



FINAL PRESS RELEASE

24th session of UCLG Africa's Executive Committee

The Executive Committee and the Pan-African Council of UCLG Africa attended ordinary sessions by video conference, on Monday 07 December 2020.

The session of the Executive committee was mainly devoted to the adoption of UCLG Africa's budget and 2021 work plan, whilst the session of the Pan-African Council primarily focused on the 2021-2030 ten-year strategic plan of the organization (GADDEPA 2.0). Sessions were led by **Dr. Mohamed Boudra**, Mayor of Al Hoceima, President of the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Communal Councils (AMPCC), Vice-President of UCLG Africa, and President of UCLG World.

The opening speech of the Executive committee was made by **General Mahmoud Shaarawy**, Minister of Local Development of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the presence of **Ms. Soham El Wardini**, Mayor of Dakar (Senegal), Vice-President of UCLG Africa for the West Africa Region; **Mr. Uwimana Innocent**, President of RALGA (Rwanda), Vice-President of UCLG Africa for the East Africa Region; **Ms. Dao Macoura**, Mayor of Foubolo (Côte d'Ivoire), President of REFELA (Network of locally elected women in Africa); **General Khaled Abdel Aal**, Governor of Cairo (Egypt); **Ms. Fatimetou Abdel Malick**, President of the Regional Council of Nouakchott (Mauritania); and **Mr. Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi**, Secretary General of UCLG Africa.

General Mahmoud Shaarawy welcomed the cooperation between his country, Egypt, and UCLG Africa and announced the signing of the Headquarters Agreement for the North Africa regional office of UCLG Africa, which is scheduled for February 2021 in Cairo (Egypt). *"In addition, we would like to reiterate our call to host the second edition of the conference, 'African cities, locomotive of sustainable development', to continue the momentum of the first edition, organized in June 2019. We are eager to emerge from this Covid crisis to find out how our African cities have been able to face this major challenge. I would like to express our support for the celebration of Rabat as African Capital of Culture for 2020-2021. Rabat is a historic city that has contributed to the enrichment of Arab and African culture through the ages. I take the opportunity to report that we are continuing the work for the signing and ratification by our country of the African Charter of the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development and of the Civil Service Charter of the African Union. We will let you know once the process is complete."*

The Executive Committee adopted the 2021 budget and work plan of UCLG Africa and approved the activity report of the general secretariat for the period from June to November 2020 and the budget execution report, dated 30 October 2020.

Members of the executive committee and the Pan-African council expressed their concern for their colleague, the former mayor of Libreville, Mr. Léandre Nzué, currently in detention in Gabon. African local governments have once again committed to taking a position whenever municipal executives are subject to legal proceedings in the exercise of their mandate. Local governments will express their concern in light of the information at their disposal.

The political leadership of the organization was informed of the latest actions carried out by UCLG Africa according to the three pillars of its GADDEPA program (Governance, Advocacy and Decentralized Development Program for Africa).

Regarding the installation of the regional offices of the organization, the Minister of Devolution of Kenya confirmed the agreement of the Government of Kenya to host the East Africa regional office of UCLG Africa in Nairobi.

The Network of Locally Elected Women of Africa (REFELA) launched the country chapter of REFELA Chad, bringing the number of REFELA chapters to 29.

Preparations for the Africities 9 summit are progressing despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, with a meeting scheduled for November 16-20, 2021 in Kisumu, Kenya. This will be the first time an intermediate city will be hosting the summit, which will be organized under the theme, "**The implementation of the UN's Agenda 2030 and the AU's Agenda 2063: the role of intermediary cities.**"

Advocacy for the institutionalization of the AU-EU Forum of Leaders of Local and Regional Governments within the framework and on the sidelines of the AU-EU Summits of Heads of State and Government was carried out and both the African Union and the European Union were lobbied for their support. The principle of this institutionalization was accepted by both agencies. The summit for local authorities will also form part of the official program for the meeting scheduled in 2021.

