REGIONAL FORUM
Hybrid Format

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

Report on the work of the Forum

June 11 and 12, 2021, Hôtel 2 Février, Lomé, TOGO
Report on the work of the Forum
Our partners
## Summary

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Background and Introduction

On the 10th and 11th June 2021, was held in Lome, Togo, under the patronage of His Excellency, M. Faure Gnassingbe, President of the Republic of Togo, the regional Forum on Local Authorities and the Role of Cities and Territories in Addressing Climate Change, under the theme «Strengthening the resilience and increasing the climate ambition of Local Governments in Africa». This Forum was co-organized by UCLG Africa, the Government of Togo, the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa (COM SSA), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the West African Development Bank (WADB) and Expertise France.

The objectives of this Forum were to:

- Take stock of the membership of the CoM SSA in the WAEMU countries and the progress made in the implementation of the CoM SSA, particularly the preparation of territorial Climate-Energy plans and the corresponding project portfolios enabling their implementation.

- Include the territorialisation of NDCs in the climate action of local authorities and draw all the consequences, particularly in terms of multi-level governance and the alignment of the transparency and monitoring framework for climate action at the national and territorial levels.

- Define the priority actions to be undertaken to accelerate the implementation of the climate agenda within the local authorities of WAEMU countries in connection with economic recovery.

- Strengthen cooperation between local authorities in the WAEMU countries to promote peer learning in the area of territorial climate action.

- Establish a Regional Readiness Program to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to develop projects and funding eligible for the Green Climate Fund.

- Adopt the common position of the local authorities of the WAEMU countries on climate to be presented at the Forum of Local Authorities planned for the COP 26 in November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom. This position will be included in the «Lomé Declaration». 
Given the impact of COVID-19, a hybrid format was chosen for the organization of the Forum.

The Forum was attended by more than 200 people and mobilized more than 100 mayors and elected officials from Municipalities and cities in the WAEMU region.

The work of the Forum was structured around the following four sessions:

1. Strategic Framework: How to place the implementation of the territorialisation of NDCs at the center of post COVID-19 economic recovery plans?
2. Governance framework: How to promote multi-level governance and structured dialogue between the State and local authorities for a better effectiveness and efficiency of the territorialisation of NDCs?
3. Implementation framework: How can we move from territorial Climate-Energy plans to the development of a portfolio of projects and their implementation on the ground?
4. Financing Framework: How can local authorities in the WAEMU region gain access to climate finance, and in particular to the Green Climate Fund?

All themes were discussed in panels organized in plenary sessions, with the exception of the fourth theme which was the subject of a roundtable on climate finance in which WAEMU, WADB, and the Green Climate Fund focal points of WAEMU member countries participated. This roundtable recommended the proposal of a Regional Readiness Program (P2R) to mobilize resources from the Green Climate Fund for the benefit of local authorities in WAEMU countries, with UCLG Africa as Delivery Partner. The P2R will be presented to the Green Climate Fund by the Focal Point of Togo, but it will have to benefit from the support of all the focal points of the Green Climate Fund of the other WAEMU countries.

In addition to the work carried out within the framework of the Forum sessions, other workshops, meetings and events were organized, namely:

- Training workshop organized on June 9, 2021 by Expertise France on the theme «Territorialisation of Climate-Energy issues in Sub-Saharan Africa: Togolese municipalities reaffirm their commitments to the CoM SSA».
- Working meeting held on June 9, 2021 between the focal points of the Green Climate Fund of the WAEMU countries and UCLG Africa on the Prefiguration of a Regional Readiness Program in favour of the local authorities of the WAEMU region.
- Meeting of the Presidents of the National Associations of Local Authorities of WAEMU countries on June 10, 2021 on the re-launch of the activities of the Council of Local Authorities of WAEMU, and the organization of an interview with the new President of the WAEMU Commission as soon as possible.
- Meeting on 10 and 11 June 2021 of the WAEMU Committee of Experts to examine the draft Directive on the financing of decentralization in the WAEMU region and the draft Regulation on the creation of a community financing mechanism for local authorities.
- Working meeting between the president and the secretariat of REFELA with the president of REFELA Togo.
- Signature of the partnership agreement between the Federation of Municipalities of Togo and the Moroccan Association of the Presidents of the Communal Councils.
OPENING CEREMONY

