A discussion on the Somali creative industries: challenges and opportunities facing women and creativity in Somalia

Somalia was once known as a nation of poets. In the 11th century, the Somali people developed an oral tradition of poetry and storytelling. In 1960s to 70s, Somali plays were regularly performed in the National Theatre. At the time the Somali language was not written until 1970. The cultural and creative industries sector was well organized and had a massive positive impact on people’s lives. But with the outbreak of civil war in 1991, all has been destroyed. National cultural symbols were ruined. The cultural and creative industries are now one of the most affected industries by the civil war. In addition to this, it lacks proper investment and attention from the Somali government and the international community.
This panel discussion recognizes that creativity is a basic requirement for development of the society and thus invites Somalis best creative minds, prominent Somali creativity industries personalities to discuss the challenges and opportunities Facing women and creativity in Somalia.

The speakers in this panel are composed of a Somali poet/ songwriter, stand-up comedian, musician and filmmaker/playwright.

Panel questions:
1. What is artistic freedom to you?
2. What is the state of the Somali creative industries today?
3. What are the Challenges and opportunities for women’s access to the creative sector?
4. What policies and measures are needed to support the mobility of artists and cultural professionals?

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.00pm-5.07pm</td>
<td>Opening Remarks By Karalyn Monteil, Regional Advisor for Culture,- UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.07pm-5.10pm</td>
<td>Screening of short UNESCO video on Artistic Freedom</td>
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| 5.15pm-6.30pm | Panel Discussion  
  **Panelist 1:** Mr. Iidle Abdullahi Nuune – Prominent Musician/ Actor  
  **Panelist 2:** Mr. Abwaan Said Nur Jini ishumu- Prominent play write and actor  
  **Panelist 3:** Ms. Osob – Hal abuur Abwaanad, Buraanbur performer  
  **Panelist 4:** Ms. Nasra Yussuf- First ever Somali female Standup Comedian  
  **Moderator:** Mr. Abdiaiz Barow- Journalist RTN Somali |
| 6.30pm-6.40pm | Q&A session |
| 6.40pm        | Networking and Reception |
Speaker Biographies

Ilde Abdullahi Nuune
Stage name- Ilde Yare is a prominent Somali musician in Africa - He is finest Somali singer and actor in the region.

Nasra Yusuf Ahmed- Is first ever female Somali Stand-up comedian and the first female Somali comedian ever to air on a national TV.
She features on NTV’s top comedy show Churchil show. She uses comedy to breakdown stereotypes and challenge the negative perception that some people have of somalis.

Somali poet
Somali poet, Song writer, Play write and actor. He has written songs for prominent Somali Musicians all over the world He plays Oud musical instrument
Osob- is a Somali female Buraanbur performer she has performed in many countries in Africa specifically at weddings and in events

Abdiaziz Ahmed Barrow –
He is a journalist, political researcher, gorfaynta debate host, poet. He is currently working for VOA and RTN Somali TV, he has over 10 year of journalism experience