



PRESS RELEASE

CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL SEMINAR OF UCLG-A

The **Central Africa Regional Seminar** of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-A) was held from Thursday 29 to Saturday 31 October 2015 at «**Ledger Plaza Maya Maya**» Hotel of Brazzaville, Congo.

Seven of the nine countries of the UCLG-A Central 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 permanent secretaries, and the major cities in the countries that have no local government associations.

The opening ceremony registers a massive presence of Congolese local authorities and for the participants of the six other countries of the central region (Cameroon, Gabon, Chad, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sao Tome and Principe). The ceremony was graced by the presence of **Mr. Jean Jacques Bouya**, Minister at presidency of the Republic of Congo, in charge of Spatial Planning and the General Delegation for Major Works and **Mr. Issaka Garba Abdou**, Representative of the Director of Department of Political Affairs, African Union Commission.

The deliberations were chaired by **Mr. Hugues Ngouelondele**, Vice President of Central Africa Region, Deputy -Mayor of the City of Brazzaville and moderated by **Mr. Souleymane Maiga**, Office Director and Chief of Staff UCLG-A, **Mr. François Yatta**, Director of Programmes UCLG-A and **Mr. Charles Patsika**, Director of Networks Coordination and External Relations and Membership Drive of UCLG-A.

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 four countries (Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Chad and Congo) and has, so far, not been ratified by any country.

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). A communication was done on the role of local governments on the sustainable development agenda, the climate agenda and financing for development agenda.

The second day was devoted to the review of the place of Central 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 Central 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 Central Africa for the various offices within the governing bodies of UCLG-A.



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

I Nominees of East Africa:

- **Within the Electoral Commission:** City of Malabo
- **For the Pan-African Council of Local Governments:**
 - * Association of Mayors of Congo (AMC)
 - * Association of Councils of Gabon (ACG)
 - * United Councils and Cities of Cameroon (UCCC)
 - * Association of Mayors of Central Africa Republic (AMCA)
 - * National Association of Councils of Chad (ANCT)
 - * Association of Local Authorities and autonomous regions of Sao Tome and Principe
 - * City of Kinshasa (RDC)
 - * City of Luanda (Angola)
 - * City of Malabo (Equatorial Guinea)
- **For the Financial Commission of UCLG-A:**
National Association of Councils of Chad (ANCT)
- **For the Executive Committee of UCLG -A:**
 - * Association of Mayors of Congo (AMC)
 - * Association of Councils of Gabon (ACG)
 - * United Councils and Cities of Cameroon (UCCC)
- **For the Vice Presidency of the Central Africa Region**
Association of Mayors of Congo (AMC)
- **For Presidency of UCLG-A term of office 2015-2018**



City of Dakar, Senegal

-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: Association of Local Authorities and autonomous regions of Sao Tome and Principe

Humanitarian and Disaster Responses Committee, President: Association of Mayors of Central Africa Republic (AMCA)

Environment and Sustainable Development Committee, President: City of Kinshasa (RDC)

Integration, Peace and Conflict Prevention Committee, President: City of Luanda (Angola)

Otherwise, Central Africa caucus **reiterate that the city of Rabat remains the seat of the Pan African organization of local authorities, UCLG-A.**

- Local Authority of Central Africa choose city of Brazzaville to hold the next **Africities Summit in 2018.**
- The Caucus pronounces in favor of City of Ndjamena as the seat of regional office of UCLG-A of Central Africa.

II- African Charter of Decentralization

- ✚ The Participants were invited to advocate in their respective countries in favor of the process of signing and ratifying the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Development. Gabon has undertaken in this direction and urged other countries in the region to follow suit.



III- Development of UCLG-A networks

- ✚ The participants expressed a special interest to develop within UCLG-A, professional network of Chief Financial Officers of African cities - AFRICA FINET. The objective of this network is to improve financial management of local authorities through mobilization of Chief Financial Officers to take part at "Think Thanks" sessions, capacity building and sharing of good practices. Members were encouraged to work for strengthening and developing the network of local elected women (REFELA); and for networking of other senior executives who support the action of Local governments, namely general secretaries and Directors of technical services.

V -AFRICITIES 7

- ✚ The national associations were invited 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.
- ✚ The same interpellation was made for a massive participation in the Africities Summit and the Africities 7 Exhibition.
- ✚ Members of UCLG-A Central Africa committed to take part at the Elective General Assembly scheduled to take place on 02 December 2015 and accordingly to come into line with their contributions vis-à-vis of the organization
- ✚ Each national association undertook to develop a document of 1 to 2 pages presenting its comments on the Agenda 2063 and send to UCGL-A Secretary as soon as possible. All the 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 next meeting following Africities Summit.



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

The seminar of Brazzaville closed series of Regional Seminars of UCGL-A, which were held in the five regions of the continent, respectively in Dakar (Senegal, 3-5 August 2015) for West Africa , in Pretoria (South Africa, 17-19 August 2015) for Southern Africa, in Entebbe (Uganda, 5-7 September) for East Africa and in Nouakchott (Mauritania, 23 -25 October 2015) for Northern Africa.