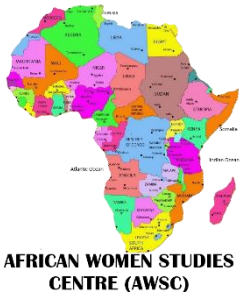
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Elevating Women's Voices: Leveraging Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and Gender Data in Pan-African COVID-19 Vaccine Strategies for WHO Policy Inclusion

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Abstract

This study investigates the transmission of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and its intersection with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), focusing on the "living culture" of frontline health service providers within a 1500-member pan-African policymakers and practitioners' think-tank. Conducted over six months during the COVID-19 crisis, the research captures macro-level policy decisions made at the WHO strategic level to safeguard human survival. Using ethnographic methods, Discourse Analysis (DA), and Critical Management Theory (CMT), the study identifies themes of bodily autonomy, vaccine decision-making, and privacy concerns, particularly for female stakeholders.

Positioned as a "temporal insider," the researcher analysed communications, including emails, chats, memos, visual memes, press coverage, and WHO briefings among African health leaders. A feminist critique was applied to a pilot longitudinal case study (DGC Covid vaccine case, 2020–2021), revealing gendered assumptions embedded in global vaccine policy. The ICH-based intervention, developed in collaboration with Pan-African healthcare actors, exposed management blind spots perpetuated by transnational health agencies.

Findings highlight a critical exclusion of women from high-level COVID-19 vaccine policy discussions in Pan-Africa, undermining their access to healthcare and informed medical choices. The study calls for gender-disaggregated data and the inclusion of women as key stakeholders in health governance. Theoretically, it challenges the dominance of big data biomedical approaches in crisis response, arguing for qualitative mixed methods to address Omitted Variable Bias (OVB). Ultimately, it demonstrates how field-level discourse and policy receptivity can counteract prejudicial laws and foster more equitable health outcomes.

Key words: *Economic Empowerment, Feminist Approaches, Women's Enterprise Fund, Women's Lived Experiences, Uptake/Access to Credit.*

1.0 Introduction

The informal Think-Tank Pilot (DGC Case) offered World Health Organisation (WHO) stakeholders a platform to assess progress toward the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda ahead of UNFCCC COP26. In line with UN Ethics Code, high-level leaders were anonymised. Discourse analysis (DA) revealed urgent, innovative, and collaborative visions, while sub-textual and semiotic analysis exposed male dominance and top-down gender biases in global health leadership, especially during pandemic responses. These findings underscored the need for reflexive feedback mechanisms. Though the Pilot DGC case revealed power

hierarchies within WHO CSO Think Tank consultations, it was ultimately embraced by UNEP's super macro-organisation.

Since the 2020 Nobel Prize Summit, I've included artwork in publications to honour intangible cultural values (Yu & Atkinson, 2023). While rigorous scrutiny is essential to redress systemic imbalances (Mikell, 1997), creative processes often involve spontaneous, "Unicorn-like" manifestations, frustrating yet exhilarating. This philosophy, previewed in our Art Dialogue on "African Feminism" (Yu & Atkinson, 2023), informs the research approach.



Art © Cecilia W. Yu, 2024 Title: "The Sum of all aparts…"
Medium: Graffiti Markers on 300g Watercolour Paper
Dimension: 420 x 594mm

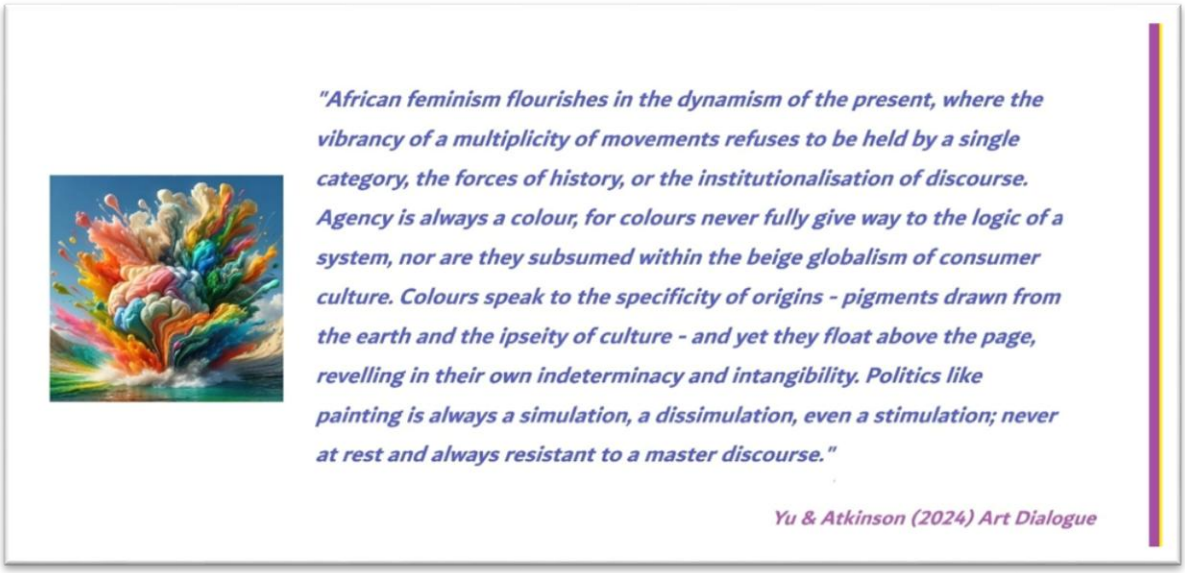


Figure 1: Quote from Artist/Art Philosopher dialogues inspired by the Art

The DGC Case spans six months of group chats, informal exchanges, and lobbying among pan-African stakeholders within a WHO Informal UN Preparatory Think Tank leading to UNFCCC COP26 (2021, Glasgow). It intersects SDG 3 (Good Health & Wellbeing) and SDG 4 (Education for Public Health Services), particularly in relation to COVID vaccine strategies.

2.0 Research Goals

This study analyses the language and rhetoric of global leaders during six months of High-Level Think Tank discussions. It explores power dynamics, ideologies, and managerial approaches to sustainability,

focusing on how discourse shapes policy and collaboration, especially regarding gender in super macro-level COVID vaccine delivery within this temporally unique and un-replicable "unicorn" case.

3.0 Literature Review

What is the relationship between Sustainable development goals and ICH?



The 2015 UN adoption of 17 SDGs, ratified by 193 member states, built upon the MDGs but emphasised inclusivity across all nations (UNESCO, 2003; 2014; 2015; UN SDR 2019; 2022). Unlike the MDGs, which targeted developing countries, the SDGs apply universally and reflect a holistic, anthropogenic model (Nobel Prize Summit, 2021). This research treats the SDGs as interdependent, aiming to eradicate poverty, conserve biodiversity, enhance education, and improve life quality, both tangible and intangible (UNESCO, 2003).

