The Side Event organized by UCLG Africa on:
“Cooperate around Migration”
05 February 2019, from 14h30 to 18h00
In Partnership with
The International Institute of Administrative Science (IISA)
& the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA)

At the Headquarters of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)
Rue du Commerce 96, 1040, Brussels, Belgium
Room C121
Context

Decentralization, local governance and local development in Africa have been in recent years in a geopolitical context marked both by huge opportunities (the African Union Agenda 2063, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Climate Change Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Financing Agenda), but also the structural and conjunctural challenges facing the African Local Authorities on a daily base. Migration is one of those issues. It is even a kind of fixation in relations between Europe and Africa, causing controversies between these two Continents, within countries as well as at the territorial level.

It’s an issue that polarizes and causes tensions among the hosting countries and those who refuse to be host lands and territories; those who make the free movement of people an asset or an opportunity, and those who see it as a risk to be addressed and blocked.

There is no need to show that migration benefits from a solid human and legal framework. The whole history of Humanity has been marked by movements of people. Countries have been created from migratory movements. The development and progress of many nations has been dependent on such movements, making it an extremely important and sensitive subject.

*The Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)* states:
« 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State. 2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. ».

*SDG 11* calls for cities and human settlements to be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

*The UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Pact of Marrakech, abbreviated PMM)*, aims to bring together countries of departure, countries of transit and countries of destination for migrant people around a common vision of this phenomenon, and to promote greater international cooperation in this area, through both government and human rights-based approaches.
More recently, at the end of the 8th edition of the Africities Summit, the African Local Authorities adopted a Charter on Migration (attached to this Concept Note) where they undertake, on one hand, to «enforce the rights of migrants in its locality, to facilitate their peaceful integration into hosting communities, and to promote cohesion and conviviality between the hosting communities and the migrant populations; and on the other hand, to draw the attention of National Governments to the fact that it is the right to come and go that stabilizes migratory flows, and therefore ask all National Governments to facilitate the provision of legal entry and circulation visas to migrant populations in order to dry up the source of illegal and irregular migrations ».

Finally, at the end of the work of the 11th Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), held in Morocco, in Marrakech, from 5 to 7 December 2018, under the theme "Honouring International Commitments to Unlock the Potential of All Migrants for Development ", the two co-chairmen of the Forum (Germany and Morocco) highlighted not only the huge challenge of migration, which together with the climate change, is the most important challenge of the 21st century, but also that human mobility is a global issue, and that migration must be seen as "a basis for development" and "an opportunity for all parties, especially for host and home countries and the migrants themselves". They also stressed the need to involve Local Authorities and to take into account the local dimension in the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration. The achievements of the ten years of existence of this Global Forum mark a historic turning point and progress in the global governance of the migration issue.

We need also to recall the UNESCO’s perspectives on migration which embody the motto of “Migration with a Human Face”. Today more than ever, we need to humanize our discourses and norms of human mobility, for the simple fact that this is a human reality and a human right. We need to uphold the human dignity of migrants, including through Education, Sciences, Culture and Freedom of expression.

The Forum of Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation organised by the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions the 04th and the 05th February 2019 in Brussels, Belgium and which specifically questioned the place and responsibilities of Local and Regional Authorities in European policies, was a timely opportunity to:
On one hand, spark an intelligent debate and a serene dialogue on the deep causes of migration and the need for a holistic, multi-dimensional, multi-stakeholders and multilevel approach to ensure that migration is no longer seen as a phenomenon of crisis, misunderstanding and tension, and to think about forms of partnerships and cooperation based on the multiple opportunities offered by this phenomenon;

- On the other hand, check the adhesion around the Charter of the Local Governments of Africa on Migration, adopted at the end of the 8th edition of the Africities Summit of UCLG-Africa, as well as the capacity of the Local Authorities to concretely engage in order to identify to what extent decentralized cooperation is indeed a promising lever, especially at the South /South level, and to raise awareness and discuss issues of European migration policy and ways to build a pan-African voice of Local Authorities on the migration.

