8th Edition Africities Summit

"The Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories: The Role of Local and Sub-National Governments of Africa"

DECLARATIONS BOOK
ACTS OF AFRICITIES 8

The Proceedings of Africities 8 are available on the website www.africities.org

For each session, all the documents received will be found for each session
A presentation page, the agenda, the presentation of the speakers
Declarations and recommendations adopted by the session
The introductory report, the rapporteur's report, the students' report
All other documents and interventions received

Three booklets summarize the Summit

THE BOOKLET OF DECLARATIONS
Includes the general statements of the Summit, the synthesis of the sessions,
Declarations adopted by the sessions, some reference documents

THE BOOKLET OF SESSIONS
Includes for each session: a presentation page,
The presentation of the speakers
Declarations and recommendations adopted by the session

THE BOOKLET OF SPEECH
Includes official speeches and plenary interventions

THE GENERAL AFRICITIES REPORT 8
intended for wider communication will be widely disseminated

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BLANKET DECLARATIONS
A.1 FINAL COMMUNIQUE

Africities 8 – The Highlights

An unprecedented participation of 8300 participants representing more than 77 countries, including 53 African countries and nearly 3,000 local elected representatives, mayors and other leaders of local and subnational governments. The Africities Summit 2018 in Marrakech has proven once more to be the most important democratic gathering in Africa.

"The Africities Summit gave a voice to subnational and local governments authorities. Thanks to that recognition, the idea that local Africa will change Africa is making headways", said Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa).

20 years of the Africities Summit was celebrated and highlighted with the presentation of the UCLG Africa anthem, composed by David André, Mayor of the City of Victoria, Seychelles, and Vice President of UCLG Africa.

An opening ceremony marked by the inaugural conference of Professor Felwine Sarr, from the Gaston Berger University in Saint Louis (Senegal) whose subject, "African Cities: signs, lineaments, configuration of possibilities" invites people to consider cities as places for the production of meanings which inform us about our social, political and imaginary reality.

The closing ceremony of the Africities 8 Summit was marked by the reading of the Royal Message by Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Meryem, who, on this occasion, officially launched the pan-African campaign "African cities without street children."

This initiative of the Network of Locally Elected Women in Africa, (REFELA), UCLG Africa’s Gender Equality Committee, is supported by the National Observatory for the Rights of Children (ONDE) of Morocco. 20 cities in Africa have already subscribed to this campaign, including the city of Rabat, which will serve as the pilot city for the campaign in Morocco. For the implementation of this campaign, three memoranda of understanding have been signed between ONDE and UNICEF in support of the international campaign; between ONDE and UCLG Africa, for the Pan African campaign; and between ONDE, the City of Rabat and four ministerial departments of the Moroccan government for the national campaign in Morocco.

The political segment of the Summit started on November 23th with a round table on city diplomacy introduced by Denis Coderre, former Mayor of Montreal, Canada, with the participation of panelists including, Her Excellency Catherine Samba-Pandza, former Head of State of the Central African Republic and former Mayor of the city of Bangui.

Several recommendations and proposals emerged from the 160 sessions held across the 5 days under the general theme "The transition to sustainable cities and territories: the role of local and sub-national governments of Africa". All of the recommendations and proposals were submitted to ministers, mayors and leaders of local governments and development partners for consideration and adoption at the meeting of ministers, the general meeting of UCLG Africa, and the meeting of development partners, which were organized in parallel during the afternoon of November 23. The political segment ended on the morning of November 24, with a tripartite dialogue meeting between ministers, mayors and development partners.
UCLG Africa’s Executive Committee held its elections at which The City of Libreville, represented by its Mayor, Mrs. Rose Christiane Ossouka-Raponda was elected as the new President of UCLG Africa for a term of 3 years, which will end at the next general assembly scheduled for 2021. In addition, the city of Bagangte, Cameroon, represented by its Mayor, Celestine Ketcha-Courtès, was re-elected as President of REFELA.

Amongst the special events of the Summit, it is worth mentioning the meetings held between the mayors and locally elected officials of Africa and their counterparts in Asia-Pacific, mainly from China and Japan; and the meeting between the mayors and leaders of local and regional governments in Africa and their African American counterparts. The African American network of mayors announced that, “400 years after crossing the Door of No Return, where the first boat left the shores of Africa bound for the Americas carrying children of Africa, it is now time to consider starting the opposite wave, by opening, at the initiative of the mayors and leaders of the local and regional governments of Africa, the “Door of Return” to the African Americans of the United States, the Caribbean and Latin America and declaring that Africities is the right place to launch this mobilization for the Road of Return.

The summary of the sessions and recommendations of the Africities 2018 Summit can be seen on the Summit website: www.africities.org

Three special days were organized during the Summit: Migration Day on November 21; Climate Day on November 22 and Urban Planning Day on November 23.

The Migration Day recalled the crucial role of local and subnational governments in managing migration; and the urgent need to make them stakeholders in the negotiation of the Global Compact on Migration, which must be concluded at the United Nations Conference on Migration, due to take place between December 8-11, in Marrakesh.

Climate Day emphasized the urgency of involving local and subnational governments in the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and even considering Locally Determined Contributions (LDC’s) if, as is desirable, local and subnational governments plan to participate in the Paris Agreement ambitions to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees by the end of the century with respect to the pre-industrial period. In this context, the localization of NDCs is essential and UCLG Africa is asked to develop and implement a capacity-building program for its members, so that they have a climate plan and are able to prepare applications that are eligible for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). UCLG Africa is also asked to broaden the scope of its Climate Task Force to spearhead the climate action of African local governments. A Declaration was adopted at the end of the proceedings of the Climate Day.

The Urban Planning Day focused on urban planning as a basic tool for transitioning to sustainable cities and territories. It reiterated the importance of setting up urban agencies to monitor the dynamics of urbanization and to put in place a framework for dialogue between all actors to define the allocation and policies around the use of urban space in respect of ecological constraints. The day resulted in the signing of eight partnership agreements between 14 African cities in Morocco and their sisters in Cote d'Ivoire, Benin, Senegal, Uganda, Tunisia and Cameroon, with the technical support of the Association of Urban Agencies of Morocco, the Moroccan “Al Omrane” Holding, the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa), and the United Nations Program for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat). Partnership agreements for urban planning and the establishment of urban agencies have been entered into between: the cities of Dakar (Senegal) and Rabat (Morocco); Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) and Casablanca (Morocco); Yaoundé (Cameroon) and Marrakech; Jinja
(Uganda) and Essaouira (Morocco); Sousse (Tunisia) and El Jadida; Rufisque (Senegal) and Dakhla; and Abomey (Benin) and Al Hoceima.

Another remarkable fact was the launch of the celebration of the African Capitals of Culture, aiming at giving back to the continent's cultural and artistic expressions the place and the role they deserve in the building, integration and unity of Africa. The City of Marrakech was unanimously designated to be the African Capital of Culture in 2020.

The Summit highlighted two key players, without whom the transition to sustainable cities and territories cannot be envisioned in Africa: they are women and youth. 25 percent of Summit sessions were dedicated to gender issues, including the fight against violence against women; and the economic empowerment of women.

The Youth Forum - Twenty young people aged 16 to 35 were selected on the basis of a call for ideas to participate in a Creative Lab on the theme, "Imagine your city and imagine Africa in 2030 and 2063". These young people were invited to submit their projects to the delegates of the Summit, using the Africities new innovative voting platform, of which three projects would be awarded. The following three projects were the successful recipients of the Creative Lab awards:

First prize: Yvette Ishinwe, from Rwanda, for her project on the use of new technologies for optimal use of drinking water at standpipes (Iriba tap and drink innovation); Second Prize: Zaheer Allam, from Mauritius, for her smart urban regeneration project; Third Prize: Oulimata Sourang, from Senegal, for her E-Learning Assistant project.

Climate Initiatives Trophies - A further competition was organized and also decided by the voting of delegates at the Summit: the Climate Initiatives Trophies celebrating cities and territories that have implemented the most remarkable actions in the fight against climate change. These were awarded to three categories of cities and territories.

For the small towns category (less than 20,000 inhabitants), the winner was the Municipality of Ndiob (Senegal) for the implementation of its “green and resilient commune” project; For the category of cities and territories of intermediate size (between 20,000 and 200,000 inhabitants), the laureate is the City of Chefchaouen in Morocco, for the realization of its “Energy Info Center”.

For the category of cities and large territories, the laureate is the Tivaouane Departmental Council (Senegal) for the implementation of its project “Preserving a sustainable agricultural environment”.

The Africities Exhibition, which was organized simultaneously, saw the participation of 84 exhibitors, coming from Morocco (39 exhibitors), other regions of Africa (29 exhibitors from 11 countries), Europe (14 exhibitors from 6 countries), from Asia (1 exhibitor from South Korea), and from America (1 exhibitor from Canada).

The Projects and Partnership Exchange Forum - The Africities Exhibition gave the opportunity to effectively organize 150 B2B appointments out of the 512 requested by the delegates, who came from 44 countries. These B2B appointments led to 129 requests for partnerships, 40 proposed solutions to problems that delegates deemed urgent, and 39 projects identified as needing immediate implementation.

Best Exhibition Stand - As part of the Exhibition, a competition was also organized concerning the best booth. The results of this competition were:

Stands presenting the most innovative offer:
- Ragni SAS - Street lighting (France)
- Anemoi Magnova
- Fans for large public spaces (Spain)

Stands with the best design:
- City of Marrakech (Morocco)
- United Cities and Local Governments (Barcelona)

Liveliest Stands:
- National Initiative for Human Development, INDH (Morocco)
- Special Fund for Inter municipal and Equipment, FEICOM (Cameroon)

These awards were announced at the awards ceremony during the closing Gala Dinner held on November 24, 2018 at 20:00 in the Menara Gardens in Marrakech.

Delegates paid tribute to King Mohammed VI of Morocco for agreeing to grant his High Patronage to the eighth edition of the Africities Summit and thanked the Government of Morocco, the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Communal Councils, and the people and administrative authorities of the City of Marrakech who made every effort to ensure that the Africities Summit took place in excellent conditions.

The call was made for the ninth edition of the Africities Summit, scheduled for 2021, to be hosted by Kisumu, Kenya

See you in Kisumu Kenya for Africities 9 in 2021!

ADOPTED IN PLENARY SESSION THE NOVEMBER 24, 2018
A.2 AFRICITIES 8 DECLARATION

"The Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories, the role of Local and Sub-national Governments of Africa": This is the theme of the 8th Africities Summit, held in Marrakech, Morocco from 20-24 November 2018. Participants at the summit totalled 4,500 made up of Mayors, Ministers, Development Partners and African and international institutions and association from all the sectors in Africa and globally.

The Summit provided opportunities to mobilize communities, local governments and their partners for the inclusive, transformative and sustainable development of Africa.

The local governments at the summit have also confirmed their support to continental and global agendas including the African Union Agenda 2063, and the African Development’s Bank High 5 priorities and committed to the realization of the goals, objectives, commitments and declaration of these agendas among others including:

The SDGs 2030 with outcomes of ending poverty, focusing on supporting inclusive growth and well-being and leaving no-one behind and recognising the roles of district and local authorities, the role of urban and rural areas, men, women, youths, civil society organizations as essential partners in development.

The New Urban Agenda 2036, which recognises to the need to provide local and regional levels of government with sufficient resources and capacities to fulfil their role in the pursuit of the sustainable development goals including giving them direct access to international funds and credits for climate change mitigation activities, as well as greater capacity to manage land and finances, taxation, planning etc.

The Paris Climate Change Agreement 2016, which aims at keeping the global temperature rise this century well below 2°C Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The AU Agenda 2063, with the vision “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in international arena” and providing a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years. It builds on, and seeks to accelerate the implementation of past, existing and new national, regional and continental initiatives for transformative, inclusive real growth with equity, rapid, resilient and sustainable socio-economic development.

Above all, the 8th Africities Summit provided ample opportunities for local governments, development partners, civil society organizations to jointly explore and agree on innovative strategies for transforming the future of African cities and territories, taking into consideration the context and the situation in Africa to highlight the dimensions of the transition from the ongoing changes.

We, mayors, governors, councillors, elected women leaders, government officials, parliamentarians, senators, civil society organisations, academia, private sector and international community commit ourselves as follows:

Sharing a common aspiration to transform African cities and territories into places where every citizen will live comfortably, peacefully and securely;

Understanding that we are capable of transforming the world through the local lens, through a renewed governance, which engages everyone in the chain of action, in its proper place and in unity;
Understanding that the transition to sustainable cities and territories is not an option but an imperative;

Implementing the African Union's Agenda 2063, which creates a vision of Africa that we want for ourselves and our children;

Strengthening African locally elected women’s network regionally and nationally;

Embracing African and global development agenda, based on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, all of which are aimed at the transformation of lives for present and future generations in our cities and territories.

We request Governments in Africa to:

Promote decentralization to ensure good governance and support cities and territories to fulfil their mandate through providing for them the requisite financial and human resources needed for service delivery;

Formulate policies that will facilitate citizens to gain benefits of effective service delivery provided within their respective cities and territories;

Establish legislations that are favorable to the promotion of gender sensitive and participatory local governance through gender mainstreaming in local planning and budgeting processes;

Mobilise resources to develop the capacity needed for the transition to sustainable cities and territories in Africa;

Encourage stakeholders to translate into action the information and knowledge gained on sustainable cities and territories.

ADOPTED IN PLENARY SESSION THE NOVEMBER 24, 2018
A.3 THE 20 YEARS OF AFRICITIES

The twenty years of Africities (1998-2018) are part of the contemporary history of Africa, taking into account the different global agendas and, more specifically, Agenda 2063 of the African Union, one century after African countries independence, and having as a perspective, for 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations.

For twenty years, the movement of local and territorial authorities has gained visibility and recognition in Africa and around the world. Africities is the continental meeting place for African local and territorial elected officials, and Africa is the only continent on which the elected officials of all countries meet periodically. During this period, the regular participation of representatives of local authorities from Europe, Latin America, North America and Asia confirmed the maturity of the movement and its consideration from the sister organizations around the world.

At the first Africities Summit, in January 1998, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, relations between local elected officials and representatives of African States were tense around the issue of decentralization and the transfer of resources to the extent of the responsibilities transferred. Since then, and thanks to the pan-African dialogue platform that constitutes the Africities Summits, decentralization and the development of the territories are recognized everywhere as a necessity for the modernization of the States and for the improvement of the governance of the public affairs.

However, in several countries of the continent, the allocation of resources for local development, which is constantly being demanded, has not kept pace with the attribution of responsibilities even though significant progress has been noted. The definition of new relations between the territorial authorities, the national authorities and the supranational authorities at the level of the African Union is on the agenda of the Africities Summit 2018. For the first time the meeting of the ministers will be prepared by the Specialized Technical Committee No. 8 of the African Union, which brings together the conferences of ministers in charge of the Public Service, Urban development, Local authorities, and Decentralization.

Over the past two decades, the Africities Summits have pursued two major goals: to define appropriate and shared strategies for improving the living conditions of local populations; and contribute to the integration, peace and unity of Africa from below. The Summits aimed at linking a rigorous understanding of likely future trends with a strategic debate on the actions to be carried out at the local and territorial level.

The immediate goals of this process is to respond to the urgency of access to basic services, housing, mobility and transportation, security, resilience and the promotion of opportunities for the development of economic activities and the development of employment, and the recognition of the rights of women and young people in public policies. The birth of the REFELA movement was a major step to establish this recognition. The debates on climate change, on the migration issue and on the future of young Africans have emerged as unavoidable questions for the future of the Continent!

The Africities Summits have become the meeting place for local and territorial elected officials. They are the voice of, and mirror, the leaders of local and regional governments who administer the 16,008 local and regional governments in Africa.

In its dynamics and its design, in each of the five sub-regions of Africa, Africities materializes a choice and a will. It is about strengthening the role of local and regional authorities in the development of the continent and helping to build Africa from its local and subnational
governments. Africities has been a place of elaboration and production of a vision of the local Africa, from the themes developed in each of the summits.

Africities 1, in Abidjan in January 1998, had as a theme: **Recognize the essential role of local communities in the development of Africa.**

Africities 2, in Windhoek in May 2000, had as a theme: **Financing African local governments to ensure sustainable development of the continent.**

Africities 3, in Yaoundé, in December 2003, focused on: **Accelerating access to basic services in African local governments.**

Africities 4, Nairobi, September 2006, focused on **building local coalitions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in African local governments.**

Africities 5, in Marrakesh, in December 2009, focused on: **The response of local and regional authorities in Africa to the global crisis, promoting sustainable local development and employment.**

Africities 6, in Dakar, in December 2012, had as its theme: **Building Africa from its territories: what challenges for local communities?**

Africities 7, in Johannesburg in November 2015, had as a theme: **Building Africa’s Future with People: The Contribution of Local Governments to the Agenda 2063.**

Africities 8, in Marrakesh, in November 2018, had as its theme: **The transition to sustainable cities and territories: the role of local and subnational governments in Africa.**

The Africities Summit 8 is the Summit of the twentieth anniversary. It is part of a heavy international context, which weighs heavily on African development. The new context is indeed marked by great uncertainties. The global and multifaceted crisis is deepening and structural imbalances are continuing. A first question, as to the future, concerns the place of Africa in contemporary globalization and its crisis.

The context is also characterized by a geopolitical, economic, social and cultural reorganization of the different major regions of the world related to their specific evolutions. A second question concerns the specificities of the evolution of Africa among the major regions of the world.

The last decades have been marked by the contradictions linked to the dynamics of democratization on a world scale. A third question concerns the forms that democratization will take in Africa. And what role should local and territorial authorities play in it?

Using the territories as entry points makes it possible to rethink and redefine the dynamics of African integration and unity. With decentralization and the creation of regional ensembles, public governance is becoming more complex. A fourth question relates to the articulation of the different levels of governance: the scale of the African continent, the scale of the five sub regions of the African continent, the national scale of African states, and the scale of local and territorial authorities. Using the territories as entry points also makes it possible to connect populations, cultures, activities, ecosystems and institutions. Globalization attempts to spread the same pattern of uniform development that, lacking diversity, is not sustainable from the point of view of ecosystems and is not acceptable from the point of view of equity and morality. A fifth question concerns the possibility for Africa to adopt modes of endogenous development and transformation of African societies that are more sustainable, more honest, stronger and fairer.

During its twenty years of existence, the eight Africities summits have helped to support the emergence of the municipal movement in Africa; support the capacity building of associations of mayors and local authorities in Africa; build and support the global movement of mayors and local elected officials; contribute to building the African Union from the local level; renew the forms of representation and politics through the process of decentralization and strengthening.
of the States; organize the largest meeting of African representatives of elected officials and local authorities; strengthen the financial and human technical capacities of local and territorial communities and the sharing innovative practices; doing advocacy by giving priority to the basic needs of citizens and the impetus for mechanisms to address them; take into account the contribution of the local dimension to the press in African institutions within the African Union and the United Nations; help to build the municipal word and to create a debate based on the themes successively dealt with in the Africities Summits over the last twenty years: and take into account contemporary challenges by taking cognizance of the paradigm shifts around the transition of sustainable cities and territories.

The 8th Summit discussed the role of local and regional authorities in Africa in relation to the changes of the period and the transition that the continent is addressing, by covering the five major themes: women's rights; the climate emergency; youth; migrants; and the local policies and strategies.

The 8,000 participants, including more than 3,000 elected representatives from Africa's 16,008 local and territorial communities, demonstrated the vitality of local Africa and its willingness to contribute to building the Africa of tomorrow.

ADOPTED IN PLENARY SESSION THE NOVEMBER 24, 2018
A.4 DECLARATION OF MAYORS AND LEADERS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICA

We, the Mayors and Leaders of Local and Subnational governments of Africa gathered in the framework of the 8th edition of the Africities Summit held in Marrakech from November 20 to November 24, 2018, under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, around the theme of "The transition to sustainable cities and territories: the role of local and subnational governments in Africa";

Aware of the new role that Africa will play in the coming years as the world's first human home with nearly 40% of the world's population by 2100;

Noting that by 2050, one out of every two young people in the world will be African, and that in the next ten years Africa will see about 200 millions of its young people entering the labour market, offering to the economy the opportunity to benefit from the demographic dividend if this workforce is well used, or on the contrary opening a period of social tensions if this workforce is not properly employed;

Taking into account the acceleration of the population changes brought about by the rapid demographic growth of the continent, whose population that was mainly rural 30 years ago will become predominantly urban within 30 years, with an urban population estimated at 1.5 billion inhabitants by 2050;

Given the large migratory flows that the changes in pattern of settlements generate, with people moving from rural areas to urban areas, from poor regions to rich regions, but also from countries and regions experiencing socio-political tensions or displacement related to the consequences of climate change to localities, countries and regions considered at peace and more welcoming;

Concerned by the alert given by the International Panel of Climate Experts (IPCC) warning that the addition of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) proposed by states in compliance with their commitment pertaining to the implementation of the Paris Agreement to Combat Climate Change still results in an increase of the planet’s temperature by 3 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, well beyond the bar of 2 degrees Celsius defined as the threshold beyond which the climate trajectory would become irreversible, the ideal being to aim for a rise in temperature of the order of 1.5 degrees in relation to pre-industrial temperatures;

Feeling the urgency of the international and continental agendas whose implementation requires a strong commitment of local authorities, especially in Africa;

Convinced that such an engagement is possible only if the local and subnational governments of the continent benefit from a favorable institutional environment, with the human and financial means of action required to exercise the competencies that the laws of decentralization now recognize to the local and subnational governments;

Recognizing that in this matter, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union have shown their firm will to implement and deepen decentralization policies in Africa by adopting in June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, the African Charter of Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development; as well as the creation of the High Council of Local Authorities as an advisory body to the Union;
Recalling the key role played by the cooperation between local and subnational governments in accelerating regional integration, conflict prevention, and the preservation of peace among African communities.

DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. We want to make of our cities and our territories living areas which are productive, creating jobs, inclusive, and open to all, where all the inhabitants have the same rights and the same obligations, without exclusion or discrimination, with special attention being dedicated to populations with disabilities and to migrant populations, so that cities and territories are in line with the UN recommendation to leave no one behind;

2. We pledge to promote more participatory governance and a greater presence and effective participation of women and youth in the governing bodies of our cities and territories. In this regard, we are delighted by the launch of the Pan-Africa Campaign for African Cities Without Street Children, initiated by the Network of Locally Elected Women of Africa (REFELA) and under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Meryem of Morocco. We encourage cities of Africa to participate in this campaign so that the phenomenon of street children is eradicated in our cities as quickly as possible, since it is true that our life is only as good as the one we offer to our children;

3. We are committed to planning and managing our cities and territories more effectively, following a strategic approach to address the pressing issues facing people, while preparing the conditions for a shift to a ecologically more responsible and socially fairer road to development;

4. We recognize that informality is one of the specific characteristics of African cities and territories, both in terms of the organization and occupation of urban space, as well as the supply of economic activities and jobs in urban and territorial economies. We therefore commit ourselves to mobilizing the informal settlements dwellers and the actors of the informal sector of the economy so that they contribute effectively to the structural transformation of Africa, relying particularly on the creativity and innovation of the youth of our cities and territories;

5. We reaffirm our commitment to make our cities and our territories eco- responsible actors, decided to contribute to the achievement of the Nationally Determined Contributions (CDNs) defined by the national governments for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. We intend to extend the efforts of our national governments through the definition and implementation of Locally Determined Contributions (LDCs) in order to participate in the increase of the ambition of the Paris Agreement and limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. We invite cities and territories of Africa that have not yet done so to join the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy thus participating in this collective effort to increase the ambitions of the Paris Agreement;

6. We also affirm our commitment to participate in the implementation of Agenda 2063 of the African Union defining the path that leads to the Africa that We Want a century after the birth of the Organization of African Unity to which the African Union has succeeded. We are also determined to work on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations as part of Agenda 2030, and to participate in the preparation of national reports and specific reports to local and subnational governments produced to measure and verify progress made in achieving the SDGs and their impact on improving the living conditions and the living environment of the populations in our cities and in our territories;

7. We encourage local and subnational governments to group themselves within national associations in each country to promote their synergy of action, and to join our continental
umbrella legitimate organization representing the voice of the local and subnational governments of the African continent, United Cities and Local Governments United of Africa (UCLG Africa). In this regard, we welcome the creation of the Forum of African Regions and the Forum of African Metropolises within the framework of UCLG Africa.

8. **We are deeply convinced** that a strong State is a highly decentralized State. We therefore ask our national governments to put in place an institutional, legal and regulatory framework conducive to decentralization and the application of the subsidiarity principle in the management of public affairs. We draw their attention in particular to the urgency of putting the competencies recognized to local and subnational governments in consistency with the human and financial means necessary to exercise effectively and efficiently these competencies for the benefit of the local populations;

9. **We reiterate** our call to our National Governments to sign and ratify the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union since June 2014; and to the African Union Commission to accelerate the process of setting up and bringing into operation the High Council of Local Authorities as a consultative body of the African Union;

10. **We call** on development partners to reserve to local governments at least 30% of the budgets dedicated to their cooperation programs. We also request that part of the budgetary support programs negotiated with National Governments be directed towards the achievement of the SDGs at the level of cities and territories;

11. **We draw the attention** of National Governments, Regional Economic Communities and of the African Union to the urgent need to conduct strategic thinking on the issue of the rapid urbanization of the African continent and its economic, political, social and cultural consequences; and to make it one of the priorities of the political agenda at the national, regional and continental levels. In this regard, we propose that the theme of one of the next Summits of Heads of State and Government of the African Union be: "The contribution of African cities to the structural transformation of the continent".

12. **We urge** National Governments to define and implement national urban policies as well as national spatial planning policies to better manage the dynamics of urbanization of our continent, in accordance with the New Urban Agenda adopted by the United Nations in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016. These policies must be defined in accordance with the principle of leaving no territory aside. They must take into account the potential of each locality, each city and each territory. These policies must organize the interconnection of these territories, cities and localities to promote the mobility of people, goods and factors of production; contribute to the development of local, national and regional markets; and to the establishment of a coherent system of human settlements that creates harmonious relations between cities and their hinterlands, and between major cities, intermediate cities, small towns and rural centers.

13. **We call** for the strengthening of decentralized cooperation between African local and subnational governments especially in terms of cross-border cooperation. We are convinced that cross-border decentralized cooperation contributes to rooting the dynamics of regional integration on a daily basis and among citizens. In this regard, we call for the establishment of appropriate frameworks for the development of the international action of cities and territories. We are indeed of the opinion that this action broadens the field of international relations and contributes to humanizing relations between Nations. Through this action, we want to participate in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and the preservation of an atmosphere of peace and harmony between communities and peoples of Africa. In this regard, we ask the African Union to include local and subnational governments in her early warning mechanism
on conflicts through the involvement of national associations of local and subnational
governments at the national level, and of UCLG Africa at the regional and continental level.

14. **We welcome** the excellent organization of the 2018 Africities Summit and extend our
thanks to His Majesty King Mohammed VI who has agreed to grant His High Patronage to this
flagship event of UCLG Africa.

15. **We thank** the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Moroccan Association of
Presidents of Communal Councils (AMPCC) and the City of Marrakech for the quality of their
welcome and for all the arrangements made available to delegates and which have largely
contributed to the resounding success of the 2018 Africities Summit.

16. **We sincerely congratulate** the Summit’s organizing team for the appropriateness of the
theme chosen, the quality of the preparation of the various sessions, the quality of the debates
they gave room to, and for the recommendations to which these sessions have led.

17. **We salute and congratulate** the Association of Mayors of Gabon represented by its
President, Mrs. Rose Christiane Ossouka-Raponda, for her brilliant election as President of
UCLG Africa for the next three years.

18. **Finally, we congratulate** Kenya’s Kisumu County and its Governor for having been
chosen to host the ninth edition of the Africities Summit in 2021, and urge them to get down to
work right away to mobilize the President and the Government of Kenya as well as the Council
of Governors of Kenya to ensure that the Africities Summit in Kisumu lives up to the reputation
of this important global event.

**ADOPTED IN PLENARY SESSION THE NOVEMBER 24, 2018**
A.5 DECLARATION BY THE MINISTERS OF THE DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE TO AFRICITES 8

We, African Ministers, present at the 8th Summit of Africities held from 20 to 24 November 2018 in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco.

After having taken note of the challenges and the expected role of African local and regional authorities in the transition to sustainable cities and territories in Africa;

Inspired by an African Union vision to build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, led by its citizens and a dynamic force on the world stage;

- **Aware** of the commitments made in the international agendas such as Agenda 2063 The Africa We Want, Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the New Urban Agenda;

- **Reaffirming** our collective commitment to work tirelessly to modernize, improve and entrench new governance values in the public service at both local and national levels;

- **Guided** by our common desire to strengthen and consolidate public service in order to promote integration and sustainable development on the continent;

- **Recognizing** the contribution of regional organizations, Member States, associations of local and/or regional authorities, the private sector, civil society organizations and traditional leaders to the promotion, protection, strengthening and consolidation of decentralization, local governance and local development in Africa;

- **Recalling** that the urbanization process and the potential incorporated therein represent an invaluable opportunity for Africa to achieve structural economic, social, spatial and environmental transformation;

- **Recognizing** that Institutional, Cultural, Economic and Political Transformations can contribute to major advances in the urban experience for Africa’s diverse communities;

- **Determined** to contribute to the promotion of the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development in Africa, in particular the consideration of Women, Youth and the Disabled as a prerequisite for the formulation of public policies to improve the living conditions of all the peoples of the continent.

**Reaffirm our will, determination and commitment to work with African Local and Regional Authorities, essential actors of Decentralization in Africa, for the Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories, through free administration and greater financial autonomy, so that the transformation and advent of the Africa we want by 2063 can take place from its territories.**
A.6 DECLARATION BY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS TO AFRICITIES 8

We, Development Partners, applaud UCLG Africa's decision to focus Africities 8 on the role of local and regional authorities in responding to the many processes of transformation and interdependence facing African cities and territories. This theme is directly linked to Agenda 2063 for Africa, which focuses on the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years, Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the New Urban Agenda.

We reaffirm our conviction that local and regional governments are essential actors at the heart of the many transitions that are shaping the path to sustainable cities and territories in Africa. We also stress that the action of cities for cities will be decisive for the achievement of regional and global agendas, and that local and regional authorities should play a vital role in the implementation of these agendas. We recognize the progress in locating global agendas at the city level with the emergence of more gender-balanced and youth leadership. We recognize a continuous improvement in the capacity of elected and appointed leaders to plan and manage cities of all sizes across Africa, which is reflected in increased access to public services.

We recognize that the five transitions underlying the Summit theme are directly linked to the challenges facing African local and regional governments:

1. Growing inequalities within and between cities;
2. Unemployment and underemployment;
3. Informal and vulnerable employment, precariousness;
4. Difficulty in acting as a catalyst for structural transformations;
5. Lack of access to basic and social services in informal settlements and the informal economy;
6. Vulnerability to disasters and climate change. We note with deep concern the disproportionate impact of these challenges on women and girls. It is in this context that we reiterate the particular importance of the challenge of "Leave No One Behind".

We, development partners, while welcoming some improvements in the national enabling environment for cities, remain deeply concerned about the persistent lack of institutional clarity of roles, responsibilities and powers, exacerbated by the lack of trust between different levels of government and non-governmental actors. We are alarmed by the inadequate fiscal situation and limited financing options for local and regional governments, particularly in small and intermediate cities. We are also concerned about the slow pace of decentralization and the trends towards de facto recentralization in a number of countries. It is therefore imperative that national and international commitments to decentralization and devolution be implemented. We call on national governments to sign and ratify the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development.

We, development partners, underline the crucial role of partnerships between National and Local and Regional Governments, between Local and Regional Governments themselves, Civil Society and the Private Sector in successfully responding to the transitions described above and to the achievement of sustainable cities in Africa. We commit ourselves to support these partnerships in a coordinated and coherent manner in order to fulfill our global commitment to a sustainable future guided by the principle of "Leave No One Behind".
A.7 LAUNCH OF THE "AFRICAN CITIES WITHOUT CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS CAMPAIGN"

Royal Message read by Princess Lalla Meryem

Here is the full text of the Royal message: "Praise be to God alone, May prayer and blessing be upon the Prophet, His Family and His companions.

Honourable Ministers,

Mayors and Representatives of Local and Regional Governments,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We welcome the implementation of the "Campaign of African Cities without Children in Street Situations" and, in particular, the initiative that is the pilot version in Morocco: "Rabat City without children in the streets".

Of the 120 million street children in the world, more than 30 million survive in Our Continent. One in four street children is therefore African.

This figure is not only overwhelming, it also contradicts the ancestral values of our African societies, based on solidarity and the primacy of the family. Like other countries in Africa and around the world, Morocco unfortunately does not escape the challenge of homelessness among children. It is blindness not to see this challenge, it is lack of clarity to underestimate it.

Since Our advent on the Throne of Our glorious Ancestors, Our action has been based on the profound and firm conviction that no fatality can be invoked to justify resignation.

To accept - through denial, capitulation or indifference - the abandonment of children in our streets is to accept, on a daily basis, an affront to our own humanity. This attitude is unacceptable!

It is therefore not just a matter of sticking to the launching ceremony of the Campaign, nor of starting it without carrying it out. The aim is to give concrete expression to the effective, structured and sustainable commitment of cities to reduce child vulnerability within less than three years.

This is why, through this campaign, Our ambition is to mobilize the greatest number of African cities and territories, so that tangible actions can be undertaken and a concrete national and continental dynamic can be set in motion.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The defence of the cause of children is the subject of a national consensus in Morocco. The State's action is complemented by the humanist and determined commitment of civil society. In partnership with "United Cities and Local Governments of Africa", and with the support of UNICEF, the National Observatory for the Rights of the Child is committed, today, to support
this large-scale action. An expert and monitoring committee will institutionalize these commitments, monitor actions undertaken in African cities and improve intervention tools for children. The mobilization of all national stakeholders has already led to far-reaching legal, institutional, economic and social reforms. Examples include the adoption of an integrated child protection policy in Morocco and a 10-year framework for action, as well as initiatives such as the Indimaj programme to eradicate the phenomenon of children living or working on the streets.

Child protection units or the social SAMU provide emergency assistance, while second-chance schools or vocational training are appropriate and sustainable solutions.

However, despite all the commendable progress made, much remains to be done. The protection of children does not stop at attacks on their physical, moral and psychological integrity; it implies the creation of conditions for economic, social and cultural development. Protecting children means not only removing them from fear, but also protecting them from need and providing them with the conditions for absolute respect.

The challenge is equal to the challenge: dignity, peace, poverty reduction, hunger eradication, health promotion, quality education for all, gender equality, access to safe drinking water and sanitation are important imperatives related to child protection.

They are also priorities and objectives at the heart of Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, which represents a real catalyst for international cooperation.

It is up to all of us Africans to use the global partnership around this Agenda to move forward on the path to sustainable development and the development of people, especially children.

In reality, this challenge is within our reach; it requires awareness, a coherent and inclusive approach to action, as well as the immediate and effective mobilization of elected and responsible officials to ensure that the rights of every child are guaranteed.

Children’s place is in schools, not on the streets. We reaffirm that the education of children is an absolute priority, because it is also the starting point for their protection. Education must be at the heart of everything we do. Its multiplier effect is undeniable, its realization is unavoidable. It is our main challenge and our greatest opportunity.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my speech to the 29th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa, I stressed the need to put in place “a proactive youth-oriented policy that will channel energy for the continent’s development”. This policy is now more necessary than ever, and the protection of African children should be one of its main focuses.

We should then work together to overcome the abandonment of children in our African cities, which is all too common.
The daily life of a child left to his own devices in the streets of cities is like a journey full of pitfalls, during which his survival is at every moment in question.

Left to poverty and injustice, the child is a prey. He is often uprooted from his family home and exploited; he is a victim of abuse, drugs, and the risk of youth migration.

This means that African cities and urban communities on the continent must be at the forefront of the fight against the phenomenon of “Street Children”.

Today, at the end of this Africities summit and faced with a problem for which many have given up, you, city leaders, mayors, elected officials and governors, will have to put at the heart of decentralization the issues of children in general, and those of street children in particular, through your mobilization.

Through this commitment, we encourage a change of perspective: re-establishing direct contacts with the field to find concrete and tangible solutions.

Indeed, too often the problem of children is confined to projects or entities considered secondary. It must concern us all, be our common responsibility and become everyone's priority.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The future of our cities and nations depends on what we offer today to our children. And our children in precarious situations are not invisible, they are present and they are also the Future.

The protection of children is everyone’s business and its protection systems must be strengthened. We are pleased that, like Morocco, most of the African sister countries have embarked on this path.

We can increase our national capacity tenfold, by joining forces at the regional and continental levels. This is the purpose of this pan-African campaign "For African cities without street children", which aims to place childhood at the heart of the continent's urban policies. Without the protection of African children, Africa will not be able to meet the challenge of its emergence. Without enhanced protection for future generations, Africa will not be able to benefit from its demographic dividend. It is time for action. It is up to us to make African cities truly worthy of their children.
A.8 MARRAKESH DECLARATION OF THE LOCAL AND SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICA CONCERNING THE URGENCY OF A TERRITORIAL CLIMATE ACTION

We local and regional elected representatives of Africa, gathered this Thursday, November 22, 2018 in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco, within the framework of the First edition of the Climate Day during the Eighth edition of the Africities Summit organized in preparation for the United Nations Climate Conference COP24 to be held from December 03 to December 14, 2018 in Katowice, Republic of Poland.

Aware of the alert renewed by the international scientific community and concerned by the urgency highlighted again in the IPCC report of October 08, 2018 concerning the effects of global warming of 1.5 degrees compared to the pre-industrial era;

Noting that this IPCC report has emphasized the need for an extremely fast and ambitious transitions, especially in the areas of energy, transport, construction and agriculture to avoid exceeding 1.5 degrees of anthropogenic global warming, and that in order to achieve this goal the world must achieve carbon neutrality by 2050;

Noting that the reality of the current commitments made by the States Parties to the UNFCCC in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) does not make it possible to fit within a trajectory that is compatible with an increase in temperatures below 1.5 degrees Celsius or 2 degrees Celsius by 2100, which are the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate, but that, on the contrary, current trajectories direct us towards a warming around 3 degrees, with catastrophic consequences for Humanity, with a particularly devastating and even existential impact for African societies;

Recalling the need to learn from the limitations of the Kyoto Protocol and in particular the fact that local and subnational communities and governments were not included as participatory stakeholders, which significantly delayed the global establishment of a virtuous moment in terms of local mobilization, which is nonetheless necessary and efficient;

Emphasizing the fact that the bulk of the global climate policy decisions are made and applied at the territorial level, making local authorities and actors the driving force in the overall transformation towards a green economy, sustainable development and a climate- resilient and environment-friendly human civilization;

Recalling the recent commitments and declarations of local and regional elected representatives in favor of the Climate, including, among others: the Declaration of the Summit of Cities and Regions of Africa in Yamoussoukro, Côte d’Ivoire (June 2015) ; the Declaration of the World Climate Summit and Territories in Lyon, France (July 2015) ; the Declaration of Local and Regional Elected Officials for Climate’s Summit in Paris, France (December 2015) ; the Declaration of local and Regional Elected Officials of Africa adopted during the Preparatory Forum for COP 22 held in Cotonou, Benin ( September 2016) ; the Road Map for the Action of the Cities and Regions of the World for Climate adopted at COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco (November 2016) ; the Declaration of Elected Officials of Local and Regional Africa adopted at the Summit Climate Chance held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire (June 2018) ; and the Declaration of Action World Summit on Climate adopted in San Francisco, USA (July 2018);

Declare the following:

1. We share the warning of the United Nations Secretary-General who warns us that we have two years left to act before the climate trajectory becomes irreversible. We therefore stress the urgency of translating “The Marrakech Partnership for Action for Climate” adopted at COP 22,
into an operational mechanism to integrate cities and territories into the process of implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change;

2. We pledge to participate in the ambition to limit the increase of the temperature of the planet by the end of the century to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to the temperature level of the preindustrial era, notably by implementing the Locally Determined Contributions (LDC), extending and complementing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);

3. We encourage all cities and territories of Africa to join the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) and in the Mediterranean countries, in order to initiate the territorial action relating to climate and energy, the establishment of action plans of access to sustainable energy, as well as advocacy actions for multi-level governance to address the climate challenges facing the African continent;

4. We call for the strengthening of the UCLG Africa Climate Task Force to support African local and subnational governments more effectively in the definition of concrete and multi-year action plans for the implementation of Territorial Climate projects;

5. To this end, we adopt the Work Program of the UCLG Africa Task Force, entitled “Climate Cities and Communities Readiness Program for the Territorialization of NDCs”, and strongly recommend its financing;

6. We pledge to develop and engage in South-South and North-South-South decentralized cooperation partnerships around the NDCs and LDCs agenda;

7. We ask the UCLG Africa Climate Task Force to organize every year starting in 2019, a structured dialogue between the National Governments, the Local and Subnational Governments, and the various initiatives put in place at regional and international level, with a view to strengthening the implementation and monitoring framework for the territorialization of NDCs;

8. We encourage public and private actors involved in climate finance, and specifically the Green Climate Fund, to direct significant financial flows to local and subnational governments. To this end, we ardently hope to see implemented the capacity building and technical assistance dimension of the “Readiness” program presented by UCLG Africa, with a view to supporting cities and local authorities to prepare and submit funding applications eligible for the Green Climate Fund and the other instruments of Climate finance.

