

UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI



# 8<sup>th</sup> AFRICITIES SUMMIT 2018



UCLG AFRICA  
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa  
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique  
CGLU AFRIQUE



الجمعية المغربية لرؤساء مجالس الجماعات  
+EBBHH +LVOVbK+ +EVVQI +EBZEED + HOKOUU  
Association Marocaine des Présidents des Conseils Communaux



## 20 years of Pan-Africanism of Cities and Regions celebrated in Morocco

«For an Africa of all Transitions,  
for Cities and Regions as Drivers of Change Strategies»

### Press Notice

**Under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI**, Morocco hosts the Africities Summit for the second time, addressing the theme: **«The Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories: the Role of Territorial Communities of Africa.»**

Indeed, it is a decisive role, as more than 60% of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations fall within the competence of territorial communities, as recognized by decentralization laws. The actual achievement of these objectives depends thus on the strong involvement of elected representatives, local public administrations, and territorial actors (communities, businesses, artists, women, young people, banking institutions, etc.).

**The future of Africa and its evolution are increasingly played out at the level of the Continent's cities and territories.** Globalization and rapid urbanization are the two powerful trends that mark this evolution. These two trends have a significant impact on the development of African societies. They raise questions about the effectiveness of the current growth and development models pursued in the African context, and even prompt one to consider a paradigm shift in the way people think about the Continent's sustainable development.

In choosing the theme of **«the Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories»** for the Africities 2018 Summit, the territorial authorities of

Africa have opted for a break proposal that justifies the urgency for a **far-reaching change in the growth and development patterns, and a paradigm shift in the Continent's development in order to achieve the structural transformation sought by the African Union Agenda 2063**. The Summit will discuss the various dimensions of transition, without disregarding the interactions they maintain among themselves: demographic, ecological, democratic and political, economic and social, geopolitical, as well as culture and communication.

It is further recognized that it is rather in cities and territories that the fight against climate change and poverty would be won or lost. This is why cities and territories of Africa are now key actors in the process of implementing the international agendas adopted by the United Nations in 2015 and 2016, and more particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG), the Paris Agreement that builds on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the implementation of the said Agreement, and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito, Ecuador. It is for the sake of raising awareness of the new responsibilities incumbent upon them and **exploring the ways and means for fully assuming these responsibilities** that the leaders of territorial communities of Africa invite all relevant stakeholders to explore with them at the **Africities Summit, to be held from 20 to 24 November 2018 in Marrakech**, the strategies to be defined and the paths to move along in order to start now the transition towards sustainable cities and territories in Africa.

This eighth edition is therefore a **not-to-be-missed event** for the territorial communities of Africa, and a significant anniversary date, as it **marks the 20 years of existence and organization of the Africities Summits !**

On this occasion, **the prestigious imperial city of Marrakech** will once again be «the beating heart of Africa on the move». Marrakech will be in the full glare of Moroccan, African and international media attention. It will also be the meeting point for local Africa with the business world, thanks to the Africities Exhibition, organized from November 20 to 23, 2018 as part of the Summit. The exhibition will offer the opportunity to **put into perspective the expectations and demands for investment and access to basic services in cities and territories of Africa with the supply of products and services offered by companies and other actors. This may lead to the discussion of business contracts, deals, or partnerships.**

## **The Moroccan Presence at the Summit: an unprecedented mobilization!**

- 74 Moroccan institutions and organizations,
- 1,000 Moroccan Elected Representatives, Presidents of Communal Councils and Regions, including 47 speakers,
- 65 Sessions during which Moroccan stakeholders set forth their initiatives,
- 10 unified sessions that promote the voice and expertise of Moroccan elected officials, and engage in dialogue with their African and international partners,
- 3 special events that unveil pan-African and international commitments made by the Kingdom of Morocco and the country's actors,
- 1 intercontinental Africa-Asia dialogue, initiated by Morocco,
- 1 common denominator for all Moroccan actors: «Morocco, One Voice for «Territorial Africa»,
- A unique message shared by the mobilized Moroccan organizations: «African Cities & Regions: Lands of Innovation, Lands of Action, Lands of Solidarity».

## **Le Sommet en chiffres**

- 5,000 participants expected
- 3,000 African elected representatives expected
- 150 Exhibitors in the Africities Exhibition
- About 150 sessions on the agenda: 11 Political Sessions / 5 Sessions on Transition / 14 Local Strategies Sessions / 17 Actor Sessions / 96 Open Sessions (debates) / 9 Special Events

## **The Africities Summit 2018 will welcome more than 5,000 participants**

Participants representing all the protagonists of local Africa, as well as their partners from other regions of the world, namely ministers in charge of local government, housing, urban development, and civil service; officers in charge of African institutions; local authorities and locally elected representatives; central and local government officials; civil society organizations, associations and trade unions; economic operators in the public and private sectors, and the social and solidarity economy; traditional authorities; researchers, scientists and academics; international cooperation agencies; African citizens.