UCLG-Africa took this timely opportunity and this space of dialogue to organize a Side Event, on February 5, 2019, from 14:30 to 18:00, on "Cooperate around Migration" at the Headquarters of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS), Street “Rue du Commerce 96”, 1040, Brussels, Belgium, Room C121.

The main objective of the Side event was sharing and disseminating the Charter of Local and Subnational Governments of Africa on Migration adopted at the end of the Africities Summit 8 in November 2018, in Marrakech, Morocco, and create an intelligent and serene dialogue about the content of the Charter and about strategies that make migration a real opportunity for the different actors and stakeholders involved.

The Specific objectives and expected results:
- Situate the place and the role of the regional and local governments in the Global, African and European dialogue on Migration;
- Highlight the role and responsibilities of cities and territories in the management of migration flows and the reception of refugees and migrants, whether in countries of origin, transit or reception;
- Identify and discuss good practices in governance and management of migration at the local level, including identifying the capacity building needs of local elected officials;
- See to what extent partnership and decentralized cooperation can be strategic levers to change the perception of crisis migration to migration-opportunity;
- Establish joint and concerted actions at territorial and local level to meet the needs of refugees and local populations and to the international commitments;
- Identify strategic areas to be pursued by European and African local and regional governments and around which to articulate the political dialogue with the European authorities, particularly in the framework of the Post-Cotonou negotiation, which will include a fundamental chapter on migration, recalling that the Charter of Local and Subnational Governments of Africa on Migration has indeed clear elements on it.

**Main Conclusions of the Side Event**

Given the importance and complexity of the topic today, both in intra-African relations and between Europe and Africa, the purpose of the Side Event on migration was to ask more specifically about the place and the responsibilities of Local and Regional Authorities in the management of migration and the provision of services to the populations concerned.

A significant number of participants (about 70 persons) among which Vice-Presidents of UCLG-Africa, Presidents of National Associations of Local Authorities, Mayors of cities and small towns, Regional Presidents, representatives of the European Commission, the Diplomatic Corps, the Academia, and the Civil Society, were keen to participate in the session, which resulted in rich and interactive debates.

If the migratory issue today is a subject of major tension within the European societies and is at the origin of a strong national-populist push in the European member states, the side event was also intended to put into perspective the relative importance of the phenomenon in relation to intra-African migration and in relation to global migration.

The Side event was organized around three Panels:

- **The first panel focused on the issue of the "Charter of African Local Governments on Migration"** adopted at the 8° Edition of the Africities Summit, in Marrakech, Morocco, November, 2018.

This session made it possible to inform participants about the content of the Charter and to verify the adherence of Local Governments and Local elected officials to this Charter. The discussion also focused on ways and means to disseminate, domesticate and localize the Charter, and mobilize local authorities around the very clear commitments contained in the Charter.
While recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Charter rests in particular with local authorities and local officials, the debate also focused on the involvement of national governments and their role in the definition and implementation of a national migration policy.

- **The second panel focused on the different forms of cooperation and partnerships**, between Local Governments and Collectivities in the North and South or between Southern local Governments, which could serve as a strategic lever to change the regulation and governance of migration, and provide concrete and inclusive responses to the challenges facing local and regional authorities, not to mention the role of the Diaspora. Several examples and exchanges of good practices were shared, as well as the need to make the voice of the local authorities heard.

Finally, the discussions highlighted the importance of building and bringing out the voice of African local authorities and bringing concrete proposals, in the framework of multi-stakeholder and multi-level dialogue (from local to continental) as well as in the Europe-Africa political dialogue on migration.

The session also allowed a presentation of the movement initiated in Belgium around the "hospital communes".

- **The third panel focused on European migration policy as an issue of European Europe relations**, particularly in the framework of the next cooperation agreement (Post Cotonou) between Europe and Africa.