Marrakesh, November 22, 2018
A. 9 CHARTER OF LOCAL AND SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICA ON MIGRATION

We, Local and Subnational Governments of Africa gathered on the occasion of the 8th edition of the Africities Summit held in Marrakech, Morocco, from November 20 to November 24, 2018:

**Based** on the various international treaties guaranteeing the rights to persons in a situation of travel or migration, hereinafter referred to as migrants;

**Recognizing** that migration and the displacement of populations are historical and global phenomena that affect the entire planet, including Africa, where nearly 50 million people are considered as migrant or displaced;

**Stressing** the important role played by migration and displacements in the development of human societies in general, and of African societies in particular;

**Recalling** that the vast majority of migratory flows and population displacements in Africa occur within the continent; and that migrant populations often leave a local or subnational government to settle temporarily or permanently within another local or subnational government in Africa or outside Africa;

**Aware** of the fact that actions aimed at providing sustainable responses to the root causes of migration are generally the same as those aimed at developing initiatives that meet the needs of local populations, and should be anchored in the development of territories and be in line with the dynamics of regional integration;

**Adopt the Charter of local and subnational governments in Africa on Migration which states that any local and subnational government that adheres to the Charter,**

A) **Pledges to:**

1) Enforce the rights of migrants in its locality, to facilitate their peaceful integration into hosting communities, and to promote cohesion and conviviality between the hosting communities and the migrant populations;

2) draw the attention of National Governments to the fact that it is the right to come and go that stabilizes migratory flows, and therefore ask all National Governments to facilitate the provision of legal entry and circulation visas to migrant populations in order to dry up the source of illegal and irregular migrations;

3) help migrant populations in danger in the name of solidarity and fraternity due to all human beings without distinction;

4) support and promote the formation of associations of migrant population in its locality, with a view to facilitating dialogue and cooperation on migration issues with the local communities of origin and the communities of residence of migrant populations both in Africa and outside Africa;

5) Put the migrant populations in the spotlight during the celebration of the Africa Day on May 25th of each year, and of the International Migration Day on December 18th. These celebrations must, among other things, offer the opportunity for cultural, artistic or gastronomic exchanges between the migrant populations and the populations of the hosting communities;
6) cooperate with the local and subnational governments that welcome migrants from its locality both in Africa and outside Africa, in order to establish mutually beneficial links with the Diaspora, and to involve them in the efforts of growth and sustainable human development of their communities of origin;

7) join the African and global network of welcoming cities and territories, whose goals are to promote local policies that respect the principle of hospitality, the sharing of best practices in this area, the support of voluntary territories, and the partnership with all the associative actors engaged in supporting migrant populations;

8) Contribute to popularize the campaign of ratification to the Charter of Local Governments of Africa on Migration, with the aim to have at least 5,000 additional African communities ratify the Charter by 2021.

B) Opposes firmly and unequivocally:

9) All forms of xenophobic violence and discrimination against migrants both on the Africa continent and in other regions. In this regard, any public official or citizen who makes racist or xenophobic statements against migrants or who is involved in smuggling and in human trafficking must immediately be brought before the competent authorities;

10) local, national or international policies that criminalize migration and criminalize the provision of assistance to migrant populations as, contrary to international humanitarian law;

11) The construction on its territory of detention camps to accommodate African migrant populations expelled from other parts of the world;

12) the treatment of the issue of migration and displaced populations from the sole security-based perspective, ignoring the benefits of migration for the dissemination of knowledge and technologies, its contribution to the support of the populations and to local development in the communities of origin, its invaluable role in promoting diversity and bringing people together, as well as developing mutual understanding in the hosting communities, and contributing to the creation of an atmosphere conducive to peace and harmony in the world;

13) the development assistance policies which condition the benefit of aid programs on the implementation of the return and readmission on their territory of the migrant populations expelled from other parts of the world;

14) The cooperation programs intended to tackle the root causes of migration not taking due account of the central role of local and subnational governments in their definition, and without the effective participation of these governments in their implementation.

Done at Marrakech on November 21, 2018

The Participants
A.10 AFRICA-EUROPE MARRAKESH PACT FOR LOCAL EQUALITY

Preamble

UCLG Africa, the Network for Locally Elected Women of Africa (REFELA), CEMR and PLATFORMA, in cooperation with UCLG, recall the central role of local and regional governments in promoting gender equality, reaffirmed by the Beijing Platform for Action and the IULA (International Union of Local Authorities) Worldwide Declaration on “Women in Local Governments” (1998).

Reaffirming that gender equality is not only a priority objective of our organizations, but a categorical imperative with regard to the potential and the increasingly evident role of women leaders from all continents, and in particular Africa, within the dynamic of a response to global challenges as well as global governance; and that the following international frameworks and commitments have inspired our approach:

i. The Paris Agenda adopted by UCLG in 2013;
ii. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably SDG 5;
iii. The African Union 2063 Agenda;
iv. The Declaration of the Africa-Europe Local and Regional Governments Forum of Abidjan (2017);
v. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
vii. The European Charter for the Equality of Women and Men in Local Life;
viii. The New Urban Agenda;

Wishing to deepen the exchanges of cooperation among our organizations through concrete actions, the cooperation between local and regional governments of Africa and Europe in favour of gender equality should be:

1. Respectful of the values and principles of the Paris Agenda, adopted by UCLG in 2013, in line with the work carried out to define an "All-UCLG Gender Equality Strategy", rekindled by the World Organization in 2018;
2. A democratic, participatory and egalitarian vision, notably implying the equal representation and influence of women and men;
3. Aware of the common local and global challenges to overcome;
4. Accommodating of cultural and contextual differences.

We commit to:

1. Launch a process to develop an African Charter for Gender Equality in Cities and Local Governments, promoted by UCLG Africa/REFELA with the support of CEMR/PLATFORMA and UCLG, in line with the All-UCLG Gender Equality Strategy;
2. Contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and SDG 5, notably through the African Charter for Gender Equality, which will build on the principles contained in the New Urban Agenda, aiming at strong local governments and delivering inclusive basic services and sustainable societies;

3. Establish a drafting committee dedicated to the development of an African Charter for Gender Equality in Cities and Local Governments, and organize meetings between local and regional elected representatives, members of Standing Committees on Gender Equality from the African and European sections, as well as with other sections and/or UCLG’s Standing Committee on Gender Equality, if deemed necessary;

4. Encourage the cities and local governments that are signatories of the European Charter for Equality, and African cities committed to equality in their territories, to cooperate and exchange their experiences, not only among themselves, but also with other cities or local government members of UCLG;

5. Capitalize, with the support of the UCLG World Secretariat, on the progress made within the framework of this cooperation, to facilitate and promote the establishment and implementation of similar initiatives related to the empowerment of women and girls in other sections of UCLG.

We ask for the support of the European Union, in particular the European Commission’s Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), to build further on the basis of the actions led and to be led by UCLG Africa, REFELA, CEMR and PLATFORMA, with the support of the World Organization, and in close collaboration with its World Secretariat, to achieve the universal and mandatory goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 5. Concretely, to finance a programme for the development and promotion of an African Charter for Equality, as well as the establishment of tools and instruments adapted to the context and needs of the region, allowing the follow up of its implementation, the evaluation of its impacts, and the facilitation of exchanges between cities and local governments in Africa and Europe committed to equality policies.

Finally, we call on local and regional governments in Africa and Europe to publicly proclaim their commitment to gender equality and to integrate the gender dimension in all relevant policies and actions in their respective areas of responsibility.
SYNTHESIS OF SESSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The synthesis of the sessions is prepared by the Africities 8 Strategic Support Group for the Assembly of Mayors; the Ministers’ Meeting and the Development Partners’ Meeting
THE TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND TERRITORIES
THE ROLE OF AFRICAN LOCAL AND SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

B.1 Summary of sessions and recommendations

The general theme for the Summit is "The transition to sustainable cities and territories, the role of African local and regional authorities". This theme reconciles the need to provide concrete responses to the demands of the populations for the improvement of their conditions and living environment, with the need to adapt to an environment marked by climate change and the growing divorce between expansive growth models and the impossibility of continuing to borrow from natural resources at the rate that such models do impose, under threat of jeopardizing the lives of future generations. Africa will become the world's largest home to humans in just less than two generations. The continent can and must take the path of sustainable development now, especially in its cities and territories, because it is the region of the world that is the least entrenched in the globalized economy, and therefore most likely to branch off to a more sober economy in terms of borrowing and discharges into the natural environment, an economy that is fairer and more socially inclusive.

The African Union’s Agenda 2063, which develops a vision of Africa, suggests that the transition to sustainable cities and territories is not an option but a compelling obligation, if Africa wants to be able to effectively achieve the universal Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and the structural transformation of its economy and societies. It is in this way that cities and territories will contribute to integration, unity and peace within the African continent.

By bringing together 3,000 representatives from cities and territories out of a total of 16,500 local and subnational governments in Africa, the Africities Summit 2018 in Marrakesh asserts itself as the most important democratic gathering in Africa.

The general theme of the Summit was addressed through 161 sessions and events distributed in:

Political sessions;
Thematic sessions on transition;
Sessions on local strategies and policies;
Sessions on actors and local coalitions;
Open sessions proposed by local governments, institutions, associations, economic actors and;
Special events.

Each session has contributed to a more in-depth treatment of the overall theme and offered recommendations.

The summary of the sessions and recommendations is organized through eleven themes:

1. The demographic transition;
2. Women's rights;
3. Youth;
4. Migration;
5. The ecological and climate transition;
6. The political and democratic transition;
7. The economic and social transition;
8. The cultural and communicational transition;
9. The strategies and local policies;
10. The actors and local coalitions;
11. Innovative practices.

All session reports and recommendations are posted on the Africities 8 website as they are transmitted by the operators.

B.2 Demographic transition

In the transition to sustainable cities and territories, the issue of demographic transition is one of the major challenges. It translates into Africa's increasing share of the world's population, the rapid urbanization of the continent, through generational changes and through a decisive shift in the place of women in the political and social arena. These are at the same time undeniable facts and fundamental changes within Africa and within the world.

Africa had 1.2 billion inhabitants in 2015 (16 per cent of the world population) and 640 million inhabitants in 1990. Mainly rural until today, its population will become predominantly urban 30 years from now. The continent now has 80 cities of more than 1 million inhabitants, compared with only two in the early 1960s, and five cities exceed 8 millions.

Urbanization is not limited to large cities, as 70% of Africa's urban population lives in intermediate cities and small towns. The first challenge of the demographic transition for cities and territories in transition is therefore that of hosting, within the next twenty or thirty years, 300 million new urban inhabitants. It will be necessary to build as much infrastructure as has been built until today. But Africa's urbanization is also a paradigm shift that offers to cities and territories unprecedented opportunities to harness the potential of the urban economies allowing for economies of scale and the pooling of services.

The Africities 2018 sessions have made it possible to take stock of this demographic fact and of its effects that engage the continent in an urban, societal, economic and political transition, and to discuss the issues that arise for local authorities. African local governments will have to operate large cities and even cities having more than one million inhabitants. The need to organize these cities is a condition for their proper functioning. Many community leaders will have to change the way they administer and relate to their constituents. They must prepare themselves and adapt their practice, which very often already integrates the urban reality. The urbanization of Africa is already at work. Learning from this urban management is an effective preparation for the changes envisioned.

For the cities and territories in transition, the first challenges are those of the reform of urban and territorial planning as a response to urbanization, a task of primary importance and a very urgent one, as well as the challenges related to upheavals that will result from the demographic transition, with the impossibility today of considering cities and rural spaces as two distinct territories, hence the need to invent a common land management. For cities and territories where the substandard housing accentuates the exclusions and the segregations, the emergence of organizations of city-dwellers in general and of urban poor in particular is also the occasion to adopt new technical approaches, since these organizations are able to collect data that usually are absent in urban studies, and especially political approaches with the development of planning based on the confrontation of the stakeholders in the definition of the city to be produced.
Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following recommendations are selected:

**To mayors and territorial elected officials:**

1. Accept the change in the scale of their role, that of administering large or even very large cities while until that time their cities were relatively small. They will also have to represent many more people and to preserve the direct contact between the municipalities and the city dwellers and the local democracy.

2. To insure the functioning of their city by relying on an organization of their territory describing the prospects of development and equipment of the parts of this territory, after having discussed it with the populations.

3. To develop new tools to be used in urban management, that are likely to be shaped by the municipal services.

4. Take a position on the integration of informal land use areas to be developed or redeveloped.

5. To empower people to manage their neighborhoods according to the principles of sustainable cities and enter into public agreements with communities in the greater democratic transparency.

**To Ministers:**

1. Ensure that the rural exodus is limited, that the countryside is valued and that the birth rate is regulated in order to maintain a certain intergenerational balance,

2. To make a political as well as a legislative position concerning the incorporation of customary or popular land practices into the common law area of the city.

**To Partners and International Institutions:**

1. To financially support African local authorities in the urban transition generated by the demographic transition,

2. Carefully monitor the experiments, support the municipal services, ensure the financing of the communal facilities considered as priorities,

3. Establish broad inter-municipal cooperation throughout the world and first of all inter-African municipal cooperation.

4. Play the game of local subnational governments in their experimentation work.

**B.3 Women's rights**

The emergence of women into the African political scene is causing a major upheaval in the debate on the development of the continent. It is a central issue for the transition to sustainable cities and territories. The involvement of women is crucial for the implementation of public policies and strategies at the territorial, national, regional, continental and global levels.

Since the Africities 5 summit held in Marrakech in December 2009, great progress has been made in the inclusion of women in African local governments. In March 2011, the Network of Local Women Elected in Africa (REFELA) was created, which now stands as the legitimate voice of territorially elected women of the African continent and which translates the action of the continental network in each country. The Network has renewed its governing bodies on the
This recognition is the result of years of struggle, of mobilization and of demands made by women's associations, including within the local and subnational governments movement.

These issues of women's rights and of their place in the political and social field have been present through the entire Africities 8 summit and in all the themes of the transition to sustainable cities and territories. These issues were discussed in sessions on the demographic transition in Africa and its implications for urban planning, cultural and communication transition, women's leadership at the grassroots level, migration, ecological transition, access to basic services, political and democratic transition, inclusive cities, human capital, and other issues.

For cities and territories in transition, the first issue is equal rights and an inclusive city that ensures that no one, especially women and girls, is left behind. This issue is particularly evident in the question of safe and secure living spaces in the public space and the fight against violence against women and girls. It is also about the reception of refugee women in African cities, while Africa shelters more refugees than any other region of the world. Women's economic empowerment, better recognition of their work and creativity are also challenges for sustainable and inclusive development.

To answer these questions, the REFELA network initiated three continental campaigns at the Africities 8 summit: a campaign for "zero-tolerance cities for violence against women", a campaign for "African Cities for Economic Empowerment of Women" and a campaign for "African Cities without Street Children", whose official launch was presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Meryem.

For cities and territories in transition, the issue is also the role of women in the governance of local communities, with the demand that they be better represented in the central government structures and those of local governments. There is also the need to articulate representative democracy and innovative participatory democracy, so that women and their organizations participate in the definition and implementation of all local development policies.

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following recommendations are selected:

To mayors and territorial elected officials:

1. Collect localized data so as to know the needs of women and girls for inclusion in planning and decision making in cities and territorial management and development • Creation of a global network of locally elected women for enhanced co-operation among African countries, and among women to enable them to be strong in order to ensure transformation at the local level
2. Design and implement an African cities and territories green campaign on sustainable solutions so as to guarantee a sustainable future for women and girls
3. To ensure equality at all levels of local governance in conformity to the commitments made by signatory countries on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform of Action
4. Guarantee gender integration in city planning and budgeting processes so as to identify existing gender inequalities in cities and territories

To Ministers:
1. Facilitate capacity development of human resource in cities and territories for effective service delivery to all citizens including women and girls
2. Promote good governance in order to have direct universal suffrage of locally elected officials including women
3. Establish legal frameworks that promote gender sensitive and participatory local governance through gender mainstreaming in local planning and budgeting processes
4. Have participatory monitoring tools to measure how gender perspective is integrated in city and territorial development programmes

To Partners and International Institutions:

1. Locally women’s participation in the attainment of to mobilise technical and financial resources for gender mainstreaming
2. Facilitate the design and implementation of sustainable development programmes that promote Sustainable Development Goal 11.

B.4 Youth

In the transition to sustainable cities and territories, the issue of youth, as one of the main components of the demographic transition, is a central issue. The African population is indeed the youngest in the world. In 2050, one-third of the world's youth will live in Africa, which will have 1 billion young people under 18 and 450 million people aged 15-24, compared with 230 million in 2015. This is a huge challenge for the continent, but also for local governments and the territories, a responsibility and an opportunity.

The first challenge, of course, is employment, with 10 to 12 million young people entering the labor market each year and 60 per cent of the continent's unemployed who are now young people. This youth population growth can be a strength, with a considerable increase in the productive population. But it is also a major risk if communities and territories are not able to offer a decent job to young people. The "Decade of Youth" proclaimed by the African Union in 2009, expires in 2018 without significant progress being observed on this front of employment. It is not surprising that many young people lose hope for their future and seek better living conditions through migration, in and out of the continent, sometimes risking their lives.

The Africities 2018 sessions recalled that micro- and small enterprises, and the informal economy in general, play a central role in these job creations and in the employability of young people. However, they face multiple constraints, including the lack of resources and the difficulty in accessing funding. However, through youth, Africa is making rapid progress in the field of new technologies and is becoming a land of innovation in the field of applications of mobile technologies. The adoption by communities and territories of a transition path towards more sustainable development offers prospects for the development of these new technologies, which can represent an important source of new jobs for young Africans.

Capitalizing on the demographic dividend naturally requires investing heavily in youth, education and vocational training to ensure universal and inclusive access to quality education for all children, especially girls. The issues of gender equality and of girls' rights, and of safe and secure living spaces for young people and girls, are challenges for African communities and territories in transition and for youth themselves.
For cities and territories, the challenges and opportunities for youth growth are also cultural (with the emergence of an urban popular culture of which young people are the initiators and the bearers) and democratic. Youth growth requires indeed a new approach to the governance of territories that should give more space to young people and to their initiatives, while the presence of this segment of the population is now very weak in the local governance and administration structures. The challenge is naturally to include young people in traditional structures of governance, but also to articulate representative democracy and innovative participatory democracy, for example through youth councils, so that young people and their organizations have a voice on the issues of local development, education or employment. Young people must be recognized as key players in change and transition.

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following has been selected:

[before recommendations of the Youth Forum]

To Mayors And Territorial Elected Officials:

1. Recognize youth as key actors of change and transition, and include them in decision-making processes.
2. Bring institutional authorities closer to young people and their organizations, to ensure that young people, especially young women, participate in shaping cities, from design to implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.
3. Encourage the establishment of Community Centers for young people and promote youth councils in all territories.
4. Create a youth forum within UCLG Africa.

To Ministers:

1. Invest in human capital through the setting up of skills training centers on the careers of the future for the benefit of young people.
2. Promote employment opportunities by implementing innovation funds and support to entrepreneurship for young people.
3. Create platforms and tools for young people to help them integrate within the labor market.

To Partners and International Institutions:

1. Finance, alongside national Governments, scientific and cultural exchanges between Africa and other continents, and facilitate the international mobility of young people.

B.5 Migration
The question of migration dominates the international agenda today. It has become clearly a fundamental theme of inter-African relations, a determinant of the internal political balance of
most countries and of the evolution of the population of the planet. But migration is not just a phenomenon that is part of the relations between national governments, and African local authorities are at the forefront of these disruptions of migration patterns. Growing inequalities, climate change, and armed conflicts or political crises are leading to more and more displacement of people from rural areas to urban areas, from poor regions to rich regions, from the interior of the continent to urban areas to coastal areas, feeding an uninterrupted flow of migration within countries, between African countries, or to other regions of the world.

Nearly one worker out of four is a migrant and lives in conditions of profound vulnerability: exclusion, discrimination, extreme exploitation, etc. Migrations connect demographic movements related to urbanization and globalization.

The issue of migration has been present in the Africities 8 debates on the transition to sustainable cities and territories around four strategic questions: what is the relationship between the displacement of populations (suffered or intended), development and distribution of wealth between countries and between territories? How to enforce and guarantee the fundamental rights of migrants, of migrant workers, and of their families? While inter-African migration has largely contributed to the prosperity of many African countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon or South Africa, how can we today deal with political excesses based on the exacerbation of identity, the rejection of "aliens", and xenophobia? How to make migration an asset for local and subnational governments? The Africities 8 summit also discussed the position of African local and subnational governments in the debates that will take place around the adoption of a Global Compact on Migration at the United Nations Conference on Migration to be held in December 2018 in Marrakech. The Charter on Migrants that mayors and leaders of local and regional governments in Africa adopted at the Africities Summit 7 held in Johannesburg in December 2015, will be updated and completed at the end of the Africities Summit 2018.

Cities and territories in transition need to address the three migrant populations: those who leave the territorial community, those who settle there temporarily, during their migratory journey, and those who settle there for good. Fundamental rights must be at the basis of all migration policies, ensuring the complementarity between the right of all to live and work in one's territory and the right to move and settle freely. The migratory issue is therefore primarily that of reception of migrants and of inclusive cities - including for the migrants, both male and female. It will be proposed to the assembly of mayors of Africities the establishment of an "African Network of Local Authorities, signatories of the Charter on Migrants, open to the reception of migrants."

For the cities and territories in transition, the migration issue also includes the necessary mobilization of migrants and of the African Diaspora for the sustainable development of local and subnational governments. With a Diaspora of nearly 350 million members worldwide, this potential is huge. It naturally concerns remittances, which now exceed the amount of official development assistance and productive investment, but also the potential for innovation, transfer of skills and technology for a successful transition.

Finally, because they are directly confronted with issues of migration, cities and territories in transition and their elected officials are expected to play a role in international negotiations between African States and the international community on migration.

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following has been selected:
To Mayors and Territorial Elected Officials

2. Identify city and municipal engagement in the context of comprehensive refugee and migrant responses by expanding access to work permits, housing, healthcare, and financial services for them within their jurisdiction.
3. Promote cultural diversity during the African Day on 25 May and the International Migrants Day on 18 December.
4. Exchange views with the other mayors of the continent and abroad on best practices on migration.
   • Include the Diaspora in the definition and implementation of local policies and strategies.

