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# Africa

## Position paper

### #UCLGCongress

**Local Action For the People**  
Assembly Track

Position papers 02

## UCLG WORLD CONGRESS 2019 ASSEMBLY TRACK AFRICA POSITION PAPER

### Framework for UCLG Africa's intervention

Africa started in 2019 the last phase of implementation of its first long-term strategic plan known as GADDEPA (Governance , Advocacy for a Decentralized Development of Africa ), adopted in October 2007 at Dakar, Senegal , for the 2008-2021 period. This strategic plan recommended the organization of the interventions of UCLG Africa according to three pillars:

**Pillar 1: *Institutional strengthening of UCLG Africa*** involving the creation, development and networking of national associations of local and subnational governments; the establishment of thematic networks of elected officials, in particular the network of local elected women, and the African network for local economic development, as well as networks of senior executives of local and subnational governments; strengthening the capacity to act of the secretariat through, *inter alia*, the establishment of regional offices in the 5 regions of Africa (North Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, and Southern Africa) to provide close support to members of UCLG Africa; and finally the establishment of an effective communication platform with the development of communication tools, an effective presence of UCLG Africa on social networks, and an Internet web page that aspires to be the entry point and point of convergence for all those interested in Local Africa.

**Pillar 2: *Advocacy and Representation***, with the aim of promoting the adoption and implementation of decentralization policies in Africa and strengthening the role of local and subnational governments in the development and integration of the continent; and to bring the voice and positions of Africa's local governments within all bodies where people discuss Africa's development policies and strategies as well as the global agendas that have an impact on local and subnational governments in Africa. As part of this pillar, members asked UCLG Africa leaders to ensure that the organization is the spokesperson for the positions of local and regional authorities in the African Union institutions, the African Development, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and other development partners starting with the European Union with whom Africa has a long-term partnership governed by the Cotonou agreements between the European Union and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries. The members also expressed the wish that local and subnational governments of the continent should take an active part in the work and decisions of the world organization "United Cities and Local Governments" (UCLG) set up as a network of networks of local and subnational governments of the world to make their voices heard at the United Nations. UCLG Africa is the UCLG chapter for Africa and participates as such in all

the bodies of the world organization. Members expressed the wish to make of the Africities Summit the flagship event of UCLG Africa, by instituting its organization every three years alternately in different regions of the continent, as the largest platform of dialogue on decentralization and on the role of local and subnational governments in Africa, and the and unmissable meeting of local and subnational governments in Africa as well as all those who cooperate or wish to cooperate with local Africa. Members finally requested that the UCLG Africa Secretariat sets up a Prize system to celebrate and reward leaders and municipal teams that have achieved outstanding results in the different areas of local government management, and could be role models to inspire other communities in the management of their localities.

**Pillar 3: *Development of capacities of members of UCLG Africa and Knowledge Management.*** Under this pillar, the members have expressed the wish that UCLG Africa should ensure that the voice of local Africa be more competent in order to be more respected and more considered; and that the practice of governance and management of local and subnational governments be more professional, more transparent and oriented towards services to be provided to the population. The members also expressed the wish to take advantage of the knowledge accumulated in the various fields of competence of local governments so that decision-making is increasingly informed by the contribution of data and documented facts and analyzes, and one should popularize within UCLG Africa the culture of performance at the service of the governance of local governments.

In view of the upcoming end of the first long-term strategic plan 2008-2021, the Executive Committee of UCLG Africa meeting in Cairo, Egypt, on June 18, 2019, requested the Secretariat to set up a working group of African elected officials to reflect on the results of this first strategic plan and to formulate the organization's next 2022-2036 long-term plan, to be adopted during the next UCLG Africa General Assembly meeting scheduled to take place during the eighth edition of the Africities Summit which from December 16 to December 20, 2021 in Kisumu, Kenya.

The following paragraphs present the main results achieved under each pillar since the last General Assembly of UCLG, as well as the stakes and challenges still to be faced by the local and subnational governments of Africa, and for which close collaboration with other local governments around the world through UCLG is likely to make significant advances in addressing the identified challenges.