The panel highlighted the extremely restrictive attitude of the European Union focused on closing its borders and outsourcing the management of migrants to African territories (landing platforms) in order to repress all migrants illegal as part of a policy of return and readmission (voluntary or forced) of all illegal migrants.

On the other hand, at the Valletta Summit, Europe set up an emergency Trust Fund for migration which made it possible to pay out very quickly (apart from the usual procedures) sums (more than 3,7 billion euros) for the Sahel, North Africa and other Africa countries. Most of the funded projects are focused on security and police management, aiming at closing / "managing" and securing borders (including in West Africa notably by undermining the principle of free movement). For the rest, development projects, intended to address the root causes of migration, are mainly entrusted to the European cooperation agencies and the United Nations mid-graft office, without involving local authorities, although first line.
Several operational conclusions emerged from the debate:

1. Interest of the participants to continue the debates and reflections between the local authorities to discuss the challenges, practices, and policies in progress at the African level;

2. The key role that CGLU Africa could play in setting up a platform of exchange, information and animation of a coordination process, which would also have the task of:
   - continue to raise awareness and mobilize the Local Authorities around the Charter,
   - to inform and update local authorities of developments in European migration policy and projects financed under the Trust Fund and co-operation programs.
   - to allow local authorities to exchange information on the evolution of policies and projects put in place in their country, region and,
   - prepare a concrete support program for local authorities (to be financed from the Trust Fund?)

3. The importance of building concrete proposals on migration and to bring out the voice of Local Authorities in the European and African institutions, with a view to the forthcoming negotiation of the next cooperation agreement between Europe and Europe-Africa and to feed the Action plan (2018-2027) put in place by the African Union.
Charter of Local and Subnational Governments of Africa on Migration

We, Local and Subnational Governments of Africa gathered on the occasion of the 8th edition of the Africities Summit held in Marrakech, Morocco, from November 20 to November 24, 2018:

Based on the various international treaties guaranteeing the rights to persons in a situation of travel or migration, hereinafter referred to as migrants;

Recognizing that migration and the displacement of populations are historical and global phenomena that affect the entire planet, including Africa, where nearly 50 million people are considered as migrant or displaced;

Stressing the important role played by migration and displacements in the development of human societies in general, and of African societies in particular;

Recalling that the vast majority of migratory flows and population displacements in Africa occur within the continent; and that migrant populations often leave a local or subnational government to settle temporarily or permanently within another local or subnational government in Africa or outside Africa;

Aware of the fact that actions aimed at providing sustainable responses to the root causes of migration are generally the same as those aimed at developing initiatives that meet the needs of local populations, and should be anchored in the development of territories and be in line with the dynamics of regional integration;

Adopt the Charter of local and subnational governments in Africa on Migration which states that any local and subnational government that adheres to the Charter,
A) pledges to:

1) enforce the rights of migrants in its locality, to facilitate their peaceful integration into hosting communities, and to promote cohesion and conviviality between the hosting communities and the migrant populations;

2) draw the attention of National Governments to the fact that it is the right to come and go that stabilizes migratory flows, and therefore ask all National Governments to facilitate the provision of legal entry and circulation visas to migrant populations in order to dry up the source of illegal and irregular migrations;

3) help migrant populations in danger in the name of solidarity and fraternity due to all human beings without distinction;

4) support and promote the formation of associations of migrant population in its locality, with a view to facilitating dialogue and cooperation on migration issues with the local communities of origin and the communities of residence of migrant populations both in Africa and outside Africa;

5) put the migrant populations in the spotlight during the celebration of the Africa Day on May 25th of each year, and of the International Migration Day on December 18th. These celebrations must, among other things, offer the opportunity for cultural, artistic or gastronomic exchanges between the migrant populations and the populations of the hosting communities;

6) cooperate with the local and subnational governments that welcome migrants from its locality both in Africa and outside Africa, in order to establish mutually beneficial links with the Diaspora, and to involve them in the efforts of growth and sustainable human development of their communities of origin;