To Ministers:

1. Recognize the important role of local authorities and city networks have in protecting and assisting refugees and other displaced populations in urban areas.
2. Collaborate with city leaders in developing and implementing refugee and migration-related policy.
3. Allocate refugee and migration related resources and powers at local level.
4. Promote the freedom of movement.
5. Support the proposal discussed in the Africa Union on free movement.

To Partners and International Institutions

1. Support and funding for migration programs within local governments.
2. Recognize the role of Local authorities on implementing.

To UCLG Africa:

1. Support local government in the implementation of the Local Government Charter on migration.
2. Help local government to develop local policies related to migration.
3. Engage the advocacy campaign on “No visa for (in) Africa”.

To all

1. Involve migrants, Diaspora and their organizations in all spaces of discussion, exchange and action of local authorities on migration and development issues.
B.6 Ecological transition and climate change

The ecological transition has imposed in the debate on the transition to sustainable cities and territories with the realization that, for the first time in the history of Humanity, the organization of the system of production and dominant consumption has come into conflict with the global ecosystem. This awareness has the effect of calling into question more and more certainties about growth, productivism, extractivism, and the dominant development model.

The debate on ecological transition and climate change has recently intensified. It focuses as much on the need for industrialization as on the nature and forms of this industrialization. This debate will have profound consequences on public policies as well as on the behavior of citizens with regard to modes of production and consumption. The choices that will be made in this area will have a major impact on the organization and functioning of cities and territories, including Africa.

UCLG Africa, in collaboration with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), has been at the forefront of working with African local governments to realize the global commitment to limit the rise in global warming to a maximum 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2100. At COP22, held in Marrakech in 2016, UCLG Africa urged leaders of African cities to join the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, where they are committed to adopting "climate plans" for their territories.

These issues occupied a place of choice in the Africities 2018 Summit. The discussions focused on the different strategies for promoting ecological transition and the fight against climate change, as well as its consequences and the different implications of ecological transition for cities and territories: sustainable food and agriculture, access to water and energy production, waste management, mobility and transport, natural resource management, health and population, climate finance, planning of cities and the use of soils, commercial systems and their more or less inclusive nature, the management of urban green spaces, and other issues. Concerning these different subjects, the choices made by African cities and territories will be of crucial importance for the future of Africa and of the world.

Cities and territories in transition have no choice but to take the path of ecological transition. This trajectory is all the more necessary as Africa needs to learn from the experiences of industrialized and emerging countries in terms of unsustainable growth in ecological and social terms.

For cities and territories, the need to incorporate their actions into ecological transition strategies implies a re-examination of the priorities of local development policies and their redefinition in the light of the principles and practices of climate change mitigation.

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following has been selected:

**To Mayors And Territorial Elected Officials:**

1. Promoting efficient waste management (solid and liquid) and better environmental health for inhabitants through integration of natural environmental and climate issues into the planning of cities, towns and villages.
2. Protecting the biodiversity surrounding cities in order to avoid damage and irreversible collapse of natural systems.
3. Ensuring efficient, safe and sustainable transport less polluting in African territories: Building consensus among stakeholders on the needs of the transport sector to achieve the goals of Paris Climate Change Agreement
4. Promoting environmental health in African metropolises through pollution control, developing pollution observation systems and applying a regulatory regime to manage pollution or air quality.
5. Promote soil preservation, sustainable agriculture and food security
6. Setting up early warning system to respond to climate change issues.
7. Improving the dissemination of climate finance information available to non-state actors Improve the partnership framework between state actors and non-state actors (legal, financial, etc.) recommending urgent action by all

To Ministers:
1. Promoting better access for local governments in Africa to renewable energy and climate issues through raising awareness, and giving the territories the pivotal role of strategic planning, implementation, monitoring thinking on climate issues, as a place for collective awareness, mobilization and creative action
2. Adoption of Policy on Carbon Pricing and air pollution.
3. Establishing financing mechanisms for the ecological transition in Africa.
4. Preserving forest and biodiversity in the face of urban sprawl in Africa.
5. Adopt national regulations on waste management.

To Partners and International Institutions:
1. Promoting South / South cooperation in the management of ecological transition and climate change issues through exchanges of experts and good practices.
2. Capacity building for city agents in the fields of transport, waste management, climate change.
3. Improving the dissemination of climate finance information available to non-state actors Improve the partnership framework between state actors and non-state actors (legal, financial, etc.) recommending urgent action by all
4. Mapping areas at risk of flooding

B.7 Political and democratic transition
In the transition to sustainable cities and territories, the democratic and political transition is at the crossroads of all transitions. It is part of a context of weakening central governments, increasing conflicts of cultural, political and military domination, and a form of exhaustion of representative democracy. Promoting political unity and sovereignty in the context of the construction of the nation-state, while respecting the diversity of local contexts, also questions the forms and levels of regulation and representation. Demands are being expressed in an increasingly pressing manner for the establishment of political systems that guarantee individual and collective freedoms and respect for fundamental rights, while respecting the diversity of societies. On the other hand, the hope that local and regional governments will contribute to the renewal of African political elites does not come true.
For local and regional authorities in Africa, the democratic challenge is considerable: elected officials and local representation systems are not immune from the mistrust and rejection that is spreading towards politicians. This mistrust is based on the rejection of corruption and on the inadequacy of representativeness to finally challenge the system of representative democracy as a whole.

The Africities 2018 sessions have therefore analyzed the causes of this democratic crisis and representativeness. They have been interested in the many innovative experiences that try to respond to the crisis by paying greater attention to the expectations, needs and equal rights of the population and through greater participation of citizens, young people and women in decision making and in the implementation of local policies.

For the cities and territories in transition, the first challenge of the political and democratic transition is therefore that of the mobilization and engagement of citizens in local life, through a new articulation between representative democracy and innovative participatory democracy. The aim here is to promote dialogue and the involvement of citizens and local actors (residents' organizations, civil society, professional organizations, the media, traditional authorities, etc.) in the management of public affairs, but also to set up mechanisms for monitoring and controlling the actions of elected officials and of the administration. The example of the participatory budget, adopted by many African communities, is a promising innovation in this field.

For cities and territories, the challenges related to political and democratic transitions are also those of the place of young people and women in local governance and the nexus between renewal of institutions and renewal of elites. For cities and territories, the political and democratic transition also implies promoting systems that condemn corruption in all its forms and restore ethics and individual and collective effort as a means of access to social respectability.

Finally, it is a matter of institutional strengthening, human resources and efficiency, with local governance that must be based on a responsible, committed, competent, ethical, professional and professional public administration.

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following have been selected:

To Mayors and elected territorial officials:

1. To involve citizens and all stakeholders in decisions, to build public policies based on their concerns and expectations, and to recognize citizens' expertise to lead more effective policies. • To work through listening, dialogue and co-construction, to build trust with citizens and local actors.
2. To be transparent and focus on communicating policies and accepting the principle of accountability.
3. To build innovative and inclusive participatory democratic processes for women, youth, poor people, and people with disabilities.
4. Putting in place participatory budgeting.

To Ministers:
1. To move from administrative decentralization to political and financial decentralization.
2. Take into account the link intimate between security and development, for example with the cross-border planning schemes integrated in connection with local authorities, and technical and financial partners.
3. To strengthen the principle of subsidiarity in the various national laws.

B.8 Economic and social transition

In the transition to sustainable cities and territories, the issue of economic and social transition is also paramount. In a world where the dominant regulation remains that of the financial markets, the consequences of the crisis of 2008 raise the question of the possible exhaustion of the dominant economic model. Social inequalities, which over determine the issues of poverty, precariousness, discrimination and underlie urban segregation, are exploding in every society and around the world. The sequence of falling prices of raw materials, which puts some African economies in hardship, recalls that these economies often remain rentier-based (profit-based) and not diversified. At the same time, African entrepreneurs are showing great dynamism and the rise of the digital and biotechnology economy is disrupting the productive systems and the distribution of goods and services.

The very rapid urban transition in Africa is the first challenge of this economic and social transition. Africa is the least urbanized continent but also the one that is urbanizing the fastest. This is a challenge and a decisive opportunity as empirical studies show that urban expansion has the potential to promote growth and reduce poverty. At the same time, rising social demands for access to jobs and incomes are leading communities to look at how to promote and strengthen the economic fabric of their territory, labor markets, and job opportunities for young people. In this transition from rural economic structures to urban economies, local and regional authorities in Africa are destined to become key players in the economic and social transition.

The 2018 Africities sessions questioned, through the sharing of experiences and knowledge, how African local and subnational governments can engage in the ongoing transitions to create investment opportunities, productive and productive jobs, as well as sustainable and inclusive development. The participants in the sessions questioned the vulnerability of the natural, social and economic systems of their territory to climate change.

For cities and territories in transition, the question of the financial resources needed to fulfill their responsibilities remains a concern with regard to the needs of local populations and with regard to the responsibilities of local governments in terms of local development. This question comes in terms of the direct transfer of resources from the central government, of specific mechanisms and institutions for community financing, and of mobilization of local resources.

For cities and territories, the challenges of economic and social transition are also related to the financialization of the city and to the need to regulate land and property markets for a better allocation of financial resources for sustainable development, with taxation measures to increase the efficiency of urban production which is more intense, less expensive and more inclusive.

Lastly, the challenges of training and support to local economic players from the financial, banking and institutional standpoints, the provision of basic services and infrastructures necessary for the competitiveness of economic activities, the development of the social and solidarity-based economy, and the promotion of an enabling institutional environment.
Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following have been selected:

**To Mayors and Territorial Elected Officials**

1. Make of programming and urban planning a tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of SDGs.
2. Conduct innovative taxation and financial policies to support more intense, less expensive, and more inclusive urban programming strategies.
3. Create an environment conducive to investment and innovation, and facilitate investments in innovative technologies.
4. Supervise and encourage the establishment of local activities and modernization of the informal market, redistribution of taxation and income. This transition of the economic model is a strategic one.
5. Ensure the participation of young people through skills training programs and access to employment.
6. Establish in each municipality a civic organization intended to support, guide and listen to citizens.
7. Establish municipal foundations to mobilize available land revenues and excess economic revenues to support the employment of marginalized workers and to address rising agricultural prices.

**To Ministers**

1. Transfer of financial resources in line with the skills and capacity of the institutions specialized financing to allow local communities to meet the needs of populations within their territory and their role as initiators, catalysts and engines of local economic development;
2. Ensure that clear legal frameworks allow the communities and territories to provide leadership on issues of local economic development.
3. Strengthen the capacity and skills of local management of resources, preparation of projects, and actors of local development.

**To International institutions and Partners**

1. Include local and regional Governments as well as their associations in international fora and dialogue for a on economic development.
2. Promote spaces of triangular cooperation and South-South cooperation to promote best practices and the sharing of experiences, in the respect of the local dynamics and realities.

**B.9 Cultural and communicational transition**

The cultural and communicational transition is, like the political and democratic transition, at the crossroads of transitions. It implies the adoption of new cultural, scientific or philosophical
references and often consists in a questioning of the certainties from which the interpretation of the world is based. The evolution of the philosophical, social, moral and religious systems of thoughts does influence the individual and collective behaviors within local and subnational governments. At the same time, cities are turned upside down by the scientific and technological revolutions. These disruptions will have an effect on the choice of technical solutions which, from previously being largely centralized, could become increasingly decentralized.

In Africa, the adoption of the globalized culture model is mainly done by the upper classes and middle classes of urban populations. Young people from poor neighborhoods, for whom this model remains inaccessible, are reinventing a new popular culture at the crossroads of tradition and modernism, which testifies to the innovative and creative capacity of this youth. This new popular culture forges the cultural identity of African cities through its musical, literary, visual and cinematographic arts or fashion, the dissemination of which is also based on new technologies. This cultural vibrancy comes from the capacity of the youth to absorb and regenerate the various influences to which it is subject since the colonial period and is also due to the acceleration of exchanges on the international scene. This cultural and communicational transition is also, through the use of new technologies and social networks, a citizens’ revolution.

The Africities 2018 sessions tackled this cultural and communicational transition through its challenges for the governance and management of cities and territories in transition. How can this transition support a new approach to citizenship and youth engagement? What contribution do cultural resources make to social, economic and environmental development? How, in Africa, can this cultural, technological and communication revolution serve the management of local and subnational governments and the transition to sustainable cities and territories? How to make of culture and arts tools of exchange, learning, cooperation and solidarity between territories, between countries, and between continents?

Culture contributes to the attractiveness and sustainability of cities and territories in transition. Local governments, because of their cultural expertise, have an important role to play in promoting this Africa of creation, in its richness and diversity and in its truly pan-African dimension.

For cities and territories in transition, the issue of access to localized socio-economic information is a challenge aiming at effectively guiding access policies to basic services, to transport, housing, and other services. In these areas, new technologies are likely to offer innovative solutions to local decision-makers to make local governments more inclusive.

For cities and territories, the issues related to the cultural and communication transition are also those of the mobilization of actors. Researchers and Universities can, in partnership with local communities, put scientific research, innovations and experiments at the service of territories and transition. Journalists and local media can contribute, for their part, to the emergence of new democratic and citizen practices.

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following have been selected:

To Mayors and Territorial Elected Officials:

1. Create an internal program devoted to “culture within sustainable development”.
2. Work with national authorities, UCLG and other stakeholders to develop appropriate work frameworks on the topic of “culture in sustainable cities.”
To Ministers:

1. Make of the cultural dimension of local development a national priority and integrate it in national strategies for the implementation of the SDGS by involving all the key players in its design and implementation.

2. The interaction between cultural development and the other dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic), by putting in place appropriate governance mechanisms within local governments and the necessary resources (transfer of funds, human resources and technical capabilities) in the cultural domain of sustainable development.

3. Sign the Agenda 21 for culture.

4. Capacity building and learning between peers in the field of culture and sustainable development. To the African Union:

5. Create a pan-African commission in charge of a to better integration of culture into Agenda 2063, particularly in its plan of action, and ensure that the proposed revisions will be presented to the African Union for ratification.

6. Encourage the transfer of knowledge and mutual learning between Member States, local authorities and civil society organizations working in the field of culture and sustainable development in Africa.

To UCLG Africa:

1. Work with associations of local governments, civil society networks and UCLG to put in place a peer learning program on 'culture in sustainable cities' in Africa and facilitate the transfer of knowledge and mutual learning between local governments and civil society associations.

2. Pay attention to cultural aspects in all of advocacy, monitoring and training activities related to the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063, and other sustainable development initiatives.

B.10 Local strategies and policies

African local and regional authorities will play a vital role in the transition to sustainable cities and territories. The definition and implementation of local strategies and policies is the primary issue facing African local authorities in their participation in Africities. These strategies and local policies must be defined by taking into account the upheavals induced by the transition to sustainable cities and territories. At their level, local authorities must articulate responses to the emergency and long term actions, included in an alternative project of social and urban transformation. The challenge for African communities is therefore to design policies that incorporate emergency responses into an alternative strategy for managing and planning human resources, financial resources, natural and ecological resources, land management, public utilities, and other issues. To arrive at a sustainable development trajectory, their approach must integrate the exploration of innovative practices.

All sessions of Africities 8 have, in one way or another, addressed the issue of strategies and local policies. A number of them have worked more directly on alternative and innovative territorial policies that must be explored around the five major projects that must be tackled by
local and subnational governments: 1) Feeding the city (or the territories): what local strategies for sustainable food and agriculture? 2) Building the city: what urban planning and programming strategies for transition at the local level, what strategies for localization and territorialization of the Sustainable Development Goals? 3) Providing basic services for all: what local strategies for access to water and sanitation, what strategies for access to waste management services, what strategies for access to water and sanitation? mobility and transport? 4) Maintaining the city, to ensure its proper functioning. 5) Administering and managing the city: what land management strategies and public spaces to promote equitable economic growth in cities, what strategies for mobilizing citizens to implement the transition, what strategies for gender equality and of inclusion?

These alternative territorial policies must provide answers to the strategic questions of land segregation, access for all to services, development and local employment, respect for local ecosystems and for the rights of future generations, of social housing, the right to housing and the right to the city, solidarity between communities within the same city, between cities and territories within the same country, local taxation, particularly land, and other issues. Throughout the summit, African local governments reaffirmed the importance of urban and territorial planning.

For cities and territories in transition, the success of transition strategies requires a multi-stakeholder and multi-level governance approach, respecting the principle of active subsidiarity. In order for these policies to have a lasting impact, local authorities must promote partnership between all actors. Above all, the strategy adopted must provide concrete solutions to citizens' problems while creating the conditions for setting up a long-term development momentum. To do this, the best way is still to involve the populations concerned.

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following recommendations are selected:

**To the Mayors and territorial elected representatives**

1. Taking stock of urban food security and agriculture policies, legal frameworks and programmes that cities and developing decision-making and planning tools (guidelines, criteria and indicators) for policy makers dealing with urban development in relation to agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, land use planning and forestry, as well as urban food system planning and development; and Sign the ROPPA statement.
2. Systematically formulate urbanization policy from a sustainable development perspective and adopt a development based on facts supported by maintaining an up-to-date database, archives/registries and maps covering themes to provide a basis for the preparation and updating of space strategies and programs.
3. Providing basic services, share innovative practices and strategies tried in cities and territories for community-based governance, better inclusion, citizen participation and citizen engagement in the governance of cities and territories.
4. Establishing a culture of maintenance to ensure that sufficient funds are made available to support O&M and acknowledging that the private sector has the necessary expertise and resources available to support them in performing their O&M obligations.
5. Signing of the pact between the REFELA (Network of African Local Elected Women) and CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions) to establish a privileged partnership for gender equality at local level.
To ministers

1. Setting up multi-stakeholder platforms (international organizations, national and regional representatives and related sectoral expertise) for dialogue, action planning and policy formulation on good governance on food, agriculture and cities.
2. Articulating a sustainable spatial development vision at a national level. Sustainable subnational development demands national government leadership and recognize the specific differences and needs of territories and cities.
3. Strengthening the awareness of the need and importance of strategic planning and programming as a tool for achieving sustainable development goals on a local, regional, national, continental and global scale.
4. Defining national regulations on the provision of basic services (waste management, access to water for all etc.). Harmonizing these regulatory frameworks at the regional and local levels and adapting new technologies in the field of the provision of basic services.
5. Encouraging local planning, programming and capacity-building of local authorities by establishing a system of learning and capacity-strengthening at the level of local governments, national, all in close collaboration with professional associations.

To development partners

1. Tackling the challenges of sustainable urban development using coalitions between government, the private sector and civil society, and involving stakeholders in the development and implementation process and organizing funding for sustainable urban development in a different way.
2. Ensuring public awareness of these issues as citizens' collaboration on the provision of basic services is critical, combine the various solutions implemented at different scales: both nationally and locally and Involving the private sector through public private partnerships.

B.11 Local actors and local coalitions

There is no real transformation unless it is supported by local actors. The construction of local coalitions is therefore a key element of the communities' strategy. In the same way, there is a real experience of development only when such development is observed in the daily life of the populations, in the place where they live. The strategy to be defined for the adoption of a trajectory towards sustainable cities and territories must therefore never lose sight of the need to provide concrete solutions to improve the daily life of citizens, while at the same time preparing the conditions for the establishment of a momentum in terms of structural transformation and long-term sustainable development. The best way to provide these concrete answers while defining such a strategy is to involve the populations and the actors concerned, in their diversity. Any transition strategy must therefore adopt, in order to have some chance of success, a multi-stakeholder approach because it is through the partnership between all the actors and the synergy between the actions of the different levels of governance that local action has chances of having a lasting impact.

Local stakeholders, in their diversity, intervene in all areas of sustainable development and on the different issues of transition. The Africities 8 sessions explored the possibilities of alliances for local transformation between communities and each family of stakeholders.
For instance, farmers’ organizations support proposals in the field of food security, urban-rural relations or the fight against peasant poverty; women’s movements call for local governance that pays greater attention to equal rights and gender issues in all dimensions of local development; in the same way, for the transition to be inclusive, local governance must incorporate the disability dimension taken care of by NGOs’. In cities characterized by the informal sector and by inequalities, the basic communities of slums and the organizations of inhabitants are the essential actors of an inclusive urban development; young people are the bearers of innovations and their organizations aspire to be recognized as essential actors of change; trade unions and social partners can also contribute to making of decent employment and of the extension of social protection pillars of local sustainable development policies; while "social media" are disrupting the relationship with information, journalists and local media remain key players in local information and citizens’ control over public action. For their part, the traditional authorities aspire to the experimentation of new types of relations and collaborations with the public administrations and the local authorities; if they are mobilized by local and subnational governments, researchers and universities can put scientific research, innovations and experiments at the service of territories and transition; Microfinance institutions are major players in financial inclusion for women, youth and small and medium-sized enterprises, which are the breeding ground for local economic development.

For the cities and territories in transition, all these energies, all these networks, all these citizens' organizations can play a role, alongside the local and subnational governments. If relationships of trust are established with these different actors, real alliances can be built and give rise to "local coalitions" for the sustainable transition of cities and territories.

