for our philanthropy to be re-politicized.

PLENARY SESSION 2: Navigating the Role of Philanthropy in Africa

“Reclaiming African philanthropy” as not just the domain of the rich but of grassroots and middle class, as solidarity, participation, activism, etc. Questioning and examining systems in which big philanthropy operates and some of the contradictions that surround it. The relationship between philanthropy and the obligations of the state, philanthropy as a product of deeply unequal systems that favour those who already have power, i.e., illicit financial flows, role of taxation, philanthropy as giving power to a few wealthy elites and undermining democracy. Relationship between philanthropy and civil society. Philanthropy as part of civil society or philanthropy bypassing civil society – as is the case with many non-grant making philanthropies. What is the role for INGOs/international donors and the State? Africans have a long-entrenched tradition of giving, yet they do not call it philanthropy.

This session looked at African philanthropy as a bedrock of a new, flatter, more equitable system. It will interrogate roles and power in the systems we want, challenge ourselves and the system we have and ask the question “can we do better?”

It was suggested that the debate need not be about decolonizing, because that implies that African philanthropy began after colonization. But the debate should instead be about reclaiming philanthropy. On the question of how far we have gone in reclaiming African philanthropy, participants were challenged to move past understandings of philanthropy that do not come from our continent. High net worth individuals have a place in African philanthropy, but what the group needs to do it to change conversation or influence people to understand that the biggest philanthropists in Africa are the ordinary people, as opposed to rich black men.
APN was recognized as a great avenue for actors to come together to strategize around reclaiming African philanthropy. Discussions also highlighted the fact that African philanthropists need to think about the things they can measure and start working collaboratively around them.

From left-Jenny Hodgson, Global Fund for Community Development, the session facilitator; Irunghunston, Amnesty International, Rehema Tukai, Accountability Programme Tanzania; Theo Sowa, Africa Women’s Development Fund; Amalia Souza, Brazil Philanthropy Network for Social Justice; and Moiyattu Banya, Women Change Africa.

LIGHTNING TALK 2: Creating an Environment for Philanthropy

The talk highlighted some of the trends and drivers behind African philanthropy. It was noted that giving in Africa seems to matter most when the givers can see the immediate results of their act, usually done out of cultural beliefs and obligations and not out of the spirit of generosity.

Philanthropy also needs to be able to respond and react almost immediately to the changing landscape of the development sector across the continent, especially when it comes to pushing back against the shrinking civil society spaces in many African countries.

The speaker listed five conditions that should characterize an enabling and effective environment for philanthropy to thrive, including:

- Strong, democratic and accountable institutions.
- Good governance, including political, administrative and fiscal decentralization policies that foster common work and ensure accountability.
- Sound economic policies and progressive tax schemes.
- Appropriate social and productive infrastructure, respect of cultural diversity.
- Stronger partnerships between high net worth individuals, government, and businesses
SUB-THEME 2: CONSTITUENCY BUILDING IN PURSUIT OF THE AGENDA FOR AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY
LIGHTNING TALK 3: Where Do We Want to Go

APN’s Executive Director, Dr. Stigmata Tenga delivered a lightning talk on the future direction of APN by going through the theory of change which contains work around data that shall be used to tell the story of giving as a key component.

APN seeks to bring about change by conducting research in African philanthropy models, sharing knowledge and providing thought leadership as means to creating an enabling environment for promoting the culture of giving, which will contribute towards building equitable and just societies in Africa.

The theory of change is delivered through programme areas aiming at bringing communities and philanthropists together to develop a philanthropy agenda and the field, build knowledge hub and connections, as well as strengthen emerging and successful models in African philanthropy and giving. Having communicated APN’s theory of change, the Executive Director urged participants to join hands in telling the story of African philanthropy. She remarked that APN must be designed, owned and implemented by the constituents.

APN’s Executive Director, Dr. Stigmata Tenga

PLENARY SESSION 3: Telling the Tale of African Philanthropy through Data

This session drew participant’s attention to the need for collective and coordinated data and knowledge initiatives to tell the stories of how African philanthropy is transforming societies across the continent. The This session moderator, Niamani Mutima posed three main questions to guide this conversation.

a. What kind of data are you collecting?
b. What does the data tell you about the landscape of African philanthropies?
c. Who uses this data and how?

Discussants remarked that better data is needed to;

- Design better plans and strategies around African philanthropy
- Demonstrate the impact (or potential) impact of African philanthropy; and
- Meet the increasing demand for partnership and collaboration based on data/evidence

However, official agencies in most African countries do not have good data, in terms of accuracy and timeliness. It important for philanthropic actors to intervene. It is important for individual organizations to have better data management plans for the data they generate internally. But also, organizations should be encouraged to utilize data generated by member-based organizations but also share their data to such organizations.

It was also mentioned that there is a need to capture data around in-kind giving/philanthropy and community philanthropy. Where there are data gaps, these should be clearly acknowledged so that the wider sector can find appropriate mechanisms to address them.