### **Pillar 1: Institutional Development of UCLG Africa**

1. 1. **Establishment of the 5 regional offices of UCLG Africa:** in Cairo, Egypt for North Africa (NARO, North Africa Regional Office); in Accra, Ghana for West Africa (WARO, West Africa Regional Office); in Libreville, Gabon, for Central Africa (CARO, Central Africa Regional Office); in Nairobi, Kenya for East Africa (EARO, East Africa Regional Office); and in Pretoria, South Africa, for Southern Africa (SARO, Southern Africa Regional Office). These regional offices, which are an extension of the organization's Secretariat, must provide local support to members, by being informed by a better understanding of the problems and expectations according to the specific contexts of

each region. For the time being, only WARO, EARO and SARO are fully operational. NARO and CARO are in the process of being installed. It should be noted that, to date, there is no regional office whose establishment is governed by a headquarters agreement, unlike the UCLG Africa Secretariat, which has signed with the Government of Morocco a headquarters agreement recognizing the diplomatic status of UCLG Africa as an international pan-African organization. The draft headquarters agreements have been submitted by the Secretariat to the various governments concerned, which must now decide on the signing of such draft agreements. It should be noted that the participants in the Cairo Executive Board meeting has resolved that all regional offices must be effective with teams in place by mid-June 2020.

***The question of the legal status accorded to the UCLG sections or offices should be of concern to the world organization. As much as possible, the national governments of the countries hosting the secretariat of a UCLG chapter or its representations in the region should sign a headquarters agreement with that chapter. This requirement must be part of the institutional support that UCLG must provide to regional chapters that have not signed such headquarters agreements.***

**1. 2. Strengthening the Network of Locally Elected Women of Africa (REFELA).** This network now has a dedicated secretariat at the organization's headquarters in Rabat, Morocco, and 26 national chapters (also called REFELA-countries). REFELA has defined three campaigns around which it wishes to engage local and subnational authorities in Africa and elsewhere: **(1)** the campaign of African cities without street children under the patronage of the President of the National Observatory for the Rights of the Child (ONDE), Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Meryem, of Morocco, who officially launched this campaign on November 24, 2018 as part of the seventh edition of the Africities Summit held in Marrakech, Morocco from November 20 to November 24, 2018. About sixty cities have joined the campaign of which the city of Rabat, the capital of Morocco, is the experimental pilot site; **(2)** the campaign of African cities of zero tolerance for violence against women and girls. The call to join this campaign has just been launched. A survey initiated by the secretariat of the network is under way. This survey is based on methods and tools developed at the level of the secretariat of the network and shared with the first member cities so that they are able to make a self-assessment of the situation of violence against women and girls in their localities, to take stock of the situation of violence against women and girls in African cities; and **(3)** the campaign of African cities in favor of women's economic empowerment and women's leadership in local governments, which includes among other things the generalization of gender budgeting and the adoption of the preferences granted to the suppliers whose leaders are women with equal quality of services provided compared to their male counterparts, and even the formulation of quotas to encourage female entrepreneurship within the local and subnational governments of the continent. This last campaign is in the launch phase.

REFELA has also undertaken to develop a Charter of African Local and Subnational Governments for Gender Equality. This Charter is drawn up within the framework of a partnership between CEMR (Council of Communes and Regions of Europe), UCLG, and UCLG Africa. Its adoption follows the resolutions of the first forum of the leaders of local and subnational governments of Africa and Europe gathered on the occasion of the African Union –European Union Summit of Heads of State and Government in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in November 2017. This Charter is currently the subject of an online consultation of members. It is expected that a discussion will take place during the UCLG World Congress in Durban on the modalities and steps to be followed for the finalization of this Charter.