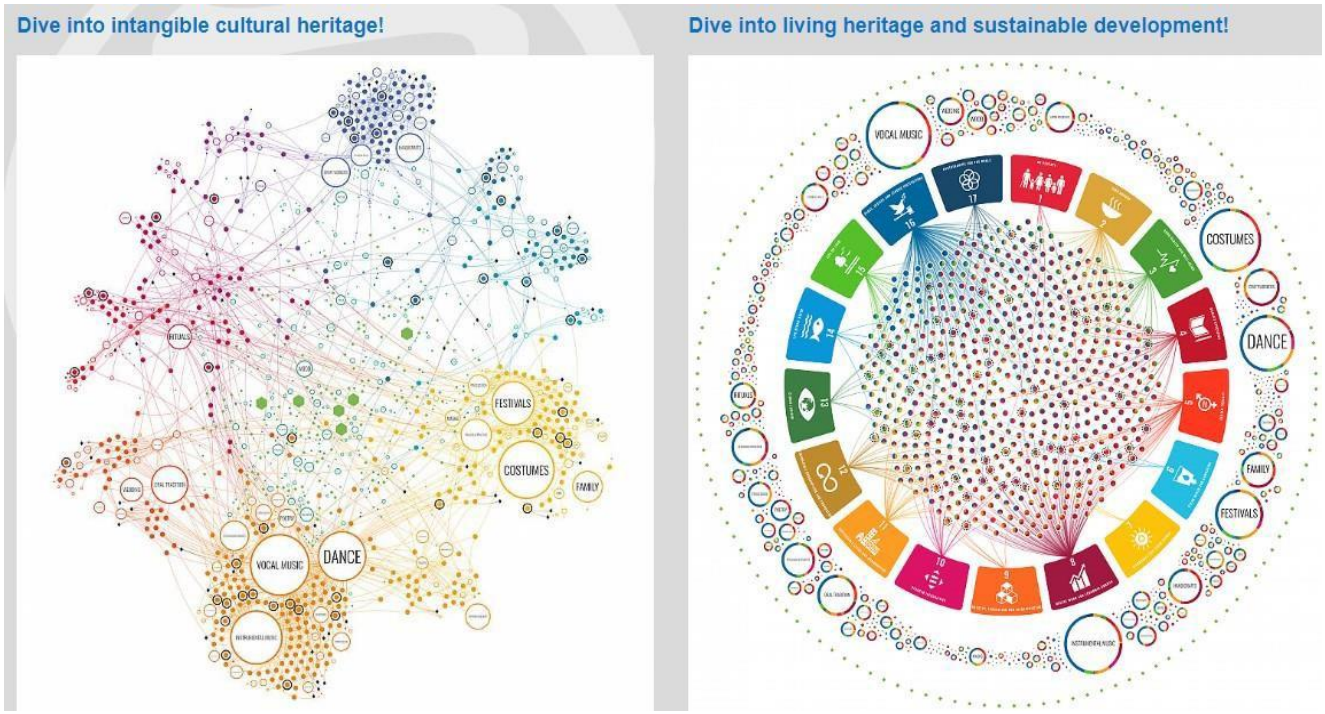
Governments, NGOs, scientists, and civil society have launched multidisciplinary research to engage with SDG frameworks (Waelde, 2018; Yu, 2020; Skounti, 2008; Silva, 2016; Peter et al., 2015). SDG17 promotes such partnerships. Based on my participation in "special consultations," I affirm the urgency of SDG implementation (Yu, 2019). Art (see figure 1) captures "living culture," stimulating diverse ICH expressions across communities (Bak et al., 2018).

What is Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)?

Defined by UNESCO (2003), Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) refers to "living culture" sustained through continuous community practice. It includes inherited traditions and contemporary collaborations responding to evolving environments (Bak et al., 2018). ICH tracks trans-generational expressions and is categorised into fluid, representative domains to promote diversity (Yu, 2022; Skounti, 2008).

The 2003 UNESCO Convention integrates principles of Sustainable Development and Risk/Crisis Management (Amescua-Chávez, 2022). Initially a heritage safeguarding tool, ICH now reflects the dynamic interplay between living heritage and sustainability. Shaped by social practices and knowledge transfer, ICH influences human activity and meaning-making, while also constructing group identities as exemplified by company culture as a form of management-ICH (Cawood, 2008; Toji, 2020).

The transmission of living heritage is a societal process that involves the transfer of knowledge from one individual to another, a key factor in determining the viability of ICH. Although ICH has been explored as a tool to raise awareness for sustainability, the UNESCO ICH Convention (2003) does not explicitly link ICH with sustainability transition. However, it aligns with the widely accepted definition of sustainable development, which aims to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland Commission Report, 1987). UNESCO utilizes the list and registrar mechanism (Bak et al., 2018) to critically assess various strategies and tailored management solutions for "at-risk" ICH elements. These programs also contribute to inter-organizational relationship-building, reinforcing UN values like SDGs (UNESCO, 2011), which in our case includes the global COVID19 pandemic response of the World Health Organisation (WHO). WHO strategies intersect with ICH in the establishment of universal copyright laws, protection of cultural heritage during crisis intervention, and the governance of world cultural and natural heritage under UNESCO (1972, 2003 & 2005) (Carducci, 2008; Naurath, 2006; Lenzerini, 2014).



What is UN SDG3's Interdependence with SDG4 and SDG5? A Discourse Analysis Perspective

UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) focuses on global health and well-being, aiming to ensure universal access to high-quality healthcare, reduce health disparities, and improve outcomes. Its interdependence with SDG 4 (inclusive, equitable education) and SDG 5 (gender equality) is foundational. Education enhances public health initiatives, especially during crises like COVID-19, by fostering health literacy and informed decision-making. Yet, the erosion of academic freedom within educational systems undermines this synergy.

Academic freedom, the right of scholars, educators, and students to pursue research and learning without undue interference, is essential for critical discourse (Colby, 2020). Its erosion silences women's voices, impeding access to quality health services and information (Hartz, 2023), and obstructs nuanced discussions on global women's health disparities (Colby, 2020). Restrictions on academic freedom at high-level deliberations limit the development of diverse, gender-sensitive strategies, perpetuating systemic health inequalities (UN Women, 2019). Discourse around academic freedom reveals hidden influences in healthcare decision-making and outcomes (Gale, 2014). Preserving it is vital to amplify diverse perspectives and advance the interconnected aims of SDG 3, SDG 4, and SDG 5.

4.1 Problematisation: Foucault vs. Semiotics Discourse

Biomedical settings often reflect a Western obsession with standardisation, viewing the human body as a sum of parts. This Foucauldian approach treats health challenges as siloed problems solvable through rigid protocols, neglecting holistic perspectives that "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts" (Cohen, 2016). Feminist critiques argue that Foucault's methodology omits gendered power dynamics and reinforces patriarchal marginalisation (Ferguson, 2008; McCall, 2005). African feminist scholars further contend that his framework privileges masculinist, Eurocentric knowledge, overlooking women's agency and resistance (Mohanty, 2003; Armstrong, 2017; Spivak, 1988). Biomedical problematisation must be revised to address these embedded biases.

Western-centric discourse analysis (DA) methodologies often falter in Global South contexts due to limited interdisciplinary integration and cultural sensitivity (Nakassis, 2017; Dhakal, 2019). Projecting these inadequacies onto Global South research is presumptive and steeped in colonial bias (Makoni & Pennycook, 2007). In contrast, Global South DA scholarship embraces inclusive, multi-dimensional perspectives that better align with UNSDGs by recognising diverse realities (Chiluwa, 2016; Kothari, 2017; Bachman & Palmer, 2018; Bloor & Bloor, 2013). Despite limitations, semiotic approaches within DA remain useful for challenging siloed Western healthcare frameworks (Charteris-Black, 2014; Burr, 2015; Phillips & Hardy, 2002).

4.2 Multicultural Data and Acculturation

Translating multicultural data using Western-centric frameworks risks overlooking vital cultural nuances. Acculturation in sustainability methodologies ensures strategies are culturally sensitive and tailored to diverse populations, fostering inclusive solutions that resonate locally and align globally (Makoni 2007; Dhakal, 2019).