His Excellency Mr. Payadowa Boukpessi, Minister of State, Minister of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Development of Territories officially opened the proceedings on behalf of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, welcomed the participants and expressed his satisfaction and gratitude to the organizers for having chosen the city of Lomé to host the proceedings of this important Forum. Regarding the theme of the Forum, he noted that the subject deserves the greatest attention because of the challenges posed by the phenomenon of climate change, which spares no country. Therefore, he urged everyone to work so that local authorities become leading actors in the fight against climate change, increasing climate ambition and strengthening the resilience of territories.

In this context, the Minister of State recalled the efforts made by the Togolese government to lay the foundations for a successful decentralization process. In this regard, he mentioned the success of the last municipal council elections and the creation of the Federation of Municipalities of Togo. He also stressed the importance of enhanced cooperation between local authorities that can act as an accelerator of ambition but also of proposals for solutions and promotion of concerted efforts to take into account the climate challenges of the territories in the process of implementation of national climate objectives.

Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa in his keynote address first thanked the Head of State, His Excellency, M. Faure Gnassingbe, President of the Republic of Togo, for having kindly placed this Forum under his High Patronage, which denotes the importance of the decentralization process in the institutional set-up of the Republic of Togo. He then gave an overview of the challenges to be met to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement. In this regard, he particularly emphasized the responsibility of Africa in the period ahead. Due to its strong demographic growth, Africa will become by the end of the century, the first home in the world with slightly over 4 billion inhabitants, including 2.5 billion urban dwellers. The choices that Africans make in terms of production and consumption models will therefore be decisive for the more or less sustainable future of all humanity. Africa must therefore now opt for the bifurcation towards a low-carbon and...
resilient development model. Mr. Elong Mbassi also recalled that adaptation to the effects of climate change will be won or lost in the territories. Hence the urgency for African cities and territories to engage in climate action.

**Mr. Serge EKU, President of the West African Development Bank**, acknowledged the efforts of UCLG Africa in structuring the process of collaboration between African local governments and congratulated the organizers of the Forum for choosing the theme of strengthening resilience and increasing the climate ambition of local governments in Africa. This theme is fully in line with the WADB’s 2020-2025 strategic plan. Indeed, the WADB has taken the measure of the stigma of climate change in Africa and the urgent need to provide concrete responses. These responses must be adapted to local contexts to be effective. This is why the WADB is in favor of a real paradigm shift that should place local governments as key actors in planning, preparation and budgeting. It is because of the emergence of this centrality of local governments in public policies, and in particular in climate action, that the WADB wishes to increase the place of local governments in its portfolio. This is what motivated the WADB to conclude a partnership agreement with UCLG Africa, which plays a key role in strengthening the role of African local governments in climate action.

**Mr. Joaquín Tasso Vilallonga, Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Togo**, after thanking the organizers for the organization of the Forum and the choice of the theme, highlighted the efforts undertaken by the European Union to support the commitment of African local authorities in the fight against climate change. In this regard, he recalled the special place given to Africa in the implementation of the ambitious objectives of the Green Pact, which aims to make the EU the first carbon-neutral region in the world by 2050, through various support programs. He expressed the EU’s satisfaction with Togo’s commitment to include local authorities in the process of implementing the national climate agenda, in particular through the Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA). In this regard, he recalled the experience of Tsévié, which has enabled this municipality to adopt a quality climate plan.

He then announced to all stakeholders the official launch of the national approach of the CoM SSA in Togo through which the EU intends to support energy and climate inclusion in the decentralization process.