***It is recommended to give a global dimension to the campaign “Cities without street children” and to the campaign of “Cities with zero violence against women and girls”, given the universal nature of these two issues and the urgency to provide effective solutions in all regions of the world, including in the context of the implementation of***

***the corresponding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hence the proposal to include these campaigns among the waves of action supported by UCLG during the next mandate of the world organization. This support should also promote the exchange of experience and give a practical dimension to decentralized cooperation around these topics.***

1. 3. **Local Economic Development Network of Africa (LEDNA,).** LEDNA was set up following a request made in this direction by local elected officials of Africa at the fourth edition of the Africities Summit held in 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya. LEDNA develops and maintains up-to-date a reference website on local economic development that brings together more than 4,000 documentary resources and a community of practice grouping together more than 500 African experts in local economic development. LEDNA publishes every three years on the occasion of the Africities Summits a report on the state of development of local economies in Africa. This report draws on country reports prepared with the support of local consultants in collaboration with relevant institutions and administrations in the different African countries. As part of the LEDNA network, CGLU Africa has been led to undertake research on the production of wealth within local and subnational governments in nearly 400 local and subnational governments in more than twenty African countries, which allowed UCLG Africa to contribute to the development local economic accounts in a hundred of local and subnational governments thanks to the application of the ECOLOC method developed in collaboration with the Sahel Club within OECD to assess the added value produced by the economies of various territories. On the basis of these local economic accounts, the leaders of local and subnational governments are able to identify the levers of action at their disposal to promote economic activity in their territory according to the economic sectors or complexes on which its development is based. From all this research and experience, UCLG Africa has come to the conclusion that the local economic activity and the creation of jobs of most local governments in Africa are organized around 5 principal functions: a) to feed the city or the territory (about 30 percent of the economic activity and jobs); b) to build the city or the territory (about 20 percent of the economic activity and jobs); (c) to serve the city or territory with basic services (about 20 per cent of the economic activity and employment); to maintain the city or territory (approximately 20 per cent of the economic activity and employment); and to govern and administer the city or territory (about 10 percent of the economic activity and of the jobs). This modeling made it possible to realize the role played by the relations between cities and their hinterland on the one hand, and the role played by small towns and intermediate cities in the development and animation of local markets whose dynamics explains the development of national and regional markets. The development of small towns and intermediate cities thus appears as one of the essential elements of the equilibrium of the urban system of each country and of the continent as a whole.

***Given the acuteness and urgency of the issue of the development of economic activities and job creation, particularly for young people, and given the expectations expressed on this subject by local and subnational governments, it is essential that Local Economic Development should be one of the priorities of the UCLG agenda. It is also necessary in this regard that UCLG explores the possibility of opening two new waves of action: on the one hand, the promotion of the social and solidarity-based***

***economy within cities and territories; and on the other hand the development of actions contributing to the food security of cities and territories.***

**1. 4. Creation of a Network of Locally Elected Youth of Africa.** The year 2019 saw the creation of the Network of Locally Elected Youth of Africa. This is the implementation of one of the recommendations of the session of the network of young elected officials of Africa held during the eighth edition of the Africities Summit in 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco. The session recommended the creation of a network bringing together elected officials, and leaders of local and subnational governments of Africa aged under 35. The first campaign of identification of the young elected officials has been carried out. A first meeting of this network will be held on November 11, 2019 in Durban, in South Africa, during the UCLG World Congress.

***UCLG should support the establishment of a worldwide movement of young elected officials of local and subnational governments and encourage a continuous flow of exchange of views and experience between chapters within this movement.***

**1. 5. Creation and reinforcement of the networks of the senior executives of the administrations of the local governments of Africa.** This activity stems from the observation that while political officers of local governments come together within associations at the national, regional or continental level to speak with one voice, nothing like this existed for the senior executives of African local and subnational governments, with rare exceptions. In 2013, the UCLG Africa secretariat undertook to structure the networks: a) of City Managers or Directors of Services of Local Governments ( MagNet Network ); (b) of the Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) ( FinNet ); c) of the Directors of Technical Services of the communities ( TechNet network ); d) Managers or Heads of Human Resources of the Local Governments (HR-Net network); e) but also the network of permanent secretaries of associations of local and subnational governments (PERMSEC-Net). Each of these networks has internal rules and a management team at the continental level, representing all regions of the continent. The secretariat of the various networks is provided by the UCLG Africa secretariat. Each network also makes sure to develop national chapters within the various African countries.