Policy leaders often use language rich in cultural and historical significance. Metaphors and idioms can subtly shape audience interpretations, while narratives construct realities that reinforce or challenge dominant ideologies (Fairclough, 1995; Charteris-Black, 2014; Burr, 2015; Wodak, 2007; Van Dijk, 2009). Within patriarchal settings, SDG impact reporting risks marginalising women's voices, skewing data and strategies (UN Women, 2019; Ferguson, 2008). Gendered biases in reporting undermine SDG 5's goals and obscure the lived experiences of women.

4.3 Methodologies Tailored for the DGC "Unicorn" Case

Discourse analysis reveals how language constructs healthcare realities, shapes provider behaviour, and exposes asymmetries and power injustices within healthcare organizations (Akerlof, 1970; Hardy, 2017). This promotes more equitable healthcare systems (UNESCO, 2018; Phillips & Oswick, 2009; Bourdieu, 1991; Phillips & Hardy, 2002; Gee, 2014; Czarniawska & Hernes, 2005).

Quantitative textual analysis informs strategic management but often oversimplifies complex contexts, ignoring subtexts and linguistic ambiguity (Grimmer & Stewart, 2013). In cases like the DGC, idiomatic expressions and sarcasm are missed by quantitative "literalist" AI tools, risking misinterpretation (Reyes et al., 2013). Biased training data further compromises findings (Bolukbasi et al., 2016), while ethical concerns arise from using personal data, especially from social media (Boyd & Crawford, 2012).

Cultural disparities in language use complicate analysis, as government sources, even in the same language, contain distinct nuances (Georgiou, 2017). The evolving nature of language adds further complexity (Jurafsky & Martin, 2009), rendering health data obsolete beyond mere Omitted Variable Bias (Nobel Prize Summit 2023). Quantitative methods alone are unfit for high-level, culturally diverse sources. A holistic approach combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies is essential (Atkinson & Barker, 2023), catalysing interdisciplinary fusion with natural language processing.

Due to confidentiality constraints, mixed AI-facilitated data mining methods used in past research (e.g., world chess championship) cannot be replicated (Yu & Dahlmann, 2023). Instead, classic ethnographic methods coupled with DA offer an abductive process that captures complex dynamics while adhering to strict ethical standards (Atkinson, 2023).

4.4 Gaps in African Feminism and Professional Identity Formation Illuminated by the ICH Intervention DGC Case Study

As UN Women (2021) and our field analysis affirm, African feminist perspectives reveal significant gaps in literature on professional identity formation for modern Africans, especially in top-tier leadership, which is central to the DGC case study. Scholarly engagement from the Global North rarely incorporates African feminist critiques of professional roles, leaving African eco-feminism and identity formation largely unexplored. Much of the existing discourse draws from Afro-American feminism, especially post-#BlackLivesMatter, but this framework often overlooks the distinct challenges African professionals face.

Feldman and Pentland's (2003) work on organisational routines and agency offers a useful lens for professional practice but omits literature on professional boundaries (Hall et al., 2016; Maslach & Leiter, 2016) and fails to address intersections of gender, culture, and power from an African feminist standpoint. Similarly, while Scott et al. (2000) and Beauchamp and Childress (2019) explore organisational culture and ethics, they do not integrate African feminist critiques.

Revisiting Nobel Peace Laureate Wangari Maathai's ecofeminism reveals a model that transcends gender activism, linking climate justice with societal well-being. Eunice Wangui Stuhlhofer (2022) distinguishes African feminism from Western paradigms by foregrounding colonial legacies and cultural contexts. Maathai's activism exemplifies African eco-feminism, merging environmental conservation with women's empowerment and aligning with broader human rights goals under the UN SDGs.

Afro-American feminist theory does not encompass the spectrum of allyship invoked through African ICH, especially as a deliberative tool. In practice, the "Unicorn" DGC case demonstrated that

professional allyship via ICH can transcend negative interpretations of African "totem" ICHs. This gap calls for field-specific action research to uncover African eco-feminist managerial practices in sustainable professional contexts (Fairhurst & Grant, 2010; Alvesson & Willmott, 1992).

5.0 Research Methods

Data collection combined on-site discourse documentation and auto-ethnography, supported by official transcripts, speeches, and statements from world leaders during six months of HLPF sessions. Secondary sources, including scholarly articles, policy documents, news editorials, and global governance blogs, provided context for UNFCCC COP26 Glasgow.

Data analysis employed a systematic approach to unpacking intertextual layers in DGC leadership dialogues, focusing on power dynamics among sustainability stakeholders. Triangulation, as advocated by Denzin (1978), integrated diverse data sources to enhance validity and reliability. This method allowed for comparing discourse findings with real-world management decisions, deepening understanding of how language shapes sustainability outcomes.

Ethical considerations were rigorously upheld. All necessary UN High-Level clearances were obtained for primary data collection. UN Codes of Ethics guided conduct at all events, ensuring confidentiality and privacy. Intellectual property rights and individual privacy were respected, with anonymised results validated by the second and third authors, who received no identifying details.

6.0 Results: Ethnography of the DGC "Unicorn" Case

This pilot ethnography centres on informal dialogues preceding UNFCCC COP26, (Highest-Level Sustainability Field-Configuring Event). The first author's in-situ notes were taken under full UN Ethics clearance for "aside chats" and informal think tanks. All security protocols were followed, with identities anonymised and known only to the first author, who had direct stakeholder consent. The following Leaderships Dialogues (1-4) are summary of many hours of aside talks in linear time sequence; all names are fictional and randomly generated. In ***Appendix III: Charts A-E*** are samples of detailed Discourse Analysis of the Leadership Dialogues 1. Dialogues 2-3 are available upon request, please contact the 1st author. Dialogue 4 is sealed at the request of the stakeholders.

6.1 Leadership Dialogues 1 (May 2021): Procedural Irregularities

In preparation for the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, I engaged with UN ECOSOC-related networks across Africa, convening stakeholders committed to sustainable transition, mitigation, and lobbying strategies. During these exchanges, I met Zoran from the DGC, introduced by KK from a Pan-African alliance.

Zoran greeted me with a customary Ramadan salutation, and we discussed his role as an M.D. during the COVID-19 pandemic. KK, however, privately messaged me asserting control over our communication, sending terse directives like "*I will handle this from here on*" and *"Please refrain from further communication without my approval."* This intervention disrupted the collaborative ethos of the think tank.

Despite KK's insistence, I continued engaging with Zoran. KK responded by removing me from the group. The notification left me confused and invalidated, though I interpreted it as internal censorship given KK's national context.

I sought clarification from the government representative overseeing the sessions. They acknowledged such incidents as rare but attributed them to *"occasional lapses in professionalism among the operational staff."* Though I was assured that *"corrective actions would be taken,"* no immediate changes followed. Over the next ten days, I received numerous messages from African networks eager to discuss COP26 lobbying efforts, highlighting the importance of the discussions I had been excluded from.

On the third day, censorship occurred again when agricultural lobbies posted information about a funding opportunity involving a North American fertiliser producer. I cautioned against hasty commitments and emphasized UNSDG standards. KK promptly blocked me and demanded control over my contributions. I rejected his demands, stressing transparency and equal access to information under UN Ethics Code.

KK escalated by proposing exclusive information sharing in exchange for regaining group access. I declined, emphasising equal opportunities for all members. When I contacted his government

representative, they acknowledged the absurdity of the situation and pledged to address it, though I noticed no follow-up. As several ministers from KK's country joined the networking group, I disengaged from KK's government-initiated conversations, feeling the environment had become too geo-politically charged and ethically compromised.

Relevant government representatives scheduled a COP26 meeting to discuss shared lobbying interests within the UNFCCC framework, which I declined given their pariah status in the Global North. I dismissed the incident as part of navigating sustainability complexities. This networking segment collapsed, and I had no further contact with individuals from the member state in breach of UN Ethics protocol and they had no more access to information updates from my network at UN ECOSOC.

