PRESS RELEASE

ADOPTION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF UCLG AFRICA DURING COP22

On November 13, 2016 at the Palmeraie Palace Marrakech Hotel, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-Africa) adopted its new Constitution at its Extraordinary General Assembly organized in the margins of COP22.

The meeting had a strong participation of members of the five regions of the continent who unanimously voted in favor of the revised Constitution of the organization.

The main resolutions adopted by the Extraordinary General Meeting include:

- Institutionalization of the Network for Locally Elected Women of Africa (REFELA) within the Presidency of UCLG Africa. The Presidency now includes six (6) members: five (5) elected members, one (1) from each of the five (5) African regions; and the President of REFELA, ex officio,

- The adoption of the final text of the call for applications for the recruitment of a Deputy Secretary General within UCLG Africa.

"Today with the involvement of all local, national, and regional officials, the adoption during this general assembly of our Constitution and our Rules of procedure is an important step in this quest for the revitalization of our continental organization. This was done in a process of consultation that should be commended", declared the President of UCLG Africa, Mr. Khalifa Sall, Mayor of Dakar, at the end of the proceedings of the general assembly.

This extraordinary General Assembly closed the series of statutory meetings of the organization held in the fringes of the COP22, namely, the 15th session of the Executive Committee on 11 November, the 8th session of the Pan African Council of UCLG Africa of September 12, 2016; and the first talks of Traditional Authorities of Africa held on November 11 and 12, which resulted in the creation of an association of African Traditional Authorities for local dynamic and sustainable governance. The said association elected as President his Majesty Mfumu-Difima Ntinu of the National Alliance of Traditional Authorities of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

With a view to their participation in the Summit of Local and Regional Elected Officials on November 14, 2016 as part of the COP22, the representatives of the Local and Regional Governments of Africa confirmed their support to the Cotonou Declaration adopted during the pre-COP22 Forum of local and regional elected officials of Africa, and reaffirmed the following priorities within that Declaration:

- Access to energy for all with the local authorities in Africa;

- Priority given to actions for adaptation to climate change to prepare local authorities so as to prevent risks related to climate change and to cope with disasters due to climate change;

- Creation of a window dedicated to local communities within the Green Climate Fund,

- The implementation, during the 2017-2019 period preceding the entry into operation of the Green Climate Fund in 2020, of a technical assistance and capacity-building program for local authorities in Africa so that they will be able to prepare and submit bankable applications to the Green Climate Fund and other climate finance mechanisms. This program may be implemented within the framework of the Africa Local Governments Academy (ALGA) established by UCLG Africa;

- The accession of African Local Authorities to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and the call for a rapid implementation of technical assistance resource within the Regional Office of UCLG Africa in Accra, Ghana, in order to speed up the development of Climate plans within local communities of the continent.

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