The interest of setting up and strengthening the network of senior executives of local and subnational governments is threefold : to participate in the construction of a more competent local voice as enriched by the contributions of the executives of local authorities; to start contributing to the exchange of mutual knowledge and experience between the executives of the local and subnational governments of Africa; to contribute to gathering first-hand information on the situation of local governments in Africa in the fields of competence of the various managers concerned. This is the reason why each network participates in the observatories developed by UCLG Africa: the MagNet network associated with the work of the Observatory of Local Economies; the FinNet Network associated with the work of the Observatory of Local Finance; the TechNet Network associated with the work of the Observatory of Access to Basic Services; the HR-Net network associated with the work of the Observatory of Human Resources of local and subnational governments. Each Observatory publishes a triennial report published on the occasion of the Africities Summits.

***It would be interesting for the different chapters of UCLG to develop similar initiatives in setting up professional networks and observatories.***

**1. 6. Establishment of an effective communication system.** An intranet / extranet was established to improve communication within the secretariat, between the secretariat and

regional offices, and with members. An Internet portal has been developed which contains websites dedicated to the various UCLG Africa programs. A newsletter is published every month on the Internet, as well as a Weekly Review of the presence of local and subnational governments in Africa in the press. UCLG Africa is present on the following social networks; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube. This strong presence makes UCLG Africa the real entry point and rallying point for all those interested in local Africa.

***It would be interesting for UCLG to develop an Intranet / Extranet system to improve communication between the different chapters.***

## **Pillar 2: Advocacy and Representation**

**2.1. Promotion of the African Charter of Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development.** It is recalled that UCLG Africa was instrumental in drawing up this Charter, which was adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in their conference held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014. During the same conference, the Heads of State and Government also decided to create a High Council of Local Authorities, an advisory body that will ensure the presence of the voice of local and subnational governments in Africa within the bodies of the African Union. In 2019, UCLG Africa continued to promote the Charter and continued its mobilization efforts for the signing and ratification of such Charter by the Member States, with the support of the African Union Commission (Department of Political Affairs). The number of signatories now stands at 18, and the number of ratifications stands at 6. It should be recalled that it is necessary that 15 member states signed, ratify, and file the instruments with the African Union Commission for the Charter to enter in force as an instrument of the African Union.

**2.2. Structuring relations between UCLG Africa and the African Union.** UCLG Africa collaborates with the African Union on many topics, but especially in the context of the technical assistance that the organization provides to the Specialized Technical Committee number 8, which brings together the conferences of Ministers of Public Service, Urban Development and Housing, Decentralization, and Local Governments (STC 8 of the African Union). UCLG Africa has in particular supported STC 8 in the formulation of its 2019-2020 strategic plan. In recognition for these efforts, the STC 8 Executive Board wanted a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between the African Union Commission (which provides the Secretariat of STC 8) and UCLG Africa. This MoU has been finalized and people are waiting for an official date for its signing.

**2.3. Structuring relationships with the other partners.** Efforts have been made especially towards the European Union. The Secretary General is a member of the Task Team of the Political Forum on Development (PFD) set up by the European Commission to discuss the implementation of the Union's cooperation policies with partner countries. In addition, the European Union is the main financial partner of UCLG Africa. In 2015, it signed a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with 5 regional and international associations of local and subnational governments to operationalize the Communication adopted in 2013 by the European Commission on the role of local and subnational governments in the European Union's cooperation with partner countries<sup>1</sup>. Through the signing of the FPA with UCLG Africa, the Commission is committed to supporting the implementation of the long-term strategic plan of the organization, still known under the name of GADDEPA (plan) for the 2015-2020 period, and to provide financial support corresponding to approximately 48 percent of UCLG Africa's budget for the implementation of the actions planned under GADDEPA. The installation of a new Commission following the recent European elections, and the ongoing negotiations on new cooperation and financing instruments of the European

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<sup>1</sup> UCLG, UCLG Africa, CEMR, AIMF, CLGF

Union, including the negotiation of the post-Cotonou Agreement, have led the 5 associations having signed the FPA with the European Union to prepare a Memorandum to be sent to the new leadership of the European Union for greater participation of local and subnational governments in the Union's programs.