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following recommendations are selected:

**To Mayors and Territorial Elected Representatives:**

1. To establish, with local actors (civil society, professional and institutional actors, economic actors) "territorial alliances" in order to promote the exchange of practices, to develop joint actions, and to bring together proposals to governments as well as to development partners and institutions.
2. Beyond the traditional spaces of participation, to multiply the sustainable institutional partnerships with local actors, in their diversities, in order to create real spaces for solving problems.
3. To develop inclusive policies for urban housing, access to land, to employment, and to public spaces.

**To Ministers:**

1. To build public policies to support decentralization and support actions for economic development and social cohesion, led by local and subnational governments and local actors.
2. To defend trade regimes allowing urban and rural economies to fully express their development potential.
To Partners and International Institutions:

1. To give priority to the development of territories and to the decentralization of cooperation activities, by catering both to the needs of urban and rural areas, such actions being conducted by local authorities and local actors.
2. To promote international regulations favorable to a balance between international trade, national development, and territorial development.
3. To provide resources, including political support, to promote dialogue between local actors and local authorities, and to ensure the involvement of these local actors in the implementation of projects.

B.12 Innovative practices

In the transition to sustainable cities and territories, the implementation of innovative practices and policies is a decisive leverage point. It is all the more important because the significant reductions in the financing of local authorities reduce the range of political choices. In this context, innovation is no longer a luxury but a necessity to respond to emergencies, which constitute the daily life of local authorities, while positioning local public action within long-term transition strategies. The interest of these practices is nonetheless not only economic. These practices arise from the transitions and disruptions in progress and contribute to the emergence of new solutions.

The "open sessions" of Africities 8 proposed by African local authorities, national, African and international institutions working with local and subnational governments, associations or economic actors are part of the general theme of the summit, the transition to cities and sustainable territories. They most often correspond to innovative interventions. They bring a wide variety of approaches, research and practice to understanding the transition and developing alternative public policies. From this point of view, the Marrakech summit is part of the continuity of previous Africities which, since their inception, have contributed to the debate, dissemination and adoption of these innovations.

Africities 8 has thus enabled African local elected officials to learn, debate and develop innovative strategies in fields as diverse as local strategies for mobilizing citizens, microcredit, participatory budgeting, management and protection, urban green spaces, Many of these innovative practices do not involve significant expenditures and can be implemented with ingenuity. The main challenges for local decision makers are then to identify opportunities, prioritize them and create an environment conducive to innovation.

For cities and territories in transition, these innovative practices are likely to enrich all local strategies for sustainable development, from human resource management to the mobilization of financial resources, such as the protection of natural resources, the management of land, public services or local governance. UCLG Africa will put in place a specific program to support, disseminate and evaluate these innovative practices.

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following recommendations are selected:

To Mayors and Territorial Elected Representatives:
1. Launch an "African Know Your City" (KYC) campaign to popularize and generalize the concept and practice of the program.

2. Promote exchanges of views and experience between peers, between political leaders and between active city techniques, in order to improve their capacity for learning and implementation.

3. Mobilize and engage citizens in supporting and implementing the transition by encouraging political and social dialogue, inclusion of citizens in planning and strengthening monitoring and evaluation of local participatory budget projects.

To Ministers

1. Improve internal capacities in social, cultural and technological innovation oriented towards the transition and development of sustainable cities and territories, by consolidating the technical structures of local governments that accompany local political strategies for local economic and social development.

2. Promote cultural, historical, organizational and community diversity by avoiding the blind importation of development models.

3. Participate in international fora for exchange and cooperation on innovative best practices and disseminate these experiences to local community actors, civil society, the private sector, and knowledge actors (universities, research centers, etc.)

4. Encourage innovative practices in the decentralization process and require clear skills in promoting local development in their territories.

To the actors of the civil society

1. Involve civil society in the management of cities, with a view to strengthening a governance system capable of supporting the transition to sustainable cities and territories, and by raising awareness among citizens about the importance of participating in the process of designation of their leaders.

2. Establish independent bodies for the organization of elections, (Community Based Organizations) to participate in public life.

To UCLG Africa

1. Identify innovative policies and legal and institutional mechanisms that can assist local governments as well as local communities in the transition to sustainable cities and territories.

2. Support local communities in the implementation of innovative policies.
C.1 DECLARATION ON PROMOTING TRANSITION THROUGH LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES STRENGTHENING

ORGANIZER: UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICA | CODE: STS 2

We local and regional elected officials of Africa participating in the Reflection Session on "Local Strategies for Strengthening Human and Institutional Resources for Successful Transition", organized on 21 November 2018, on the occasion of the 8th Edition of the AFRICITIES Summit, held, from 20 to 24 November 2018, in Marrakech (Morocco) on the theme: "Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories".

Considering that the establishment and sustainability of Decentralization depends, in addition to its institutional adequacy and viability, on the competence of local elected representatives, and the professionalism of Human Resources;

Considering that the theme of the Africities 2018 Summit, "Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories" is a call to African Territorial Communities to move beyond unsustainable growth strategies and embark on a profound change to face the changes underway and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow;

Considering that Local and Regional Governments appear to be an essential level in the implementation of a Strategy for the Transition to Sustainable Development;

Considering the importance of Human Resources as a lever for stimulating a real dynamic of change within any Local and Regional Governments;

Considering United Nations General Assembly Resolution 72/235 adopted on 20 December 2017 on Human Resources Development;

Considering UCLG Africa's Strategy for strengthening African local institutions and investing in human capital implemented through the African Academy of Local Authorities (ALGA).

I- MAKE THE COMMITMENT TO

To integrate the issue of the Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories into the conduct of the business of our respective Territorial Communities, in order to meet the challenges of sustainable development essential to the well-being of our populations;

To provide our Local and Regional Governments with genuine Strategies for Strengthening Local Institutions and Human Resources, based on forward-looking management of jobs and skills and modern human resources management mechanisms and tools. This applies both to the definition of the conditions for the development of staff within the local administration, from recruitment to the end of their careers, including the rules of ethics and professional conduct to be applied in view of the specific nature of local management;

To make our Local and Regional Governments more attractive so that they can attract and retain the talents and specialized profiles essential to achieving the objectives of the Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories;

To be inspired by innovative experiences in Human Resources Management;

To act with the public authorities with a view to setting up a legal framework to support Local and Regional Governments in their action in favor of the Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories;
Ensure the establishment of a mechanism to monitor the implementation of these recommendations.

II - LET’S GIVE CGLU AFRICA A MANDATE TO:

Sensitizing elected officials and leaders of local and regional governments so that they can take ownership of the issue of the Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories;

The capitalization and dissemination of good practices and innovative practices developed in the field of Human Resources Management within local and regional governments;

The organization of meetings and sessions for the exchange of experiences in the field of Human Resources Management;

Networking of human resources managers within local government administrations and the organization of a national and regional dialogue on this subject with elected representatives and national administrations, including discussion on organization charts, statutes, career development, financing of training for elected representatives and staff of local government administrations;

The organization of advocacy for institutional funding of the African Academy of Local Authorities (ALGA), bringing together contributions from African States, Local and Regional Authorities, Development Partners and the private sector.

Done in Marrakech, the November 21, 2018

The participants
C.2 TERRITORIAL ALLIANCES AND EXCHANGES OF PRACTICES IN SUPPORT OF FOOD SECURITY AND TRANSITION

ORGANIZER: REGIONS DE FRANCE & MINISTERE DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES (FRANCE) | CODE: STS 8

We, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) and the Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organizations of West Africa (ROPPA), which represent all populations and urban and rural territories in West Africa, wish to participate fully in the international community's commitment to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. These Sustainable Development Goals will only be achieved if a new dynamic of economic development and new opportunities for agricultural and food transition are created and strengthened.

To do this, we will

1 - We commit ourselves to mobilize our members - on the one hand, local and regional governments, on the other, farmers' organizations (FOs). We propose that they form "Territorial Alliances", promote “Exchanges of Practices” and develop cooperation actions, particularly in the field of food security and transition, where such alliances and exchanges are essential. In our cooperation, we have decided to pay particular attention to actions that concern three areas and as many objectives, of equal and necessary interest to cities and the countryside, in order to promote:

- **Balanced** land-use planning between sustainable cities and rural areas: Such a balance must enable all urban and rural areas to express their development potential and all the communities that live there to flourish and live decently. Peasant poverty, which causes uncontrolled urbanization and forced migration, can only be combated positively through farmers' access to decent living conditions. Urban poverty, most often the daughter of rural poverty, will only be combated through access to quality services for all urban dwellers.

- **Strengthening** urban-rural economic circuits: Local and national development is largely based on the connection between agricultural production and food consumption. Agricultural producers must ensure the quality, accessibility, identity and value of their products, and their adaptation to the demand and taste of urban consumers, who must consider local consumption as a necessary condition for the national development of our countries.

- **Sustainable** management of natural resources, progress in agro-ecology, sustainability of urban nature and the fight against climate change: Soil fertility, water and air quality, sustainability of biodiversity, the reasonable use of these natural resources by African farmers, the promotion of biological practices and renewable energies in agricultural production are all conditions for preserving the natural heritage, which is also a necessary capital for the future of agricultural production, our countries and future generations.

To give an operational dimension to our cooperation, we have chosen to give priority to actions in favor of food security and transition, which concern these three areas and most of the MDGs. The exchange of practices will allow us to compare FOs initiatives within the agricultural and food value chains with the public policy measures promoted by LRGs. We are convinced that this interaction between FOs and LRGs is at the heart of food security and transition. ROPPA stated the priority it gives to the promotion of local food systems in its "Tenkodogo Declaration". LRGs will be able to demonstrate their commitment by promoting local markets, short circuits between agricultural producers and urban consumers, the promotion of local and quality products and by encouraging the participation of local product offers in public procurement
procedures. Finally, LRGs will support information actions in favor of responsible and sustainable food.

2 - Beyond our cooperation, we ask together:

- It is up to our governments to build public policies to support decentralization and actions in favor of economic development and social cohesion, led by local authorities and farmers’ organizations. We also ask them to defend trade regimes that allow our urban and rural economies to fully express their development potential.

- International organizations should recognize the development potential of territories and promote international regulations that promote a balance between international trade, national and territorial development, food security and transition.

- International cooperation agencies, multi and bilateral, public and private, to give priority to the development of territories and the decentralization of cooperation actions, targeting both urban and rural areas, led by local authorities and farmers’ organizations.

We ask our governments, international organizations and international cooperation agencies to pay particular attention to "Territorial Alliances" and "Exchange of Practices" actions between LRGs and FOs that can strengthen people’s food security and accelerate agricultural and food transition in our countries.
C.3 LAUNCH OF THE PAN-AFRICAN NETWORK ON MIGRATION

ORGANIZER: AFRICAN DIASPORA FORUM (ADF) | CODE: SDA 12

Declaration of commitment

As part of the 8th Summit of Local and Regional Governments, "Africities", held in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco, from 20 November to 24 November 2018, stakeholders from different sectors held a workshop on 21 November 2018, to launch a pan-African network on migration in the context of local governance.

Participants addressing the current context of migration policy crises around the world, with serious socio-economic, political and environmental consequences, shared experiences of daily experiences of migration problems within States, and between different countries in the North and the South.

Recalling that migration is a natural phenomenon and an international right recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Participants made the following recommendations:

- **Further** analyse the "root causes" of mobility not in line with migration policies, at local, national, sub-regional and international level;

- **Better** involve African local and regional governments in migration governance in order to comply with African realities and universal values;

- **Set up** a platform, supported by UCLG Africa, composed of thematic networks of migrants, people from the diaspora and their organisations, focusing on sectoral areas of development and human rights;

- **Be** involved upstream in the organization and agenda of Africities both in the definition of themes and in ensuring that the issues of migrants and the diaspora are addressed in a specific and transversal way.

The participants undertake to launch, within the framework of this 8th Africities Summit, which has as its central theme "The transition to sustainable cities and territories, the role of local and regional authorities in Africa", a Pan-African Network bringing together migrants, migrant organisations and the diaspora in Africa and internationally.

The participants call on all local and regional governments, state authorities, sub-regional, regional and international institutions, development partners to support and assist the process of setting up this pan-African platform on migration in their different localities and/or states.

Done in Marrakech, the November 21, 2018.
C.4 DECLARATION: MOBILIZING THE DIASPORA TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE CITIES

ORGANIZER: AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK IN EUROPE | CODE: SDA 13

A. Considering the important role played by African diasporas in the economic, political and cultural construction of local communities in their countries of origin,

B. Considering that the African diaspora is recognized by the Charter of the African Union as the 6th region in Africa,

C. Considering that mobilizing the diaspora to contribute to the development of African cities and local communities is essential to accelerate the transition to sustainable and smart cities,

D. Considering that diaspora financing for development (diaspora remittances) exceeds the total amounts of traditional official assistance to countries of origin,

E. Considering that the diaspora brings invaluable added value in facilitating access to health care, housing, education, energy, technology, employment and entrepreneurship in Africa,

F. Considering that the diaspora has enormous potential for innovation and transfer of skills and technology, that diaspora experts develop innovative solutions that are adapted to the needs of populations and contribute to improving the living standards of local communities by bringing public services closer together (health, e.g. education, energy, transport) of citizens and by facilitating remittances, that it is crucial to harness the diaspora for sustainable development, affordability and economic growth of cities in Africa by encouraging innovation, job creation and entrepreneurship.

We organizers and participants of the session "Mobilizing the Diaspora for the Construction of Sustainable Cities in Africa"

1. Recommend to UCLG Africa and its members to recognize and facilitate the contribution of diasporas to sustainable development in their cities and communities of origin, countries of origin and destination;

2. Recommend to UCLG Africa and its members to set up a communal framework for consultation on migration issues and to create information points for the diaspora at the level of town halls in order to remain in contact with members of the community of origin established abroad and to create synergies with local authorities;

3. Recommend that UCLG Africa and its members support the creation of collaborative platforms to harness their untapped potential for job and enterprise creation, capacity building, development financing, knowledge, skills and technology transfer for the sustainable development of cities and local communities;

4. Recommend to UCLG Africa and its members to use the diasporas in their cities to strengthen twinning programmes and exchange of good practices between their home and host cities;

5. Recommend to UCLG Africa and its members to involve experts from the Diaspora in the planning and implementation of urbanization and smart city development policies;

6. Recommend to UCLG Africa and its members to encourage local banks and popular banks to create bonds and other financial products that enable the diaspora to house their savings in their home cities and contribute to the financing of small and medium-sized enterprises;
7. **Recommend** to UCLG Africa and its members to promote the involvement of the diaspora in the creation of innovation and incubation ecosystems to facilitate capacity building at the local level;

8. **Recommend** to UCLG Africa and its members the creation of a network of "Law Houses" run by municipalities that would operate in partnership with NGOs on different issues (minority rights, refugee rights, women's rights, legal conflicts...);

9. **Recommend** that States and municipalities call for tenders at the national or continental level before any Western company is established in order to promote local initiative and job creation;

10. **Recommend** that municipalities support digital and solidarity economy projects, as well as local economic activities, with appropriate spaces (shared gardens, greening policies, market construction, endogenous architecture...);

11. **Recommend** to municipalities the implementation of a policy of decolonization of African urban space and heritage by renaming streets, avenues, squares and monuments with names related to African historical realities and cultural imaginaries in order to allow populations to appropriate their living space;

12. **Recommend** to States and municipalities policies for decent and decent housing for all. The quality of housing for African diasporas in Europe (suburbs, dilapidated neighbourhoods...) is often proportionally opposite to that of European diasporas in Africa (high-end, residential neighbourhoods...). This situation should be balanced by making social and demographic mix a challenge for cities in both North and South;

13. **Recommend** to States a rebalancing of the treatment of migration between the South and the North and the South, including from the point of view of employment and the defence of social rights. Intracontinental migration and the importance of African diasporas within the African continent should be taken into account;

14. **Recommend** that States and municipalities ensure that diasporas participate in the political life of their home territories, but also act as ambassadors for the home territory in the host country through cultural policies (festivals) and genuine citizen participation (right to vote, consultation or representation);

15. **Recommend** to States the establishment of a "Diaspora Cultural and Economic Focal Point" by associating in the Protocol a network of diaspora organizations and associations with the various diplomatic, economic and cultural activities of African States;

16. **Recommend** awareness-raising and information on the history of diasporas and how they were born. The history of African diasporas on a global scale has its decisive source in the era of the Great Discoveries, with centuries of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, giving rise to a historical diaspora, legally linked to slave states or colonizers. The colonial and post-colonial period gave rise to a second form of diaspora that is linked to contemporary African states. These two diasporas are negatively perceived in the host country but also negatively perceived in the country of origin. Diasporas could be better integrated into the implementation of urban policies in Africa and Europe. We recommend that States look at these two diasporas without opposing them, in order to address joint issues (racism, discrimination, negative views of diasporas) and consider reparations processes.

17. **Recommend** that African states, municipalities and public opinion, as well as the media, have a balanced view of the strengths and weaknesses of the diaspora. The situation of the African diaspora in Europe is particularly difficult and Africa's expectations towards this
diaspora carry a fantastic burden. The diaspora will be able to play its full role (in the same way as the Indian or Korean diaspora plays for India or Korea, for example) in the balance of power and the defence of the interests of the country of origin only when it has acquired the means to pursue sovereign, progressive and supportive policies.

18. **Recommend** that the African Union, given the increasing number of elected officials from the African diaspora in the various parliaments, regions and municipalities of Europe and the Americas, formalize the existence of the Diaspora as the Sixth Region of Africa participating in the African Renaissance. Consideration of such a recommendation by the African Union would avoid self-proclaimed and uncoordinated initiatives that preempt the role of the Diaspora in relation to the objectives assigned to it by the AU in its Decision EX.CL/DEC. 221 adopted in Maputo in 2003.

Done in Marrakech, the November 21, 2018
C.5 POLITICAL DECLARATION: ‘GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE AFRICAN CITIES: CITIES OF FUTURE AND WELL-BEING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS’

ORGANIZER: REFELA & INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FRENCH MAYORS (AIMF) | CODE: SOU 19

We, women mayors and elected officials, members of the Network of Local Elected Women of Africa REFELA and its national chapters, the REFELA-Countries of the 5 sub-regions of Africa, gathered in Marrakech, on 22 November 2018, as part of the 8th edition of the Africities Summit:

1. Let us follow up on our Declaration, that of REFELA adopted at COP 22, in these places, in Marrakech, in 2016, and reaffirm our major interest in the issues related to climate change and research and the use of sustainable and innovative alternatives for the development of African Green and Sustainable Cities and Local and Regional Governments;

2. It should be recalled that the women mayors, elected representatives and local leaders of REFELA and their national networks implemented at the pan-African level have a central role to play in any environmental protection process. And it is urgent to consider women as stakeholders and actors in mitigating the effects of climate change and developing Green and Sustainable African Cities and Local and Regional Governments.

Let us ask the mayors of cities and Local and Regional Governments to:

1. Address gender equality and women's empowerment in all local programmes and projects related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, while using specific and relevant actions for women and meaningful climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, as they are gender-sensitive.

2. Rethink the policies of cities and local territories, focusing on the development of renewable energy, and using participatory approaches involving women and men, without exclusion, to generate viable and sustainable local solutions to meet the challenges of the proven risks of climate change.

3. Strengthen their international cooperation actions to improve practices and capitalize on results.

Recommend to the Governments:

1. Ensure the development by governments of national policies and strategies for gender-sensitive and territorialized climate change mitigation and adaptation, and by integrating the issues of populations, women and men facing climate change at the level of cities and local authorities, and throughout the planning process of all national programmes and projects, which will be implemented from these national policies and strategies, including their implementation, monitoring and evaluation, with explicit gender results and indicators and gender and territorialized budgeting, with a view to preventing and regulating climate change and ensuring sustainable development.
2. Integrate by governments into national gender-sensitive and territorialized climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and strategies, programmes and projects focusing on the development of renewable energy, involving women as much as men, and considering them as actors in an ecological, solidarity and inclusive transition.

3. Develop a repository of gender-disaggregated climate information and databases, incorporating key indicators of vulnerability, including women's vulnerability to climate risks, and identifying processes that can be used for decision-making, risk mitigation and adaptation to climate change, at all national, regional and local levels.

**Ask Development Partners:**

1. Put at the centre of programmes and projects of development partners and financial institutions, aimed at climate change mitigation and adaptation, the question of their location and territoriality, with effective consideration of the gender approach, in its transversal dimension, in which women and men will be the stakeholders, without discrimination, while proposing, in view of the specific vulnerability of women to climate risks, specific support actions, to eliminate the economic, social and cultural obstacles that prevent women from being actors in climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions.

2. Provide technical and financial support to AIMF and REFELA to extend the FEDACAM programme to other cities in Cameroon and to other national chapters of REFELA.

3. Provide technical and financial support to the REFELA-Commission on Gender Equality of UCLG Africa, to design and implement a broad "Campaign of Green, Sustainable and Future African Cities and Communities for Women and Girls", open to all, mobilizing around the risks of climate change and calling for concrete action, which is to be included in the implementation of the African Union's Agenda for Africa (2063) and the United Nations International Agenda, relating to the achievement of sustainable development objectives (the 17 MDGs, including ODD 11 and 5), by 2030.

**Specifically, we recommend that AIMF**

1. Expand the AIMF-REFELA Cameroon partnership to include REFELA and other national chapters - REFELA-Country, for a broader scope of projects and actions to be implemented in the field of sustainable energy.