**Mr. Aymeric Lorthiois, First Counsellor of the Embassy of France in Togo**, representing the Ambassador of France, noted that we have entered a new era marked by the consequences of global warming. We are also in the decade of action for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, whose horizon of 2030 is now close. In this context, cities and local governments have a key role to play in the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of inclusive sustainable development. Mr. Aymeric Lorthiois also recalled that this urgency was mentioned by the President of the Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, during the Climate Summit held in Paris on April 22, 2021, when he stressed that there will be no credible and sustainable environmental action if there is no social and climate justice.
Mr. Aymeric Lorthiois then congratulated the Government of Togo for the reforms undertaken in the process of decentralization favorable to the establishment of a governance framework conducive to the integration of climate issues in local planning in connection with national objectives. In this context, he reiterated the involvement of Expertise France in the establishment of an operational framework to bring the Togolese municipalities members of the COM SSA to develop portfolios of projects to move from territorial climate-energy plans to their effective implementation, which implies solving the problem of financing these projects.

Mr. Mohamed Yassine Daoudi, Mayor of Guisser, Vice President of the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Communal Councils, Representative of the President of UCLG World, shared the experience of Moroccan local authorities in the fight against climate change. He highlighted the progress made by Morocco, both in terms of legislation, regulations and institutions, as well as in terms of the ambition of the climate policy objectives. He stressed that local authorities are stakeholders in the implementation of climate policy. As such, he recalled the commitments made by local authorities during the Meeting of Mayors and Territorial Elected Officials organized during the COP 22 in November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Yassine Daoudi pointed out to the partners the initiative of the establishment since 2020, by the General Directorate of Local Authorities of the Moroccan Ministry of Interior, of an «African Fund for Support to International Decentralized Cooperation» (FAACDI) which promotes South-South cooperation between local authorities of Morocco and their counterparts in other African countries, and triangular South-South-North cooperation. FAACDI launches a call for projects at the beginning of each year. This call is open to Moroccan local authorities that have a decentralized cooperation agreement with their counterparts in other African countries. FAACDI covers 60% of the cost of the project, the total amount of which must not exceed 4 million Dirham, the remainder being provided by the local authorities at the origin of the project, at a rate of 30% for the Moroccan authority and 10% for the partner authority in another African country. FAACDI has issued two calls for projects to date, in the first quarter of 2020 and 2021. The next call for projects is scheduled for the first quarter of 2022.

Mr. François Albert Amichia, President of the WAEMU Council of territorial authorities, CCT, thanked the Government of Togo for organizing the Forum and for the warm welcome extended to participants. He emphasized that it is at the level of local authorities that the most harmful impacts of climate change are felt by the populations. It is therefore essential that local and regional governments become fully engaged in climate action. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how climate change, because of its negative impact on biodiversity, contributes to increasing vulnerabilities within territories. He also pointed out that local and regional authorities were at the heart of the response to this pandemic, and showed a great capacity to adapt. They have proved to be a decisive strategic actor for the implementation of the climate agenda and for the resilience of territories. In order to fully play this positive role, local governments in the WAEMU region must have easier access to climate finance. This is why the Council of territorial authorities is calling WADB and other stakeholders involved in climate finance to ensure that climate-energy projects developed by local authorities can benefit from climate finance resources.
Finally, Mr. Amichia congratulated the Kingdom of Morocco for its initiative to set up an «African Fund to Support Decentralized Cooperation» to strengthen South-South decentralized cooperation between African local governments. He also thanked UCLG Africa for its efforts to structure the cooperation framework of African local authorities.

The opening session was followed by the presentation of messages sent by personalities belonging to institutions of the climate ecosystem at international or pan-African level.

Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recalled that the vital role of local and regional governments was recognized in 2015 at COP 21 in Paris. She insisted that the States Parties to the UNFCCC must respect their commitments made at COP 21, in particular the promise of developed countries to mobilize 100 billion dollars per year to support the efforts of developing countries in climate action.