***The UCLG Africa Secretariat has been tasked with preparing the draft Memorandum letter to be shipped to the new leadership of the European Union institutions and has been working on it. This letter must be signed at the UCLG World Congress in Durban by the presidents of the organizations having signed the FPA.***

**2.4. African Summits.** An Africities Summit is the flagship event organized by the community of local and subnational governments in Africa every three years alternately in all regions of Africa. It is the only chapter of UCLG that hosts such a continental meeting. The Summit is a platform for dialogue of elected officials with other actors of decentralization on decentralization policies and local governance, including ministers, institutions of international cooperation, civil society organizations, private sector representatives, members of the academia, and other stakeholders. The Africities Summit offers an eminent opportunity for the 16,000 mayors and leaders of local and subnational governments in Africa to establish a dialogue and discuss the implementation of decentralization. The last two editions of the Summit have been a huge success. The seventh edition of the Africities Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2015, on the theme : "***Building the future of Africa with the people : the contribution of African local and regional authorities to the African Union Agenda 2063***" saw the participation of 5,000 delegates. The eighth edition of the Summit held from November 20 to November 24; 2018 in Marrakesh, Morocco, on the theme of "***The transition of African cities and territories towards sustainable development***" brought together more than 8,000 delegates. The ninth edition of the Africities Summit is scheduled to take place in the city of Kisumu, Kenya, from November 16 to November 20, 2021.

***It is recommended that the Africities Summit also becomes an important meeting in which UCLG should also be able to mobilize the attention of UN agencies for increased cooperation with local Africa.***

**2.5. Best Mayor Award.** The purpose of this Award is to recognize and celebrate mayors and communities that are leading outstanding actions in terms of local governance and SDG implementation. This Award was organized in 2016 at the level of the entire continent, and tested nationally on two successive editions in Tanzania (2016 and 2017). After these two tests, the organizational arrangements were specified. It was decided to call upon the various associations to select those who are ready to organize a national edition of the Best Mayor Award, and to deliver the Award at the Pan-African level at the Africities Summits, by having the winners of the National Awards compete with each other.

***It is recommended that UCLG should take the initiative to launch a World Prize for the Best Mayor or Leader of Local Governments, to be awarded at the UCLG World Congress.***

### **Pillar 3: Capacity-building for the members of UCLG Africa and Knowledge Management**

**3.1. Development of the activities of the Africa Local Government Academy (ALGA).** ALGA was created to solve the nagging issue of human capital and the professionalization of political leaders and senior officials of local governments in Africa. For the deployment of its activities, ALGA relies on 30 African anchoring institutes, and 28 partnerships around the world. ALGA offers two types of training activities : **a)** a Professional MBA on African Territorial Governance for senior managers in African communities, mainly city managers and Directors of Services; the Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) of local governments; and the Directors of Technical services of the Local Governments; **b)** short courses (10 days to 2 months) organized in the following specialized colleges of ALGA :

Territorial Coaching; Localization of the SDGs; Human Resources Management of Local and Subnational Governments; Decentralized Cooperation and International Action of Local and Subnational Governments; Participatory Budget; as well as Female Leadership and Local Governance. Other colleges are planned regarding: the Access of Local and Subnational Governments to Climate Finance; the public-private partnership in the provision of basic services; the Access by local and subnational governments to the financial market; the Cultural policy, the promotion of Tourism, and other themes. In October 2016, at the Habitat III Summit in Quito, in Ecuador, ALGA organized a side event on the theme of " *Human Capital of Local & Subnational Governments: The time to act is now.*" Since then, nearly 500 participants from 14 African countries have participated in the training activities offered by the ALGA colleges. Since 2017, ALGA organizes annually the African Forum of Territorial Managers and Training Institutes dedicated to Local Government (FAMI) which usually brings together 150 participants from all regions of Africa to discuss issues related to human capital within local and subnational governments. ALGA also follows the development of the Observatory of human resources of African local governments which issued the First Triennial Report on the Status of Human Resources of the local and subnational governments in Africa during the last edition of the Africities Summit in November 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco. ALGA also organizes study tours of national associations of Local and Subnational Governments wishing to have a better knowledge of UCLG Africa. Thus, in October 2019, the UCLG Africa Secretariat received the Association of Libyan Cities, and in November 2019, the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON). These associations were informed of the role of UCLG Africa and of the need to strengthen our partnership as well as to provide guidance on how to they could strengthen their own role in the institutional environment and in the process of decentralization of their respective countries.

