INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY
(MARCH 08, 2020)

REFELA CALLS FOR THE ACTION
OF AFRICAN CITIES FOR

“GENERATION EQUALITY”

The central theme of this year’s March 8 fits perfectly into the ambitious agenda of the Network of Local Elected Women of Africa (REFELA), the Standing Commission for Gender Equality of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa). An agenda that calls for action by African cities to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (SDG5) and to ensure that their territories are open to all and are safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG11).

REFELA calls for action for African cities without street children.

Within the framework of a large “Campaign of African Cities without street children”, launched under the effective Presidency of Her Royal Highness, Princess Lalla Meryem of the Kingdom of Morocco, the voluntary membership to this campaign offers African cities various analytical, planning and scoping documentation, a toolbox developed by the National Observatory for the Rights of the Child (ONDE), relating to the initiative entitled, «Rabat, a city without street children», and an inspiring initiative for local capitalization and dissemination activities.

REFELA calls for action for African cities with zero tolerance for violence against women and girls.

In January 2020, REFELA received the IDEALKENT Prize at UNESCO in recognition of the importance of this campaign and the opportunities it offers to African cities to effectively combat violence against women and girls. Indeed, the analytical report on the issue of violence against women reveals a persistent and widespread problem and the urgent need to take action to create a generation free from violence against women and girls.
REFELA calls for action for African cities that support women’s economic empowerment.

As pointed out by the President of REFELA, Mrs. Macoura Dao Coulibaly and confirmed by the report, “women are limited in their entrepreneurial and economic potential due to exclusion in their territory and from the economy that brings growth.” This campaign aims to address the economic recovery of women through adopting a territorial approach, promoting their equal access to resources, economic opportunities and to the development of their entrepreneurial leadership.

The campaigns and actions initiated by REFELA call on African cities and communities, as recommended by the Secretary General, Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, to act. “Thinking fairly must be interpreted as the effort to understand the concrete situation of gender inequalities and to take into account this differentiated starting point to propose suitable solutions... If this requires affirmative policies of actions that are favorable to women, such policies should not be excluded in the name of equal treatment.”

To this end, REFELA works with its partners, the CCRE-Platforma and UCLG World, to provide African cities and all local authorities with the policy instrument, the “Charter of local authorities for gender equality in Africa,” and to rethink their respective territories as, “territories without discrimination or any exclusion whatsoever.”

In short, all of the calls for action launched by REFELA lead African cities to reconsider their political decisions, their strategies, programs, plans, actions of governance and development of their territories, from the position of gender equality; a condition aimed at guaranteeing in the near future, the generation, for which its foundations are equality, not for some men and women, but for everyone.

Malika Ghefrane Giorgi
Special Advisor
REFELA-UCLG Africa