6.2 Leadership Dialogue 2 (June 2021): Navigating Censorship, Cultural Insight, and Global Health Ethics

In June 2021, I re-engaged with a diverse, self-organized think tank network comprising Giri, a senior official from an African Ministry of Environment; Nelly, an Indigenous rights advocate; Andrea, an EU policy strategist; Wally, an exiled opposition leader with COP26 observer status; and others from NGOs and Qangos. Each brought unique perspectives. Giri championed the integration of traditional knowledge with sustainability, Nelly represented Indigenous Mountain communities with decades of advocacy experience, Andrea aligned EU policies with global frameworks, and Wally bridged political strategy with grassroots activism.

When asked about my recent absence, I offered a public explanation: *"My understanding when I joined these think tanks was rooted in the belief that they were platforms for UN civil society engagement, aimed at preparing for COP26 and promoting self-help and empowerment among African delegates. I have a strong aversion to censorship."*

A colleague of KK responded, *"We have established rules regarding discussions related to religion, politics, and trade. These topics are not permitted in our groups."*

Wally retorted, *"So why are you wasting her time and ours? What do you think COP26 is if we cannot discuss religion, politics, and TRADE!?"*

KK's colleague promptly exited the conversation.

Wally later apologised for the educational standards of officials in his country. In a video chat, we explored COP26's sustainability agenda, especially in health. He shared cultural insights about KK's tribal totem, describing its association with impulsive action, a trait seen as both strategic and risky. I expressed appreciation for his cultural knowledge and openness. Our conversation deepened as Wally asked about my Chinese surname and its historical significance. We exchanged anecdotes on intangible cultural heritage and geopolitics. Wally requested an introduction to the Robert Kennedy Foundation, but I explained the absence of RKF in his region. He asked to be remembered for future UN-aligned collaborations.

Wally introduced me to Cindy, a PR and events consultant. Together, they formed an "aside-chat" group on June 9, 2021, intentionally excluding potential censors. The group included African and EU ministry representatives, NGOs, and Zoran from the DGC organisation. We shared resources, assessed SDG schemes, and discussed sustainable agriculture across Pan-Africa. When Tim from a major Pan-African NGO asked about goals for Sustainable Africa, I directed the group to the UN SDGs.

6.3 Leadership Dialogue 3 (July–August 2021) Invitations and Transparency

Zoran remained active, sharing invitations to conferences and trainings. On July 27, he invited us to a free session on healthcare project life cycles, including vaccination. He introduced himself*: "I am a certified trainer, facilitator, trainers' trainer, and independent consultant for health and development. I specialise in systems strengthening and monitoring & evaluation. Additionally, I serve as an accredited Management Specialist and am the CEO of a CSO with UN representation for health and development. My work with the WHO on a malaria project focuses on equity assessment among internally displaced persons, women, and refugees in regions where genocides have occurred in my country. I am also a member of the National Steering Committee and Technical Working Group for Health system training and service delivery in my government."*

Despite his credentials, the group remained silent.

On August 19, Apple from another Ministry of Health invited us to the African Youth SDGs Summit, emphasising youth empowerment and solution-sharing. I thanked both Zoran and Apple, explaining my delay due to podcast work on transparency at the Nobel Prize Summit.

By August 31, I had published #NobelPrizeSummit Day 1 notes and shared them with the group, making them accessible to UNFCCC COP26 Africa Pavilion Climate negotiators. The group congratulated me, and we exchanged security updates ahead of COP26.

6.4 Leadership Dialogue 4 (September - October 2021) Auto-Ethnography on Mandatory Vaccination and Gender Rights

On September 4, Zoran proposed a controversial topic: *"Making COVID-19 vaccination compulsory, enforceable, and criminalising non-receivers."* This raised immediate concerns about constitutional rights and UN human rights principles. Criminalising non-vaccination in democratic societies posed ethical and logistical dilemmas.

I highlighted gender disparities, noting that women, often primary caregivers, face unique barriers. Drawing from Indigenous Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), I referenced Australian song lines used to navigate the outback, comparing them to African totems that guide communal practices. While appreciated, the song line analogy puzzled some stakeholders.

The proposal was not for immediate enforcement but intended to spark global dialogue and pre-empt authoritarian trends. I discussed it with the third author of our research, who suggested using historic walking routes as protected ICH for vaccine delivery. While theoretically sound, the vast geography and overgrown paths rendered it impractical. His focus remained on "Driving Vaccine Delivery," while I was concerned about inequity if such mandates became law. Having reached the ethical clearance limit with him, I introduced an ICH intervention to the think tank.

Privately, Wally and I shared concerns that mandates could be weaponised in non-democratic systems. We agreed that open dialogue was essential.

Zoran's continued invitations reflected his appreciation for our global lens. His shift to addressing me by my Chinese surname marked a respectful acknowledgment of cultural heritage. We exchanged greetings via video chat, signalling a more collaborative rapport.

Despite efforts, the think tank's use of African ICH to resolve the vaccination issue proved ineffective. Documentation continued, but maintaining focus was difficult.

6.5 October 2021: Ethics as Directive

With COP26 approaching, Zoran revisited the vaccination topic. I responded by summarising an ICH intervention centred on professional ethics, emphasising that criminalising non-vaccination jeopardised SDG1 (No Poverty) and SDG5 (Gender). I invoked the Hippocratic Oath by name, emphasizing its commitment to patient well-being and confidentiality. I questioned how physicians, bound by such a sacred pledge, could reconcile with enforced vaccinations? There was unanimous agreement with the ethical standards of the Oath. That became an agreed "Prime Directives" of the session.

The dialogue wove together global health strategies, human rights, and cultural nuance. With COP26 looming, some members felt overwhelmed by the volume of documents. We are all striving for an inclusive global COVID response, but urgency pressures delivery. It is hard for some senior healthcare officials not to steam-roll.

6.6 Leadership Dialogue 5: Final Reflections and Outcomes (Autoethnography)

Notes from Sept 2023

Over six months of review, no punitive measures were enacted for vaccine non-compliance in the Pan-African region, as addressed through stakeholder networks. Eight anonymised news and blog op-eds shared among stakeholders supported non-criminalisation. One regional op-ed aligned vaccination policy with human rights frameworks while another emphasised grassroots efforts for equitable distribution without penalties.

In the DGC case, the absence of criminalisation policy reflected the influence of think tanks and UN transparency. By 2024, the CSO board adopted SDG5 as its governance DNA, an outcome shaped by my feminist intellectual contribution and intervention within the think tank.

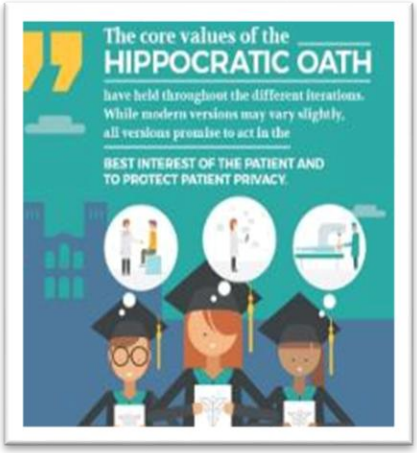
7.0 Summary of Results

The DGC Think Tank emphasised applied field research using reflexive-feedback loops between theory and fieldwork. Unexpectedly, the Hippocratic Oath, rather than the African Tribal Totem, emerged as the dominant Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) framework for addressing vaccine gender bias. This shift reflected members' Western training and the oath's ethical symbolism. The case illustrated how grassroots-supported ICH can supersede UNESCO-recognised frameworks in deliberative contexts.