Lastly, peer learning is one of the preferred methods for accelerating capacity building within national associations of local and subnational governments. UCLG Africa has classified national associations into three categories: nascent associations, associations in the development phase, and mature associations. A peer learning program has mobilized mature associations to support emerging associations or developing associations. This program works on the basis of the "First Applicant, First Served» principle, and is limited to 5 peer support missions per year.

***It is suggested that UCLG should undertake to set up a Global Local Government Academy by synergizing the various initiatives taken in the field of training by the different sections of the world organization. A specific working group should be set up by the CIB Commission with a view to proposing an appropriate strategy to achieve this ambition.***

**3.2. Support to global agendas.** The recent years have been marked by the adoption of a series of global agendas, many of which have a direct impact on local and subnational governments across the world, including Africa<sup>2</sup>. All communities are being asked to localize these global agendas, and to contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of their implementation. In particular, local governments should participate in the drafting of voluntary reports submitted by member countries during the High Level Political Consultation (HLPC) sessions organized under the auspices of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations' Economic and Social Council. Apart from its normal contribution to the reporting of local and subnational governments organized by UCLG within the framework of the Global Task Force of local governments, UCLG Africa has identified three areas of

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<sup>2</sup> Sendai Protocol on Risk and Disaster Prevention and Management (March 2015); Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (June 2015); 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (September 2015); Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015); New World Urban Agenda (October 2016); Global Compact on Migration (November 2018)

particular interest for African local governments, for which three specific days were organized at the last Summit Africities in November 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco: Migration, Climate, and Urban Planning.

With regard to Migration, the Secretariat undertook to disseminate the Charter of Local and Subnational Governments of Africa on Migration with a view to encouraging potential local governments to join the initiative. To date, 33 members of UCLG Africa have joined, which is very little given the importance and urgency of this issue. The secretariat is also considering setting up a Migration Task Force which should speed up the involvement of local and subnational governments in Africa in the management of migration and the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration adopted by the United Nations in Marrakech in December 2018. The Compact also provides for a follow-up mechanism involving local and subnational governments, the Mayoral Forum Task Force, whose 6<sup>th</sup> meeting is scheduled in Quito on January 20 to January 24, 2020. The secretariat of UCLG Africa is working with the UCLG global secretariat to ensure that this monitoring mechanism fully integrates the participation of local and regional authorities in Africa. In order to ensure that the voice of local and regional authorities in Africa is heard on migration management, the secretariat has joined or collaborated with institutional platforms dedicated to debates on migration, such as the Steering Committee concerning the Joint Program on Cities and migration, animated by Cities Alliance and the "International Center for Migration and Policy Development" (ICMPD) based in Vienna. The secretariat also represented UCLG Africa at the first meeting of the European Network of Welcoming Cities organized on October 03 and 04, 2019 in Paris. The participation in this meeting made it possible to disseminate the Charter of Local Authorities of Africa on Migration and also made it possible to note that a number of cities in Africa were faced with the difficulty of having to oppose themselves to the construction of the so-called "hotspots" within their jurisdiction while their national government is in favor of such hotspots. This is the case of Gao in Mali. The declaration adopted at the end of the Paris meeting takes into account the recommendations of the Charter of Local and Subnational Governments of Africa on Migration.