2. Carry and disseminate the Africities 8 declaration on "the central role of African and world women leaders and elected representatives, for a transition to green, sustainable and future-oriented cities and local and regional authorities for women and girls", to all its network and in the bodies of La Francophonie.
C.6 POLITICAL DECLARATION: WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE LOCAL GOVERNANCE

ORGANIZER: REFELA | CODE: SOU 21

We, Elected Women members of the Network of Locally Elected Women of Africa and its national chapters, elected women and men of Africa, meeting in Marrakech on 21 November 2018, within the framework of the Africities Summit 8:

1. Affirm the need to integrate the gender approach and the objective of reducing gender inequalities into local planning and budgeting processes, in order to ensure, through gender-sensitive local public policies, the transition to inclusive and accessible cities and local authorities in Africa;

2. Let us consider that elected women and local leaders have a central role to play in this process and that there is an urgent need to develop women’s political leadership at the local level and to achieve gender parity in all levels of territorial governance, in accordance with the commitments made by the signatory countries to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Urge the mayors and local elected officials to:

1. Affirm the commitment of UCLG World and UCLG Africa and their members, national associations, to join the international and regional development agendas, including Agenda 2030, particularly ODD 5 and ODD 11, as well as the development objectives of Agenda 2063, to make the transition of cities and local authorities effective, towards good gender-sensitive governance;

2. Make the gender approach an analytical, and rational, approach, integrated into the planning and budgeting process, making it possible to better identify existing gender inequalities in communities in order to respond to them through gender-sensitive and results-oriented local public policies.

We therefore call on African governments and parliaments to:

1. Establish a legal framework promoting gender-sensitive and participatory local governance through gender mainstreaming in local planning and budgeting processes;

2. Establish mechanisms to regulate and readjust local development plans so that they integrate a gender perspective.

Encourage national and international development partners to:

1. Strengthen the capacities of elected women through training for leadership development and to increase women's representation on elected councils of local and regional governments;

2. Support awareness-raising, communication and advocacy activities with communities and associations working at city and community level to improve women's representation in local politics and their access to decision-making at the level of local elected bodies/councils;

3. Increase technical and financial support to local authorities for gender mainstreaming in local public policy planning and budgeting processes.

Let us call on the political parties:

1. To invest women in executive councils and local and regional governments.
C.7 DECLARATION: CULTURE, ESSENTIAL FOR THE CREATIVITY, ATTRACTIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF CITIES AND TERRITORIES

ORGANIZER: AFRICAN NETWORK OF CULTURAL PROMOTERS AND ENTREPRENEURS (RAPEC) | CODE: SOU 38

Following the session of 22 November, the Culture essential to the creativity, attractiveness and sustainability of cities and territories, organized by RAPEC (African Network of Cultural Promoters and Entrepreneurs) to which we recommend:

1. That local and regional governments unite the forces, energies and skills to make the arts and culture a vector for the economic and social development of African cities.

2. That local and regional governments contribute to bringing a real singularity, an identity to cities and territories according to their cultural heritage to promote African culture throughout the African continent and internationally, by branding, promoting its wealth, creativity and contribution to other cultures.

3. That local and regional governments dedicate a plaque to "Unknown Artists" in cities with strong cultural heritage based on the model of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to honor all the talented artists of our continent who die without being recognized for their Art and also those who have never been able to sign or live from their works while the latter have changed the lives and arts in the world.

4. That local and regional governments establish a stronger link between Culture and Social and Solidarity Enterprise to decompartmentalize at the service of the sustainable development of our territories.

5. That local and regional governments set up a thematic cultural network to engage migrants, diaspora and their organizations around the world to facilitate their contributions both in the field of culture and in the development of territories.

6. That local and regional governments promote Culture "outside the walls", in the public space for a better proximity and appropriation of populations because territorial cultural policy is a vain ambition if it is not shared and if the first beneficiaries, the populations, do not appropriate it.

7. That Local and regional Governments create Memory Centres in cities. That in these places of hybridization, media libraries can give access to this knowledge, particularly through digital technology.

8. That Local and Regional Governments create a network of Mayors and elected local mentors. Those who have successfully implemented cultural projects could share their experience and serve as guides for smaller or inexperienced cities or communities.

9. That local and Regional governments set up partnerships and/or twinning with other cities with the involvement of the diaspora if possible) in the world to create houses. For example, the House of Porto-Novo (Benin) in Rio (Brazil) and vice versa if a partnership was set up.

10. That local and Regional governments propose to the State to better promote culture through the political decision to make culture a full-fledged ministry. This is done through the headings. For example, we propose "Ministries of cultural and creative industries". This places culture in an economic dynamic and employment opportunities.

"Excerpts from some of the principles of the Charter of the African Cultural Renaissance:

- **AWARE** that every people has the inalienable right to organize its cultural life in full harmony with its political, economic, social, philosophical and spiritual ideals;

- **AFFIRMING** that every human community is necessarily governed by rules and principles based on culture; and that culture must be perceived as a set of linguistic, spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional characteristics of society or a social group and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs;

- **CONVINCED** that a common will constitutes the basis for the promotion of the harmonious cultural development of our States and societies;

- **CONSIDERING** that the process of globalization facilitated by the rapid evolution of information and communication technologies constitutes both a challenge to cultural identities and cultural diversity and requires universal mobilization for dialogue among civilizations;

- **CONVINCED** that all cultures of the world have an equal right to respect, in the same way that all individuals have an equal right to free access to culture;

- **CONVINCED** that cultural diversity and African unity are a factor of balance, a force for African economic development, conflict resolution, the reduction of inequalities and injustice in the service of national integration;".

Based on these principles, 24 January is the symbolic date for the Celebration of the World Day of African Culture (JMCA).

We therefore hope:

- Raise awareness of the celebration of Africa, the cradle of humanity, by officially dedicating 24 January each year as its world day in collaboration with UNESCO, UCLG Africa, the AU, the ACP... to create a link between the populations on a territory.

This project is supported by the African Network of Cultural Promoters and Entrepreneurs (RAPEC), an association under the 1901 law, the fruit of an idea born in France, which was born in Burkina Faso in 2007, declared in France in 2008 and recognized as a development NGO in 2010. Committed since 2006 to the Promotion of culture, in particular African culture, RAPEC has been fighting for cultural activity to be recognised as an economic activity in its own right. RAPEC continues its commitment to make culture a resolute tool for bringing peoples closer together and for peace in the world.
These concrete, operational and effective recommendations and proposals should make it possible to make culture a "weapon" in the service of peace and stability on our continent.

We must get away from the ambiguity of the word "Culture": indeed, there is Culture-History and Culture-Tourism which must be clearly defined.

Finally, we are counting on you to take up all or part of these proposals, which are in the general interest and influence of our traditions, our values and the invaluable heritage that the cities and territories of our Africa, the cradle of Humanity, possess.

This is the purpose of our participation in this 8th Africities Summit.
C.8 DECLARATION: RIGHT TO THE CITY AND THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDAS: AFRICAN REALITIES AND PERSPECTIVES

ORGANIZER: UCLG & GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR THE RIGHT TO THE CITY | CODE: SOU 48

- **We call** on all African cities to embrace the right to the city to address the challenges of metropolization and unbridled urban growth that impact large, intermediate and rural communities alike.

- A right to the city that seeks to respond to urgent realities in Africa, as a priority: the fight against poverty, the inclusion of the informal (housing and economic), the search for access to basic services for all, the guarantee of the place of women and youth, the fight against corruption, the greater participation of citizens and associations in local decisions and projects.

- Based on a renewed alliance between local authorities, civil society and private actors, the right to the city seeks to put residents and their needs back at the heart of the debate by proposing concrete courses of action and solutions in order to build together fairer, less unequal cities where all residents have their place and can improve their living conditions.

- Finally, the right to the city also requires a demand from local authorities and their civil society addressed to central governments and technical and financial partners, to ask for more support, skills and local resources to implement and promote respect for universal human rights in all cities and human settlements in Africa.
C.9 DECLARATION: INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL AT AFRICAN LOCAL LEVEL TO MEET THE SDGs AND THE AFRICA VISION 2063

ORGANIZER: UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICA & AGENCE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DE LA MAITRISE DE L'ENERGIE (ADEME) | CODE: SOU 51

The participants in Session SOU 51: "Investing in human capital at the African local level to achieve the objectives of sustainable development and the African vision 2063" on the occasion of the 8th AFRICITIES Summit, held under the High Patronage of HER MAJESTY THE KING MOHAMMED VI, from 20 to 24 November 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco on the theme: "The transition to sustainable cities and territories" adopted the following declaration:

- Considering the Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 December 2017, No. 72/235 on Human Resources Development, in which the UN General Assembly "Calls upon the international community to place human resources development at the heart of economic and social development and to develop short-, medium- and long-term strategies to effectively improve capacity in this area, as sustained, shared and equitable economic growth and development are not possible without an educated, skilled, healthy, competent, productive and adaptable labour force";

- In the context of the implementation of the Global Agendas, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, the Climate Agenda and the New Urban Agenda;

- Considering the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 31 January 2011;

- Considering the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development adopted in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on 27 June 2014;

- Aware of the challenges, constraints and projects facing not only the Institutions (States, local authorities, civil society, private sector), but above all the local elected representatives and territorial managers in Africa;

- Concerned by the weakness and constraints of local government administrations in terms of deficits and deficiencies in the quantity and qualification of human resources;

- Taking into account the Roadmap adopted at the end of the 1st edition of the African Forum of Territorial Managers and Training Institutes targeting Territorial Communities, held from 18 to 20 September 2017 at the International University of Rabat (IUR) in Morocco and the recommendations of the 2nd edition of the Forum held in Saidia on 25 and 26 April 2018 in Saidia, Morocco also;

- Considering that human resources, long considered a cost to be borne by public administrations in Africa, are increasingly perceived today as a real investment that must be continuously supported, improved, energized, trained and motivated

- Convinced that efforts to modernize African States can only succeed if they have a strong, competent, committed, open, ethical and accountable Public Administration and Civil Service at both central and local levels;

Declare the following:

1. We recall and stress the crucial and essential role of local and regional authorities in achieving the 2063 vision of the African Union and the effective implementation of global agendas;
2. **We stress** the urgent need to invest in the human capital of local and regional authorities in order to succeed in the transition process and move resolutely towards sustainable development;

3. **We call** for the immediate mobilization of African States, local and regional authorities and all stakeholders in support of investment in education, lifelong learning, learning and capacity building through a holistic, inclusive and participatory strategy;

4. **We urge** national governments, local authorities and other actors and stakeholders to support UCLG Africa’s African Academy of Local Authorities (ALGA) as a strategic lever for strengthening the human capital of the continent's local authorities;

5. **We reiterate** our call for the establishment of a sustainable and sustainable mechanism for financing the training of managers and people from local authorities, continuing training and peer learning. These activities must target in particular the National Associations of Local Authorities, elected representatives and staff of local authorities, territorial managers and their professional networks. This mechanism would consist of allocating 1 to 2 per cent of the annual wage bill paid to local authority staff for training and capacity-building activities;

6. **We argue** that the successful implementation of decentralization, local governance and local development, as well as the transition dynamic, requires the upgrading, enhancement and motivation of the Human Capital of local authorities;

7. **We call** for the establishment of an attractive institutional and legal environment for the human resources of local and regional authorities so that employment in local and regional authorities becomes one of the preferences of young people entering the labour market;

8. **We ask** UCLG Africa to lead advocacy with African States and development partners for urgent actions to be undertaken in the context of improving the quantity, quality and performance of human resources in Africa’s territorial administrations;

9. **We support** the promotion of innovative methods and approaches to training and capacity building, including through distance learning, peer learning and review, and study tours;

10. **We request** the support of UCLG Africa for the establishment of standard organization charts of local government administrations in countries that do not have them and we hope that the human resources observatory developed by ALGA will produce data and information to benchmark the performance of local government in Africa.

Done in Marrakech, the November 20, 2018

The Participants
African cities will undergo rapid change due to population growth and rural exodus. They will face challenges for sustainable development in addressing climate, environmental and socio-economic issues.

In this context, the NGO Urbanistes Sans Frontières (USF) has set up an "Africa Sustainable Cities (AVD)" programme to strengthen public and private expertise related to urbanisation problems in partnership with African countries.

USF promotes partnership and participatory governance for the development of sustainable cities and territories in application of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

USF's approach is based on several approaches: global, transversal, local, regional and partnership-based. Six thematic groups, with 60 experts, are working on the "Africa Sustainable Cities" programme. For each African region, this programme provides for a pilot and exemplary urban project. Following the results of this collaborative work on many African countries, USF and its partners declare the need for urgent interventions in three areas:

1. Flood control through the implementation of:
   o Risk prevention documents;
   o Urban planning documents and rules;
   o Integrated urban project;
   o Adapted urban and landscape work;
   o Action plan giving priority to sectors with equipment.

2. Waste recovery through a real public policy in terms of:
   o National and territorial strategy: "waste plan";
   o Mode of garbage collection;
   o Means of selective sorting;
   o Transformation of waste into energy;
   o Business and job creation in the circular economy sector.

3. Development of renewable energies through the following elements:
   o National and territorial strategy: autonomy in clean and renewable energies;
   o Creation of companies and jobs in the renewable energy sector;
   o New programming and rehabilitation of buildings with renewable energies and suitable materials.
C.11 DECLARATION: EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN: 1st FESTIVAL OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP OF WOMEN OF AFRICA

ORGANIZER: UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICA & REFELA | CODE: EVT 5

We, women mayors and elected officials, members of the Network of Local Elected Women of Africa REFELA and its national chapters, the REFELA-African Countries, gathered in Marrakech, on 22 November 2018, as part of the 8th edition of the Africities Summit:

It should be noted that common wisdom teaches us that "economically autonomous women with decent incomes are among the best components for ensuring sustainable improvement in the living conditions of the majority of families and society as a whole in Africa".

Give the highest priority to contributions to women's political and economic empowerment, as expected from Africa's Vision 2063 and the International Agendas for the Economic Empowerment of Women, being one of the main pillars of gender equality and women's empowerment, with the renewal of girls' education, focusing on developing their leadership in all areas of development, including economic development, as the engine of societal change in Africa.

Ask the mayors of cities and local and regional governments to:

Take into account the results of studies conducted so far at the level of the African continent and internationally demonstrating that the economic empowerment of women is one of the levers for poverty reduction, and a prerequisite for sustainable development;

Implement all necessary measures to modify the current scheme restricting women to micro-projects, micro-credits and income-generating micro-activities, in order to develop their economic leadership and effectively integrate them into the entrepreneurial affairs of their local economy;

Commit to unconditional support for women's businesses and their incorporation into local affairs and act for the economic empowerment of women in Africa, in accordance with Africa's Vision 2063 and international agendas, including that of sustainable development goals, particularly MDG 5: Achieve equality and empower women and girls.

Voluntarily join the "African Cities Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment" Campaign, launched by REFELA, UCLG Africa's Permanent Commission on Gender Equality, to take the necessary steps to plan, implement and implement processes for the development of women's entrepreneurial leadership and economic empowerment;

Organize at the territorial level to develop women's economic leadership and work for the establishment and systematization of a concerted dialogue between cities and local communities, the private sector, civil society and academic groups and public institutions represented in their immediate environment, to develop programmes and implement concrete actions, with the use of affirmative measures, to strengthen women's participation in local affairs and work for their economic empowerment.

Call on governments to:

To consider that while women in Africa are now better educated and qualified than ever before, their participation in the world of work and in economic affairs remains a major issue, due to the many obstacles that block the development of their economic potential and their recognition as full-fledged actors in the economy of their cities and local authorities.
Strengthen legal frameworks, in particular laws on the family, labour, and the management of economic affairs to make them more inclusive and gender-sensitive, while at the same time taking steps to combat gender discrimination; and regulate the economic sector to achieve equality between women and men entrepreneurs and the economy.

Design, in a participatory manner, a national strategy for the development of women's leadership and economic empowerment, involving all the parties concerned in the world of economics, and including the vision, guidelines and measures to be taken to implement and make effective this leadership development and economic empowerment of women by 2030, and include an action plan, specifying the actions to be implemented by each of the parties concerned and performance indicators, in the short, medium and long term.

**Joining development partners:**

Focus on the development of women's economic leadership, with particular attention to the territoriality of their programmes and projects, focusing on the economic aspect and taking into account the gender dimension in a transversal and specific way, to develop women's economic leadership and their access to local affairs on an equal footing with men.

Provide technical and financial support to women entrepreneurs and investors in the economic sector, so that they can unite and create local networks for the development of their leadership and economic empowerment at the level of cities and local communities, in which they are active, without this dichotomy between women involved in the solidarity economy (focused on cooperative development) and women involved in the business economy, to broaden the movement, share their experiences and good practices and inspire future perspectives for developing their entrepreneurial leadership and promoting gender equality in this sector of the local economy, which is important for women's access to the positive benefits of Africa's sustainable development.

Support the "African Cities Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment" Campaign of REFELA-Permanent Commission on Gender Equality of UCLG Africa, whose objectives are not only to inform, communicate and raise awareness, but also to guide action towards entrepreneurial leadership and promote gender equality in this sector of the local economy; and to be involved in the design and implementation of the Award of Excellence, aimed at rewarding cities and local and sub-national communities that have made an outstanding contribution to the economic empowerment of women.
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS OF THE SUMMIT
D.1 AFRICITIES SENSE AND AFRICITIES 8 RATIONALE

The meaning of Africities

1. Africities is an initiative of African mayors and a space for African local governments. It is the only continent in which mayors from all the countries of the continent meet, at the invitation of the National Associations of Local Authorities of the 54 African countries and their continental organisation, UCLG Africa.

2. Africities is one of the most concrete initiatives to build African unity. It is the most important meeting of elected officials from all over Africa; a democratic approach to building African unity.

3. Africities’ approach is to start from the living conditions of the populations and to seek to improve them. The actions of local and regional governments are part of the daily lives of the inhabitants. Even if they are affected by citizens' mistrust of politics, the proximity of residents makes local elected officials more sensitive to criticism and residents' expectations.

4. Local and Regional Governments must develop new forms of technicality and professionalization. They are obliged to develop and share new knowledge; to renew economic, social, societal and political practices; and to encourage the development of cultural exchanges. Africities is the place for the exchange of practices, the learning of methods and techniques.

5. To be trained to meet the challenges, territorial governments invite to the Africities Summit all African actors and actors who want to work with African territorial governments; ministers, associations, economic actors, coalitions of actors, development partners, economic actors, African and international institutions.

6. African States first derived their legitimacy from decolonization. Then, in response to the strong demands for development and local democracy expressed by citizens, they were led to develop decentralized and participatory scales that strengthen the link and trust between populations and public authorities. Africities is the forum for affirming the reconstruction of this trust and participates in the rebuilding of the legitimacy of States.

7. Africa is the continent of the future provided that African public governance allows the exercise of African sovereignty. Governance that starts at the local level to renew the national scale and build the continental scale.

8. The fifteen thousand mayors and five hundred thousand municipal councillors of the sixteen thousand and eight local authorities, confronted with the daily life of citizens, are one of the ways of renewing all African leaders. Africities is their space for debate, reflection and training that places local concerns in an African perspective.

The rationality of Africities

9. The structure and conduct of Africities are oriented towards political sessions: the assembly of mayors, the meeting of ministers, the meeting of development partners and the tripartite political dialogue between mayors, ministers and development partners. The opening of Africities and the opening of political days are the highlights of the Summit. These days are prepared by sessions that combine debates, exchanges of experience and training. More than thirty special events rely on Africities as a platform for African initiatives. An exhibition allows the action of local authorities, companies and institutions to be exhibited on stands.
10. Africities are organised by a political committee chaired by the President of UCLG Africa, which is supported by the Executive Committee chaired by the Mayor of the host city, and an Operational Committee composed of a representative of the host city and a representative of the General Secretariat of UCLG Africa.

11. The theme of Africities 8 is: The transition to sustainable cities and territories, the role of Africa's local and regional governments.

12. The opening of the summit begins with the intervention of the President of UCLG Africa to define the challenges of this meeting and the successive reactions of the President of UCLG and the Moroccan authorities, including the Minister of the Interior. This opening ceremony is closed by an inaugural conference (keynote speech) which reviews the state of the art and defines the avenues for reflection on the transition to more sustainable cities. These various interventions are extended in the sessions of the political segment that are held on the 3rd day of the Summit.

13. The sessions of the political segment include high-level meetings to discuss aspects of transition in the territories. These are: the meeting of ministers; the meeting of development partners; the tripartite political dialogue...

14. Africities 8 has innovated by selecting five themes that have been specifically monitored. Special sessions were devoted to each theme for one day and many other sessions discussed them. The five themes are: climate emergency, women's rights, migration, youth, territorial planning.

15. The seventeen thematic sessions introduce the different aspects of transition and strategies from the perspective of local governments. They therefore address fundamental theoretical and methodological issues, propose a diagnosis of local governments, outline future trends and evolution scenarios, territorial vision, and local strategies for planning and programming, human resources, financial resources, natural resources, information and the institutional environment.