8.0 Summary of Intervention

ICH proved effective in fostering trust and communication across diverse healthcare organisations. It subtly signalled crises without breaching confidentiality. Ancient Greek ICH, rooted in professional identity, guided modern decision-making during the COVID crisis, safeguarding against harmful policies and affirming cultural heritage's enduring relevance.

9.0 Medium Term Impact of the Intervention



The lead author presented the DGC Pilot Case at the International Symposium on Country Prospects for the UN2030 Agenda, engaging WHO Scholar Alumni and ASI Fellows. The keynote, delivered pre-COP26, emphasised innovative metrics and the importance of continuous monitoring and evaluation for long-term impact.

10. Discussions

Analysis of the efficacy of the DGC case and ICH interventions, revealed layered power dynamics:

i. **Panoptic Engagement:** Harmonised conflicting voices across sectors, while blurring the boundaries between western medical disciplines (Hippocratic oath) and contextual regional cultural heritage.

ii. **Methodological Fluidity:** Disrupted conventional methods, introducing deliberative spaces of flux and stability, where certainty and uncertainty transcended "problematisation" binaries.

iii. **Power Dynamics:** Exposed tensions between patriarchal control and feminist resistance, and the marginalisation of women's issues unless ethics codes intervened.

iv. **Concrete Practice Efficacy:** Demonstrated the efficacy of ICH in advancing gender inclusion, behind closed deliberation sessions, though successful outcomes remained confidential.

v. **Interdisciplinary Perspectives:** Enriched dialogue by incorporating diverse stakeholder perspectives but complicated alignment across gendered and cultural priorities.

vi. **Adaptive Strategies:** ICH-based approaches challenged traditional problematisation, demanding flexibility, inclusion, and creativity when addressing complex health equity issues.

vii. **Ethical Considerations:** Extended beyond vaccination to reveal systemic gender and digital inequities, advocating sustainable solutions.

11. Challenges in DGC Data Collection

i. **SDG Discourse Complexity:** Diverse narratives and perspectives required mapping interdependent SDG linkages between SDGs.

ii. **Subjectivity in Assessment:** Adoption uncertainties complicated quantitative impact measurement, though the Omitted Variable Bias (OVBs) may complement big data.

iii. **Sustainability vs. Entrenched Regimes:** Gender equity must be balanced with global health strategies, requiring further data collection and field research.

iv. **Temporal Constraints:** The six-month pilot strained the balance between urgency and depth.

v. **ICH-Transmission Paradox:** Dissemination involved navigating visibility/invisibility tensions, especially via new media.

The DGC interventions demonstrated ICH-transmission's potential in tackling health equity challenges, while revealing inherent paradoxes. The case study offers critical insights into the dynamics of leadership, power, and cultural heritage in global contexts, underscoring the need for continued research.

12. Conclusions

This six-month case study employed Ethnography and Discourse Analysis (DA) to assess how Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) concepts influence vaccine service delivery. It addressed methodological challenges in implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the pandemic, revealing unexpected interventions, ethical constraints, and diverse ICH manifestations. Gender and policy implications emerged prominently, underscoring the need for inclusivity and equality. While some interventions were integrated into practice, the study found that SDG5 must be explicitly imposed as a central theme to influence Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) within WHO healthcare systems. The DGC case demonstrated ICH's potential to shape intercultural dialogue, trust-building, resource allocation, and decision-making. The research advocates for Live-Action Research to translate SDGs through qualitative ICH-transmission mapping, paving the way for future critical interventions that promote global sustainability.

12.1 Key Discoveries

i. **Unexpected Intervention:** The study prompted an unanticipated intervention during think tank discussions, revealing the role of ICH in shaping healthcare professionals' identities. It highlighted the transmission of ICH values, such as those embedded in the Hippocratic Oath, within global North-South dynamics.

ii. **Ethical Constraints:** Operating under UN ethics codes and stakeholder agreements, the study faced limitations in data collection, especially in ethnography and auto-ethnography without express consent. These constraints underscored the challenges of conducting research in socio-politically sensitive contexts and the importance of protecting participant confidentiality.

iii. **Alignment with UNESCO's ICH Definitions:** The pilot challenged certain methodological assumptions in the 3rd author's ESG research, revealing contextual misalignments. It facilitated the organic emergence of ICH manifestations, aligning more closely with UNESCO's definitions and theories of transmission, and showing how creative forms of ICH are contextually optimised.

iv. **ICH Manifestations:** The study confirmed that ICH can manifest in infinite creative forms when allowed to emerge organically. A shared transmission linked to the Hippocratic Oath among stakeholders presented an anomaly to the assumed dominance of tribal totems, warranting further investigation.

v. **Gender and Policy Implications:** The research emphasized the need for gender-specific policy development in healthcare and SDG implementation. It showed that aligning ICH concepts with policy requires the explicit inclusion of women in every think tank session.

vi. **Practical Applications:** The pilot demonstrated how ICH theories can be practically applied within think tanks, transnational governance, and healthcare policy development, with potential scalability to broader global contexts.

12.2 Future Research Potential

Between January 2023 and January 2024, the first author was constrained by UN Ethics due to her appointment as a Non-Executive Director (NED). Following introspection (see Reflexivity in Appendix I), she resigned to continue the DGC into three more future stages. At the pilot's conclusion, stakeholder consent was withdrawn from the 3rd author and his institution, while the 2nd author was granted access to complete the editorial. Future research is contingent on funding. The next stages include:

Stage 1: Exploring the intersection of African Totem, vaccine confidence, and grassroots gendered healthcare challenges. An ICH-creative-lab is proposed to study vaccine acceptance through gender equality principles.

Stage 2: Incorporating ICH-related infographics, as seen in the final strategic recommendation with feedback from African gender equality experts.

Stage 3: Collaborating with artists and designers to merge African Totem imagery and Hippocratic Oath infographics. Feminist artists will help forecast concerns of women and marginalised genders, producing inclusive materials to boost vaccine confidence across 17 African nations.

12.3 Future Research for an In-depth "Kingdom" Case

The six-month DGC pilot exceeded expectations, laying the foundation for a four-year Nobel-supported study. It offered valuable insights into the role of ICH in healthcare, especially in the context of SDG implementation during a global pandemic. The study calls for long-term, longitudinal research to validate and expand these findings. By allowing ICH to evolve naturally, the pilot demonstrated its potential to bridge policy gaps and enhance SDG outcomes.

12.4 Hypothesis for Future Research

The underlying ICH data from the DGC-pilot informs two key hypotheses:

i. ICH is not merely theoretical, it can be a proactive tool for creative problem-solving, fostering innovation through direct "human-human" connections.

ii. ICH transcends the limitations of Design-thinking and aligns more closely with artistic visions, contributing to theory-building and sustainable global best practices, in line with UNESCO's 2024 #SDG4 ratifications.

Future research will explore proactive application of ICH in fieldwork, moving beyond passive alignment with UNESCO's criteria. Investigations into ICH-SDG interdependence will draw on resources across 17 African nations.

12.5 Final Strategic Practice Recommendations

Addressing health disparities requires acknowledging their roots in broader socio-economic inequities. Interventions must tackle unequal access to information, infrastructure, and opportunity. Gender data and women's access to equity and justice must be central to all strategies, regardless of stakeholder resistance. Tools like ICH-transmission can rapidly situate interventions through community-participatory approaches. Evaluation and measurement frameworks must incorporate gender nuances to ensure inclusive policy deliberations, e.g., UN Women's gender- specific data.

Economic empowerment and digital inclusion initiatives can foster civic engagement, environmental sustainability, and cultural representation. Prioritising eco-friendly practices and diverse health content creation will better reflect community realities.