Since May 2020, UCLG Africa has been providing technical support to its members as part of their preparation as national associations of local and regional authorities for the programming of the next 2021-2027 cycle of European cooperation. As part of the support to the 44 national associations of stakeholder local authorities, national consultants have been hired by UCLG Africa to produce reference documents to ensure that the priorities of local authorities are taken-into-account in the negotiations. To date, 43 compendiums, 41 analytical reports and 44 roadmaps have been produced. A vademecum was also drawn up to prepare the national associations of African local governments, who will lead the advocacy around 3 items: 1) To have local governments recognized as state actors. Associations must obtain this status from national governments on the basis of the EU Communication made in 2013; 2) To have national associations of local and regional authorities considered as political

representatives of local governments and have them integrated into negotiations alongside national governments; 3) To ensure that all public policies are territorialized since there is a national dimension and a territorial dimension to any policy that will be implemented, including the financial support to be provided by the European Union. The associations will lead the advocacy around these 3 points during the negotiations to be held by February 2021.

In order to ensure the integration of African local authorities in conflict management and the promotion of peace on the continent, UCLG Africa, through its African Local Government Academy (ALGA,) has signed a partnership with ACCORD to intervene in the prevention of conflicts.

The UCLG Africa Climate Task Force has carried out actions to have the organization recognized as a regional entity, accredited by the Green Climate Fund, to submit requests to the latter for the financing of climate projects presented by local authorities. The UCLG Africa Climate Task Force led the advocacy to territorialize the NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions). In this context, Morocco has agreed to test the implementation of Contributions determined at the local level with the region of Souss-Massa (Morocco).

In partnership with the OECD, UCLG Africa will take part in the Dakar 2020 World Water Forum, where a roundtable of mayors will be held, led by UCLG Africa.

A presentation of UCLG Africa's 2021-2030 strategic orientations was made by the PwC consultancy firm. The members of the Executive Committee and the Pan-African Council took note of the progress made by the GADDEPA 2.0 strategy aimed at making UCLG Africa a 'One-Stop Shop' for the management of projects around 3 pillars; **(1) Advocacy and mobilization for decentralization; 2) Capacity and management of knowledge of local governments and national associations; 3) Technical assistance for the operationalization of projects at the local level around major themes.** With regard to the fundamentals that ensure the institutional development of UCLG Africa, 7 themes were selected; **(1) Strengthening national associations; 2) Local Economy and Finance; 3) Climate; 4) Migration; 5) Gender; 6) Culture, peace and security; and 7) Basic services.** These themes guide the activities of UCLG Africa.

For the training component, UCLG Africa has undertaken the establishment of an e-Learning platform, which was presented and will be named the UCLG Africa e-Academy. This will be the digital version of the ALGA Academy, which is a response to the needs of members and the reflection of a strong desire to offer capacity building courses to local authorities.

In the miscellaneous matters section, members of the Executive Committee and the Pan-African Council were informed of progress made towards the celebration of Rabat, African Capital of Culture 2020/2021, which was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic but will now take place in 2021. In addition, members were requested to

intensify their participation in the working groups of UCLG, the world organization for local and regional governments.

Tribute to Jerry John Rawlings

During the two meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Pan-African Council, a minute of silence was observed in memory of **His Excellency Jerry John Rawlings, former President of the Republic of Ghana and honorary member of UCLG Africa, who passed away on November 12, 2020 in Accra.**

As a reminder, the Executive Committee of UCLG Africa is the body responsible for the political leadership of the organization. The Executive Committee has 16 members, 15 members representing equally each of the 5 regions of the continent (i.e. 3 for each of the 5 regions), to which is added the President of the Network of Locally Elected Women of Africa (REFELA), the gender commission of UCLG Africa.

The Pan-African Council of UCLG Africa is the body responsible for the annual supervision of the conduct of UCLG Africa between the meetings of the General Assembly, which take place every three years within the framework of the Africities Summits. The Pan-African Council has forty-five (45) active members or nine (9) for each African sub-region.

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