



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

Regional dialogue, 16-17 September 2026

International Conference Center (Rue de Varembe 17, 1211 Genève)

Wednesday, 16 September 2026

Moderator: **Ms. Anne-Marie Dias Borges**

1.00 – 1.30 p.m.

Registration coffee and Welcome Coffee

1.30 – 1.45 p.m.

Welcome Speeches

- Video message by **Ms. Elisabeth Baume-Schneider**, Federal Councillor, Switzerland
- Video message by **Mr. Nayef Al-Fayez**, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture

Opening address

- **Mr. Yves Fischer**, Deputy Director of the Federal Office of Culture (FOC), Switzerland

1.45 – 2.00 p.m.

Keynote addresses

- **Ms. Simonetta Sommaruga**, President of the Commission for Historically Problematic Cultural Heritage, Switzerland
- **Mr. Olugbile Holloway**, Director General of the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Nigeria

2.00 – 3.30 p.m.

Round Table I

Everyone at the table – Challenges Related to Return and Restitution Processes for Indigenous Peoples

Moderator: **Ms. Kristin Hausler**

- **Dr. Birgitta Fossum**, Museum Director of the Saemien Sijte
- **Mr. Francisco González**, President of the Fundación Pueblo Kawésqar
- **Mr. Kenneth Deer**, Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) of the Kahnawà:ke Nation
- **Dr. Arapata Hakiwai**, Kaihautū (Māori co-leader of Te Papa)
- **Mr. Valts Ernštreits**, Vice-Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

Discussions

3.30 – 4.00 p.m.

Coffee break

4.00 – 6.00 p.m.

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

Moderator: **Ms. Anne-Marie Dias Borges**

- Restitution as a bridge: Indonesia and the Netherlands beyond the Dubois Collection, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) / Indonesia



- The “Finnish” Kataklé: Restitution of the 27th Artefact from the Royal Treasures of Abomey to the Republic of Benin, Finland / Benin
- The Benin Initiative Switzerland: From Provenance to Restitution, Switzerland / Nigeria
- Freavnantjahken gievrie – Return of a Sámi Drum, Germany / Norway
- Trust as a key ingredient – Putting the Basel-Kawésqar restitution into practice through intercontinental relationship building, Switzerland / Chile
- Portal to the Past, Gateway to the present. Case study of the recovery of Chalcatzingo’s Portal to the Underworld, USA / Mexico

Discussions

From 7.00 p.m.

Dinner

Thursday 17 September 2026

Moderator: **Ms. Anne-Marie Dias Borges**

8.30 – 9.00 a.m.

Registration and Welcome Coffee

9.00 – 10.30 a.m.

Round table II

Tracing the past, shaping the return: provenance research and cultural property restitution

Moderator: **Ms. Kristin Hausler**

- **Mr. Philipp Schorch & Mr. Diego Muñoz**, Recollecting Rapa Nui
- **Mr. Will Korner & Ms. Isabelle Tassignon**, Chair of the Cultural Heritage at Risk Database (CHARD)
- **Ms. Kokunre Eghafona**, Digital Benin, Benin City – Nigeria
- **Mr. Alexander Herman & Dr. Jonathan Pugh**, Decision Aid for the Restitution of Cultural Artefacts (DARCA)

Discussions

10.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m.

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

Moderator: **Ms. Anne-Marie Dias Borges**

- The Djidji Ayokwé, France / Côte d'Ivoire
- Italian-Iraqi collaboration: a recent recovery of Iraqi archaeological artifacts on the Italian market, Italy / Iraq
- Cultural Heritage connects: Repatriation and Danish-Turkish Museum Collaborations, Denmark / Türkiye
- Returning Heritage, building trust: the Albania-North Macedonia case of 20 trafficked icons, Albania / North Macedonia
- Partnership for Heritage: the return of six Ancient Egyptian Artifacts from Greece to Egypt, Greece / Egypt

Discussions

12.15 – 12.30 p.m.

Official closing

- **Mr. Nicolas Mathieu**, Secretary-General of the Swiss Commission for UNESCO
- **Ms. Krista Pikkat**, Director Culture and Emergencies, UNESCO



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12.30 – 2.00 p.m.

Lunch

From 2.30 p.m.

Optional cultural visit