



## PRESS RELEASE

### PROFESSIONALS OF LOCAL AND SUBREGIONAL GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICA LAY THE BASES OF A CONTINENTAL STRUCTURING

At the initiative of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa), the Network of Chief Financial Officers "Africa Finet" and the Network of City Managers/CEOs/Town Clerks "Africa MagNet" of the cities and subregions of Africa met from November 17 to November 19, 2016 at the Kenzi Tower Hotel in Casablanca, Morocco.

160 high-ranking officials of local Governments in Africa from 31 countries took part in these meetings. The main goals pursued through this initiative are the following:

- Strengthening the voice of subnational and local Governments through the structuring and organizing of senior executives of local development administration at the Pan African level.
- Networking said senior executives' to constitute a community of practitioners called upon to encourage mutual learning.
- Upgrading of the skills of these professionals in terms of latest knowledge, methods and tools performing to planning and management, as well as the provision of services to the population and governance arrangements.

The Network of Chief Financial Officers "Africa Finet", established since 2013, held its fourth training session on Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). This training follows those organized previously on the PEFA (Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability) in 2013; the financial rating of local authorities by rating agencies in 2014; and the access of local and subnational Governments to the financial markets through the issuance of municipal bonds in 2015.

The presentation of PPP case studies (France, South Africa and Kenya) and the sharing of experience on the legal framework of various African countries have enabled CFOs to be better equipped to adapt the PPPs to the needs of their local Governments. The main challenge is the negotiation of balanced contracts where the management of risk between parties does not come at the expense of the population's interest. A balanced "PPP" is based on the assumption of the reversibility of choices, and also implies the possibility recognized to the public authority to exercise its regulatory power.

For the first meeting of the "Africa MagNet" Network, the City Managers/CEOs/Town Clerks were granted a training session on the theme "Evaluation of the costs of the transferred competencies". The question of the desirable conjunction between transfer of competencies and transfer of resources is indeed recurrent in the implementation of decentralization policies. The answer to this question goes through a better appreciation of the resources that the central Government spent on the exercise of those powers before they were transferred to local authorities. Studies on the costs of the transferred competencies have been presented from the cases of Niger, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast.

On the other hand, the "Africa MagNet" Network also adopted its rules of procedures and designated its office bearers during its constitutive General Assembly. **Ms. Maria José MORENO CUNA**, Chief Executive Officer of Nampula City Council (Mozambique) was elected President of the Network "Africa MagNet". The Network's governance is supplemented by 4 Vice-Presidents representing other regions of Africa : North Africa (**Mr. Taoufik Ahmed NACIRI**, CEO of Casablanca, Morocco); West Africa (**Mr. Jean Michel AMANKOU**, CEO of Abidjan Plateau, Ivory Coast); Central Africa (**Mr. Joseph MOUNDZIEGOU**, CEO of Libreville, Gabon); East Africa (**Mr. Godfrey M. A. KURUHIIRA**, CAO of Lwengo, Uganda).

The Council of the Network "Africa MagNet" includes 14 members, 2 or 3 per each of regions : North Africa (**Mr. Taoufik Ahmed NACIRI**, CEO of Casablanca in Morocco, **Mr. El Hadj GAYE**, CEO of Nouakchott in Mauritania and **Mr. Mohamed Salah MESSAOUDI**, CEO of Sidi Bouzid in Tunisia); West Africa (**Mr. Jean Michel AMANKOU**, CEO of Abidjan Plateau in Ivory Coast, **Ms. Mame Joséphine DORE**, CEO of Kindia in Guinea and **Mr. Mourade Dieye GUEYE**, CEO of Dakar in Senegal); Central Africa (**Mr. Joseph MOUNDZIEGOU**, CEO of Libreville in Gabon, **Mr. Shey Henry NGANJI**, CEO of Kumba in Cameroon and **Mr. Bertin OLOKAWÉ**, CEO of Sangha in Congo); East Africa (**Mr. Godfrey M. A. KURUHIIRA**, CAO of Lwengo in Uganda and **Mr. Jaylall MULLOO**, CAO of Port Louis in Mauritius); Southern

Africa (**Ms. Maria José MORENO CUNA**, CEO of Nampula in Mozambique, **Ms. Nonhlanhla Patricia GAMEDE**, Municipal Manager of iLembe in South Africa and **Mr. Macloud Dumen Andrew KADAM'MANJA**, CEO of Mzuzu in Malawi).

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