Mr. Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), stated that as early as the COP 21 in 2015, Mayors committed themselves to respect the Paris agreement and to contribute to increase their ambition. The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy initiated with the financial support of the European Commission (including its declination in sub-Saharan Africa through the CoM SSA) is one of the illustrative examples of this commitment of local and regional governments in climate action. The reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warn that there is no time to lose. Climate action by local and regional authorities must urgently complement the actions of governments if we are to limit the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius, ideally, and succeed in adapting to the effects of climate change. This action will be all the more effective if it can be relayed by the involvement of the national organisations of local and regional authorities -, which will also promote the organization of regional and international cooperation in the climate field, with the support of organizations such as CEMR or UCLG Africa.

Mr. Pa Ousmane Jarju, President of the AMCOMET Bureau, Director of Country Programming of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) presented the work of the GCF in assisting developing countries in the implementation of their NDCs and in the preparation and development of investment plans. The GCF focal points assist national authorities in preparing and submitting applications for GCF grants through Readiness programs. In particular, he provided an update on approved Readiness grants for African countries. However, he stressed that African states and African entities accredited to the GCF are not sufficiently mobilizing the resources allocated to them through project preparation. This is an area where significant progress can still be made.

Ms. Aziza Akhmouch, Head of Division, Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development, at the OECD, focused her message on the presentation of the results of the survey on the role of local authorities in Africa in water governance. This survey was conducted in collaboration with UCLG Africa. This survey has allowed to draw up a profile of water governance for 36 African cities. This work will be relayed through a Mayors’ Round Table to be launched during the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar in March 2022.
Ms. Kobie Brand, Regional Director of ICLEI Africa, presented the role of her organization in supporting climate action by local governments. She insisted on local action to be able to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions of which more than 60% are caused by cities and territories, and to adapt to the effects of climate change whose impact is felt primarily at the level of cities and territories. But to play their role, local authorities must develop their capacities in the field of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of climate actions at the territorial level. It is in these areas that ICLEI provides support. ICLEI intervenes in particular as a Help Desk for local authorities in Africa that are members of the CoM SSA. To this end, ICLEI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UCLG Africa so that together the two entities can contribute to the acceleration of the involvement of local governments on the African continent in climate action.

Mr. MacDonald S. Goanue, Director of the Research and Strategic Planning Department of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development, representing the President of EBID, recalled that EBID is the regional financial institution for financing economic development in the region. To date, it has financed more than 250 development projects within ECOWAS. EBID has also concluded an MoU with UCLG Africa because it wishes to increase the presence of local and regional authorities in its portfolio and benefit from UCLG Africa’s expertise in the preparation of adaptation and mitigation climate programs and projects led by local and regional authorities in ECOWAS Member States.

Summary of the Main Recommendations of the Forum

The main recommendations made at the end of the Forum are presented below:

• Session on the strategic framework:

1. Integrate environmental and climate objectives into economic recovery plans to make societies and economies more resilient to foreseeable future shocks.

2. Complement the Top-Down approach favored so far in the definition of NDCs with a Bottom-Up approach based on the definition of Locally Determined Contributions (LDCs), proposed by UCLG Africa and adopted by GCoM.
3. Systematically take into account the challenges of protecting and safeguarding biodiversity in climate action conducted at the territorial level, giving priority above all to nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation or mitigation projects.

4. Consider systematically linking planning, capacity building and the definition of projects eligible for climate finance in the strategic framework for implementing climate action at the territory level. This framework must be open to the actors who intervene concretely on the ground, notably the operators of the private sector and those of the agro-pastoral and forestry sector. Only in this way will the conditions for the appropriation of climate action by all be met in order to start a process of co-creation of appropriate and innovative solutions to face climate change.

• **Session on the governance framework:**

1. Improve the institutional and regulatory framework governing the decentralization process.

2. Establish a structured dialogue between the State and local authorities in the climate field, to promote multi-level governance and coherence of interventions to align territorial climate action with national and territorial development programs, with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and with the NDCs.