From left - Evans Okinyi, EAPN; Niamani Mutima, AGAG (moderator); and Shelagh Gastrow, IPASA

Africa's young majority "the continent’s rising stars" are alive and trailblazing across their various industries. Yet young people face endemic issues spanning from joblessness, poverty and social exclusion. The elders are charged to hand over the baton of leadership to this generation of Africans activists, influencers and leaders who will take forward the vision for philanthropy. In this session Joanne Harding (Philanthropy Leadership Network in Western Cape) held a conversation with Moiyattu Banya (Women Change Africa) and Devan Saitee (Africa Youth Queer Alliance) about the importance of young Africans as investors in their own wealth.

The panellists discussed the emerging models of youth philanthropy in the continent. What is missing in building leadership for driving Africa’s agenda for philanthropy? The conversation also celebrated young philanthropists’ achievements and share their stories of success towards building a powerful intergenerational culture of giving across Africa.

Several key insights were shared on how generations, especially those currently disengaged or unrecognized can join hands in pursuit of the African philanthropy vision:

- African philanthropy should engage in research and support young feminists
- One model that may work is to bridge a number of skills gaps.
  - Between the older generation and the new generation
  - Between privileged and underprivileged young people
  - Between young girls and young boys
- Participants noted, in particular, that young girls are the most disadvantaged, hence efforts should go towards building their capacity in order to increase their chances of being able to determine their own lives in future.
- There is a need to invest in enabling young people, especially young women to run their own businesses. Having their own resources and wealth is what will allow them to claim their place in African philanthropy.
- Giving money is important but so is giving other resources. For instance, young people might not have a lot of money, but they have time, talents, ideas, visions which they apply to social movements and social change. That should also be recognized as philanthropy.

From left to the right: Joanne Harding, PLN (Moderator); Moiyattu Banya, Women Change Africa; and Devan Saitee, Africa Youth Queer Alliance
CONCURRENT SESSION 2: Building People’s Philanthropy: from Old School Grants Making to Participatory Philanthropy

APN should shift its focus more explicitly towards the more multi-stakeholder end of the philanthropy spectrum. There should be emphasis on participatory philanthropic models. Philanthropy as act of participation, dissent, empathy and solidarity. Philanthropy of communities and middle classes. In this knowledge café, Ese Emerhi (Kiisi Trust Fund) will hold conversations with Catherine Mwendwa (East Africa Philanthropy Network) on ‘Leveraging #GivingTuesday to strengthen African giving culture’; Melvin Chibole (Kenya Community Development Foundation) about ‘Pamoja4Change’ and Chalwe Nyirenda (Zambia Governance Foundation) will share the journey ‘From old school grants making to community philanthropy, from Dependence to Ascend.’

The discussion recognized grant making as a development tool, while highlighting other community resource mobilization strategies and community participation as well as the potential of partnering to help shifting and sharing the power. A need to promote individual and community philanthropy was prioritized.

From left: Chalwe Nyirenda (Zambia Governance Foundation); Catherine Mwendwa (East Africa Philanthropy Network) and Melvin Chibole (Kenya Community Development Foundation)

CONCURRENT SESSION 3: Who decides? Rethinking Models of Power in Governance and Decision Making

Building partnerships with communities for better response against social justice and inequalities: whose power matters the most? In this session, Beulah Fredericks (Philanthropy Leadership Network) held a conversation with Edna Akuliq (Africa Youth Philanthropy Network), Ashley Thompson (Act Alliance, ‘UBUMBANO’) and Ibrahim-Tanko Amidu (STAR Ghana) about participatory grantmaking and other examples of governance and decision-making models. It will also be an opportunity for learning and sharing experiences on how grant makers, civil society organizations and other advocacy groups can work on strategies for empowering and promoting giving.

Several key insights emerged on this peer exchange, including the following:

- To remain relevant and sustainable African philanthropic actors should;
  - meet real needs.
  - educate and motivate people on the ground.
  - act with sound judgement and total integrity.

- Advocacy work takes time. Therefore, continuous, long term funding is necessary to see those changes in legislation, bad cultural practices and norms.

From left to the right: Beulah Fredericks (Philanthropy Leadership Network); Ibrahim-Tanko Amidu (STAR Ghana) and Edna Akuliq (Africa Youth Philanthropy Network)
CONCURRENT SESSION 4: Re-Politicizing Philanthropy through Community Organizing: A Consultation Session

Change is coming once again from different sites of politics which include local civic action, movements and community activism. These sites were once held prominent and were seen as legitimate spaces of support but in recent years have been overshadowed by the demands for professionalism, structure and fixed targets. Despite evidence that these old sites of politics play a critical role, philanthropy, for the most part, continues to operate in ways that further dissociates it from these sites of activism. There is a sense that the de-politicisation of philanthropy, or its retreat from an overly political stance has, in part, played a significant role in advancing the schism. As the limitations of existing development practice and impact become glaring, these sites of politics are once again re-emerging in development discourse and forcing a spotlight on its value.