The study's outcomes were not "scaled" but grew organically, typical of super-macro-level organisations and their incubation. This phenomenon warrants further research.

For future development of African Feminism and Professional Identity, recommended research themes include:

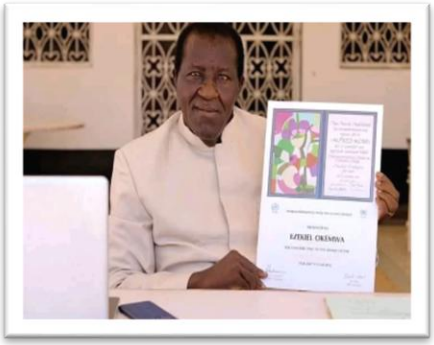
i. **Intersectionality and Afro-Professional Practice:** Exploring how African feminist perspectives inform professional identity formation in caregiving and frontline roles.

ii. **Power Dynamics and Afro-Organisational Culture:** Investigating how African feminist critiques of power shape professional identity within organisational structures.

iii. **Confluence of African Feminist Ethics and Leadership:** Examining how feminist ethical frameworks influence decision-making and leadership identity.

Appendices

Appendix I: Reflexivity of Cecilia W. Yu on the DGC Pilot Case Study



I began with a "mini case" to prepare for presenting my academic work at UNESCO. Though UNECOSOC invited me to speak on pandemic health and global management, I stumbled into a smaller WHO Zoom meeting. Initially hesitant, a conversation with the steering M.D. changed my mind. The Symposium, held in the President's office, was attended by Ambassadors, WHO academics, and ECOSOC Sustainability representatives. Navigating this space meant integrating Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) into SDG strategies during a pandemic, especially after my clash with Fred.

In Fred's absence, Professor Ezekiel Okemwa mentored me from Feb–Nov 2023 and praised my case studies. Just before his passing in December 2023, he appointed me Executive Director of his Nobel Peace Prize-winning SDG Research Hub. I offered to co-author with him posthumously for my next case, and he agreed.

Prof. Ezekiel (RIP) faced his final hours with the courage of a lion (Simba) and the intellectual curiosity of a true scientist. As both a Sustainability Economist and Artist, I embrace the challenge, even amid tensions. My longtime friend Dr. Paul Atkinson and I agreed to continue the Art Practice & Philosophy strand of my ICH research, intersecting with his lifelong work. Our first paper was published and shared with Nobel Prize Teachers in Stockholm in 2023 and republished twice with institutions supporting the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize in Ukraine. I resigned from the DGC Board to continue research into Stages 1–3. I joked about *"hobgoblins of little minds"* in response to patriarchal backlash (Fred may have tried to "discipline" me for such in-jokes!) Ezekiel laughed and said I was being too kind. His sharp mind and genuine expertise in Sustainability will be missed by all who knew his work with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). That was his legacy: a gift for a sustainable planet.

On 18 March 2024, Alfred Nobel Open Business School conferred an Honorary Doctorate for my work in International Studies, Economic Sustainability, and Development. I only wish Ezekiel had lived to see it as he believed my research would prevail.

By Dr. Cecilia W. Yu on 31st March 2024, Strasbourg, France.

Appendix II: Comprehensive Glossary

1. **Anthropocene:** A proposed epoch marking significant human impact on Earth's geology and ecosystems, underlining sustainability, and human influence discussions.
2. **Biomedical Ethics:** Ethical issues and principles related to medicine and biological sciences, focusing on vaccine policies and health service providers.
3. **Bodily Autonomy:** The right to self-governance over one's own body without external influence, critical in the discussion of vaccine policies and women's health rights.
4. **Critical Feminist Theory:** Analytical framework examining inequalities, power structures, and societal norms from a feminist perspective, informing discussions on gender-based biases.
5. **Critical Management Theory (CMT):** An approach critiquing traditional management theories, emphasizing power dynamics, ideologies, and discourses shaping organizational practices.

6. **Critical Public Health:** Examining social, economic, and political determinants of health, emphasizing equity and social justice in health outcomes.
7. **C-suite-equivalent African Health Leaders:** Top-level executives and decision-makers in the African health sector, involved in policy-making and strategic planning.
8. **Cultural Competency:** Effectively delivering health care services that meet the social, cultural, and linguistic needs of patients.
9. **Cultural Heritage & Ethics:** Study of moral principles in preserving and respecting cultural traditions, relevant in discussions of ICH and sustainable development.
10. **Cultural Relativism:** Understanding individuals' beliefs and activities based on their culture, emphasizing respect for cultural diversity in health initiatives.
11. **Cultural Sensitivity in Healthcare Delivery:** Awareness and inclusion of cultural differences in healthcare practices and policies, essential in vaccine policy and implementation strategies.
12. **DGC Case:** A case study focusing on the "living culture" of health service providers in a pan-African think-tank, examining bodily autonomy, vaccine decisions, and privacy concerns for female stakeholders.
13. **Digital Divide:** The gap between those with and without access to information and communication technologies, affecting health information and services access.
14. **Discourse Analysis (DA):** A method for studying language use in texts and discourse to explore ICH transmission and its implications on policies and assumptions in contexts.
15. **Ethnography:** A qualitative research method studying cultures and communities from the inside, observing social interactions to understand lived experiences.
16. **Gender Disaggregated Data:** Data collected and presented separately on men and women to reveal status, condition, and position differences.
17. **Gender Mainstreaming:** Assessing the implications for people of different genders of any planned action, including legislation, policies, or programs.
18. **Gender-based Assumptions:** Preconceived notions about roles and behaviours based on gender, affecting vaccine policies in Pan-African contexts.
19. **Global Health Governance:** Institutions, rules, norms, and processes influencing global health policy and practice, including state, international organizations, and civil society roles.
20. **Global North and South:** Terms describing the socioeconomic and political divide between wealthier (Global North) and poorer countries (Global South), relevant in health equity and vaccine access discussions.
21. **Healthcare Disparities:** Differences in health outcomes and access to healthcare services among people, influenced by social, economic, and environmental disadvantages.
22. **Hippocratic Oath:** An ethical code from ancient Greek medicine emphasising "do no harm" and patient confidentiality, metaphorically discussed in relation to health policy.
23. **Informal Think-Tank Pilot (DGC Case):** A platform for WHO stakeholders to assess sustainability progress, involving critical analysis using CMT and DA.
24. **Informed Consent:** A process by which individuals make a voluntary choice regarding participation in medical procedures or research.
25. **Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH):** Practices, expressions, knowledge, skills recognized as part of a community's cultural heritage, continuously recreated in response to their environment and history.