***It would be necessary for an internal debate to be organized within UCLG to achieve a minimum threshold in terms of common positions on the issue of migration which remains very controversial within our world organization.***

Regarding Climate, it is recalled that a Marrakech Declaration of local and subnational governments of Africa on the urgency of territorial climate action was adopted. Such Declaration encourages all cities and territories in Africa to join the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa ( CoM SSA) and in the Mediterranean countries, with a view to drawing up Climate and Energy plans at the level of the territories. The Help Desk of the Covenant is hosted in Accra, in Ghana, UCLG Africa's Regional Office for West Africa. It helps promote the Covenant with the cities and regions of Africa. 200 cities have joined the Covenant. The Marrakech Declaration also calls for the strengthening of the UCLG Africa Climate Task Force to support African local and subnational governments more effectively in defining concrete and multi-year action plans for the implementation of Territorial Climate projects.

Finally, the Marrakech Declaration is calling for the adoption, financing and implementation of a "Readiness" "Program" for the Preparation of cities and local governments for the regionalization of Nationally Defined Contributions to National level" for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Finally, it should be noted that UCLG Africa is initiating the original African proposal to take advantage of the ongoing revision of the Nationally Defined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement to take a bottom-up approach by taking as a starting point the Locally Defined Contributions (LDCs). To promote access to climate finance for local authorities, a workshop was organized on the localization of climate finance on September 22, 2019 in New York as part of the Climate Summit convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations. On this occasion, a partnership agreement was

signed between BOAD and UCLG Africa, which provides for a financial support from BOAD to the Climate Task Force of UCLG Africa, and the granting of the quality of Implementing Partner to UCLG Africa. for the elaboration of the applications that are eligible to the climate portfolio of the BOAD.

***UCLG should confirm the political leadership of its regional chapters concerning the implementation of the Climate Agenda in their respective regions, including that of UCLG Africa concerning Africa.***

CAs far as urban planning is concerned, it is recalled that following the day organized on this theme during the Africities Summit in November 2018, a series of partnership agreements were signed between Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Casablanca, Morocco; Dakar, Senegal, and Rabat, Morocco; Yaoundé, Cameroon, and Marrakech, Morocco; Rufisque, Senegal, and Dakhla, Morocco; Jinja, Uganda, and Essaouira, Morocco; Abomey, Benin, and Al Hoceima, Morocco; Sousse, Tunisia and El Jadida, Morocco. These agreements entered into between the cities involved were also co-signed by UN Habitat, UCLG Africa, and MAJAL, the association of urban agencies of Morocco. A specific agreement has also been entered into between UCLG Africa, MAJAL, and the "Al Omrane" Holding to monitor the implementation of partnership agreements between cooperating cities, with the aim of setting up and operationalizing urban agencies to help the cities involved to better implement the recommendations of the New global Urban Agenda.

**3.3. Implementation of the priority programs.** These programs are the establishment of Territorial Africa Agency; the launch of the program of African Capitals of Culture; and the second phase of the Territorial Coaching program. The Territorial Africa Agency (TAA) is a vehicle proposed to enable local and subnational governments of Africa to improve their investment capacity through the issuance of bonds in the financial market. The TAA consists of two parts: (1) a cooperative association of local and subnational governments who agree to pay 100,000 Euros to build up the starting capital of the vehicle, and which must in principle receive 100 founding members, i.e. a total mobilizable amount of 10 million Euros, representing 50.1 per cent of the capital of the TAA originally set at 20 million Euros; (2) a financial institution whose reference shareholder is the African Development Bank, which agrees to contribute 33.3 per cent of the capital, the remainder to be sought from financial institutions specialized in local and subnational governments. The feasibility study of the TAA foresees the setting up of the bond and loan preparation team during the year 2020, and the actual issuance of the bonds and loans in 2022. A call for expressions of interest to make part of the club of the founding members of the TAA association was launched by the general secretariat and made it possible to collect to date 45 members for a goal of 100 cities. The African Development Bank has proposed that, pending the actual constitution of the TAA, an upgrade test of 10 cities will be carried out with the financing of the Municipal Bank Fund to prepare those cities to develop a portfolio of bankable investment projects, i.e. 2 cities per region. It is proposed that this choice be made as soon as possible on a "first come, first served" basis. A meeting of the club of the founding members of the TAA association is scheduled for November 13, 2019 as part of the activities of the UCLG World Congress.

