



PRESS RELEASE

UCLG AFRICA MOBILIZES ITS MEMBERS AT COP22

On 13 November 2016 at Palmeraie Palace Hotel of Marrakech, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) will organise an extraordinary General Assembly, at a fringe event during COP 22 (7-18 November 2016, Marrakesh), in order to revise the UCLG-Africa Constitution.

The choice to hold this meeting during COP22 was made at the 14th session of the Executive Committee of the Organization on 10 May 2016, in Rabat. The Executive Committee urged UCLG-Africa members to mobilise in order to ensure high levels of participation from African local authorities at the Climate Summit but also at the Summit of Local and Regional Leaders that will take place on the 14th November 2016 during COP22.

In order to prepare this important gathering, a Pre-COP22 Forum was organized in Cotonou, Benin Republic, in partnership with the Government of Benin Republic, the Francophone Institute of Sustainable Development (IFDD), the National Association of the Municipalities of Benin (ANCB), the Association of Regions of Morocco (ARM) and the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Local Governments Councils (AMPCC).

The Pre-COP22 adopted the Cotonou Declaration that makes a number of recommendations, including a request for a dedicated window within the Green Climate Fund to finance local and regional governments' Climate programmes and projects, including capacity development programmes to acquire skills necessary to elaborate Climate plans and to prepare funding requests.

In Marrakech, UCLG Africa will also hold a number of other statutory meetings including the 15th session of the Executive Committee, and the 8th session of the Pan African Council. These meetings will be the first ones held after the Congress of the World Organization of United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), which took place between 12 - 15 October 2016 in Bogota (Colombia), where Mr. Paks Tau, became the first representative from Africa to be elected as UCLG World President. It is during the last meeting of the UCLG-Africa general assembly held at the Africities Summit in Johannesburg on 2 December 2015 that Mr. Parks Tau was chosen as the candidate presented by Africa for UCLG President.

The COP22 in Marrakesh will also host the first ever dialogue of traditional authorities of Africa around their engagement in favor of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and of the entrenchment of the renewal of local governance within shared core African values. Traditional authorities in attendance will also consider the proposal of setting up an association representing the united voice of African traditional authorities on the continent which draft constitution will be debated. This meeting of traditional authorities is a follow-up to the sessions from the Africities Summit 2015.

In addition, the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Local Economic Development Network of Africa (LEDNA), one of UCLG Africa's strategic programmes, which aims to promote Local Economic Development (LED), will take place in Marrakesh

Finally, on the 16th November 2016, as a partner of the "Climate Initiatives Awards-COP22", UCLG Africa will organize a side event on the theme: "Act in favor of the climate in Africa: The engagement of Local Authorities".

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