26. **Intersectionality:** A framework for understanding the combined effects of various social and political identities on discrimination and privilege.
27. **Omitted Variable Bias (OVBs):** Statistical bias occurring when a model leaves out a relevant variable, here referring to the oversight of women's roles in vaccine strategies.
28. **Operational Directives for the Implementation of the ICH Convention:** Guidelines by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, guiding the identification, documentation, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through education, as well as the revitalization of ICH.
29. **Pan-African Think-Tank:** A collective focusing on continent-wide issues through research, policy analysis, advocacy, particularly in health policies related to COVID-19 vaccination.
30. **Patriarchal Bias:** Systemic inclination to favour masculine viewpoints, resulting in discrimination against women and non-binary individuals.
31. **Policy Advocacy:** Influencing public policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems.
32. **Power Dynamics:** How power is distributed and exercised within various contexts, affecting decision-making and stakeholder interactions.
33. **Privacy and Autonomy in Healthcare:** Rights to confidentiality and making independent health care decisions, crucial in discussions of bodily autonomy and vaccine decision-making.
34. **Privacy Concerns:** Issues related to the protection of personal information and the right to confidentiality, significant in health service provision and vaccine decisions.
35. **Public Health Ethics:** Ethical issues related to public health practice and policy, including justice, equity, and the common good.
36. **Qualitative Analysis:** Analysing non-numerical data like texts and interviews to gain insights into subjects, used to understand ICH transmission and effects.
37. **Societal Norms:** Unwritten rules that govern behaviour in society, influencing power distribution, roles, and expectations among genders.
38. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Involving individuals, groups, or organisations that may affect, be affected by, or perceive themselves to be affected by a decision or activity.
39. **Stakeholder Theory:** A theory of organisational management and ethics that addresses morals and values, emphasising considering all stakeholders in decision-making.
40. **Sustainability<>Medicine<>Biomed<>Economics<>Political Science<>Arts<>Sociology Intersections:** Denotes the interdisciplinary research approach, incorporating concepts from multiple disciplines to address complex health and gender issues holistically.
41. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 and 5:** SDG 3 on good health and well-being, and SDG 5 on gender equality, highlighting their interconnections in vaccine policy and women's health.
42. **Sustainable Healthcare:** Healthcare practices meeting current health needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs.
43. **Transdisciplinary Approach:** A research strategy crossing disciplinary boundaries to create a holistic approach, necessary for addressing complex issues like health and sustainability.
44. **Temporal Insider:** A "temporal insider" refers to an individual with specialised knowledge of past environmental policies and practices, offering insights into historical contexts and societal attitudes toward sustainability. In the DGC case study, temporal Insiders inform current policy development by identifying lessons learned and designing effective solutions for the future around Global Covid19 Pandemic Crisis. Temporal insiders may have special knowledge as historians, anthropologists, cultural experts, health experts but all the DGC individuals lived through and

experienced a specific Covid19 crisis decision-making time period firsthand. They provide valuable perspectives and insights into the context, attitudes, and behaviours prevalent during a particular point in time, aiding in the interpretation and analysis of historical, geopolitical, or cultural phenomena.

45. **United Nations system operations** integrity, accountability, and transparency in United Nations system operations, adhered to in the research process.
46. **UN Gender Data:** Statistical data disaggregated by gender to analyse differences in conditions, interests of women and men, emphasising the importance in public health strategies.
47. **UN Sustainability Development Goals (UNSDGs):** 17 global goals aimed at achieving a sustainable future, addressing challenges like poverty, inequality, climate change.
48. **UNESCO Music ICH Chair:** A leadership role within UNESCO focused on preserving and promoting musical forms as part of the world's intangible cultural heritage.
49. **UNESCO:** The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, promoting peace and security through international cooperation in education, sciences, and culture.
50. **UNFCCC COP26:** The 26th United Nations Climate Change conference aimed at accelerating action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
51. **Vaccine Equity:** Ensuring all individuals and communities have access to vaccines without discrimination, especially relevant for COVID-19 vaccines.

Appendix III: Sample Discourse Analysis Chart for Leadership Dialogue 1

Sample Discourse Analysis Chart for the Leadership dialogue 1 involved categorising the content into thematic elements such as actors, actions, themes, power dynamics, communication methods, and any conflicts or resolutions.

Chart A: This is represented in the following tabular format to systematically analyse the discourse. Here's a structured approach to this dialogue:

Category	Details
Actors	- Individual preparing for COP26 - Zoran (M.D. and DGC representative) - KK (Junior officer, Pan-African alliance) - Government representative organizing networking sessions - Participants from various sectors - Agricultural lobbies - Ministers from KK's country
Actions	- Preparation for UNFCCC COP26 - Networking through UN ECOSOC-related networks - Think tank discussions - Encountering procedural irregularities - Contacting government representative for clarification - Exchanging messages on Glasgow and COP26 strategies - Blocking and censorship within the network - Proposal for exclusive information sharing - Scheduling a COP26 meeting for shared lobbying interests
Themes	- Sustainable Transition, Mitigation, and Lobby strategies - Procedural irregularities and professionalism lapses - Transparency and ethics in communication and networking - Censorship and control over information - Collaboration and conflict within international networking contexts
Power Dynamics	- KK asserting control over communication - Government representative's role in addressing professionalism lapses - Power struggle between individual and KK over access and information sharing - Influence of government representatives and ministers in networking contexts
Communication Methods	- Text and video streaming for think tank discussions - Private messaging for direct communication - Public posts for information sharing and discussions within networks
Conflicts/Resolutions	- Conflict over communication control and transparency - Removal from group due to procedural irregularities - Rejection of exclusive information sharing proposal - Government representative's acknowledgment of the situation's absurdity - Decision to disengage from government-initiated conversations and decline the COP26 meeting invitation

Category	Details
	  - Networking segment collapse without further contact with the member state in breach of protocol

Chart B: The following chart provides a more detailed Discourse Analysis chart; we expanded each category with finer details and direct quotes or paraphrased elements from the dialogue. This allowed for a deeper understanding of the emerging themes from the discourse's nuances. This detailed chart dives deeper into the dialogue's specific actions, the actors' roles, the emerging themes, and the conflicts and resolutions, providing a comprehensive analysis of the discourse involved in preparing for the COP26 event:

Category	Details
Actors Identified	- **Primary Actor:** Individual preparing for COP26, involved in UN ECOSOC networks. - **Zoran:** DGC representative, medical doctor addressing COVID-19, initiator of contact. - **KK:** Junior officer from a Pan-African alliance, asserts control over communications, engages in censorship. - **Government Representative:** Organizes networking sessions, addresses concerns about professionalism. - **Agricultural Lobbies:** Post information about funding opportunities. - **Ministers:** From KK's country, later join the networking group.
Actions Taken	- **Networking:** Engaging with UN ECOSOC-related networks across Africa. - **Discussion:** Conducting think tank discussions on Sustainable Transition, Mitigation, and Lobby strategies. - **Conflict:** Encountering and addressing procedural irregularities and control issues initiated by KK. - **Clarification:** Seeking answers from a government representative after being removed from the group. - **Proposal Rejection:** Declining exclusive information sharing for group reaccess. - **Disengagement:** Choosing to step back from government-initiated conversations and decline a meeting for COP26 lobbying interests.
Themes Explored	- **Sustainability and Mitigation Strategies:** Focus of the think tank discussions and networking. - **Procedural Irregularities and Professionalism Lapses:** Challenges faced in the networking environment. - **Transparency and Ethics:** Central to the conflict over information sharing and communication control. - **Censorship and Control:** Manifested through blocking from groups and demands over contributions. - **International Collaboration and Conflict:** Navigating complexities within global networking contexts for sustainability.
Power Dynamics	- **KK's Assertion of Control:** Attempts to monopolize communication and decision-making. - **Response to Censorship:** The primary actor's persistence in advocating for transparency despite KK's efforts. - **Government Intervention:** Role of government representatives in mediating and attempting to resolve professionalism lapses. - **Shift in Networking Power:** Introduction of ministers into the group dynamics, leading to a re-evaluation of engagement strategies by the primary actor.
Communication Methods	- **Text and Video Streaming:** For conducting discussions and sharing information within the networks. - **Private Messaging:** Used by KK to assert control and by the primary actor to seek clarification from government representatives. - **Public Posting:** Method for sharing funding opportunities and strategies, leading to instances of censorship.
Conflicts and Resolutions	- **Censorship by KK:** Led to seeking alternative communication channels and clarification. - **Professionalism Lapses Addressed:** Government representative's acknowledgment and promise to address the issues, although conflicts remained unresolved. - **Proposal for Exclusive Sharing:** Firmly rejected by the primary actor in favour of transparency and equal access. - **Networking Collapse:** Following persistent breaches of protocol and ethics, resulting in disengagement from the networking segment.

