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WIF, LOS ANGELES AND WIFT AFRICA UNITE TO BRING DELEGATION OF 10 AFRICAN NATIONS TO THE 2026 CANNES FILM FESTIVAL IN HISTORIC EXPANSION FOR WOMEN IN ENTERTAINMENT

The landmark delegation representing Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Cameroon, South Africa, Zambia, Rwanda, Uganda and Côte d'Ivoire demonstrates a shared commitment to systemic advocacy for women across the global entertainment industry.

LAGOS / LOS ANGELES — APRIL 7, 2026

WIF Los Angeles (WIF LA) and WIFT Africa (Women in Film and TV Africa) today announced the most expansive delegation of African women creatives ever assembled for the Cannes Film Festival, with ten African countries confirmed to attend the 2026 Marché du Film **12–20 May 2026**. For the first time, WIFT Africa will be represented at Cannes with an official booth in the Marché du Film, where attendees can meet with the delegation and learn more about the women leading film and entertainment across the African continent.

Beyond impact, this delegation provides opportunity: Africa's creative economy is one of the fastest-growing in the world, and women are at its center. By building the infrastructure, visibility, and global connections that African women filmmakers need to succeed, WIF LA and WIFT Africa are accelerating both cultural diplomacy and an equitable, sustainable industry for generations to come.

Through the ongoing collaboration of WIF LA and WIFT Africa, seven national WIFT chapters have been launched across Africa, including **Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Cameroon, South Africa** and **Zambia**. Additionally, the coalition is incubating new chapters soon to be launched in **Rwanda, Uganda** and **Côte d'Ivoire**. Representatives from all ten countries will make up the Cannes 2026 delegation.

As part of the partnership, WIF LA and WIFT Africa will serve as presenting sponsor of the **Producers Network at the Marché du Film**, inviting five established African women producers to participate in one of the most prestigious industry gatherings at Cannes: **Shirley Frimpong Manso** (Ghana), **Nicolette Ndigwe-Kalu** (Nigeria), **Bea Wangondu** (Kenya), **Bongiwe Selane** (South Africa) and **Alexandra Amon** (Côte d'Ivoire). Each will have direct access to global industry leaders, financiers and collaborators across six days of Producers Network programming.

"This is not just a delegation, it is a declaration. Ten African nations are arriving at Cannes with clarity, with capacity, and with a shared agenda to redefine how African women participate in the global entertainment economy. We are no longer asking to be included, we are building the table, and bringing the continent with us."

Dr. Inya Lawal | President, WIFT Africa

"As the global film industry gathers at Cannes, it is vital that the accelerating markets across Africa and the Global South are not just represented, but recognized as leaders and change agents. Through WIF's 50+ year



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history, we have seen the transformative impact of investing in women. By bringing women producers from across the continent into the Producers Network, and gathering a powerful delegation under the WIFT Africa banner, we aim to create new creative and business opportunities that will have long lasting impact”.

Andria Wilson Mirza | Director of International Programs, WIF Los Angeles

A CONTINENTAL DELEGATION: TEN COUNTRIES, ONE MESSAGE

The ten-country delegation **represents a powerful and growing network of professional women leading the African film and entertainment industries** and a direct expression of the belief that geographic breadth translates into industry power. The seven active WIFT Africa chapters bring years of chapter-building, leadership development and industry network infrastructure. The three emerging chapters from Rwanda, Uganda and Côte d’Ivoire reflect the momentum of a movement that continues to expand — and the intentional effort to bring emerging markets into the conversation now, not later.

The announcement signals both organisations’ deepening commitment to structural advocacy for women across the entertainment industry — not as a one-time gesture, but as a sustained, scalable mechanism. The WIFT Africa network, represented at Cannes through its standalone booth in the Marche du Film, exists to ensure that the women who have built Africa’s creative industries are not only visible at international industry tables, but shifting the narrative of what those tables look like.

Confirmed participants include chapter presidents and executives from WIFT Zambia (**Becky Ngoma, Stephanie Dale**), WIFT South Africa (**Athi Petela, Naiwa Sithebe**), FWIFT Nigeria (**Adeola Kingsley James**), WIFT Ghana (**Juliet Ibrahim**), WIFT Kenya (**Njoki Muhoho**), WIFT Senegal (**Fatou Jupiter Toure, Aminata Diop Johnson**) and WIFT Cameroon (**Tatapong Beyala**), alongside producers from Sparrow Productions, Ghana (**Shirley Frimpong Manso**), Blingola Media, South Africa (**Bongiwe Selane**), ZIV Productions, Côte d’Ivoire (**Alexandra Amon**), The Bea Company Ltd, Kenya (**Bea Wangondu**) and HB&Q Impressions Studio, Nigeria (**Nicolette Ndigwe Kalu**). Ecosystem partners in attendance include DocuBox (**Susan Mbogo**), the African Creative TV Program - ACTV (**Dorina Amina Abubakar**), the Nigeria International Film Summit (NiFS) and the Digital Creator Africa Academy for Microdrama - DCAA (**Ifeoma ‘Oma Areh**).

ABOUT WIFT AFRICA

WIFT Africa is a pan-African organisation dedicated to empowering and supporting African and pan-African women in the film and television industry through networking, capacity building, mentorship and economic empowerment. With active chapters across seven countries and a growing global membership, WIFT Africa operates at the intersection of creative industry development, gender equity and cultural diplomacy. Follow WIFT Africa on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#)



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ABOUT WIF, LOS ANGELES

Founded in 1973 as Women In Film, Los Angeles, WIF has been fighting for gender equity for more than 50 years. Its advocacy, career programs, and research efforts are a driving force for increasing gender representation in Hollywood. WIF works to dismantle gender bias in the screen industries by building the pipeline, sustaining careers, and advocating for change. Membership is open to all screen industry professionals, and more information can be found on our website: wif.org. WIF is led by Chief Executive Officer Kirsten Schaffer and President of the Board of Directors Syrinthia Studer. Follow WIF on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [TikTok](#), and [YouTube](#).

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