United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
16th Session of the Executive Committee
Rabat, Morocco, May 29-30, 2017

Motion of solidarity with Mr. Khalifa Ababacar Sall, Mayor of Dakar, Senegal, President of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa)

We, the members of the Executive Committee of UCLG Africa, hereby express our concern about the prolonged detainment of our President Khalifa Ababacar Sall who has been placed in administrative detention in the Rebours Prison in Dakar, Senegal, without having been convicted by the judiciary of his country, and where, as a defendant, he should benefit from the presumption of innocence until proven guilty after a fair and transparent trial.

We have been informed that the conditions of his detention have been further tightened and that the number of visits he can receive have been dramatically reduced. We denounce this degrading and undeserving treatment of a democratically elected mayor who still holds the office of Mayor of Dakar, the capital city of Senegal.

We urge the members of UCLG Africa and our UCLG World Organization to mobilize and continue in their efforts to inform policy makers and solicit opinion at the national, regional and international level regarding the unacceptable conditions imposed upon the Mayor in the execution of the functions of his office. We stand by Khalifa Ababacar Sall, whose competence, honesty and integrity have never been at fault in all the functions that he has exercised within the community of locally elected officials who continue to place their trust in him as President of UCLG Africa, the Pan-African organization of local and regional authorities; as the President of Cities Alliance; as Secretary General of the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF); as a member of the World Bureau of the Organization of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG); as a member of the Bureau of the World Association of Major Metropolises (Metropolis); and as the founding member of the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), amongst others.

We trust that the justice system of Senegal will ensure that the handling of the Khalifa Ababacar Sall case will not be dependent on the political environment determined by the next elections and that the rule of law, and only the rule of law, will prevail without political interference.

We confirm our solidarity with President Khalifa Ababacar Sall and we pledge to keep the world’s attention focused on the undeserved incarcration of the President and hope that he will soon be released from detention.

Rabat, Morocco, May 30, 2017

For the Members of the Executive Committee,
The Vice-President for UCLG Central Africa
President of the 16th Session of the Executive Committee of UCLG Africa

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Mayor and MP for the city of Brazzaville

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