3. Adopt a multi-stakeholder approach in the definition of territorial climate action so that it becomes everyone’s business, and that it effectively mobilizes all the active forces of the territory, both community organizations and civil society, as well as the private sector, professionals and experts in the climate sector and the academic and research world.

4. To reflect on the system and routines to be put in place for the collection of data concerning territorial climate action, its monitoring, reporting and verification, so that they are coherent and aligned with the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system proposed in the framework of the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

• **Implementation Framework Session:**
1. Promote the maximum number of memberships of local authorities in WAEMU and/or ECOWAS Member States in the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA).

2. Define budgetary procedures for allocating resources from the national budget to local budgets in order to financially support the territorialization of NDCs, avoid duplication of efforts and ensure optimal use of limited public resources, including through their use as leverage for mobilizing private sector funds (blended finance).

3. Develop a capacity building program for local authorities in WAEMU and/or ECOWAS Member States and Their national association of local authorities so that they are able to take into account the gender approach in defining territorial climate action. In this context, the Network of Local Elected Women of Africa (REFELA) can play an essential role.

4. Establish a Climate and Biodiversity Focal Point within each national organization of local authorities in WAEMU Member States to act as an interface between local authorities and the Focal Points established at the national level for the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, or the Global Environment Fund, among others; to contribute to the greening of territorial policies and budgets; and to assist in the development of territorial projects eligible for climate finance.

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Roundtable discussion on the funding framework

This roundtable brought together representatives of WAEMU, regional development banks (WADB, EBID), and the focal points of the Green Climate Fund of WAEMU Member States. It was chaired by Mr. François Albert Amichia, President of the CCT-WAEMU.

In his introductory remarks, Mr. François Albert Amichia, President of the CCT-WAEMU, first welcomed the initiative of this roundtable, which provides an opportunity to discuss how to remove barriers to access to climate finance for local authorities in the WAEMU
region. To this end, he welcomed the dialogue initiated during this Forum between financing institutions such as WADB and EBID, the focal points of the Green Climate Fund, and the national organizations of local authorities, on the need to engage in a strategic dialogue and partnership between financial institutions and local authorities to maximize climate action in terms of adaptation and mitigation, and improve the resilience of cities and territories in the WAEMU space.

He called on participants to reflect on: a) the conditions for mobilizing long-term financing and how to support local authorities in preparing projects eligible for climate finance; b) the solvency and maturity of local financial markets; and also c) financial intermediation through the establishment of appropriate financial vehicles to mobilize public or private actors in favor of climate action at the level of local authorities.

He called for greater attention to be paid to the development of an ecosystem that meets the needs of local authorities, involving the Funds, insurance companies and guarantee agencies, as well as experts with expertise in contractualisation or partnership methods and tools, particularly for public-private partnerships. This ecosystem must be able to be mobilized for the benefit of local governments even when they are not yet able to meet the solvency requirements of financing institutions.

He also hoped that the national organizations of local authorities would be able to benefit from dedicated human resources in order to be able to provide support in the vicinity, where the needs are the most urgent.

Finally, he reiterated the commitment of the CCT-WAEMU to work with UCLG Africa to place local governments at the heart of the implementation of NDCs, and allow them to have access to climate finance.

Ms. Sandra Freitas, Climate Finance Expert, Consultant, former Africa Manager of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), presented the draft Regional Readiness Program for local authorities in the WAEMU region. This regional Readiness Program should be the subject of a request supported by all the GCF Focal Points of the WAEMU Member States, which should be submitted to the GCF as soon as possible by the GCF Focal Point of Togo. The draft was sent to the various Focal Points of the WAEMU Member States before this Forum was held and this roundtable gives each Focal Point the opportunity to give its opinion on this draft regional Readiness Program to know whether to continue the process or not, given that the deadlines for submitting the request for this Program to the GCF are relatively short.

