



PRESS RELEASE

AFRICA SEEKING TO CHAIR THE WORLD BODY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The 5th Congress of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders will take place on 12-15 October 2016 in Bogotá, Colombia. The meeting, which will see UCLG, the world Organization of Local governments, renew its governing bodies and elect a new President at the General Assembly of 14 October 2016.

Africa is seeking to chair for the first time the Presidency of the organization with the candidacy of Parks Tau, the new President of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and former Mayor of Johannesburg. His candidacy is supported by United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-Africa) following its General Assembly held on 02 December 2015 in Johannesburg (South Africa) and the 14th session of its Executive Committee held on 10 May 2016 in Rabat (Morocco).

In this race for the Presidency, Parks Tau will stand in opposition to the Russian, Mr. Ilur Metshin, Mayor of Kazan (Russian Federation).

To place Africa on top of the local governance at the global level, Parks Tau has focused his campaign on "Change and Continuity". Change, because it is time for Africa to assume the leadership of UCLG given that the topical issues confronting local authorities nowadays are the issues of the global South, of African cities in terms of urbanization, resilience and climate change.

Continuity because it is vital to consolidate the progress made by UCLG and expand the scope and the dynamism of the organization at the local and global levels.

The campaign is focused on three themes:

- Locating Local Government at the Centre of a Changing World,
- Facilitating Collaborative Local Governance,
- Ensuring Organizational Consolidation and Renewal.

The meeting in Bogota will also allow the members of UCLG to define the global agenda of cities and regions for the coming years and to develop inputs for the upcoming international happenings such as the 3rd Conference of the United Nations on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development-Habitat III (October 17-20, Quito, Ecuador).

Note that, Africa is also seeking the position of UCLG treasure with the candidacy of Mr. Mohamed Sadiki, Mayor of Rabat (Morocco). He will face Mr. Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener (Canada).

For more information, Contact:

Gaëlle Yomi: + 212 610 56 71 45

E-mail : gyomi@uclga.org

About UCLG: United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage, regardless of the size of the communities they serve. It was founded in 2004 and has its headquarters in Barcelona. www.uclg.org

About UCLG Africa: United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) is the umbrella organization of African local governments, which the founding congress was held in the City of Tshwane, South Africa, in May 2005. UCLG Africa headquarter is in the City of Rabat (Kingdom of Morocco), since January 2008. It has regional offices on the continent. UCLG Africa gathers 40 national associations of local governments from all regions of Africa, as well as the 2000 cities that have more than 100.000 inhabitants. It is the African section of the World organization of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). www.localafrica.org