



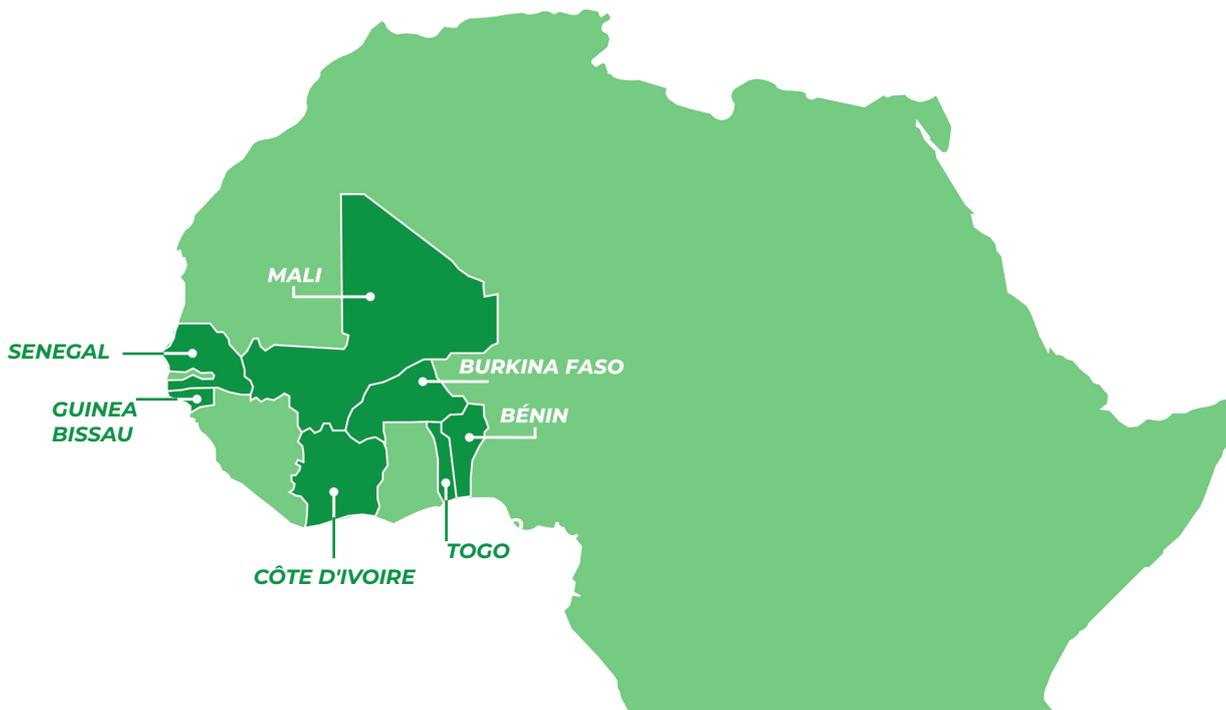
Covenant of Mayors  
in Sub-Saharan Africa



UCLG AFRICA  
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa  
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique  
CGLU AFRIQUE

## REGIONAL FORUM Hybrid Format

« Strengthening the resilience and increasing the climate  
ambition of Local and regional Governments of Africa »



## Lome Declaration

June 11 and 12, 2021, Hôtel 2 Février, Lomé, TOGO

**We, Participants in the Lomé Forum on June 10 and 11, 2021, representing the Member States of WAEMU** ; the focal points of the Green Climate Fund of WAEMU Member States; the WAEMU Commission, the Council of the Territorial Communities (CCT-WAEMU) and the Presidents of National Associations of Local Authorities (ALAs) members of the Council of the Territorial Communities (CCT) of WAEMU; the local authorities adhering to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) and their partners; the regional development banks; and the international cooperation partners.

**Aware** of the urgency and the need to increase the ambition of the Paris Agreement in order to limit the increase in global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the 21st century compared to the pre-industrial era, and thus avoid increasing the frequency of extreme climatic events and their disastrous effects on our cities and territories;

**Convinced** of the importance of examining the conditions to be fulfilled in order to promote the amplification of climate investment within the local and regional governments of the WAEMU area and of structuring the cooperation between the local authorities within the framework of the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions for the achievement of the Paris Agreement;

**Stressing** that the issues of mitigation and adaptation must be jointly addressed by the national and territorial levels in order to ensure the coherence and continuity of climate action at the different levels of governance;