Recognizing that engaging with and supporting such spaces requires some fundamental changes in philanthropic values and practice, this session explore the question: “What does it mean to have a re-politicisation of philanthropy in the context of community organizing?” The session was designed as a consultative space, building on prior conversations in South Africa on this topic but also seeking to elicit further discussion and debate from a broader pan African perspective. The consultations were facilitated by Nancy Moloantoa-Lalui, Ford Foundation South Africa.

Several key insights emerged on how local agency and power might be built in order to build local agency and power in African communities:

- We need to ensure that African philanthropy does not reinforce inequality by funding the few, well resourced, well connected, often capital city-based CSOs
- There is a need to open the conversation to groups that we ordinarily don’t talk to, and be accountable, as donors, to the people we are funding.
SUB-THEME 3: AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY’S ROLE IN FOSTERING CIVIL SOCIETY RESILIENCE AND COUNTERING THE SHRINKING SPACE

LIGHTNING TALK 4: Challenging Old Ways of Thinking by Beatrice Grillo, Board Chairperson, Zambia Governance Foundation

Why are we challenging the old ways of giving? I think you challenge something because it does not give you what you want, or is taking you to a wrong direction. According to Beatrice, when she thinks of old ways of thinking four (4) things come to the mind: sustainability, specific areas of funding focus, values and legitimacy.

- Sustainability – givers have always supported short term project and asking for tangible results in return. The way funding has been given, does not consider sustainability in Africa.
- Giving has always come with specific areas and or theme. The is making CSOs go the way donor want and not to response to the community needs. Unfortunately, no one want to go where there is no funding. There is no or very limited room for innovation in a way donor currently give.
- Decision are made very far from people and communities. As a results organization receive funds to implement projects which undermine values and do not appreciate the contextual implications.
- Legitimacy of the support is questionable. The ability and originality of our ideas is often questioned, even by our very own Governments.

Several key insights emerged to help challenge old ways of giving. We need to interrogate and encourage the following:

- Funding processes which shall prioritize the implementation of our own ideas. We know what is needed to sustain the development and respond to agency.
- Funding that treat people and communities as true partners in development NOT beneficiaries.

Beatrice Grillo, Board Chairperson, Zambia Governance Foundation

LIGHTNING TALK 5: Power-Less to Give More by Sameera Mehra Michael, Charities Aid Foundation

The world is witnessing one of the most radical changes in human history with as many as 2.4 billion people set to join the world’s middle classes by 2030 according to Brookings institute. With a significant portion of this growth taking place in the global south. We estimate that if the world middle classes were to give just over 0.5% of their spending, that could amount to approx. $319 billion in resources for civil society by 2030. However, it’s not just about financial giving, but the other currencies. For the third year in a row, the African continent has seen a strong improvement in its World Giving Index score, especially around volunteering and helping a stranger. Many African countries have risen up the rankings; nine of the 21 most improved countries are on the continent of Africa, including Niger, Madagascar and Morocco, whilst in the top 20 of the overall ranking, four are African; Kenya, Nigeria, Liberia and Sierra Leone. How do we make the most of this opportunity? How do we shift the middle class from being a useless demographic / the missing middle to one that embraces all that civic activism is about and proactively engages in giving? What are the barriers to future growth of middle class giving – and both financial and non-financial? Why is mass engagement in civil society important?
Why CAF think that mass engagement in giving is important. Some reasons include the following:

- Countries with established civil societies enjoy high rates of giving at all levels of society. In some cases, the least wealthy give away the highest proportion of their disposable income. The reality is that, without a pervasive culture of giving, countries lack the necessary social contract to compel wealthy donors. The solution is to prioritize mass engagement.

- And as we do this, it is key to recognize and build on traditional forms of giving to create organizations and a culture of giving that works to the strengths of the local context.

- Mass support for civil society helps strengthens legitimacy and credibility of civil society, makes civil society more responsive to local needs; helps strengthen its voice and independence which in turn, and hopefully prevents governments from cracking down on civil society and keeps spaces open. However, increasing individual wealth does not guarantee that people will give.

Sameera Mehra Michael, Charities Aid Foundation

Big philanthropy can help strengthen a local generosity movement by funding activities which aim to improve the environment for giving. This is where locally led philanthropy infrastructure and charity support bodies can play a crucial role. What I mean by infrastructure organizations are – they are locally led organizations that sit at the intersection of donors, civil society and government, focusing on championing & building an enabling environment for civil society and philanthropy, whilst creating solutions that make giving easy, attractive and effective.

PENARY SESSION 4: Legitimacy and Ownership in Philanthropy (Shrinking space)

African Philanthropy’s role in fostering Civil Society resilience and countering the shrinking space: ‘Analysis of the drivers and responses.’ Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) worldwide are under significant pressure as restrictions on foreign funding, barriers to registration, intervention in CSOs' internal affairs, and other forms of harassment have proliferated.

