



Vote

JESSICA ATWOOKI KAAHWA PhD, for ITI Executive Council Board President

"Developing and Growing Performing Arts Together"

A thriving International Theatre Institute (ITI) is our shared interest, not individual pursuits. At the heart of this mission lies a commitment to an effectively functioning Executive Council (EC), one that truly represents and manages the interests of all ITI members worldwide. This election offers us the chance to reaffirm the values of democracy, inspiration, inclusiveness, collaboration, and transparency—values that bind our global artistic community.

I am standing for the position of President of the Executive Council because I have the time and 37 years of experience to foster our shared vision. A vision encrusted in mutual respect, a passion for creativity and inclusive participation, a sure way for ITI to thrive in this century and beyond. Therefore, if given chance, I will support efforts to keep the ITI as a beacon of cultural exchange and promoter of artistic excellence. My focus will be on building a community where performing arts transcend boundaries and inspire change globally. For instance I will support a revival of the Secretariat and my predecessor's well-intentioned project: "World Performing Arts Capital (WPAC)", an annual rotating event to celebrate artistic diversity and intercultural dialogue across continents.

I will work to secure sustainable funding for financially struggling centers by developing innovative operational and funding models. One such approach includes the 'Adopt a center' strategy, which focuses on skills development, innovation transfer and local fundraising support through partnerships and endorsements between centers - fostering mutual growth and financial stability.

Sustainable funding is a cornerstone of my vision. I will support explorations by the secretariat of the diverse stable funding streams to ensure the financial health of ITI operations by following up on partnerships with international institutions, governments, corporations, and philanthropic organizations. Additionally, I will advocate for a "Presidential Financial Purse" to provide future leaders the flexibility to respond to emerging needs.

I pledge to lead with integrity, humility, and a commitment to service, embracing the diverse voices and cultures that make up our global theatre community. Through mentorship and support of marginalized groups, we will create platforms for emerging and established artists to share their unique perspectives.

I also recognize the challenges posed by censorship and persecution in various regions, I will collaborate with the Executive Council and committees and national centers in these regions to find organic solutions for supporting artists and talents in such environments.

My experiences working with combatant military officers in the past civil war in Uganda and Southern Sudan, as well as the refugee camps, urban slums, and with various theatre initiatives have shaped my understanding of unity in diversity and the power of mobilizing social capital to

effect meaningful change. I will work tirelessly to strengthen our global partnerships with organizations such as; International Drama Education Association (IDEA), American Alliance for Theater and Education (AATE), Theatre Education Network (TEN), and others, ensuring that ITI remains at the forefront of international artistic collaboration.

My leadership will be aligned with UNESCO's goals of fostering peace, cultural understanding, and the protection of cultural diversity. My extensive experience across continents uniquely positions me to advance ITI's mission and the aspirations of our global community.

With your trust and collaboration, I am ready to bring my expertise, vision, and dedication to the role of ITI Executive Council Board President, and work alongside you to **develop and grow performing arts together.**

Thank you.