The Importance of the New Urban Agenda to African Cities and Municipalities.

The rapid pace of urbanization is transforming the challenges African cities face in providing services, promoting employment, and ensuring basic security so the work we do with UCLG Africa members that include national and local government associations plays an important role in informing, engaging and capacity building. In many African cities, crime, safety and security correlate with unplanned and underdeveloped parts of these cities. It is also widely accepted that integrated urban development strategies—involving local government, police, justice institutions, the private sector, women and youth—are necessary to build trust and adapt policies that strengthen economic opportunities, social cohesion, and security in African cities.

The agenda of urban safety has been an important part of the advocacy and mobilization work of UCLG Africa for a number of years and as a follow-up to a series of Africities Summits, UCLG Africa’s flagship event that takes place triennially, the issue of urban safety and security played a central role especially for vulnerable groups including youth and women. Starting with the sixth Africities Summit in Dakar held in December 2012, participating cities at the Urban Safety Dialogue endorsed the city of Durban to champion the formation of an Africa Forum for Urban Safety (AFUS) to support cities and local governments in Africa to develop and implement urban safety and crime prevention policies and programmes. In subsequent Africities in both Johannesburg in Dec 2015 and the latest edition in November 2018 in Marrakesh, UCLG Africa partnered with UN Habitat, UNODC, UNESCO and Plan International to facilitate a number of interactive sessions. These sessions focussed on the work of safer cities for girls in Africa and used sessions to interact and engage with women, young girls and youth using innovative tools developed to illustrate how to build inclusive cities and municipalities; and the Creative Lab competition that saw the presentation of innovative solutions for Agenda 2030 SDGs and Agenda 2063 for the Africa We Want, with 20 short-listed young entrepreneurs from across the five regions of Africa. They participated in a bootcamp with experts and pitched winning technology driven solutions for cities and human settlements at the inaugural Youth Forum at last year’s Summit.

"Experience shows that much of the creativity and innovation occurs at the very local level, through every day experiences and encounters" and it is this that is very encouraging for Local Africa.

Martha Delgado, President of the UN Habitat Assembly

Creative Lab Winners and Runners-up

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT, AND SUSTAINABLE

In 1980, only 28 percent of Africans lived in urban areas. Today, the number of Africans living in cities is 40 percent, and is projected to grow to 50 percent by 2030. Africa is currently the least urbanized continent, but its urbanization rate of 3.5 percent per year is the fastest in the world.

It is now widely appreciated by cities and local governments that it is impossible to deal with Africa’s growth and poverty challenges without dealing with the rapid urbanisation issues that affect the sustainability of our cities and human settlements. After the completion of UN Habitat’s first Assembly UCLG Africa explores how African Cities and Local Governments have contributed to the New Urban Agenda, and what innovative solutions have been introduced that have impacted on sustainable urban development strategies—involving local government, police, justice institutions, the private sector, women and youth—are necessary to build trust and adapt policies that strengthen economic opportunities, social cohesion, and security in African cities.

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