

PRESS RELEASE 2

EAST AFRICA REGIONAL SEMINAR OF UCLG-A

The **East Africa Regional Seminar** of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-A) was held from Saturday 05 to Monday 07 September at "**Imperial Golf View Hotel**" of Entebbe, in Uganda.

Eight of the fourteen countries of the UCLG-A East Africa Region met on the theme: "**The contribution of Local Governments to the Unity of Africa.**" They were represented by the presidents of the national associations of mayors and their secretaries-general, and the major cities in the countries that have no local government associations.

The deliberations were chaired by the **Council Frederick GUME**, President of the Union of Local Governments of East African (ULGA) and moderated by Mr. **Jean-Pierre ELONG MBASSI**, Secretary General of UCLG-A, after the Welcome Address delivered by **Council Vincent KAYANGA**, Mayor of the City of Entebbe.

The first day was devoted to a series of information meant for the participants on the evolution of the environment of action of local governments in Africa and at the world level. A specific information session was held on the **African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Development** adopted by the **Conference of Heads of State and Government** at its meeting in **Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014**. Since its adoption, the charter has been signed by only two countries (Guinea Bissau and Mauritania) and has, so far, not been ratified by any country. The Charter will become a legal instrument of the Union only after its signing, ratification and the deposit of these instruments with the Commission of the African Union by at least 15 member states of the African Union.

The issue of the role of African local governments in the international agenda offered to the participants the opportunity to receive information on the outlines of the strategic partnership "**Framework Partnership Agreement**" (FPA) entered into

between UCLG-A and the European Commission (EC), the Africa Strategy of Cities Alliance, and the role of local governments regarding the ongoing debates on the sustainable development agenda and the climate agenda.

The second day was devoted to the review of the place of East Africa local governments in the network of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-A) and in the network of the world organization of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). Local elected officials were invited to formulate priority projects for their local governments in line with any of three pillars of the GADDEPA program (Governance, Advocacy, Decentralized Development for Africa)

The third and final day addressed the participation of the East Africa Region in the 7th edition of the Africities Summit to be held at the International Convention Centre of Sandton, in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 29 November to 03 December 2015. A paper on the state of preparation of the Summit and the Exhibition was presented.

Regarding the participation component of the members of the Region in the Elective General Assembly of UCLG-A and the Network of Local Elected Women of Africa (NLEWA), the local elected officials were reminded of the rules and procedures of the Elective General Assembly. A regional caucus then proceeded with the nomination of the East Africa for the various offices within the governing bodies of UCLG-A whose election will take place during the Elective General Assembly scheduled to take place on 02 December 2015 in Johannesburg within the framework of the Africities Summit.

At the end of these three days of deliberations, the delegates passed the following resolutions:

I Nominees of East Africa:

- **Within the Electoral Commission** for the organization of the Elective General Assembly of 02 December 2015 in Johannesburg: **City of Moroni (Comoros)**

- **For the Pan-African Council of Local Governments:**

Association Districts of Victoria (ADV, Seychelles)

Burundi Association of Local Elected Officials (ABELO)



Kenya Association of County Governments (KACG, KENYA)

Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT)

Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA)

Ethiopian Cities Association, (ECA)

Region of Anjouan (Comoros)

City of Mogadiscio (Somalia)

City of Antananarivo (Madagascar)

- **For the Financial Commission of UCLG-A:**

Burundi Association of Local Elected Officials (ABELO)

- **For the Executive Committee of UCLG -A :**

* Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT)

* Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA)

* Association Districts of Victoria (ADV, Seychelles)

- **For the Vice Presidency of the East Africa Region**

Association Districts of Victoria (ADV, Seychelles)

- **For the Africa Vice Presidency at the World Level (UCLG)**

Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA)

-**Africa Candidate for the World Presidency (UCLG) :**

City of Johannesburg, South Africa

The participants also nominated the presidents of the five UCLG-A working committees as follows:

Decentralization and Local Democracy Committee, President: Kenya Association of County Governments (KACG)

Humanitarian and Disaster Responses Committee, President: City of Mogadiscio, Somalia.