Chart C: The following is a CONCISE summary of the emerging themes:

Term/Abbreviation	Definition/Explanation
COP26	26th United Nations Climate Change Conference.
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
UN ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council.
M.D.	Medical Doctor.
UNSDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Term/Abbreviation	Definition/Explanation
Discourse Analysis Terms	
Social Practices	Activities and behaviours regular and normalized within a particular society or subgroup, especially within international environmental policymaking.
Discursive Practices	Ways in which discourse is produced and consumed, including communication methods and norms in a field.
Text Analysis	Examination of language in the text to identify themes, power dynamics, and portrayals.
Socio-Cultural Context	Broader social and cultural background influencing and shaping discourse, including norms, values, and power structures.
Ideologies	Set of beliefs and values underpinning the discourse, influencing representations, and justifications or critiques of practices.
Power Relations	Dynamics of power revealed through the discourse, indicating how power is exercised and by whom.
Struggle & Resistance	Ways in which individuals or groups challenge or attempt to change prevailing power relations or ideologies within the discourse.

Element	Detailed Analysis
Social Practices	Context: International environmental policymaking for COP26. Focuses on networking, lobbying, and strategizing within global sustainability efforts.
Discursive Practices	Communication through text, video, private messages, and public posts. Reveals dynamics of control, especially unilateral attempts to manage dialogue and participation.
Text Analysis	- **Power & Control:** Highlighted by KK's private messages and exclusion actions. - **Ethics:** Mentioned lapses point to underlying issues in professional conduct. - **Resistance:** Actions against censorship and control stress transparency and inclusivity.
Socio-Cultural Context	Reflects broader challenges in international collaboration: navigating power imbalances, ethical standards, and the clash between inclusivity vs. exclusivity.
Ideologies	Critiques the ideology of exclusivity and hierarchical control, advocating for democratic participation, transparency, and ethical governance in environmental policy.
Power Relations	KK's control attempts vs. primary actor's advocacy for openness and ethical conduct illustrate the struggle over who controls information and decision-making.
Struggle & Resistance	The primary actor's rejection of exclusive deals and engagement with government representatives indicates resistance to undemocratic and non-transparent practices.

Chart D: Final Transcript of ALL discourse material for Leadership Dialogues 1 that breaks down the components of the discourse from the Leadership Dialogues into situated meanings, social languages, cultural models, and situated identities, offering a structured analysis of the communication and the underlying cultural and social dynamics at play.

Transcript Excerpt	Situated Meanings	Social Languages	Cultural Models	Situated Identities
Preparation for UNFCCC COP26	Context setting for global environmental policy.	Professional networking language.	Engagement in diverse networks is essential for global events.	Global environmental policy participant.
Zoran's Ramadan greeting	Cultural respect in communication.	Culturally aware greeting.	Acknowledging cultural practices is respectful in professional interactions.	Culturally respectful professional.
KK asserts control	Power dynamic introduced.	Authoritative communication.	Junior officers may enforce communication protocols.	Communication protocol enforcer.

Transcript Excerpt	Situated Meanings	Social Languages	Cultural Models	Situated Identities
Contacting government representative	Response to protocol breach.	Clarifying language.	Official resolution channels are standard practice.	Protocol clarification seeker.
Censorship incident and cautioning	Ethical conflict in information sharing.	Advocating for ethical decision-making.	Ethical standards guide responsible decision-making.	Advocate for ethical practices.
Declining exclusive information sharing	Stand against unethical collaboration.	Language of transparency and fairness.	Transparency and equality are prioritized.	Ethical and transparent collaborator.
Disengaging after ministers join	Strategic withdrawal due to power shift.	Language indicating calculated disengagement.	High-level involvement changes group dynamics.	Strategic network participant.
Declining COP26 meeting invite	Independence and possible dissent.	Assertive stance language.	Declining can indicate protest or disassociation.	Independent and principled actor.
No further contact post-collapse	End of engagement due to ethical breach.	Language signalling conclusion.	Persistent ethical issues lead to relationship breakdowns.	Ethical professional with firm boundaries.

Chart E: DA analysis of discourse leadership dialogue 1 from a psychological perspective, into situated meanings, social languages, cultural models, and situated identities**.**

Transcript	Situated Meanings	Social Languages	Cultural Models	Situated Identities
In preparation for the upcoming UNFCCC COP26 event in Glasgow, I became involved in various UN ECOSOC-related networks throughout Africa.	Preparation—introduces the context of global environmental policymaking.	Professional language—initiates a setting of international cooperation and networking.	When preparing for global events, engaging with diverse networks is critical.	I am an engaged professional who actively participates in global initiatives.
Zoran initiated contact with a customary Ramadan greeting...	Ramadan greeting—a sign of respect and cultural awareness.	Cordial language—reflects recognition of cultural practices in communication.	It's respectful to acknowledge cultural practices in professional interactions.	I am culturally sensitive and respectful in my professional interactions.
Unexpectedly, KK privately messaged me, asserting control over our communication...	Asserting control—introduces a power dynamic.	Directive language—signals an attempt to exercise authority in communication.	It is acceptable for junior officers to control interactions if they feel protocol is at risk.	I am a gatekeeper who ensures proper communication protocols are followed.
Seeking clarification, I contacted the government representative organizing the networking sessions...	Seeking clarification—indicates a response to a breach in expected protocol.	Inquiry language—conveys an effort to understand and address procedural issues.	Official channels are used to address and resolve issues of professional conduct.	I am a proactive individual seeking to uphold the integrity of networking protocols.
On the third day, censorship occurred...I cautioned against hasty commitments and emphasized UNSDGs standards... KK promptly blocked me...	Censorship and caution—reveals conflict regarding information sharing and ethical standards.	Advocacy language—demonstrates a commitment to ethical standards in decision-making.	Debate and censorship are part of the dynamics in groups dealing with critical decision-making.	I am an advocate for ethical standards and responsible decision-making.
KK escalated by proposing exclusive information sharing... I declined, emphasizing equal access to funding opportunities.	Proposing exclusivity—introduces a potential for unethical collaboration.	Ethical language—highlights the importance of fair and transparent practices.	Exclusive deals are tempting but conflict with principles of equality and transparency.	I am an ethical participant who values transparency over personal gain.

Transcript	Situated Meanings	Social Languages	Cultural Models	Situated Identities
Several ministers from KK's country later joined the networking group, prompting me to disengage...	Disengagement—indicates a strategic withdrawal in response to changing power dynamics.	Discretionary language—suggests a calculated decision to avoid potential conflicts of interest.	High-level involvement often shifts the balance of power and decision-making in networking groups.	I am a discerning professional who strategically chooses when to engage or disengage.
Relevant government representatives scheduled a COP26 meeting to discuss shared lobbying interests within the UNFCCC framework, which I declined.	Declining a meeting—signifies a stance of independence and possibly dissent.	Assertive language—communicates a strong personal or ethical stance.	Declining invitations can be a form of protest or disassociation from certain practices or groups.	I am an independent thinker who does not conform to pressures if they conflict with my principles.
This networking segment collapsed, and I had no further contact with individuals from the member state in breach of UN Ethics protocol.	Collapse of networking segment—highlights the consequence of unresolved issues.	Concluding language—signals an end to a problematic situation.	When ethical breaches are severe and persistent, the breakdown of professional relationships is often inevitable.	I am a principled professional who maintains boundaries in the face of unethical practices.

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