Mr. Kamaye Maâzou, GCF Focal Point in Niger, has no reservations about the project presented. However, he drew attention to the fact that in his country, the development of the NDCs did not involve the local authorities, so the proposed Readiness Program could represent a step forward in this regard. This program is in line with the efforts made at the national level to have ANICT, the national agency for supporting local government investments, accredited to the GCF. He therefore proposes that complementarity be sought between the Regional Readiness Program and the entities accredited at the national level.

Mr. Esso-Sam Abdou Rassidou Agrignan, GCF Focal Point for Togo, welcomed the regional Readiness Program initiative. However, he asked not to hide the difficulties for its success, which are located both at the institutional level of each country, and at the level of partners, including the GCF. In Togo, the process of territorialisation of the NDCs underway will certainly benefit from this program. This is why the GCF Focal Point in Togo says that he is ready to serve as a channel for submitting the request for the regional Readiness Program to the GCF, but on the express condition that he receives the unanimous support of all his peers in the WAEMU Member States.
Mr. Issaka Ouedraogo, Focal Point of the Burkina Faso GCF, also supports the proposal of the Regional Readiness Program targeting local governments in the WAEMU region. He hopes that this program will place particular emphasis on the capacity of local governments to develop portfolios of adaptation and mitigation projects eligible for the GCF. However, he noted that the project file he received still needs to be adjusted to better meet the GCF criteria and said he is ready to work with the consultant as soon as possible to perfect the file.

Mr. Kouadio Kumassi Philippe, Focal Point of the GCF of Côte D'Ivoire, indicated that 4 pillars are considered in the revision of the NDCs of Côte D'Ivoire: 1. reforestation and protection of the vegetation cover; 2. territorialisation; 3. circular economy; 4. renewable energy. The proposed regional readiness program resonates with what is being done in Ivory Coast, which is why it deserves to be supported.

Mr. Médard Comlan Ouinakonhan, representing the GCF Focal Point in Benin, believes that the Regional Readiness Program is very important and must be supported. The implementation of the Regional Readiness Program should indeed provide an opportunity to build regional capacity for expertise on climate issues within the WAEMU region. This program should also help to institutionalize the dialogue between the State and local authorities in order to establish a dynamic collaboration framework between the two levels of public governance on climate and biodiversity issues.

Ms. Dos Santos Barros Mota Akssana Paula, representing the GCF Focal Point in Guinea-Bissau, expressed her satisfaction with the Regional Readiness Program initiative. The proposed strategy for its implementation is appropriate. She fervently hopes that this program will effectively facilitate the access of local governments to climate finance, and specifically to the GCF. It therefore fully supports this project.

Mr. Ibrahim Traore, Head of the Climate Finance Division, representative of the WADB, first recalled that in his speech at the opening ceremony of the Forum, the President of the WADB stressed the importance that the WADB attaches to increasing the role of local authorities in the portfolio of projects financially supported by the WADB, particularly in the climate sector.
He also recalled that to this end, WADB has concluded a partnership agreement with UCLG Africa. The latter wished that as an accredited entity to the GCF, the WADB would contribute to facilitating access of local authorities to GCF resources. Finally, he recalled that the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund are not the only instruments of climate finance. The WADB is also accredited to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and also uses its own funds to finance climate projects or support public-private partnerships in the climate field.

He therefore proposed that the proposed Readiness Program should provide an opportunity to test other climate finance instruments by building on the unconditional and conditional components of NDCs. It is also for this reason that WADB supports this regional Readiness Program and offers its expertise to carry out an initial check with the consultant in order to help bring to maturity the request to be presented to the GCF.

Speaking at the end of the roundtable, Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa, called on participants to consider their responsibility to debate issues related to access to climate finance for local and regional authorities, a debate that African experts in climate finance should bring to the international level, and in particular to the COP 26 in Glasgow, through the African Group.