The discussion reflected on African philanthropy models as a response to build constituency and examine the evidence and experience of closing space in different contexts and sectors. The role of donors in helping others to deepen their roots, build their base and strengthen civil society legitimacy and ownership. It also aimed at identifying the innovative responses that allowed CSOs to continue their critical work and thrive in many countries, despite growing pressures. posed two key questions to guide the discussions in this session;

- What difference would public ownership make in our work?
- How do we have to change internally to grow this ownership?

A key insight emerging in this session links with the issue of legitimacy in philanthropy.

If philanthropy actors are to confront power, they risk losing funding due to power dynamics on the continent. However, they should be spending more time.

From left; Masego Madzwamuse, The Southern Africa Trust (the Trust); Francis Kiwanga, Foundation for Civil Society and Amy Taylor, CIVICUS
Several key insights emerged on how philanthropy actors can gain more legitimacy and ownership, including:

- The communities we resource should not be seen as homogenous. African philanthropy should acknowledge inequalities within constituencies and strive to create systems that promote meaningful inclusion & participation.

- On building legitimacy, it is important to build narratives that inspire regular people to be engaged in social justice issues; for instance, giving as an expression of dissent, such as through crowdfunding.

- Civil society should be working on ways of accountability that our constituencies can make sense of. Annual reports and audited statements hardly allow us to be accountable to them.

- It is important to be cautious that our language does not alienate and take away the voice of the very people we are meant to be serving. For instance, should "learning together" be used instead of "capacity building"?

**LIGHTNING TALK 6: Shifting gears with a sustainability lens, Lusungu Kanchenche, The Southern Africa Trust (the Trust)**

Fast forward and on the back of the financial downturn, donor funding to the sector as a whole, and inevitably to the Trust, started to dwindle. For the Trust, the writing was on the wall “…not doing business as usual anymore” – the organization needed to think and act differently in order to ensure that the organisation is sustainable.

The Trust responded by developing a Sustainability Plan to guide the pursuit towards this agenda. The organization made a bold decision to take a two-prong approach. The first was to ensure that engage partners along on the sustainability planning, and secondly to contributing to the strengthening of the African philanthropy architecture and knowledge base.

The organization had to invest in cost cutting measures and also income generating ventures. In this regard, The Trust: (i) purchased own property, (ii) Invested in strengthening systems and structures and streamlining procedures (including automation); and (iii) Monetised some of the work that we have been doing for the last 13 years – developing them into products and services. The Trust commits to put a sustainability lens on all its undertaking and most importantly in partnership building but also in building the necessary social capital in achieving philanthropic outcomes.
LIGHTNING TALK 7: Fostering CSO resilience through National CSR Foundation, Paramania Dana Chenggang, MACOSS

The establishment of National CSR Foundation in Mauritius is backed by the law that look into the contribution of the business sector to the social development. The NCR Foundation of managed by a council which is comprised of members from the Government, private sector, civil society and academia. According to the respective legislation, all businesses in Mauritius have to contribute two percent (2%) of the net profit to support the implementation of social activities. Companies Businesses are allowed to invest 1% in own social initiated social projects and can give 1% to the CSOs.

Photo and Notes missing

Priority areas for project proposals include the following:

- Social economic development for poverty alleviation,
- Educational support and training
- Support to people with disabilities
- Health issues and family protection, i.e., gender base violence
- Leisure and sport
- Environmental and social development
- Peace and national security, i.e., road accidents

Paramania Dana Chenggang, MACOSS

SUB-THEME 4: MOBILIZING SUPPORT FOR RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

LIGHTNING TALK 8: An approach to Disability Rights Funding, Assaya Imaya, Big Lottery Fund

Assaya Imaya is the Head of International Programmes at Big Lottery Fund (BLF). BLF runs the East Africa Disability Fund which provides grants to organizations working with disability people aiming to improve their status and livelihoods.

Assaya told the delegates that agenda for PWD is ‘nothing about us without us’ - and therefore having a, inclusive conversation about disability in APN Assembly is very important in shifting grounds for people with disability (PWD). Inclusion links with philanthropy in a very direct way, he said. As a Fund, BLF focuses on leveraging fund for the Disability Sector from other funders. Therefore, the more other funders hear about PWD, the more they will invest in it; and the more PWD get support they require.

Asaya Imaya
Big Lottery Fund (BLF)
PLENARY SESSION: 5 What is the role of human rights, women’s rights and disability rights’ funds in building philanthropy in Africa?

The philanthropic landscape has grown spontaneously as well as meta-morphed into different forms over time. There currently exist different models of philanthropies: feminist philanthropy, venture philanthropy, community philanthropy, social justice philanthropy, among others. Likewise, different collaborations and networks have emerged to strengthen the role and impact of philanthropy on the continent and beyond. Given the scope and severity of the challenges, coordination and collaboration among funders is particularly important because it allows for more strategic use of limited resources and better assessment of needs and gaps.