7) join the African and global network of welcoming cities and territories, whose goals are to promote local policies that respect the principle of hospitality, the sharing of best practices in this area, the support of voluntary territories, and the partnership with all the associative actors engaged in supporting migrant populations;

8) contribute to popularize the campaign of ratification to the Charter of Local Governments of Africa on Migration, with the aim to have at least 5,000 additional African communities ratify the Charter by 2021.
B) Opposes firmly and unequivocally:

9) all forms of xenophobic violence and discrimination against migrants both on the Africa continent and in other regions. In this regard, any public official or citizen who makes racist or xenophobic statements against migrants or who is involved in smuggling and in human trafficking must immediately be brought before the competent authorities;

10) local, national or international policies that criminalize migration and criminalize the provision of assistance to migrant populations as, contrary to international humanitarian law;

11) the construction on its territory of detention camps to accommodate African migrant populations expelled from other parts of the world;

12) the treatment of the issue of migration and displaced populations from the sole security-based perspective, ignoring the benefits of migration for the dissemination of knowledge and technologies, its contribution to the support of the populations and to local development in the communities of origin, its invaluable role in promoting diversity and bringing people together, as well as developing mutual understanding in the hosting communities, and contributing to the creation of an atmosphere conducive to peace and harmony in the world;

13) the development assistance policies which condition the benefit of aid programs on the implementation of the return and readmission on their territory of the migrant populations expelled from other parts of the world;

14) the cooperation programs intended to tackle the root causes of migration not taking due account of the central role of local and subnational governments in their definition, and without the effective participation of these governments in their implementation.

**Done at Marrakech on November 21, 2018**

The Participants
UNESCO’s perspectives on migration “Migration with a Human Face”.

UNESCO’s perspectives on migration embody the motto of “Migration with a Human Face”. Today more than ever, we need to humanize our discourses and norms of human mobility, for the simple fact that this is a human reality and a human right. We need to uphold the human dignity of migrants, including through Education, Sciences, Culture and Freedom of expression.

Human mobility forms part of the fundamental human rights. UNESCO will strive along with the UN system to instil a Human Rights Approach into the Global Compact adopted in Marrakech in December 2018, by accompanying the Member States and all stakeholders to:

1. **Facilitate the recognition of diplomas, including in TVET.** In this regard, the 2019 Global Education Monitoring Report on “Migration, Displacement and Education”, which was presented by our ADG for Education yesterday during the side events, provides instrumental knowledge and stepping-stones in order to achieve this important goal. The 40th UNESCO General Conference of 2019, and upon the request of Member States, will adopt a global convention in this regard, building on the existing regional conventions.

2. **Promote an inclusive urban governance for migrants, in the fight against racism and xenophobia,** notably by leveraging UNESCO International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR. With the Government of Morocco, and in partnership with the Moroccan National Council of Human Rights, and UCLG-Africa, UNESCO has just launched the “Initiative of Inclusive African Cities for Migration” during the GFMD. We believe this Initiative has a strong potential to mobilize innovative partnerships.

3. **Mainstream the Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change** in national policies addressing forced migration due to this global phenomenon. Such an approach is now enshrined in the International Declaration on the Ethical Principles in relation with the Climate Change, adopted by UNESCO Member States during its 39 General Conference in November 2017.

4. **Work with the media and using ICTs for migrants’ inclusion,** through the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) led by UNESCO Member States, which promotes ethical principles for reporting, fighting hate speech, and the right to access of all to information including on migration issues.

5. **Promote global citizenship education (GCED) and intercultural dialogue** by developing skills for mutual understanding and the empowerment of individuals to address global challenges, such as migration. UNESCO provides support to Member States in the development of appropriate education policies, contents, teaching practices and enabling learning environments.

6. **Strengthen the research-policy nexus in addressing migration issues,** through the UNESCO intergovernmental Management of Social Transformations (MOST), composed of 36 Member States who decided in their last meeting that migration is one of their two priority actions. Such Programme aims at understanding of the social, cultural, economic and political context in which movements of people take place.