Firstly, we must ask ourselves why in the field of climate finance Africa still appears as a particularly risky region. As Mr. Traoré of the WADB said, there is not only the Green Climate Fund or the Adaptation Fund. Traditional banking institutions, development banks and private investors are also involved in climate finance. However, in order to intervene, the latter often requires that governments grant them exemptions or subsidies, even for perfectly profitable investments. The sums corresponding to these exemptions or subsidies are as much money that the States do not invest in public goods whose profitability is not yet assured, in particular public and research investments that support innovations in favor of the shift towards low-carbon and ecologically sustainable development trajectories. This is a first debate that African climate finance experts should bring to COP 26.
Secondly, Mr. Elong Mbassi drew the audience’s attention to the information given by the African Development Bank, which states that an additional 20 to 30 billion dollars per year should be mobilized to «green» African economies, over and above the 100 billion mobilized for the Green Climate Fund, only part of which is invested in Africa. The opportunity of the COP 26 should be seized to lead a plea for the mobilization of this additional sum, with the objective of replenishing above all the Adaptation Fund, which is currently poorly endowed, while for Africa, the priority climate action, especially at the level of territories, remains adaptation to the effects of climate change.

Thirdly, Mr. Elong Mbassi returned to Mr. Traoré’s remarks, but pointed out that while the resources of the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund are relatively limited compared to the needs, this is not the case for other instruments, particularly the private sector, whose potential is set to grow significantly. Indeed, most multinationals have committed themselves to carbon neutrality by 2050. This means that these multinationals are already looking for ways to offset their emissions until they are able to implement production processes that ensure carbon neutrality. We are therefore going to see a major development of the carbon market, a development that our states and communities have not yet taken into account. COP 26 should provide an opportunity for States and local authorities to advocate for the development of the carbon market in Africa. But this plea will only be credible if African climate finance experts invest in knowing the real potential of this carbon market in the short, medium and long term; consider how to organize it; and begin to produce the instrumentation necessary for its development, with the support of the international community.

At the end of the roundtable discussion, the following main recommendations were made:

1. Continue the process of submitting to the GCF the request for the Regional Readiness Program for the benefit of the local authorities of the WAEMU States in order to strengthen the capacity of these local authorities to prepare portfolios of climate-energy projects eligible for climate finance, and in particular for the Green Climate Fund, with UCLG Africa being designated as the implementing partner. This request will have to be finalized as soon as possible by the Consultant with the support of the GCF Focal Points of the other WAEMU Member States and the technical support of WADB. This request will be submitted to the GCF by the Togo GCF Focal Point and supported by all the GCF Focal Points of the WAEMU Member States.

2. Include in the regional Readiness Program the establishment of a Climate Focal Point within each national association of local authorities in WAEMU Member States as recommended by the Forum session on the implementation framework.

3. Strengthen cooperation and exchanges of experiences and good practices on issues related to territorial climate action and its financing, between local authorities of WAEMU and/or ECOWAS member states and Their national association of local authorities. These exchanges may include study tours and peer reviews.

4. To prepare the common position of African local governments to be presented at COP 26, in particular on the access of local governments to climate finance. UCLG Africa is responsible for the proposal of the corresponding draft advocacy document which must be circulated as soon as possible for advice and comments to the national association of local authorities of the WAEMU and/or ECOWAS Member States, as well as to the representatives of the said States in the Africa Group at the COP 26.
Mrs. Kouigan Yawa, President of the national Federation of Municipalities of Togo, President of the closing ceremony of the forum, in her speech first thanked all the participants for having made a real contribution to the response to the challenges of the territories in the face of climate change and expressed her satisfaction with the results obtained during these two days of exchanges which led to the adoption of the Lomé Declaration.

She then gave the floor to Ms. Macoura Dao Koulibaly, President of the Local Elected Women of Africa (REFELA) to read the Lomé Declaration which was adopted by all stakeholders: the representatives of the WAEMU Member States; the focal points of the Green Climate Fund of the WAEMU Member States; the WAEMU Commission; CCT-WAEMU, the Presidents of the national association of Local authorities that are members of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA); representatives of development banks (WADB/ EBID), as well as international cooperation partners.
Lomé Declaration

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 National 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 GNASSINGBÉ, 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”, National 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
The last few months have been characterised by an unprecedented degree of uncertainty for all economies. The combination of the COVID-19 pandemic and increased climate threats has exacerbated Africa’s vulnerabilities and development problems. During this phase of strong turbulence, the dimension of local government action was reinforced and strengthened, particularly at two levels:

- Local authorities have demonstrated a great capacity for adaptation, reactivity, efficiency and proximity. Local authorities should no longer be seen as an adjustment variable but as a privileged tool to support the recovery and face possible future crises.