16. The fifteen sessions of local actors concretize the call for the mobilization of peoples to build local coalitions between local governments and different categories of citizens; they make visible the desire for transformation "with the peoples". These are farmers' organizations, trade unions, inhabitants, women, young people, local entrepreneurs, micro-financing, cooperatives, public services, large African companies, migrants, academics, traditional authorities, journalists, artists, etc.

17. The ten sessions organized by the AMPCC, address Africa's urban challenges, starting from the realities of North Africa and especially Morocco. These are: urban modernization, mobility, exchange between cities, climate finance, risk management, water, local economy, urbanization and territorial planning, etc.

18. The eighteen sessions proposed by UCLG Africa, among the open sessions, present different programmes to strengthen local governments. These programmes are carried out in local governments in different African regions and extended to all communities that wish to join them. These are: migration, climate, participatory budget, gender, local economy, transparency and integrity, peer review, territorial coaching, fiscal decentralization, women elected local officials, local government training academy, youth, etc.

19. The ninety-two sessions on deepening interventions and exchanging methods, techniques and experiences are proposed by different actors and networks such as UN Habitat, UCLG, CUF, CEMR, SALGA, Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Cities Alliances, ARDCI, AMM, Government of Ghana, IFDD, FAO... These are: culture, urbanization, African urban agenda, slum renewal, post-2015 agenda,
municipal innovations, urban investment, intermediate cities, urban transition, inclusion, design, etc.

20. Special events are planned to give a special character to the initiatives or activities planned during the Africities Summit. These are: REFELA campaigns; working lunches with Asian, European and North American mayors; the celebration of twenty years of Africities...

21. The Africities Fair offers stands for mayors' associations, institutions and companies. It allows specific participation by economic actors. It organizes "b to b" sessions that allow mayors to ask questions on topics of concern to them and to organize an interview with experts and economic actors. A salon scholarship is also awarded.

22. All Africities activities are carried out with a focus on African mayors. Each session includes among its panellists at least two African mayors, one of whom chairs the session. Each session proposes recommendations to mayors, ministers and development partners.

23. All these activities converge towards the four political sessions that are the conclusion of Africities. These are: the Assembly of Mayors, which is the General Assembly of UCLG Africa; the meeting of Ministers, the meeting of development partners, the tripartite political dialogue between mayors, Ministers and Development Partners.

24. Each of the political meetings examines the recommendations from the thematic and open sessions, with a view to selecting those they wish to implement. The closing session adopts the resolutions submitted to it by the Resolutions Committee and which have been previously discussed by the Assembly of Mayors and the meeting of Ministers.

25. Africities Marrakech must be considered as an event marking Africa's new beginning as a result of mobilizing its citizens to meet the challenges of the transition (political, cultural, climate, etc.) facing the continent and the world. This is the political scope that should be given to this event.
D.2 EVALUATION OF THE AFRICITIES PROCESS, LESSONS FROM AFRICITIES

A question is often asked: what is Africities for?

In other words, can its effects be assessed and are the results commensurate with the efforts made? An in-depth evaluation has been initiated by UCLG Africa. Some of the results can already be explained by presenting the twelve lessons of Africities.

1. The Africities process has been uninterrupted since 1998

Africities concretizes a choice and a will. The aim is to strengthen local and regional governments and to help build Africa from these authorities.

This project has been deployed through successive Africities summits and the themes that have characterized them.

Africities 1, in Abidjan in January 1998, had as a theme: Recognize the essential role of local communities in the development of Africa.
Africities 2, in Windhoek in May 2000, had as a theme: Financing African local governments to ensure sustainable development of the continent.
Africities 3, in Yaoundé, in December 2003, focused on: Accelerating access to basic services in African local governments.
Africities 4, Nairobi, September 2006, focused on building local coalitions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in African local governments.
Africities 5, in Marrakesh, in December 2009, focused on: The response of local and regional authorities in Africa to the global crisis, promoting sustainable local development and employment.
Africities 6, in Dakar, in December 2012, had as its theme: Building Africa from its territories: what challenges for local communities?
Africities 8, in Marrakesh, in November 2018, had as its theme: The transition to sustainable cities and territories: the role of local and subnational governments in Africa.

2. Africities is the most important democratic meeting in Africa

Nearly 2500 local and regional elected officials, including nearly 1500 mayors from 54 African countries, are participating in this pan-African meeting. It is the most important democratic meeting in Africa, the one that brings together the most elected representatives from the largest number of countries. This meeting is very significant since it concerns nearly one in ten of Africa's 15,000 local and regional authorities.

Africities’ legitimacy also depends on opening its exchanges to civil society and all networks of actors: farmers, young people, women, trade unionists, academics and researchers, entrepreneurs and businessmen. All these actors, without distinction of opinion, take up the same generic theme to present multiple perspectives.

3. Africities is a space for the exchange of experiences, collective development and training of local elected officials

In Africities meetings, local elected officials exchange among themselves and with other actors: national and international political leaders, civil society actors, economic actors, experts
and technicians. They exchange practices and experiences and participate in debates and discussions on themes and proposals. These exchanges broaden the impacts in terms of learning, good practices and structural or strategic changes.

Thematic, special and political sessions are spaces where local elected officials renew their perceptions and conceptions on the issues and scope of the mandates for which they are responsible. They benefit from the confrontation of the situations of all African countries and other regions of the world. The stakeholders’ debate provides a direct assessment of the missions of elected officials and makes them measure the distance, often hidden, between the certainties of local leaders and a social demand expressed outside partisan frameworks and fed by the reflections of researchers who shed light on political orientations and future strategies.

The issues addressed in the eight successive editions of Africities have helped to build an African local political culture, based on the structuring of the African movement of local authorities. Recall the sequence: Recognizing the essential role of local governments in Africa's development; Financing African local governments to ensure the continent's sustainable development; Accelerating access to basic services within African local governments; Building coalitions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals within African local governments; African local and regional governments’ response to the global crisis: promoting sustainable local development and employment; Building Africa from its territories: what challenges for local governments? Building the future of Africa with its people: The contribution of territorial authorities to Africa's 2063 foresight; The transition to sustainable cities and territories: the role of Africa's territorial authorities.

Africities is a space for research and development. Since the first Africities, the reflection has focused on local strategies and policies as well as planning and programming approaches. Africities 7 made it possible to highlight the foresight approaches around the 2063 foresight of Africa launched by the African Union. Africities 8 broadened the elaboration by highlighting several major themes: climate emergency, women's rights, migration, youth, culture.

4. Africities is the space of the construction, starting from local governance, of an African governance

Africities puts on the agenda the construction of a continuum in public governance that relies on local authorities to rethink governance at the national level of each state, at the level of African sub-regions and regional economic communities, and at the level of the governance architecture of the entire continent. Starting from the territories, it is a question of linking, at different levels, the institutions and forms of administration and governance that link Africa. The proposal to start from the local level and local territories aims to reconcile respect for societies and local contexts, the essential national territory and the essential integration of Africa. Africities attaches particular importance to strengthening the institutions of the Africa Union.

5. Africities has enabled major African institutional initiatives

The structuring of the African Local Government Movement (ALGC Africa) and the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Local Government (CADDEL) was prepared at the Africities 2 Summit in Windhoek, Namibia, and concretized at the Africities 3 Summit in Yaoundé, Cameroon.
In 2004, UCLG Africa played an important role in the establishment of the global organisation of local authorities UCLG, of which it is the regional section for Africa. In 2007, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union recognized CADDEL as a specialized technical committee of the African Union.

In 2009, at the Africities 5 Summit in Marrakech, the need to develop a common reference framework for decentralization policies based on a set of values and principles that could be shared by all African countries emerged. It is in response to this request from African local elected officials and ministers in charge of local authorities that the African Union Commission initiated the elaboration of an African Charter on the values and principles of decentralization and local governance.

In Dakar, in 2012, Senegal’s proposal to set up a High Council of Local Authorities as an African Union body was taken into account by the Africa Union.

Africities 6 proposed the representation of local authorities within the regional economic commissions, whose prefiguration is given by the creation in 2011 of the Council of Territorial Communities (CCT) of UEMOA, and whose implementation also proceeds from the proposals made by the authorities since the Africities 4 Summit in 2006 in Nairobi.

Africities 5 in Marrakech also launched a call for the structuring of the movement of locally elected women, which was concretised during the Forum in Tangier, Morocco, in March 2011 with the establishment of the very first African network of locally elected women (REFELA) which became the Africa section of the UCLG Gender Equality Commission.

Following the Marrakech Summit, the African Network for Decentralized Cooperation (RAFCOD) was launched in November 2012.

Starting with Africities 8, the ministers of the decentralization and local governance subcommittee of the African Union’s specialized technical committee No. 8 decided to participate in the Africities process.

6. Africities has made it possible to identify and disseminate major innovations in the action of African local and regional authorities

Several of the innovations presented at Africities have been adopted and adapted by African local authorities. Let us take two examples: the ECOLOC method of developing local economies and the Participatory Budget programmes.

The ECOLOC method for developing local economies was presented in Africities 2 and has been implemented in more than 30 communities in six African countries. Following the presentation of these experiences at the Africities Summit in Nairobi in 2006, mayors and local authorities called for greater involvement of elected officials in promoting the local economy and asked for a dedicated UCLG Africa programme to be devoted to it. This is how the LEDNA (local economic development network of Africa) program was born, which has a highly visited website (www.ledna.org).
Another example is the Participatory Budget. The Participatory Budget approach was first presented to African local authorities at the Africities 3 Summit in Yaoundé in 2003, based on examples from Latin America, particularly the city of Porto Alegre. A charter of Participatory Budgets has been adopted at Africities 3, and eight municipalities in Cameroon have joined it and launched participatory budgeting initiatives. Six years later, at the Africities 5 Summit in Marrakech, the number of African communities that have adopted Participatory Budgets in their management mode is 54. A survey conducted in preparation for the Africities 6 Summit shows a steady increase in the number of communities and countries that have adopted Participatory Budgets. No less than 162 experiments using Participatory Budgeting have been carried out in rural and urban municipalities of all sizes in 23 African countries. The 162 municipalities in which Participatory Budget processes have been set up and for which reliable population data have been obtained represent around 35 million inhabitants. Objectives are proposed for the next three years (2015): 300 local authorities from 40 African countries involved, including 200 new local authorities with processes in progress; (ii) 1000 local authorities that have expressed an interest in engaging in Participatory Budgets; (iii) 40 "resource" cities on Participatory Budgets; (iv) 30 institutions for anchoring the Participatory Budget, of national and local scope; and (v) 1000 people trained in Participatory Budget who can contribute to its dissemination.

Africities is a meeting place for local authorities, experts and economic actors. The Show organizes the presence of technical and economic actors. A "be to be" formula allows local authorities to formulate the questions that concern them and to organise, during Africities, a meeting with experts to propose answers to the questions.

7. Africities has made it possible to consolidate alliances for local development and democratization between local and regional elected officials and African actors working in local territories

These alliances are defined with the commitment of the associations representing these actors, in particular: women's associations; youth associations; farmers' organizations; workers' unions; workers' unions; residents' associations; NGOs; migrants and diasporas; academics, researchers and experts; local service operators; people's economy and micro-credit operators; small and medium-sized enterprises; large African enterprises; financial institutions; moral and traditional authorities; local and regional government staff; central governments and their local representatives and local governments.

In addition, the open sessions, which were ninety at Africities 8, provide an opportunity for meetings of African and international networks and institutions that wish to build projects with African local authorities. This progression of self-managed activities, designed and carried out at the request of the various economic, institutional and civil society actors, is a form of permanent investigation into alliances and projects involving African local authorities.

8. Africities makes it possible to define UCLG Africa programmes led and directly managed by African local and territorial authorities

The programs defined by UCLG Africa have been identified, defined and tested in Africities. Since Africities 6, thirteen programmes have been launched or consolidated: Women Elected Locally; African Academy of Local Authorities (ALGA); Participatory Budget; Migrants and Diaspora; Local Economies - LEDNA; Decentralization and Governance Observatory; Media Network - MADEL; Financial Decentralization; Basic Services and Millennium Development
Goals; Agenda 21; Culture and Heritage; Partnership with Traditional Authorities, Local Entrepreneurship.

Each programme involves the direct participation of at least 50 African local authorities in at least three sub-regions of the continent.

9. Africities is a space for strengthening decentralized cooperation, particularly inter-African cooperation

Since the first Africities, decentralized cooperation has been present and recognized. Decentralized cooperation is an innovative mode of cooperation in its orientations and forms of intervention. Decentralized cooperation is part of a twofold fundamental movement, that of democratization and that of decentralization. It contributes to the emergence of new international relations. It accompanies the emergence of a new context that brings new actors (local authorities, companies, associations and NGOs) into the international system.

In the first Africities, it was mainly decentralised cooperation with European local authorities that was present. From Africities 5, in Marrakech, the emphasis was placed on decentralized inter-African cooperation. At Africities 5, 44 inter-African conventions were signed and the ministers present decided to create a Fund to finance decentralized inter-African cooperation. During the Africities 6 Summit, a special effort was proposed to develop decentralized “south-south” cooperation and three emerging countries, present at Africities 6, were invited to support exchanges between their local authorities and African local and regional authorities: China, Turkey and Brazil.

10. Africities helps to raise awareness among development partners of the need to strengthen African local and regional authorities

Africities is building a common space for local and regional elected officials, ministers responsible for decentralization and local authorities and development partners. The tripartite dialogue proposes to jointly assess decentralization policies, the strengthening of local development and their place in cooperation and financing policies. It will be extended to African institutions. Starting with Africities 6, an evaluation process, such as “peer evaluation”, has begun to be used by local elected officials to assess national decentralization policies. The systematization of the “ratings” of actors: evaluation of elected representatives, citizens and “ratings” of States will aim to strengthen local democracy and to conclude the observatories’ approach with publicly discussed positions.

11. Africities develops a communication approach that contributes to making African communities visible at the African and international levels

The visibility of African local authorities contributes to the consolidation of the African municipal movement. It gives them access to more resources and opportunities to achieve their objectives. It also puts them in a position to clarify, defend, correct and improve their policies. Media coverage of the Summit has continued to improve over the years. A website dedicated to the Summit has been set up. Each edition produces a daily newspaper, Africities Daily. An innovation was introduced at the Africities 5 Summit in Marrakech with the creation of “Africities TV” whose signal is picked up by national television stations. At Africités 6, in Dakar, “Africités Radio” was set up, whose signal was relayed by local radio stations in Senegal and other
African countries. Africities 8, recorded the presence of more than a hundred journalists representing the main African and international media. A great effort has been made to ensure the summit's presence on social networks, Facebook and Twitter.

12. Africities encourages institutions and partners that make recommendations to ensure their implementation, with the support of UCLG Africa

For each Africities, recommendations are issued by the actors present in the thematic and special sessions and in the workshops of the Africities Fair. They are intended for local elected officials, ministers, African institutions and cooperation partners. The list of recommendations is published in the proceedings. A synthesis is proposed for discussion of the political sessions: assembly of local elected officials; meeting of ministers present at CADDEL; tripartite meeting (local elected officials, ministers, cooperation partners). The themes presented in this evaluation reflect the main recommendations made in the first eight Africities and implemented by UCLG Africa. A follow-up work on the recommendations issued by the actors in the sessions will be set up after Africities 8.
D.3 SUMMARIZED CONCEPT NOTE

The full version of the concept note is available at www.africities.org Africities 8 will have as central theme “The transition to sustainable cities and territories: the role of local and subnational governments of Africa”.

The concept note defines the general direction of the Summit. It serves as a reference for the preparation of the Summit sessions. It prepares proposals and recommendations that will be discussed and adopted by ministers, mayors and leaders of local and subnational governments.

The Africities Summits are the space for training and developing proposals for local and subnational governments’ representatives of Africa. This space is open to all those who wish, in alliance with African local and subnational authorities, to build alternative policies. Since 1998, the Africities Summits have enabled participants to understand and act on issues affecting the evolution of Africa and Africans, at the level of African local and subnational governments, central governments, and institutions. Africities 8 will highlight the dimensions of the transition from the current situation and will focus on the role and strategy of African territorial communities in transition.

Situation

The future of African cities and territories is part of the evolution of the continent and contributes to its future. Among the many questions that will mark the future of Africa, two trends are to be highlighted: globalization and urbanization. They are part of a total change in the evolution of societies and of the world from the recent past and lead to a paradigm shift in the way of thinking about evolution and preparing for the future. In recent years, the international debate has taken into account this evolution through the adoption of continental and global agendas of a universal scope, in particular, Agenda 2063 of the African Union, Agenda 2030 of the United Nations, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the New Global Urban Agenda.

Agenda 2063 was at the heart of the Africities 7 Summit in Johannesburg in 2015. The theme was: "Building the future of Africa with its people: The contribution of territorial governments to Agenda 2063 of Africa". Agenda 2063 is achieved through ten-year action plans whose implementation is carried out through the five priority intervention areas adopted by the African Development Bank. ("High 5s") : illuminating and energizing Africa ; integrating Africa ; industrializing Africa ; and improving the quality of life of populations in Africa.

The Africities 7 Summit in Johannesburg also welcomed the UN's adoption in September 2015 of Agenda 2030, which defines 17 universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), broken down into 169 targets grouped around five priorities (5Ps), namely : Peoples, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. Through Agenda 2030, the international community has made three major commitments: fighting inequality, exclusion and injustice; facing up to the climate challenge; and putting an end to extreme poverty. More than 60 per cent of the SDGs fall within the remit that the decentralization laws recognize to local and subnational governments, hence the invitation of the international community to promote the localization of the SDGs, and a strong involvement of local and subnational governments with a view to their effective implementation.

The meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, in Paris in December 2015 (CoP21), resulted in the adoption of the Paris Agreement. The leaders of local and subnational governments decided to strengthen the action of national governments by committing to territorial actions to limit the rise in global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2100. The leaders of the cities and territories of Africa
proposed a strong involvement of local and subnational governments in the implementation of such actions.

The New Agenda for Cities adopted at Habitat 3, in 2016 in Quito, Ecuador, is part of an overhaul of UN priorities around the SDGs and around the Paris Agreement, and insists on the need to have a more positive look about the role of cities in promoting sustainable development. In particular, the New World Urban Agenda aims to achieve SDG 11 for inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements. The first three of the ten targets of the goal propose, by 2030 (1) to ensure access for all to adequate and safe housing and basic services at affordable cost, and to upgrade slums; 2) to provide access for all to safe, accessible and viable transport systems at an affordable cost; 3) to enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and strengthen planning and management capacities for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlements in all countries.

UNDP estimates that 83 percent of the goals of Agenda 2063 overlap with Agenda 2030. Reconciling the goals of these two agendas with the provisions of the Paris Agreement highlights a new approach to transforming societies which challenges old conceptions of development. The Urban Agenda is non-binding and leaves open the debate between two conceptions of urban social transformation, between competitive cities and solidarity-based cities (as a shortcut). Contradictions remain strong between those who propose to rely on the free play of market forces to ensure effective management of urban development, and those who advocate a preponderant use of public action and regulation to better enforce fundamental rights, the general interest, and the common good in urban management. At the Africities 2018 Summit, local and subnational governments of Africa will discuss with all the stakeholders the strategy of localization and territorialization of the Sustainable Development Goals and of the corresponding targets.

For twenty years, the movement of territorial governments has gained visibility and recognition in Africa. At the Africities Summit 1998 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, relations between local elected officials and the representatives of the African States were tense in connection with the issue of decentralization. Since then, and partly thanks to the pan-African dialogue platform that the Africities Summits have set up, decentralization and the development of territories are recognized almost everywhere as a compulsory figure of the modernization of the States and of the improvement of the governance of public affairs. Nonetheless, the allocation of resources did not follow the allocation of responsibilities. The definition of new relations between the territorial authorities, the national authorities and the supranational authorities at the level of the African Union will be on the agenda of the Africities 2018 Summit. For the first time, the meeting of ministers will be directly managed by the Specialized Technical Committee No. 8 of the African Union, which brings together the conferences of ministers in charge of public service, urban development, local governments, and decentralization.

By adopting the theme of the transition to sustainable cities and territories for the Africities 2018 Summit, local and subnational governments in Africa are bringing up proposal for a total change. It is up to them to construct a narrative for Africa corresponding to this bifurcation. The territorial vision takes into account the proximity with citizens, and facilitates their mobilization and their participation in the management of local affairs, the respect of the interest and of the requests of the populations in the definition and implementation of actions at the level of the territory, and the measurement of results based on indicators defined following deliberations around the meaning of the actions to be undertaken.
Transition

The transition hypothesis makes explicit the idea of a profound change, of a structural evolution and transformation. The goal is to connect total change and continuity, and to distinguish between continuity and discontinuity. What is valid for societies is also valid for cities. In the transition, a new rationale is needed and all the old forms, social and urban, adapt to the new dominant rationale, specifically, according to the contexts and situations. The Africities2018 Summit will focus on the role that communities can play to begin the transition and to modify the paradigms and ways of thinking transformation. The Summit will deal with the different dimensions of transition without neglecting the interactions such dimensions do maintain. These different dimensions will nevertheless serve as a starting point for identifying changes and for linking transformations with conceptions, policies and strategies. One will analyze: the demographic transition, the ecological transition, the democratic and political transition, the economic and social transition, the geopolitical transition, as well as the cultural and communication transition. For each of these dimensions, one will define what characterizes it, particularly in the African context and its specificities, and the role that local and subnational governments in Africa must play.

