As part of its participation in the work of LOCs4Africa, a session was organized by UCLG Africa, in partnership with ICLEI and CoM SSA, on vertical governance under the theme, *A multi-level structured dialogue on climate finance: the untapped potential of investments in mitigation and adaptation at the subnational level.*

The session, organized in two parts, was moderated by Stéphane M. Pouffary, General Manager of ENERGIES 2050 and Mr. Mohamed Nbou, Director of the Climate Task Force at UCLG Africa, with the participation of the following panelists: Ms. Giorgia Rambelli and Mr. Andy Deacon (GCoM), Ms. Kobie Brand, Regional Director (ICLEI Africa), Mr. Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General (CEMR), as well as Mr. Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen and Co-President of the Climate Task Force of UCLG Africa and Mrs. Georgette Djenontin Daba, Climate Change Focal Point of the National Association of Communes of Benin (ANCB).

The efforts undertaken within the framework of the CoM SSA were the entry points of discussion to identify the salient points of the debate. Special thanks go to the CoM SSA initiative, the Climate Task Force of UCLG Africa, that has made it possible to institute an approach that structures and facilitates the establishment of a collaborative framework between a national government and the local governments. The CoM SSA was also the initiator of the proposal to revise the NDCs starting with the definition of Locally Determined Contributions (LDCs) through the establishment of a Structured Dialogue between the two levels of local and national decisions to achieve effective territorialization of NDCs.

This proposal for LDCs was endorsed by the Africa group at COP 25 in December 2019 in Madrid and is currently the subject of a pilot study in the Souss-Massa region in Morocco. The results of this pilot project will be presented during the Local Authorities Day, scheduled during COP 26 in November 2021 in Glasgow and will be disseminated to local authorities in Africa.

The LDC concept also aims to amplify the voice of African local authorities with regional and international financial institutions and mobilize the still poorly exploited potential at the local level for a better implementation of the Paris Accord.

Following this perspective, the main part of the session debate focused on the means of building bridges of climate finance and removing the obstacles and barriers to lay the foundations of a framework that will foster the pooling of efforts between the two decision-making levels, the national and local one, in order to speed up the pace of implementation of NDCs.
The guidance given by panelists during this webinar involved five levels of intervention:

- **The Multilevel Governance**
  The experience of European cities was highlighted by emphasizing the political process of decentralization in Africa and the establishment of conditions favorable to a structured dialogue between the two levels, national and local. Emphasis was also placed on the need to strengthen advocacy for better mobilization of key players in finance, as part of phase 3 of the CoM SSA.

- **Territorialization tools and mechanisms**
  In this context, it was recommended to convert SEACAP into Locally Determined Contributions (LDCs) to better strengthen the bottom-up approach for the implementation of the territorialization of the NDCs.

- **Capacity Building**
  One of the key components for a successful operational partnership between the national and the local level. In this context various capacity building projects that must be adjusted to meet the real needs of the territorialization of NDCs was highlighted. To this end, Phase 3 of the CoM SSA provides for the organization of 4 access training workshops on tools, funding mechanisms and approaches for an action-oriented structured dialogue.

- **Access to Finance Climate by Local Governments**
  It was recommended to establish a strengthened partnership with financial institutions and particularly the GCF. In this context, UCLG Africa, through its Climate Task Force, has diversified its partnership framework with these institutions in order to reconcile the requirements of the latter with the operational framework of local governments in terms of project structuring. As such, it is worth mentioning the efforts undertaken by the implementing partners of phase 3 of the CoM SSA (GIZ, Spanish Cooperation Agency, Expertise France), which aims to help a number of cities to structure their projects in order to be eligible for funding.

- **Feedback / Case of Benin**
  In order to translate the territorialization of NDCs into concrete action in the field, the experience of Benin was presented and the three stages of implementation:

  i. The mobilization and adhesion of all the municipalities of Benin to the CoM SSA initiative with a view to providing them with technical support,
particularly in terms of capacity building for the use of the tools for the
development and planning of territorial climate plans.

ii. The strengthening of vertical governance, through the formalization of a
structured dialogue on the implementation of NDCs, after which
a Memorandum of Understanding between ANCB, the Government of Benin,
and UCLG Africa was signed.

iii. The launch of the Readiness Program to support the process of territorialization
of NDCs.

**Message 1**

The Covid-19 pandemic has once again demonstrated the imperative need for enhanced multi-
level collaboration and an inclusive approach to deal with an untimely health or climate crisis
of such magnitude.

**Message 2**

The climate emergency now calls for a race to mobilize the still under-exploited potential of
the sub-national level through the institutionalization of a structured dialogue and the
establishment of a strengthened partnership between the two levels of national and sub-
national decisions oriented towards effective territorialization of NDCs.

**Message 3**

Phase II of the CoM SSA is an extension of advocacy efforts to better position African local
communities in a strengthened partnership for the implementation of the Paris Accord and
access to climate finance. In this context, the transition from planning to the implementation
of the SEACAP / TDCs is one of the major challenges to be met.

**Message 4**

The “Race to Zero” dialogue launched within the framework of the Marrakech partnership
calls for increased mobilization of cities and local governments to join in
the climate emergency and contribute to the global effort to fight climate change.