**Taking** into account that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a reduction in the budgets of local authorities in the WAEMU area of around 30 to 50%, which has the consequence of further limiting the action capacities of said local authorities in the face of vulnerabilities linked to climatic threats and obstacles to improving the environment and living conditions of the populations;

**Recalling** that in these circumstances, climate action can only be effective at the territorial level if it becomes everyone's business, requiring in particular the awareness, participation and contribution of all the actors mobilized around the leaders and elected officials of the local and regional governments;

**Considering** that the work of the Lomé Forum is intended to be a contribution by local authorities in the WAEMU space to the main events on the climate agenda, namely the Africa Climate Week scheduled for August 2021 in Kampala, Uganda; the Climate Chance conference scheduled for September 2021 in Dakar, Senegal; and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change scheduled for Glasgow, Scotland, UK, in November 2021 (COP 26);

**Taking into account** the decision of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), at its session of February 9, 2019,

encouraging African and international stakeholders to strengthen their support to African countries to increase the ambition and accelerate the implementation of NDCs, especially those working on cities and local governments, including UN organizations like UN Habitat, UNDP and, where appropriate, other stakeholders like UCLG Africa;

**Having regard** to the common policies of the WAEMU in matters of environment, energy, and land use planning, adopted by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the WAEMU area;

Do adopt the following Declaration:

1. **We understand** that climate action brings a fresh perspective to the design of our development and poverty reduction models, which involves aligning all planning and budgeting instruments and procedures at all levels of governance, and in particular at the level of our cities and territories;
2. **We pledge** to integrate environmental and climate goals in the development plans of local authorities and in post-COVID economic recovery plans in order to make our societies and our economies more resilient to foreseeable future shocks;
3. **We encourage** local authorities in the WAEMU area to adhere to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) so that they can benefit from the support put in place within this framework for the development of climate-energy plans for their territories;
4. **We thank** the CoM SSA partners for their support for the engagement of cities and territories in climate action and encourage them to continue to support our efforts to make climate action everybody's business;
5. **We establish** a sub-regional version of the African Alliance of Ministers of Cities and Urban Development launched during the Abidjan Meetings on Sustainable Cities in February 2020. This Alliance of WAEMU Ministers will work as a priority under the aegis of the WAEMU CCT on the financing of the climate transition of the cities of the sub-region. The Alliance will engage in a strategic dialogue with umbrella associations of local authorities, financing institutions of local authorities, and technical and financial partners on strengthening the financing of city climate plans and projects;
6. **We subscribe** to the establishment of a regional Readiness program targeting local and regional governments of the countries of the WAEMU space with a view to mobilizing climate finance and contributing to the transition towards inclusive, sustainable, and resilient territorial development;

7. **We welcome** the commitment of WAEMU, UCLG Africa, BOAD, EBID, and of the Green Climate Fund focal points of WAEMU Member States, to support the implementation of the regional Readiness program. intended to support local authorities in the WAEMU area for the definition of portfolios of projects eligible for climate finance. In this regard, we call on these actors to work to make Lomé the hub of climate finance in West Africa.

8. **We ask**, within the framework of the planned Readiness Program, and with the support of the Climate Task Force of UCLG Africa in collaboration with WAEMU, for a capacity building mechanism and a technical assistance tool be set up for the benefit of associations of local authorities in the WAEMU area, including through the establishment of climate focal points within said associations, the development of awareness and training guides, and the provision of consultants for technical support to be provided for the structuring of climate-energy projects integrated into the territorial development plans;

9. **We invite** the local and regional governments of the WAEMU space to adopt a multi-stakeholder approach in the definition and implementation of climate action at the territorial level, and to work with the private sector, the research community, and civil society to explore innovative solutions and participate in the collection of the data necessary to ensure the monitoring, reporting and verification of the implementation of the climate agenda within our territories;

10. **We congratulate** WAEMU and UCLG Africa for this welcome initiative and for their leadership, and ask them to promote exchanges between local and regional governments at the sub-regional and continental level, including through a peer review and a peer learning program;

11. **We express** our deferential gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Faure GNASINGBÉ, President of the Togolese Republic for having accepted to place the Forum under his High Patronage. Our thanks also go to the government and to FCT (“Faitière des Communes du Togo”, umbrella associations of Communes of Togo), and to the Togolese people for the quality of their welcome and for the constant solicitude from which the participants benefited during their stay

**Executed in Lomé, on June 11, 2021  
The Forum**