## **Africities Summit 2018 revolves around three segments:**

**Thematic sessions** allow participants to dig deeper into the theme of transition towards sustainable cities and territories, as well as to develop policies and strategies to enable African territorial communities to respond to the needs of populations in specific situations.

**Open sessions** allow the various networks of African local authorities or institutions or organizations wishing to work with African territorial authorities to set forth their proposals and contribute to thought on such issues.



**Political sessions** that summarize the Summit include political meetings of mayors and territorial authorities; ministers; development partners; as well as a meeting of political dialogue that gathers mayors, ministers, and development partners.

### **Africities Exhibition 2018 to host more than 150 exhibitors**

An exceptional platform for business meetings, exchanges and partnerships, the **Africities Exhibition** will bring together exhibitors from various business sectors, with nearly 5,000 territorial delegates and decision-makers, who will take part in the **Africities Summit**. It will also make it possible for the Summit to interact with local populations by opening itself to the general public every day, from 4 to 9 p.m. Worthy of note among the visitors of the Africities Exhibition are ministers, mayors and leaders of local authorities at regional and similar level, presidents and heads of local authorities and central administrations, industrial and economic operators, financial institutions, opinion leaders, cooperation agencies and organizations, NGOs, trade unions, employers' federations and associations, etc.

The Exhibition will also attract about 15,000 visitors from different professional backgrounds, and will allow participants to strengthen their business networks and expand their client portfolios.

This significant gathering of institutions and companies will also be a favourable opportunity to discuss local development issues, share experiences, and exchange viewpoints on the most relevant solutions, in order to make the best choices and optimize investments.

Creating new synergies, networking territorial Africa, discussing how to boost investment and foster economic growth and employment; such are the goals and ambitions of **Africities 2018 Exhibition**.

### **ABOUT AFRICITIES**

Since its first edition in 1998, in Abidjan, **Africities** has defined itself as the pan-African platform for dialogue on decentralization and local governance. As its successive editions progress throughout all regions of the Continent (Windhoek, Namibia in 2000; Yaoundé, Cameroon in 2003; Nairobi, Kenya in 2006; Marrakech, Morocco in 2009; Dakar, Senegal in 2012; Johannesburg, South Africa in 2015), Africities managed to establish itself as an ideal forum for thought, exchange, and evaluation on public decentralization policies, the role and missions of territorial communities in the Continent's development and integration, and cooperation and support programs for decentralization and local communities, led by development partners. Africities also proved to be the right venue for promoting and evaluating inter-African South-South decentralized cooperation. Lastly, Africities provides a unique platform for exchanges between the representatives of the main actors in the life of cities

and territories (multi-stakeholder approach) and the representatives of all levels of governance (multi-level approach).

The **Africities Summit 2018** will address the fundamental issues raised by Africa's **Vision 2063** and take part in the debate of **the African Union Commission** for its implementation.

### **ABOUT UCLG**

**United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa)**, the umbrella organization for African local and regional governments, was founded in 2005 in the City of Tshwane, South Africa, as a result of the unification of three continental groups of local governments, namely the African Union of Local Authorities (AULA); the Union of African Cities (UVA); and the Africa Chapter of the Uniao das Cidades y Capitles Lusofonas Africanas, (UCCL-AFRICA).

UCLG Africa currently gathers 47 national associations of territorial communities that operate in Africa, and 2,000 cities and regions of the Continent. Through its members, UCLG Africa represents nearly 350 million Africans. UCLG Africa is headquartered in Rabat, Morocco, and has regional offices in Accra (Ghana) for West Africa; in Arusha (Tanzania) for East Africa; and in Pretoria (South Africa) for Southern Africa.

### **ABOUT AMPCC**

Headquartered in Rabat, the **Moroccan Association of Presidents of Communal Councils (AMPCC)** was set up during the First National Congress of Presidents of Communal Councils which, held on 27 May 2013 in Skhirate, on the theme of «The contribution of the Moroccan communes to the work of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders: what prospects for the decentralization process in the light of the new constitution?»

The major goal of the AMPCC is to contribute to revitalizing communal action and to strengthening the mechanisms of solidarity and co-operation among territorial communities and local actors.

For more information, please visit our website:

**[www.africités.org](http://www.africités.org) [www.salonafrcités2018.com](http://www.salonafrcités2018.com)**

Contacts Presse:

**Mrs. Ikram HADDAJI:** [ikramhaddaji@gmail.com](mailto:ikramhaddaji@gmail.com)

**Mrs. Khadija SMIRI:** [smirikhadija@gmail.com](mailto:smirikhadija@gmail.com)

**Mrs. Em EKONG:** [ekong.em@gmail.com](mailto:ekong.em@gmail.com)