This session was a cross-silo discussion about how philanthropies can come together in solidarity to promote common goals, change public attitudes, and improve lives. In short, grappling with the question “What will it take to build a philanthropic constituency for rights and justice in Africa?”

Several key insights emerged on this topic, including the following:

- Funding does not end with granting. Women’s movements survive on accompaniment, continuous support, and listening to activists.
- Feminist funding should go beyond supporting victims of violence to funding ways of addressing the root causes of that violence.
- A list of top African philanthropist published by Forbes featured only men. There is a need to recognize the unpaid care work women perform in communities as philanthropy.
- There is a difference between availability and accessibility. Much of the progress that has been noted by women funds are addressing availability, while accessibility is still a big problem.
- It is important for foundations that are giving funds to implement a matching fund principle. This will help instill more ownership, sustainability and agency. For instance, for every 10 dollars invested, recipients could be asked to raise 1 dollar from their constituents.

LIGHTNING TALK 8: A Guide to Participatory Philanthropy,
Mukami Marete, UHAI-ESHRI

Participatory grantmaking cedes decision-making power about funding—including the strategy and criteria behind those decisions—to the very communities that funders aim to serve. Mukami Marete shared a GrantCraft guide developed in partnership between the Foundation Centre and five Africa Participatory Grantmaking Funds (UHAI-EASHRI, Disability Rights Fund, FRIDA-Young Feminist Fund, Red Umbrella Fund, and the Media Foundation.

The guide looks into how and why funders who are engaging with participatory grantmaking need to shift decision-making power to the very communities impacted by funding decisions. This guide shares examples and insights from a wide range of participatory grantmakers best practices, lessons and challenges for engaging in inclusive grant making. It also provides a model that demonstrate a paradigm shift on the grantmakers work with partners as agent for change in their communities, rather than a beneficiary of aid. Goes beyond grantmaking on the importance of advancing public and democratic practices in decisions making-recognizing the practice itself as an impact.

The session inspired participants to follow some of the best practices in participatory philanthropy:

- Participatory grantmaking cedes decision making power about funding to the very communities that funders aim to serve.
- Participatory grantmaking empowers grantee partners as they become active change agents who set their own agenda.
- Participatory grantmaking is a paradigm shift, emphasizing that partners are not passive recipients, but insightful actors in their own right.

Mukami, directed Assembly delegated to explore GrantCraft Resources on participatory grantmaking: www.grantcraft.org/participatorygrantmaking.
CONCURRENT SESSION 5: Transforming the Pan-African Philanthropic Scene: What is the role of Women’s Funds in Philanthropic Ecosystems

The session reflected on the strategic opportunities and interventions Women’s Funds have identified and engaged with to advance the philanthropic landscape in Africa. Since its establishment, the Prospera Africa Chapter have used their collective power and agency to change the face of philanthropy in Africa. As the face of philanthropy evolves both locally and globally, new tools and strategies have also emerged to provide the necessary support to a functioning eco-system for philanthropy in Africa. Prospera Africa provided more than USD $11m of worth of grants and other capacity building activities from 2015 – 2017. In 2017, made about 214 grants in 32 countries in Africa and Middle East.

In this session, Fadekemi Akinfaderin (Prospera Africa) held a discussion with Abigail Burgesson (Africa Women’s Development Fund), Mary Rusimbi (Women Fund Tanzania), Julienne Lusenge (Congolese Women’s Fund) and Tariro Tandi (Urgent Action Fund- Africa) about the underlying political, economic and philanthropic prowess that governs women's rights strategic resourcing and how the wider philanthropic ecosystem can engage with it. The discussants all members of the Prospera Africa use intersectional approach to implement and resource women groups, coalition and activists on the continent.

Other key insights on cerebrated shifts which have been experienced included:

- Passing of the land rights law in Kwazulu Natal, South Africa
- Passing of the domestic violence law in Ghana
- Rape crisis centre at the Sexual Offences court in South Africa
- State shelter for the survivors of sexual and women violence in Nigeria
- Strengthening of the national feminist movements in most countries
- Rapid funding that is responsive to the needs which may not necessarily get funding elsewhere
- Support and connections which allow human rights defenders/activists to continue with their work.
- Women and girls have supported to realise rights to physical integrity and economic justice
- Women are empowered to participate in all levels of decision-making that affect their lives and communities.
- In DRC, increased number of funds was given to local women's organizations in the early stages of their conception and remote, grassroots women's organizations which do not have access to financial backing from donors.

Women funds support women groups and activists in their communities with financial and technical assistance, while promoting women’s leadership and know-how. These funds recognize that women and girls are the main actors for real and sustainable change.
CONCURRENT SESSION 6: The Case for Human Rights Funding in Africa

Fundamental human rights are reported to have diminished in almost two-thirds of the 113 countries surveyed for the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index. This backlash against human rights coupled with a global trend of closing civic spaces creates serious challenges for funders and their grantees. In 2015, 12% of global human rights funding was for work to benefit Sub-Saharan Africa, and included grants from seven Africa-based funders.