The "African Capitals of Culture" program was adopted as a priority by the Executive Committee meeting on June 18, 2019 in Cairo; Egypt. Since this decision, the program of African Capitals of Culture has worked on three pillars: **(a)** The strengthening of its team, the development of tools, and the mobilization of financial resources. The department was strengthened by the recruitment and the provision of human and financial resources, the

reorganization of the organizing committee, the establishment of the “Young Ambassadors” and of the “Committee of Wise Men” who will be spokespersons for the program. The mobilization of financial resources has seen the signing of agreements with the municipality of Marrakech and also with the Region of Marrakech. Private companies made commitments to finance activities of the “Marrakesh 2020” capital city of culture program. The development of a communication strategy has been finalized and its implementation is under way with the development of a website and numerous communication products. **(b)** Advocacy at the local, national, continental and international level through the mobilization of institutional partners such as the Commission of the European Union, UNESCO, ACP-EU, etc., private partners and cultural actors such as FIMA, MASA, Kigali Forum, AXA Africa, etc. and the participation in many activities to promote the program.

At the continental level, participation in the meeting of Ministers of Culture held in Niamey from October 17 to October 20, the participation in a meeting of MASA in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the participation in Dakar in the “thoughts workshop”, and a meeting with the councilors of the city hall of Dakar, one of the cities chosen to receive Marrakech in 2020, as well as the co-organization with UCLG of a session on cultural policies at the World Cities Congress to be held in Durban.

At the national and regional level: information meetings at the Ministry of Culture, meetings with the private sector and the national, regional and local authorities of Marrakech and its region, and participation in a seminar bringing together the elected representatives of African regions that are partnering with the Marrakech region. **(c)** The preparation of the activities of the multi-year program, of the pan-African fora (Ministers, cultural actors, civil society, etc.) and the granting of labels to existing activities to be held in Marrakech during the year 2020.

The second phase of the Territorial Coaching program in the Oriental Region was launched by the signing in March 2019 of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the continuation of the program. This MoU is currently being approved by the competent national authorities. This MoU provides for the implementation of the program over 3 years, from 2019 to 2021. The program partners are the Regional Council of the Oriental region of Morocco, the Oriental Development Agency, the Mohammed 1<sup>st</sup> University of the city of Oujda UCLG Africa, and the “Echos Communication” NGO. The new program foresees the extension of territorial coaching actions to all the provinces of the Oriental and the Beni-Mellal regions in Morocco; and the development of territorial coaching on the international scene, around the South-South cooperation initiated by the Oriental Region and the Government of Morocco. This has been manifested to date by the creation of a center for territorial coaching in Dakar and Kaolack in Senegal, and requests for intervention in the region of the Nohoum Loop in Burkina Faso, the Region of San Pedro in Côte d'Ivoire, and the City of Douala in Cameroon.

**3.4. Transparency and Integrity Index in African cities.** In 2019, following the completion of the trial of an evaluation of the Local Integrity System (LIS) in 2018 in a district of Uganda, the Transparency Index was developed for a wider application in the cities and will be launched in 2020. The Transparency Index will help local and subnational governments improve their transparency vis-à-vis citizens by providing them with information on their main operations, mainly online.

***It is proposed that this initiative be taken up by the other regional chapters of UCLG.***

**3.5. Improvement of knowledge management tools.** Knowledge helps to make the right decisions, including in the management of public affairs. To support its members and stakeholders in the search for information, UCLG Africa has developed a knowledge hub on local governance in Africa that includes several tools including a specialized resource center, in particular a mapping of the institutional environment of local and subnational

governments in Africa. Between June and October 2019, the number of cumulative hits was about 20,000, which is a remarkable achievement. The hits received on Twitter and on the site are respectively 11,743 and 8,535 hits.

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