The demographic transition is a key dimension. It is characterized by five major transformations: the increase of Africa's share of the world population, the rapid urbanization of the continent, the decisive evolution of the place of women in the political and social field, the generational changes and mutations of African youth, and migrations.

Africa had 100 million inhabitants in the 19th century, 275 million in 1960, and 640 million in 1990; the continent has 1.2 billion inhabitants in 2015 (16 percent of the world's population). The irruption of women into the political scene of the continent of Africa is one of the highlights of the evolution of the pan-African debate on the development and integration of the continent. The involvement of women is now crucial for the implementation of public policies and strategies at the territorial, national, regional, continental and global levels. Youth is what best characterizes the demographic dynamics of Africa. The African population is the youngest in the world. By 2050, one-third of the world's youth will live in Africa. Youth accounts for 60 percent of the continent's unemployed, compared to an average of 34 percent in the rest of the world. Every year 10 to 12 million young people enter the labor market in Africa.

The rapid urbanization of the continent is a milestone in the demographic transition. From being mostly rural 60 years ago, the population of Africa will become predominantly urban within 30 years. In 1960, Africa had two cities with more than one million inhabitants, namely Cairo and Johannesburg. In 2015, Africa had 80 cities with more than 1 million inhabitants, of which 20 cities had 2 million or more inhabitants. 5 cities exceeded 8 million, one per sub-region: Cairo, Lagos, Gauteng Urban Region (Johannesburg - Tshwane - Ekhuruleni), Kinshasa, and Nairobi. Urbanization is not just about large cities; 70% of the continent's urban population lives in intermediary cities (100,000 to 1 million inhabitants) and small towns (10,000 to 100,000 inhabitants). In most of these cities, the precariousness of housing accentuates urban exclusions and segregations. In the next twenty or thirty years, 300 million new urban dwellers will have to be accommodated in Africa, and as much infrastructure will have to be built as it has been built up to now.

The issue of migration appears to be the major strategic issue in the evolution of the planet's population. Local and subnational governments are at the forefront of migration management. Natural disasters, armed conflicts, social unrest and economic and political crises are leading to more and more displacement of people from rural areas to urban areas, from poor regions to rich regions, and from the interior of the continent to the coastal areas, feeding an uninterrupted flow of migration within countries, between countries of the same region in Africa,
or to other regions of the world. These displacements of populations, suffered or desired, raise two big questions: which relationship between migration, development and distribution of wealth in country and between countries? How to respect and ensure the human rights of migrants, of migrant workers, and of their families?

The ecological transition came about as a result of the realization that, for the first time in the history of Mankind, the organization of the dominant production and consumption system came into conflict with the planetary ecosystem. That realization has the effect of more and more calling into question certainties about growth, productivism, extractivism and the dominant development model. It opens a debate around two options: Extending the current productivist models by correcting them by adopting green industries and producing environmental technologies; or moving to completely different models and forms of growth and development, where the logic of living well and respecting the environment takes precedence over that of unlimited growth and competition. Until now, the economy of African countries, largely dependent on raw materials and extractive industries, has failed to engage diversification and upgrading of the economic value chain of the continent. The ecological transition requires challenging the priorities of local economies and redefining them with the principles of sobriety, energy efficiency, and of the circular economy. The choices that cities and territories of Africa will make in terms of access to energy, regional planning, pattern of production, transport and trade systems, and in relation to their more or less inclusive character, will be of paramount importance for the future of Africa and of the world.

The democratic and political transition is fundamental. The democratic transition is the most significant dimension of the evolution of the political environment. Promoting political unity in the context of the construction of the Nation-State, while respecting the diversity of local contexts, makes particularly difficult to define the forms of regulation and representation, as well as the link between the renewal of institutions and the renewal of elites. Every day, demands are increasingly pressing for the establishment of a political system which guarantees, in specific situations, the individual and collective freedoms as well as the respect for fundamental rights. The requirement is that of a political system that condemns corruption in all its forms and restores ethics and individual and collective effort as a means of access to social respectability. At the level of local and subnational governments in Africa, the stakes are high. Local and subnational elected officials are not immune to the generalized mistrust of politics only. New practices and alternative policies would overcome these situations.

Economic and social transition is also paramount. The dominant rationale is first and foremost the financialization and regulation of economic life by the financial markets. Furthermore, the rise of a new productive sector built on the digital economy and biotechnologies will change the forms of organization of the production and distribution of goods and services. Finally, since 2008, the financial and debt crisis has posed the question of the possible exhaustion of the current phase of the globalized neoliberal economy. As one has seen with the subprime crisis, cities and also housing are now playing a major role in the spiral of indebtedness. The productive base of cities is changing. From the social point of view, the decisive element is that of the explosion of social inequalities in every society and in the world. The question of social inequalities over determines the issues of poverty, precariousness and discrimination. It underlies urban, social and ethnic segregation.

For Africa, in a few years one has gone from strong afro-pessimism to sometimes exaggerated optimism. The reality is more contradictory. The decline in commodity prices has put many economies in difficulty and recalled that African economies are rather than material and commodities-based (windfall-based) and not diversified. African entrepreneurs are dynamic and the emergence of several large African companies bears testimony to that fact, but the continuity of the African economic fabric is not assured. Local and subnational governments
of Africa are being called upon to become key players in the economic and social transition. The local economy can play a decisive role in creating and consolidating the continuity of the economic fabric.

The geopolitical transition is reflected in the emergence of a multipolar world. Following an African perspective, the geopolitical transition can be interpreted as the second phase of decolonization. The first phase of decolonization led to the Independence of (African) States. The second phase of decolonization remains an open question, whose major challenge is the liberation of peoples, with its consequences on the issue of national identity, the relations between States and nations, and a new definition of the international scene. The question of belonging and especially that of multiple identities is posed. Conflicts and wars play an increasing role in reshaping the geopolitical environment. Between 1 and 2 billion people around the world live in areas of classic warfare or civil war, many of them in Africa. The displacement of populations that these wars and conflicts bring creates situations of very strong instability.

At the level of the African continent, the creation of the African Union marks a turning point in the positioning of Africa, of its States and of its cities and territories in the global geopolitical space. The incoming of local and subnational governments opens a new field in the geopolitical space, that of the international cooperation of the territorial collectivities. The most important geopolitical event of the recent period in that regards is the emergence of a global network of major cities that drives, directs and manages the dynamics of the globalized economy. The emergence of this global network of large cities is a major trend that is restructuring territories around the world, including in Africa.

The cultural and communicational transition is decisive. It corresponds to a questioning of certainties on which the interpretation of the world and the harmony of societies are based. This transition is reflected in the evolution of the system of ideas and philosophical, social, moral and religious thoughts that influence, through its representations, individual and collective behaviors. Cities will be totally changed by scientific and technological developments. New technological packages will mark the cities of the future. Examples include robotics, communications satellites, lasers and fiber optics, microprocessors and memories, biotechnologies, new materials and high-resistance ceramics, renewable energies, etc. Governance and management of cities will be heavily influenced by these developments. They will probably produce effects beyond the technological sphere. There is no scientific and technological revolution without a cultural revolution.

In Africa, young people from the slums of African cities for which the globalized cultural model remains a distant dream, do reinvent a new urban popular culture by getting inspiration from traditional cultures revisited in the light of the violence of everyday life and of the efforts to deal with it. The vitality of this urban popular culture demonstrates the capacity for innovation and creativity of the African youth. This urban popular culture strongly contributes to the cultural identity of African cities, which is gradually being developed through musical, artistic and cinematographic creations, which dissemination is also based on the mastery of new technologies. This cultural and communicational transition may promote the commitment and mobilization of urban youth of Africa in the path leading to the transition to sustainable cities and territories in Africa.

Strategy

African local and subnational governments will play a vital role in the transition to sustainable cities and territories. At their level, they are required to articulate the responses to the urgency and the positioning of the actions in an alternative project of social and urban transformation.
The challenge for African communities is to design their policies so that the response to urgency fits well into a strategic approach, in the articulation between urgency and alternative. The response to urgency is the daily life of local and subnational authorities. It sets priorities for management and planning of human resources, financial resources, natural and ecological resources, planning and programming, land management, public services, and citizens’ participation. In order to achieve a sustainable development trajectory, the response to urgency must integrate the exploration of alternatives and innovative practices.

Alternative territorial policies should be explored around the five major missions that local and regional governments must accomplish: 1) Feeding the city (or territory); 2) building the city; 3) bringing basic services to the city; 4) maintaining and ensuring maintenance for the smooth running of the city; 5) and administering and managing the city. Alternative territorial policies must provide answers to the strategic pillars: land policies and transport policies based on the questioning of spatial segregation; public service development policies based on access for all to these services and the respect for fundamental rights; local development policies based on local production and local businesses, the local market and local employment; local environmental protection policies based on respect for local ecosystems and the rights of future generations; social housing production policies based on the right to housing and the to city; local taxation policies, particularly land policies, based on the link between wealth production and redistribution; citizen participation policies based on the articulation between representative and participatory democracy and on residence-based citizenship; and cooperation policies based on solidarity.

The transition to sustainable cities and territories in Africa is not an option; it is essential so that Africa plays its part in adopting new models of production and consumption, development models that are more sensitive to the limits of ecosystems at the level of cities and territories, of national or regional spaces, or of the entire planet. The transition also requires the promotion of new social relations based on the equal dignity of human beings, respect for fundamental human rights, and the rejection of inequalities and discrimination. The transition highlights the values of solidarity, sharing and caring.

The cities and territories of Africa will be the key actors for a sustainable transition. In order to raise awareness to the new responsibilities incumbent on them and to explore the ways and means of fully assuming these responsibilities, the leaders of local and subnational governments of Africa invite all the interested parties to come and reflect with them, at the Africities Summit from November 20th to 24th, 2018, in Marrakesh, Morocco, on the strategies to be defined and the trajectories to be followed to start taking the transition route towards sustainable cities and territories in Africa.
D.4 AGENDA OF THE SUMMIT

https://www.africities.org/the-programme/detailed-program/
D.5 TRIPARTITE DIALOGUE (MINISTERS, MAYORS, DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS)

OUTCOME OF THE MAYORS SESSION

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

How can we hold a conversation on the definition of co-operation programs that are so far only discussed with national governments?

How can local governments access co-operation funding knowing that the bulk of the demand of the people are at the local level? What if a share pf 30 percent of co-operation funding was delivered directly at local level? There is a huge demand for climate funding mitigation and adaptation actions, so far there is no window for local governments in the green climate fund. What can ministers do to redress the situation?

We know that one of the paradigms local government faces is poor allocation of human resources at the local level and administration. To respond to this UCLG Africa established ALGA but for now ALGA has no funding. What concrete actions and measures can ministers take to ensure that ALGA is funded adequately?

There are lot of local governments that intend to partner with their sister local government, however there is not legal framework for international relations as local government.

QUESTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Technical assistance should be in cooperation with the Local Government. How can we ensure that technical assistance is provided in co-operation with local governments so that Mayors can drive development coherently?

Development assistance should be provided directly to the Local Government. How can a meaningful percentage of development assistance be designated directly to local governments?

Targeting development cooperation towards the needs of the local authorities must be directed by needs of local governments as opposed to prioritizing the needs of development co-operation agencies. How do we ensure that this happens?

Africa will be the worst negatively impacted region in the world by Climate Change, Development Partners, particularly in the Green Climate Fund, have better control of the Fund. How can we jointly make it less difficult for cities to access climate mitigation & adaptation funds.

Partnership are not easy to achieve, what is the best mechanism and/or methodology – that which are inclusive of civil society partners and business – that will make partnership work and achieve meaningful results.

OUTCOME OF THE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS SESSION

QUESTIONS FOR MINISTERS

What progress has been made on decentralization reforms and what binding factor have you encountered?

What are you doing to increase financial resources and financing options, particularly for small and intermediary cities?
What can be done to bridge the trust gap between levels of government as well as non-government stakeholders?

In addition to funding, what is the most important support that you expect from development partners?

How can coordination mechanisms be made more effective between governments and development partners, and between and within tiers of government?

QUESTIONS FOR MAYORS

How do you intend to seize the new opportunities for cities that exist in light of the growing recognition of cities as agents of sustainable development?

How can you lobby and advocate to better and more efficiently serve your constituencies?

How do you enable the contribution of the informal sector to structural transformation?

In addition to funding, what is the most important support that you expect from development partners?

What are your strategies to improve your fiscal situation?

OUTCOME OF THE MINISTERS SESSION

QUESTIONS FOR MAYORS

Local Governance

The promotion of good local governance requires elected officials to implement accountability, reporting and transparent management mechanisms for local authorities. In the same vein, the African Union has included the fight against corruption as the general theme for 2018.

1. How do mayors observe these principles of good governance, as set out in the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Development and Local Governance, in their daily management of local affairs?

2. How do local elected officials integrate the issue of the fight against corruption into the management of their community?

Promotion of the Local Economy

It is generally observed that many local and regional elected officials expect to receive as resources everything from the State and Partners and make no effort to promote the local economy likely to foster local growth and above all to generate their own resources that can contribute to their autonomy.

3. At a time when local and regional elected officials are faced with multiple commitments to the development of their communities, what strategies are local elected officials implementing to optimize their own resources and strengthen their financial autonomy?

4. What measures do they hope to see developed to strengthen their autonomy and not depend solely on state transfers?
Decentralized Cooperation

The trend often observed is that African local and regional authorities are establishing more decentralised cooperation links with Northern authorities (Europe, America, Asia, etc.) to the detriment of local and regional authorities in the Continent, which nevertheless have the same institutional, economic, social, cultural, climatic and environmental framework, all things that can encourage the easy duplication of good practices.

5. How do local authorities intend to organize themselves to further promote South-South cooperation that would share good practices in Africa and strengthen the capacity of local and regional human resources through peer learning?

6. What role can local authorities play in the continent's regional integration process to promote peace and cross-border trade?

Migrations

Some African countries are experiencing economic or political crises, natural disasters (famine, drought, floods), armed conflicts or social unrest that are increasingly leading to the displacement of rural populations to urban areas, from poor regions to richer regions, from the interior of the continent to coastal regions or even to other continents (Europe or the Middle East).

7. What strategies could local and regional authorities implement to help reduce migration?

8. What measures can be taken at the local level to help curb the rapid increase in migrants to urban areas?

The provision of basic social services

Several African cities are characterized by:

- An approximate organization of garbage collection services;
- Poor maintenance of urban infrastructure;
- Inadequate street lighting;
- The proliferation of slums, uncontrolled land use and construction in fragile areas.

1. Faced with all these problems, what could be the responses of local and regional elected representatives to make our cities safe, resilient and sustainable?

QUESTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Climate Change

The production model adopted by the industrialized countries has resulted in climate change, the negative effects of which are being felt all over the world. Several United Nations conferences have resulted in a commitment by all countries to participate in the reduction of greenhouse gases. The Paris agreements on climate change have clearly established each other's responsibilities, while defining the collective and individual efforts to be made so that together we can achieve sustainable development objectives (keeping temperature increase below 2%) and objectives.
1. Local and Regional Governments are the level of government closest to the population and therefore play a central role in the fight against climate change and its effects, how do you plan, at the human, material and financial levels, to support African countries in general and local authorities in particular in the process of adapting to the adverse effects of climate change so that their joint actions are compatible with efforts made at the national and global levels?

Support for the implementation of projects and development plans

Central Governments generally have a mission of equitable, fair and balanced development of all their regions. The same applies to local authorities whose mission is to ensure the balanced development of their territory. But very often Technical and Financial Partners do not integrate the principles of alignment with national policies into their interventions.

1. How do our partners plan to integrate the orientations of central governments into the formulation of national and local projects and programmes?
2. How can the State's development choices be reconciled with the projects initiated by Development Partners in the best interests of local populations?

Migrations

Recently, the world has seen a growing influx of migrants. Within individual African countries, there has also been an increase in migration from rural to urban areas, resulting in excessive pressure on service delivery. In response to this trend, a Global Compact is being negotiated that should take into account local authorities as one of the main actors capable of curbing this phenomenon. However, local authorities do not have sufficient resources and technical capacity to manage this phenomenon, hence the urgent need to support them.

1. What actions, strategies and programmes do development partners and donors intend to put in place to ensure that local authorities are adequately supported and supported with a view to significantly reducing the number of migrants?

Access of local and regional governments to international financing related to climate change

African States and their territories are all struggling with the consequences of climate change and global warming, but they do not have the necessary financial resources. At the same time, the Green Climate Fund for Climate (GCF) is a new $1 billion Global Fund created to support developing countries’ efforts to address the challenges of global warming and adaptation to climate change. Experts estimate that more than 70% of the fight against global warming and the consequences of climate change will take place at the local level.

What can partners do to ensure that a large part of this funding is allocated to Africa in general and to local authorities in particular?

1. How do cooperating partners support African countries, territories and cities in evaluating the Green Climate Fund?
2. Are there opportunities and possibilities to create a specific window in the Green Climate Fund to take into account the specificities of Africa?

Financing international programs

The evaluation of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals showed that the results achieved have not always lived up to expectations, as local and regional authorities
have not always been involved in their implementation. Today, the globalization of the implementation of the MDGs in all States has established local and regional authorities as key players alongside central governments because of their proximity to the population. However, local and regional governments are confronted with the scarcity of their resources in the face of multiple needs and challenges.

1. How do the Technical and Financial Partners intend to support African Countries in financing territorialisation and the localisation of international or global agendas?
D.6 SUMMARY OF THE OPENING SESSION

PENDING DOCUMENT
D.8 FORUM OF REGIONS

Decentralisation, now being widely accepted as an evidence, has become a priority for numerous African States. In order to implement it, they have carried out political and institutional reforms. One of them is the creation of a new type of Territorial Authorities: the Regions. The “Regional Option” covers several dimensions:

1. The identity, linked to history, to language, to patrimony and to culture, sometimes very strong, sometimes in construction;
2. The political and institutional dimension for a better articulation, integration, coherence and convergence of public policies;
3. The economic and marketing dimension, aiming at creating competitiveness and attractiveness areas, as well as employment regions;
4. The dimension of territorial development, through land use planning, building of infrastructure and basic equipment;
5. The dimension of sustainable development;
6. The dimension of partnership and cooperation between different actors and stakeholders: the State, other territorial collectivities and civil society components.

The current geo-political context of advanced decentralization is characterized by multiple challenges, framed among others by the African Union Vision 2063 and by World Agendas (Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Agenda, …). The question is now: “What role can and should Regions endorse? How could federating in a network improve their positioning as a key-actor in the development and transition dynamics? In order to give answers to these questions, UCLG Africa, the Moroccan Association of Regions (ARM) and UCLG organize the 1st Forum of African Regions, during the 2018 Africities Summit.

This session addresses Executives of African Regional Governments, but also Executives of Regional Governments from other continents. Besides meetings among Africans, they will also have the opportunity to exchange with counterparts who benefit from a much longer experience in this field. This Forum aims at laying the fundaments of partnership and cooperation:

1. South-South between African Regions, in order to strengthen their solidarity links and work towards development and promotion of their Regions,
2. North-South, in order to enrich with experiences from all over the world. Indeed, globalization requires all modern and ambitious institutions to work in networks.

This plenary session will consist of presentations followed by debates and caucuses, that will lead to the election of the Board of the Forum of African Regions.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To institutionalize the Forum of African Regions as political body of UCLG Africa and elect its.

BOARD SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To clarify place and role of Regions as a new decentralization level of Africa
2. To situate the place and role of Regions in the sustainable development and transition in Africa
3. To favor contacts and exchanges between Executives of African Regional Governments, looking for synergies;
4. To enable participants to mutually enrich themselves from peer experiences;
5. To Promote Cooperation between African Regions, on one hand, and Regions from all over the world, on the other hand.
D.9 AFRICAN METROPOLITAN CITIES AND REGIONS

Africa's 2063 horizon will be characterized by two major trends: globalization, urbanization and the metropolization of cities. Urbanization will not be limited to the evolution of cities; urbanization marks all territories, urban but also rural. Africa's urban framework has changed rapidly.

In 1960, Africa had two cities with more than one million inhabitants, Cairo and Johannesburg. In 2015, there are 79 African cities with more than one million inhabitants and 21 cities with more than two million inhabitants. Five cities have more than 8 million inhabitants, one per sub-region: Lagos, Cairo, Johannesburg-Gauteng, Kinshasa and Nairobi. Urbanization is not just about big cities; 70% of the urban population resides in secondary cities.

The urban framework will be characterized by metropolization. The trend towards precariousness accentuates urban exclusion and segregation. In the next twenty years, Africa will need to welcome an additional urban population equivalent to the current urban population, i.e. nearly 500 million new urban dwellers. Over the next twenty or thirty years, mainly in poor countries, as much infrastructure will have to be built as has been built so far. This will necessarily lead to a paradigm shift for African countries but will also lead to profound disruptions for African metropolises.

They are entering a phase of ecological, demographic, economic, social and geopolitical transition for sustainable development. African Metropolises must adopt a strategic approach that consists in responding to emergencies but that is part of a structural transformation perspective UCLG Africa and METROPOLIS in a new strategic partnership engage African Metropolis Leaders to reflect and build dynamic partnerships around a platform for reflection and exchange called the Forum of African Cities and Metropolises.
Secretariat General

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