Environment and Sustainable Development Committee, President: Ethiopian Cities Association, (ECA)

Integration, Peace and Conflict Prevention Committee, President: Rwandese Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA)

II- African Charter of Decentralization and the High Council of Local Governments

- ✚ Seven associations pledged to complete, in their respective countries, the process of signing and ratifying the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Development. These are: Burundi, Kenya, Seychelles, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Comoros and Uganda. An assessment of the number of countries that have signed and ratified the Charter will be carried out at the Africities 7 Summit (Johannesburg, South Africa, from 29 November to 03 December 2015)
- ✚ The participants decided to intervene with the government of their respective countries in order to start the selection process of representatives of local governments with the **High Council of Local Authorities (HCAL)**.
- ✚ The national associations made a commitment to take collectively initiatives for the establishment of a Council of Local Governments within the Regional Economic Commissions (East Africa Community), with the support from the UCLG-A Regional Office for East Africa.

III- Strategic Partnership with the European Commission ("Framework Partnership Agreement" -FPA),

- ✚ After the information given on the content of the European Union communication on the role of local authorities in development and the new provisions that it contains including, notably, the recognition of local authorities as a full stakeholder in European cooperation, the associations of local governments of the region made a commitment to establish an official and formal contact with the delegations of the European Union in their respective countries, and on the 11th EDF.

IV- Development of UCLG-A networks

- ✚ The participants made a commitment to develop or create within UCLG-A the following networks: network of local elected women; network of major cities in Africa; Network of border area local governments; African network of decentralized cooperation; professional network of Town Clerks of local governments; professional network of Chief Financial Officers of African cities - AFRICA FINET; professional network Chief Engineers of African cities. They also decided to integrate the professional networks into specialized committees of the national associations of local governments.

V - AFRICITIES 7

- ✚ Each national association of East Africa undertook to develop a **document of 1 to 2 pages presenting its comments on the Agenda 2063 and its proposals and commitments for the realization of the aforesaid agenda. All thus developed documents will be compiled into in a compendium presenting the position of Local Authorities on the Agenda 2063 in Africa, which will be presented to the Heads of State and Government of the African Union at their meeting in January 2016.**
- ✚ Furthermore, the national associations undertook to prepare the participation of the elected officials of their respective countries in the meetings between the African elected officials and their counterparts from China, Turkey, Latin America and Europe. A list of ten local elected officials of the region must be forwarded to the UCLG-A Secretariat for each of the aforementioned meetings.
- ✚ The national associations accepted to encourage their members to respond to a **survey launched by UCLG-A in preparation for the 2015 Africities Summit, requesting each local government to present its three most burning problems for which it wishes to find solutions at the Africities Summit. Only the first 150 local governments that will respond to the survey will be selected based on the principle first comes/ first served.**

- ✚ The East Africa region should nominate and forward to the Secretariat of UCLG-A via the Regional Office for East Africa, **a representative that will be a member of the drafting committee in charge of developing the declaration of Mayors, at the end of the 2015 Africities Summit in 2015.**

- ✚ The participants were informed of the opening, by mid-September 2015, of the competition for the second edition of the President Jose Eduardo dos Santos Prize Award for the Best Mayor of the year 2015. The local governments of East Africa are invited to participate massively. For the terms of participation, they asked to visit the Award website. The local governments may compete based on the following three categories: small cities (20,000 to 200,000 inhabitants); medium-sized cities (from 200,000 to one million inhabitants); large cities (over 1,000,000 inhabitants).



o **VI Regional Office**

- o The staff members of the regional office were presented to the delegates. These are:

MENHYA JUMA NYENDE: Director of the Regional Office of UCLG-A for East Africa

JEROME BYUKUSENGE: Program Officer

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A Headquarters Agreement should be concluded between UCLG-A and the Government of Tanzania for the formalization of the hosting of the UCLG-A Regional Office in Arusha. **The corresponding steps should be facilitated by the Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT).** Pending the conclusion of this Headquarters Agreement, the Regional Office staff members were invited to join the Arusha Office as soon as possible.

It was also agreed that the secretariat should inform the ministers responsible for local government in the region, and all international and cooperation partners of the structuring of UCLG-A in the region as well as of the setting up of the Regional Office of UCLG-A for East Africa.

The seminar of Entebbe followed the two previous held in Dakar (3-5 August 2015) for West Africa and Pretoria (17-19 August 2015) for Southern Africa. It will be followed by the one for Central Africa in **Brazzaville (Congo, 29 September to 02 October 2015)** and Northern Africa in Nouakchott (**Mauritania, 11 -15 October 2015**).