

## “A Call for New Strategies to Build Better African Cities”

Following UCLG Africa’s successful participation in the 9th World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur where we created a welcoming, active space for African local governments to engage and discuss matters arising from the New Urban Agenda, we must now turn and reflect on the very important lessons that Africa must learn to drive these agendas forward.



With Africa’s urban populations set to treble by 2050 we must better understand the impact this trend has on our cities and territories. As the representative organization and the voice of local governments across the continent our role during WUF9 was to provide the context in which our members must engage with the New Urban Agenda. UCLG Africa’s Secretary General Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi highlighted why Africa must respond quite seriously to the issues of urbanization since the region is one of the fastest growing urban populations in the world, which puts Africa under pressure for managing the urbanization challenge. During a post WUF9 interview with CNBC Africa organised by Africa Press Organization (APO) the UCLG Africa Secretary General issued a call to action for “inclusive and people oriented urban planning.”

“If we DON’T

- get the management of urbanization right
- empower local governments as the front-liners in the management of the urban challenge
- address more aggressively the issue of access to land, including for the women and the poor
- adopt proper planning and land use behaviour and tools

then we fail to plan, which means we are planning to fail in the management of urbanization”. JPEM 2018

One of our headlines at WUF9 was to highlight what we mean by an efficient planning exercise, one which must involve all the city dwellers in the city planning process, including slum dwellers. It is following this rationale that UCLG Africa launched at WUF9 in Kuala Lumpur with its partners, Slum Dwellers International (SDI)

Click on picture to watch the CNBC interview with SG



and Cities Alliance, the “Know Your City” Campaign, in order to build a win-win partnership between slums dwellers and local governments officials and officers, leading to the realization of inclusive cities in compliance with the Sustainable Development Goal 11 on sustainable, safe and inclusive cities.

At WUF9 UCLG Africa brought the best of Local Africa to Malaysia in a space where delegates could find out about our innovative programs such as the Climate Task Force; the Platform to Access Capital Market; the African Local Government Academy (ALGA); the Local Economic Development Network of Africa (LEDNA), among others.

Our Training Event at WUF9 provided an interactive stage for members to learn and get access to the right strategies and tools that will help African cities and territories Plan for Climate Change and for the Financing of Urban Infrastructure. Participants were introduced to two Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) developed by UCLG Africa in partnership with the Institute of Housing Studies (IHS)/Erasmus University, the Netherlands, and supported by UNESCO and the European Commission.

Our attendance at these global events allows us to harvest the very up-to-date best practices, methods and tools implemented successfully across the world, so that we can respond more appropriately to the needs of our members and define tailor-made services to support them taking into account the context in which they operate.



**UCLG AFRICA**  
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa  
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique  
**CGLU AFRIQUE**

**If You Are**

- ◆ a local or subnational government, a national association of local or subnational governments, a national government through the ministry of public service, the ministry of housing and urban development, the ministry of local government and/or decentralization...
- ◆ a civil society organization, a business company, a university or research institution, a foundation, etc. interested in local democracy, local governance, local economic development, and local action to implement global agendas in Africa ....
- ◆ an expert, professional, individual dedicated to the cause of local democracy, transparency and integrity, good public governance, ....

Join UCLG Africa, the beating heart of Africa on the move towards structural transformation!  
Contact our membership team at

Click on picture to watch the launch of the Know Your City Campaign



Click on picture to hear about how UCLG Africa benefits members



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