

REPORT

UCLGA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

11th Ordinary Session / October 13, 2014 Johannesburg

The Executive Committee of CGLUA held its 11th regular meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Johannesburg during the morning of October 13th, 2014 under the chairmanship of Mr. Khalifa Ababacar SALL, President of UCLGA. This session took place on the sidelines of the official launch of the preparation of the 7th Africities Summit.

Work started at 9:05am by monitoring attendance of members of the Executive Committee. After checking the largely achieved quorum (13 attendees out of 15 members), the draft agenda of the Secretary-General was adopted without amendment (see attached agenda). In his opening remarks, the President of UCLG Africa thanked the host city, the mayor of Johannesburg and the President of SALGA, and welcomed all members and guests attending the meeting, including the outstanding Experts of the Strategic Support Group and of the Steering and Foresight Group who decided to support the Secretariat General of UCLG Africa in preparing the Africities Summit 2015. The President seized the opportunity to discuss the future of Africa that is called upon to become the new driving force of the world, provided the governance of the country and of the continent as a whole is improved. Mr. SALL emphasized the important role played by local governments and insisted that the time is now for action and not for speeches. This address was followed by words of thanks from the President of SALGA, who is Vice-President of UCLG Africa for Southern Africa, on behalf of the Mayor of Johannesburg, for the confidence of the members shown to the candidacy of the city of Johannesburg to host the 7th Africities Summit.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held in Victoria, Seychelles, and status of implementation of resolutions and recommendations of the meeting.

The Secretary General recalled the main items of the Victoria meeting whose minutes were previously sent to all members of the Executive Committee for amendments, comments and suggestions. No comments being received from members, the minutes of the 10th meeting Victoria were adopted by the Executive Committee without amendment.

The Secretary General then presented the implementation status of the resolutions of the Victoria Meeting that the Executive Committee appreciated. Most tasks having been executed, the discussions focused on the following items:

- The reception of honorary members attributes by former Heads of State;
- Dual representation of Senegal within the Executive Committee;
- And the involvement of Vice Presidents in resource mobilization and sensitization of government officials and heads of state in their region.

In terms of the attributes of honorary members, Mr. Thabo MANYONI, Vice President for Southern Africa Region, confirmed the receipt by President Chissano of his attributes, and that the process is under way concerning President MBEKI. The Executive Committee has entrusted once again the Vice President to verify the effectiveness of the receipt of the attributes of President Mbeki and to report about it at its next meeting.

For the double representation of Senegal within the Executive Committee, Mr. Khalifa SALL, explained that discussions are ongoing with the President of the AMS, and confirmed that there will be one representative from Senegal at the Executive Committee and that the city of Banjul

which was proposed by the West Africa caucus will be the 3rd member of the Executive Committee for West Africa. The members of the Executive Committee welcomed the President's initiatives to solve this dual representation of Senegal and the urged him to make sure that the proposal for the city of Banjul to be the 3rd member for West Africa be effective for the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Finally concerning the involvement of the Vice-Presidents in terms of resource mobilization and sensitization of government officials and heads of State of the region, the President, after congratulating the Secretary General for the efforts he makes to conduct the Organization's mission, reminded all members of the need for them to be available to support the Secretary General in his advocacy and awareness-raising activities, noting further that the payment of dues and contributions is both a matter of dignity and respect and meeting that commitment serves the interests of local governments and of Africa in general.

The Executive Committee, following these discussions, took note of the implementation status of the resolutions and recommendations of the Victoria meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Activities of the General Secretariat (from May to October 2014 and summary of planned activities from October to December 2014)

The Secretary General presented the report of the General Secretariat activities into three highlights:

- ***The status of CGLUA negotiations with partners and the UCLGA representation***

The Secretary General said that the organization is negotiating a strategic partnership with the European Commission and Cities Alliance. These negotiations resulted in numerous meetings, particularly in Brussels and Rabat, and should lead soon to the signing of partnership agreements. The President of CGLUA called on members of the Executive Committee and Mayors of Africa for more involvement, so that the voice of the local African is heard, particularly in regard to the Policy Development Forum set up by the European Commission. In addition, the Secretariat was asked to represent UCLG Africa in various events. The Secretary-General stressed the need for a political voice of UCLG Africa beyond the sole technical voice.

Following the Secretary General, the President lamented the fact that the travel of Mayors to attend meetings in Africa is conditioned by financial support from the General Secretariat. He urged them to show more responsibility and commitment to the organization.

- ***The preparations for Africities 7***

On this point, the floor was given to Professor Alioune SALL, Coordinator of the Steering and Foresight Group, to present a synthesis of the work of the two groups (Strategic Support and Steering and Foresight) that met on October 12, 2014 to reflect on the seventh edition of the Africities Summit under the theme: "Shaping the future of Africa with the people: the contribution of African local Governments to the 2063 vision of Africa". The reflections centered on the thematic sessions of the summit, the contribution of the Groups to the organization and to the running of the sessions, as well as their contribution after the Summit.

Concerning thematic sessions, the Steering and Foresight Group has identified 11 of them, of which 4 will provide the answers to the question of the relevance of forward thinking for the development of local governments, the status of the current thinking, the construction of scenarios, and for possible strategies. The other 7 themes selected by the Group will focus on inclusive growth and the role of local governments, continental integration, governance, peace and security, cultural identity, development and mobilization of human capital, and finally the African influence. The Strategic Support Group and the Steering and Foresight Group will meet again in March, October and November 2015.

- **Report on the REFELA activities**

The Network of Local Elected Women Officials of Africa, through the voice of its President, also presented the report of its activities on this occasion of the 11th Meeting of the CGLUA Executive Committee. The President mentioned again REFELA's participation in international conferences and the establishment of REFELA national offices in Cameroon and Togo. She then expressed her concern about the health situation in Africa with the Ebola epidemic and highlighted the urgent need to take a position on this epidemic.