In this session, Jeanne Elone (TrustAfrica) held a conversation with Mukami Marete (UHAI-East Africa Sexual Health Rights Initiatives), Irwin Iradukunda, Youth Queer Initiative Africa, and Rachel Thomas (Human Rights Funders Network) to discuss human rights funding in Africa, specifically, highlighting the issues prioritized, strategies used, and populations targeted. The session also unpacked funding trends, present tools to help funders make more informed decisions, and promote discussion about where we want to go and steps we should take to get there.

As a result of these discussions, it was largely agreed that the network and its members should work to decriminalize human rights activism. A pertinent question was raised, questioning whether when actors fund human rights issues, are they also funding human rights values? This raised the importance of focusing on values such as accountability, participation, transparency and inclusion in our philanthropic systems.

From left; Rachel Thomas, Human Rights Funders Network; Jeanne Elone, TrustAfrica (Moderator); Mukami Marete, UHAI-EASHRI; and Irwin Iradukunda, Africa Youth Queer Initiative

Other key insights included:

- There is a need to build domestic constituencies for human rights. Overreliance on foreign funding opens organizations up to criticism that they’re pushing foreign agendas.
- It is important to use inclusive language when it comes to human rights. Communities also need to be informed about what organizations are doing to include them.
- Funding needs to be in pursuit of structural change to ensure the protection and enjoyment of rights enshrined in the universal declaration of human rights and other human rights treaties.
- It is important for funders to listen to the victims of human rights violations to identify the best way to address their situation.
- Grantmaking decisions targeting youth causes are often made in the absence of youths. There is a need to champion the inclusion of young people in such decision-making structures in order to be able to effectively accommodate their unique interests and position.

CONCURRENT SESSION 7: Disability Rights Funding: A Matter of Justice and Dignity

Persons with disabilities are not viewed as ‘objects’ of charity, medical treatment and social protection; rather as humans with equal rights, who are capable of claiming those rights and making decisions for their lives based on their free and informed consent as well as being active members of society. It is estimated that 80% of persons with disabilities live in developing countries. The vast majority of Africans with disabilities are excluded from schools and opportunities to work, virtually guaranteeing that they will live out their lives as the poorest of the poor. (CBM Series on Disability Inclusive Development)

In this session Martha Oluto (Foundation for Civil Society) had a conversation with Coomaravel Pyaneandee (International Disability Law Advocate), Ummy Nderiananga (Tanzania Federation of Disabled Peoples Organizations), and Koonjal Vinance (Children Foundation in Mauritius) about how it is important to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWD) in all areas of development and the fight against stigma and discrimination of all forms.
This Session looked at some of the best practices in funding disability rights and disability movements in Africa. The speaker, reminded participants in the fact that the skills and capacities of people with disabilities are sufficient for them to drive change from within. Some of the important insights that were shared in this session include:

- There is a great need to stop looking at intervention targeting disability issues as a matter of privilege to people with disabilities. Instead they are rights and when rights are denied there is reason to intervene by means of the legal process. An example was given of a disabled jurer who was disbanded from jury duty because she was thought to be a burden. She sought legal recourse and won.

- There is a need to be strategic in promoting the PWD agenda. In Tanzania, for instance, advocating for better representation in key government positions has had a massive effect on the overall agenda. A few disabled people who have entered government have made government more responsive and have been instrumental in the realization of some big wins obtained.

**CONCURRENT SESSION 8: Social Movements in Africa: The Important Role of African Philanthropy**

Citizens’ mobilizations in several African countries, including Burkina Faso, Senegal, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Congo Brazzaville, and Madagascar to name a few, have revolutionized democratic processes. These social movements are often born on the eve of elections in opposition to recalcitrant incumbents and the will of certain elites to perpetuate themselves in power.

In this session Papa Ismaila Dieng (Africtivistes) held a conversation with social movements’ leaders from Africa institutions to share experience on governance and leadership challenging in building social movements. Tendisai Chigwedere (Trust Africa) who shared on the Zimbabwe case study of investing and building a national social movement, and linking it to Pan-African solidarity with scope for global connection; Muhamed Lamin (African Raising) showcased the work done by Africans Rising; Ayak Chol (South Sudanese Social Mobilizer) talked about Anatapan Movement; and Marcia Thomas (USA for Africa) who discussed the governance and leadership challenges in building social movements. The discussion was guided the questions: How can African citizens be mobilized to contribute to these causes? And what role for funders vis a vis social movement? Beyond financial support, how can African philanthropy support social movements?

