



UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa announce a new strategic partnership to accelerate the localization and implementation of global and African sustainable development goals and targets at the subnational level

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United Cities and Local Governments Africa (UCLG AFRICA) and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability-Africa (ICLEI Africa) are very pleased to announce a strengthened collaborative partnership to accelerate the localization and implementation of the global and African development goals and targets at subnational level.

This collaboration **builds on and complements the existing formal partnership between UCLG and ICLEI at the global level, as was renewed and strengthened in 2018 through a new global-level MoU.** It is particularly important in the framework of the UCLG Africa Climate Task Force, which brings together all interested parties in the strengthening and empowerment of subnational and local governments' role in the climate change and sustainability agenda.

To ensure full alignment with Agenda 2063 and accelerate access to new and existing financing mechanisms and partnerships for implementation at the subnational level, UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa have agreed to build on their long-standing cooperative relationship by entering into a new level of intensified collaboration. This will be facilitated by a more robust and sustained Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to be signed during the upcoming Africa Climate Week in Accra, in March 2019.

General cooperation on urban sustainability

- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa commit to complement each other and seek synergy for the benefit of their shared constituency in the field of sustainable development with a special focus on addressing climate mitigation, adaptation to climate change, resilience, access to energy and climate finance.
- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa confirm the leading political role of UCLG Africa and its associated core advocacy mandate to promote the recognition of subnational governments within the African and global contexts.
- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa confirm the leading technical role of ICLEI Africa in supporting climate and sustainability actions at subnational level within the African and global context.
- Other agreed areas of collaboration include the promotion of local and territorial solutions in the fields of circular economy, food security, biodiversity, green and sustainable infrastructure, water and sanitation, sustainable mobility, gender and youth development and private sector partnerships in the field of climate change and sustainability, along with support for the development and implementation of south-south and triangular decentralized cooperation partnerships regarding climate change and sustainability.

- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa remain committed to collaborate within the context provided by the African Union and its institutional mechanisms, in particular AMCEN and CAHOSC, and commit to jointly approach other key players on the continental landscape, such as the African Development Bank, other regional development banks, as well the Regional Economic Communities and other pan-African bodies within the African Union Governance Architecture, etc.
- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa will cooperate with appropriate stakeholders and participate jointly in the lobbying of national governments and African Union bodies in order that the management of urbanization and the transition to sustainable cities and territories in Africa are considered priority issues on the political agenda of Africa.
- The Secretary General of UCLG Africa and the Regional Director of ICLEI Africa will meet (in person) at least once a year in a dedicated meeting, to review the progress of relations between the two institutions and prioritize actions for the year ahead, in collaboration with their respective senior staff, complemented by regular online meetings and further opportunities provided through events and platforms.

Cooperation in the field of research

UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa agree on the need to promote the local applicability and needs-driven coordination of the research agenda for Africa by:

- Creating a collective research platform, bringing together the African and international research institutions active in subnational and relevant sustainable development fields.
- Promoting co-creation and co-production research approaches, which include engagement with subnational governments and their communities;
- Seek opportunities to improve the quality and availability of data at the subnational level in order to stimulate evidence-based, decision-making and improve policy, planning and reporting mechanisms.

Cooperation within the UCLG Africa Climate Task Force

- UCLG Africa recognizes ICLEI Africa as technical lead partner to UCLG Africa on the Climate Task Force, in line with the over-arching global role of ICLEI as the focal point of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency to the UNFCCC, as well as the associate member of the NCD partnership.
- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa agree to establish a joint Secretariat for the Task Force based at the UCLG Africa headquarters to coordinate, facilitate and report on the activities of the Task Force.
- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa will make a more detailed official announcement of this collaboration during the next meeting of the Task Force at the Africa Climate Week in Ghana in March 2019.

Cooperation on climate change

- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa agree to collaborate on, and jointly promote, the **Readiness Program for the territorialization of NDCs in Africa**.
- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa will collaborate in mobilizing resources, **in collaboration, and where appropriate, with the Cities and Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA)** and draft joint funding proposals in support of their subnational constituency, enabling appropriate climate action.
- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa will continue and further strengthen their collaboration under the CoM SSA initiative **as regional chapter of the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCOM)**.
- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa will seek ways to provide ongoing support to existing and new CoM SSA signatories and consider expanding support to the whole of Africa through the operationalization of CoM SSA into a CoM Africa.
- **UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa agree that it is essential to anchor and strengthen the CoM SSA /Africa Helpdesk, in Accra, as an on-going point of entry and coordinate, for the entire duration, all CoM SSA/Africa activities, as well as confirm that ICLEI Africa will fulfil the lead, technical role for the Helpdesk.**

Partnership for the organization of African events, conferences, platforms and processes

- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa will continue to promote and seek common engagement platforms, events, conferences and processes, such as the, “Structured dialogue for the territorialization of the NDCs and access to climate finance for cities and local governments in Africa,” organized in cooperation with the AfDB in 2019.
- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa remain committed to promote, support and actively participate in their respective existing events and platforms, such as Africities and Local Climate Solutions for Africa (LOCS4Africa), as well as other relevant platforms and events.
- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa agree to cooperate in African and global negotiation processes related to sustainable development, as facilitated through the UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD, SDG and other relevant Agreements.

Gender and Youth

- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa agree that ICLEI Africa formally invite an initial group of five women elected leaders from REFELA, the network of women Mayors and locally elected officials of Cities and Local Governments of Africa, and the Standing Committee on Gender Equality of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa), to serve as a Gender Advisory Committee to ICLEI Africa’s Regional Executive Committee (REXCOM).
- UCLG Africa and ICLEI Africa agree that it is important to invest in the development of youth and attracting young people to the subnational government sphere, and to collaborate through common and differentiated approaches in this regard.

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