Following these reports, the discussions focused on issues of mobilizing members of UCLG Africa around the issue of membership dues, participation in events in Africa, and on the international scene, for a revitalization of the organization.

After the formal adoption by the General Secretariat of the activity report, the President congratulated the Secretary General for the work he continues to conduct, the President of REFELA for her efforts to carry the voice of Local Elected Women Officials of Africa on the international scene, and the members of the Strategic Support Group and of the Steering and Foresight Group for the remarkable work achieved.

Agenda Item 3: Presentation of the Report of the Task Force on the membership dues and the strategy for their mobilization, as well as the potential penalties for non-payment within the statutory deadline

The Task Force informed the Executive Committee of the difficulty in establishing the report on membership dues and on the strategy for their mobilization. The Executive Committee took note of this difficulty and gave the Task Force additional time to present its findings at its next meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation and Adoption of the Draft Budget 2015

The Secretary General presented the draft 2015 budget that takes into account the latest developments in the field of partnerships (Commission of the European Union and Cities Alliances) and collection of membership fees.

The President of UCLG-A, when opening the general debate on the budget, underlined the optimistic and ambitious nature of the budget, particularly in terms of recovery of membership dues from members, which nevertheless remains the main point of uncertainty: the budget has significantly increased with respect to the 2014 Budget and it is an offensive budget that clearly reflects UCLG-A's institutional upgrading through the strengthening of its human and financial resources so as to make it a credible institution and a key player for its partners and for the development of Africa. The Executive Committee was satisfied with the decline of some expenses, including mission expenses and fees.

Following the discussion, the Executive Committee adopted the 2015 budget that is balanced in terms of revenues and expenditure at 5,456,895 Euros.

Agenda Item 5: Formal launch of the preparation of the Africities 2015 Summit.

The Secretary-General summarized, in their presence, the preparation stages of the Africities 7 Summit in Johannesburg and particularly the progress of its official launch status. He also recalled the composition and role of the main bodies that steer the preparations for the Summit. It is in this case:

- The Political Committee, made up of the Presidency of the UCLGA.
- The Executive Committee, chaired by the mayor of the host city, including the President of the National Association of Local Governments of the host country, one representative of the host Government, and the Secretary General of UCLG-A. It is responsible for the preparation of the Summit, that is to say, of all protocol-related, cultural, scientific, financial, logistical, and political aspects ...

- The Operational Committee, made up of representatives of the host city and of the representative of the Secretariat General of UCLG Africa, which manages the day-to-day preparation and organization of the Summit under the guidance, instructions and decisions of the Executive Committee.

After this reminder, the Political Commission officially inaugurated the Summit Executive Committee and the Operational Committee of whose members it approved the appointment, namely Mrs. Nonto HADEBE as a representative of the City of Johannesburg, and Mr. Souleymane Idrissa MAIGA as a representative of the UCLG Africa Secretariat General.

The Executive Committee also raised the issue of obtaining visas for the various African delegations participating in the Summit and asked the South African authorities to facilitate the process.

Agenda Item 6: Other Business:

This item of the agenda was an opportunity for the Secretary General of UCLG-A to address various issues of interest for UCLG-A. These are:

Best African Mayor Competition;

The Secretary General gave an update on the progress concerning the Best African Mayor Competition, by starting first with the history of the project that dates back to a recommendation of the Executive Committee in 2009.

The Executive Committee was informed and took note of the status of negotiations with Angola and of the agreement of President José Eduardo dos Santos to sponsor the Best African Mayor Competition that will reward three categories of Mayors (of large, medium-sized , and small cities). The edition of the Best African Mayor Award for 2014 is expected to take place in Luanda in January 2015.

The competition will be organized in partnership with (the London-based) IC Publication that has extensive expertise in organizing events of this magnitude. The Secretary General also unveiled the list of potential jury members, including the Chairman of the Africa Union of Architects, the Director of the Africa Center of Cities, the President of the Association of Architects and Town Planners of Angola the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and the Secretary General of UCLG-A.

After intense discussions, the Executive Committee approved the sponsorship of President dos Santos and the institutionalization of the Best African Mayor of the Year Award and its name, and approved the partnership with "IC Publication". The Executive Committee asked the Secretary General to continue his efforts and expressed the wish to have among the members of the jury an administrator of a local government.

The project of a review called "Cities and Local Governments in Africa";

The Executive Committee was informed that Angola has agreed to support the publication of three issues of the "African Cities" review.

The Executive Committee approved the project of a review whose publication will be done in collaboration with "IC Publication".

The launch of the host city selection process for the 8th Africities Summit in 2018;

The Executive Committee mandated the Secretary General to launch the host city selection process of the 8th Africities Summit in 2018 from January 2015 onwards. The Secretary General reminded members that the organization of Africities Summit 8 will be assigned on a priority basis to Central Africa under the rotation principle. In the absence of any other candidacy from another Central African city, any other proposal will be studied.

The launch of the preparation process of the Elective General Assembly of December 2015.

Concerning UCLGA's Elective General Assembly to be held on December 04, 2015 on the sidelines of the Africities Summit, the Secretary General first began by recalling the general rules relating

to the appointment of the members and to the eligibility requirements contained in CGLUA by laws.

The Executive Committee mandated the Secretary General to launch the process for the preparation of the Elective General Assembly of December 2015. A note on the rules of procedures guiding the preparation process will be disseminated on this occasion to all members in January 2015.

Executed in Rabat, on October 20, 2014

The Secretary General of UCLG Africa

Jean Pierre ELONG MBASSI