It was suggested that philanthropy works best when all the players integrate their actions, as opposed to working on their own. African philanthropy actors need to think more about the power of their social movements, their vision and their people. The strength of philanthropy is fully experienced when it:

- Take risks
- Listens
- Work together in trust partnerships
PLENARY SESSION 6: Leveraging Diaspora Time, Money and Skills for the Development of African Philanthropy

African Diaspora: Over-rated or under-utilized? This session explored how the African Diaspora can be tapped as a viable source of change for philanthropy in Africa. Through practical examples, the discussants from the African Diaspora, highlighted what is working and the challenges inherent in this sphere of philanthropy. Participants gained a better understanding on what needs to be in place for the African Diaspora to be engaged effectively in philanthropy within the continent. Questions such as: how can we invest in building relationships and trust and have a clear agenda for those in Diaspora? how to raise awareness and cultivate understanding among potential funders about the context and needs in Africa, and on the value of their contribution? and how to establish/strengthen structural mechanisms or institutional arrangements to help African grant makers connect with those in Diaspora?

The Assembly delegates appreciated the role the African diaspora plays in the African philanthropy space. It was stated that the “new poor” in Africa tend to be those who do not have diaspora support, affirming the important role that the diaspora plays. However, diaspora support needs to be better organized. For instance, African diaspora voices in the US were said to be unheard because they weren’t organized.

To support the African diaspora, a few ways were proposed:

- It is time for the African diaspora to collaborate more and address the issue of immigration. There needs to be a stronger and more organized diaspora voice to fight back.
- There must be mutual accountability for diaspora support. The diaspora cannot continue to be viewed as a cash cow. Accountability also means giving diaspora rights to vote in their African countries
- African Governments need to do more to support and protect their citizens abroad

From left to the right: Amaha Kassa, African Communities Together; Onyekachi Wambu, Africa Foundation For Development and Dr. Ben Ocra, Ghana Philanthropy Forum
4.0 African Philanthropy Award 2018

Throughout its years of operation, APN has sought to recognize organizations and individuals from across the African continent that are making a real and lasting impact in overcoming poverty through their philanthropic interventions. Therefore, APN launched the biennial African Philanthropy Awards at the APN Pan-African Assembly in 2012 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The awards have been given twice, in 2012 to Marwa El Daly, the founder and chairperson of Maadi Community Foundation in Egypt; and in 2015 to Akwasi Aidoo (individual award) and KAGISO Trust (organizational award).

For the 2018 award, the 2015 award winner was asked by APN's leadership to nominate an outstanding philanthropist to receive the award. After his nomination, the APN's leadership agreed to award Solomé Lemma the African Philanthropy Award 2018.

Solomé Lemma is the Executive Director of Thousand Currents, which was recently merged with Africans in the Diaspora (AiD), an initiative that she co-founded and led for several years. Thousand Currents funds, connects, and walks alongside the people, organizations, and movements that are finding solutions and making waves around the world. Solomé has a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations from Stanford University, and a Master’s degree in Public Policy from Harvard University.

After presenting Salome's the professional profile, Evans Okinyi, EAPN Executive Director shared about three main reasons cited that have contributed to Solomé’s award; as follows:

- First, she is an outstanding practitioner and thought leader in African Diaspora Philanthropy. Of Ethiopian origin, she has always stood head and shoulders high for African interests, perspectives, narratives, expression of solidarity, and dignity on a global scale. At the same time, her deep commitment to ground-level/community-owned and community-determined social transformation has led her to anchor all her work within Africa. She was one of the founders of Africa Responds, a diaspora-led humanitarian initiative that was created to galvanize support for grassroots organizations that fought the Ebola outbreak in West Africa a few years ago.

- Second, Solomé has always prioritized intersectionality, cross-sectoral partnerships in her philanthropic professional work while she worked at the Global Fund for Children (as Senior Program Officer for Africa), the UNDP in Ethiopia, Human Rights Watch in New York City, and International Rescue Committee in Liberia.

- Third, Solomé has a very impressive breadth and depth of global social capital, influence and recognition that she continually draws on for the benefit of African diaspora philanthropy, as exemplified in her recognition as a White House Champion of Change for her work with diaspora communities in the USA. She has also been featured in both Forbes and The Washington Post as a thought leader and practitioner in the field of African diaspora philanthropy and named as one of Foreign Policy Magazine's 100 women to follow on Twitter.

Solomé accepted the award in absentia and encouraged APN and other organization present at the APN Assembly to continue championing the cause for Africa philanthropy.
5.0 Closing Remarks

**Stigmata Tenga**, the APN Executive Director, thanked the delegates for their active participation through the two days. She also thanked all APN member organisations for walking with APN in its journey in philanthropy work and in making this Assembly a success, and positioning the Network as a go to platform. She expressed deep appreciation to the APN secretarial staff and volunteers, MACOSS board and staff, the planning team and the Board. Sincere appreciation to the services from the management and staff of the Intercontinental hotel. To Awino Okech, the Process Facilitator for the very skilful facilitation of the Assembly sessions, she said thank you very much for making time and for solidarity.

Stigmata invited Assembly participants to (i) maintain discussions about giving and power (#Shift-ThePower, #GivingAndPower) and cerebrate successes in the work places and within their networks; and (ii) to sign up to be part of a united front telling the story of African philanthropy through data in any domain of their choosing.

