



ÁFRICA VIVE  
**Conference Programme**  
**Celebration of Africa Day under the theme:**  
**50th Anniversary of African Independence**  
**Círculo de Bellas Artes, Madrid**  
**25th May, 2010**

## 50 YEARS OF AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE

2010 is a crucial year to review what has happened since 1960, a historic year that marked a milestone in the evolution of Africa and therefore the world and opened an era of hope for the people of the continent. 17 African countries achieved their independence through the process of decolonization.

1960 was a pivotal year to shore up the end of colonialism in Africa, much of the African countries began to write for themselves about their own future and destiny. This seminar will review the historical process and the current situation in which they find themselves today, not only these 17 States but the continent as a whole, 50 years after this milestone date. To do this, we have invited various African intellectuals and thinkers from different regions of sub-Saharan Africa to participate in a seminar to bring us their analysis and perspectives, taking into account the economic, political, social and cultural trajectories of African life in the past 50 years. The processes of independence and “post-colonization” and the struggle of Civil Society and African governments to achieve real independence and find their own way in the era of globalization.

### Participants:

- Achille Mbembe, Cameroon
- Cornelio Caley, Angola
- Ismail Khalef, Mauritania
- Makhily Gassama, Senegal
- Binyavanga Wainaina, Kenya

**Programme, 25<sup>th</sup> May, Círculo de Bellas Artes, Madrid:**

**9h00-10h30: Conferences**

**Opening conference and introduction of the speakers**, Ricardo Martínez Vázquez, Director General of Casa África.

**Introduction: “The postcolony and the social development of Africa after the Independences”**, Dr. Achille Mbembe, Professor of African History and Politics at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Reference book: *On the Postcolony – (Mbembe. Achille)*

- 1) Africa’s Independences: the Angolan case**, Cornelio Caley, Vice –Minister of Culture, Angola.
- 2) Political development trajectory of African states since independence and their current outcomes**, Makhily Gassama, Former Minister of Culture and Director of Art and Intellectual property, Senegal.  
Reference book: *50 years later, what independence for Africa? (Gassama Makhily)*
- 3) The Global financial crisis and its economic impact on African countries**, Ismail Khalif, PhD. In Economics and Programming director, General Secretariat, Mauritanian Government.
- 4) Representations: Imaging and Imagining Africa, the media construct of Africa**, Binyavanga Wainaina, Journalist and Writer, Kenya.  
Reference book: *How to write about Africa – (Wainaina, Binyavanga)*

**10h30-10h45: Coffee-Break**

**10h45- 12h15: Round table**

**Moderator: Mkakai Kikonde Sio**, Ambassador of Kenya to Spain, with the participation of the African Ambassadors to Spain.

**12h15-12h30: Closing of the conference and roundtable discussions**

**Elsa Casas Cabello**, Regional Minister for External Action of the Government of the Canary Islands and **M<sup>a</sup> del Carmen de la Peña Corcuera**, Director General for Africa’s Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

**\*Previous inscription is required til the 25<sup>th</sup> May at the e-mail address [acardenes@casaffrica.es](mailto:acardenes@casaffrica.es)**