On the way forward, she encouraged participants to save the date for the next APN Assembly which will take place in Nairobi Kenya from 3-6 November 2020. It will be the first time that WINGS is holding its forum on the continent. Stigmata, invited Benjamin Bellegy to inform delegates the objectives of the WINGS Forum 2020.

**Benjamin Bellegy**, started by inviting delegates to Nairobi in November 2020 to join WINGS in cerebrating its 20 years anniversary. WINGS that was established in Mexico with a group of grantmaker associations, has currency grown onto a group of a global network, she said. A group that is committed to help the complex philanthropy sector to thrive. Excited to organize the forum in Africa for the first time; and expecting the more African narrative them to feed into global perspective. He urged participants to raise more information because the narrative about African philanthropy is still limited.

Lastly, Benjamin encouraged philanthropic actors to engage more with funders. He shares a guide that could be adopted to facilitate conversations to unlock the potential of philanthropic giving. He ended by congratulating APN for an amazing two days conference.

**Francis Kiwanga**, the APN Board Chairperson, thanked all delegates for their presence at the Assembly as well as for their vibrant and valuable contributions during discussions and conversations at the Assembly. It had been an amazing two-day Assembly which provided a tremendous opportunity for African philanthropic organisations to share and exchange ideas, best practices, and lessons learnt for furthering philanthropy work in the continent. Very knowledgeable and resourceful moderators and discussants, he continued.

He then thanked the APN secretariat, MACOSS, ushers and other support staff, Planning Committee for the excellent work done. Donors and network partners for making the Assembly a reality. Communications and Social media support and service providers for expanding the reach within and out of the continent. To all he said thank you. Finally, he postpones the meeting by inviting everyone to join the Gala dinner. And, wishing all delegates a safe journey back to their respective countries.
6.0 Reach and Delegates Feedback

6.1 The Reach

The assembly generated significant interest from many people outside of the event halls. Social media analytics show that Tweets with the event’s official hashtag (#GivingAndPower) reached about 2 million people and had close to 8 million impressions in the two days of the event. An estimated 1,500 Tweets were sent out by about 326 contributors to the topic. The below figures show the outcome of the social media work by estimated reach and ability.

6.2 Delegates Feedback

The pre-convening and convening of the APN Assembly activities were successfully implemented. The programme was well delivered with strong presenters and moderators. As far as possible technology was an enabler for conversations. However, the following could be improved:

- The risk of over-emphasizing audience participation without giving room to substantive engagement from the panelists. It was observed on one panel where participants would have liked to hear more from the panelists; but moderators quickly moved into the audience engagement which then begged the question why have a panel. Some of the sessions could easily have been designed around a moderated engagement with the participants.

- Lightning talks were a great idea but were not adequately engaged and/or integrated into the panels due to time constraints and/or the assumption that they were separate.

- Improve translation support services and ensure that translation isn’t reliant on multi-lingual participant’s good will to enhance the participation. This means making headsets available for everyone in the room so that the translation booth works efficiently and effectively. It makes the non-dominant language speakers feel like an afterthought.

- APN needs to rethink the purpose of the assembly and the space. It felt to me like the conversations were many steps back from the 2015 Assembly in Arusha rather than advancing. This may have been a factor of the diversity of actors in the room. Maybe considering commissioning few pieces of research that frames the debate at each assembly so that what is African philanthropy is not a conversation starter at every assembly.

- APN should aim at convening Assemblies every year. Participants had a lot of experience to share but they did not have an opportunity to do so.

- APN need to bring more people and from cross -sectors in the conversation.
6.3 Lessons and expressions

Here are some of the lessons and expressions that participants have given for being part of the two days philanthropic giving and power discussions:

- It is key to recognise and build on traditional forms of giving to create organisations and a culture of giving that works to the strengths of the local context.
- Local philanthropy is a more sustainable option that allows communities to contribute towards their own agency.
- The need to consider who is giving, to who and how?
- I like the conversation about alternative models of giving in the continent.
- I am equipped and would like to promote the development of African giving.
- I have a better understanding about the participatory decision making in connect with poor communities.
- A lot more delegates here have interesting experiences to share; more convening should be organized.
- I attended the past APN Assembly and took on practical lessons which I implemented; I came back for more ideas.
- Have more collaborative discussions as opposed to plenary sessions which do not allow enough audience engagement.
- Fundamentally, philanthropy is not about money, it is about the right of ordinary people to use their resources to back a cause in which they believe strongly.
- APN should be strengthened to become a strong leader in reclaiming the power and elevate practices of African philanthropy.
- African philanthropy needs to address the deeper causes of poverty and inequality.
- Philanthropic work must not only to cater to the physical needs of the people, but also cater to their mental, emotional and spiritual growth.
- It is timely, it is great, it is fantastic, and it is necessary!
Links

Annex 1: Assembly Participants

Annex 2: Assembly Programme