- They were then able, thanks to the activation of crisis management mechanisms, to demonstrate their capacity to take over for better local crisis management. This reinforces the need to further strengthen the conditions for a permanent Structured Dialogue between the State services and the Territorial Collectivities.

In this perspective, economic recovery plans must integrate environmental and climate objectives in order to make societies and economies more resilient to foreseeable future shocks. This orientation also reinforces the need for a paradigm shift towards an inclusive and supportive approach that places local and regional authorities at the forefront of dealing with climate and health crises and their social consequences. This concern must be at the heart of the economic recovery models which must be aligned with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in line with the recommendations of the 11th Petersberg Climate Dialogue.

At the global level, the NDC review process is an opportunity to review the positioning of local governments in Africa in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to position them as a lever for transformative action towards a low-carbon, equitable and resilient future for all.

The Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) initiative launched in November 2015 by the European Union (Directorate General INTPA) and to which more than 240 African cities and towns have so far joined, has launched the process of structuring and strengthening a bottom-up approach to addressing energy and climate challenges in Africa, which results in local and regional authorities in Africa being equipped with climate-energy plans (SEACAPs). This planning phase is normally followed by a phase of preparing a portfolio of projects and mobilising finance for their implementation. The preparation of a portfolio of climate-energy projects and the mobilisation of climate finance justifies the submission of a «Readiness programme for the benefit of local authorities in the WAEMU region» to the Green Climate Fund.

The proposed Forum aims at examining the conditions to be met in order to increase climate investment within the local authorities of the WAEMU space. The choice to hold this Forum in Lomé is justified by the fact that Togo holds the presidency of WAEMU, and that it hosts in Lomé, Togo, the major financial institutions supporting development and regional integration of ECOWAS and WAEMU.

The Forum will specifically address the problems common to the authorities in charge of managing local and regional authorities in the field of climate action, and will explore ways and means and concrete mechanisms to facilitate the access of these authorities to climate finance, and in particular to the Green Climate Fund, within the framework of the Territorialisation of NDCs in Africa.
Program of the Forum

June 10, 2021

FROM 9AM to 11AM

Official opening ceremony of the Forum
Venue: Hotel du 2 février (Room Concorde)

8.00 am: Arrival of participants
8.30 am: Arrival and installation of the Authorities
9:00 am: Welcome by the Prefect of the Golf
9:10 am: Address by the Secretary General of UCLG Africa, Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi
9:20 am: Address by the Mayor of Guisser, Vice President of the AMPCC, Deputy President of UCLG, Mr. Mohamed Yassine DAOUDI
9.30 am: Speech by the Head of the European Union delegation in Togo, H.E. Mr Joaquín Tasso Vilallonga
9.40 am: Speech by the First Counsellor of the French Embassy in Togo, representing the French Ambassador, Mr Aymeric Lorthiois
9:50 am: Speech by the President of BOAD, Mr. Serge Ekue
10:10 am: Speech by the President of the WAEMU CCT, Mr. François Albert Amichia

• Intermède

10:35 am: Opening speech of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Togo by his representative the Minister of State, Minister of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Development of Territories, His Excellency Mr. Payadowa Boukpessi

Presentation by the Minister of Environment and Forest Resources of Togo, His Excellency Mr. Katari FoliBazi

Ms Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC (video)
Mr. Jarju Pa Ousmane, Director, Country Programming Division, Green Climate Fund, Chairman of the AMCOMET Board (Video)
Mr. Nicolas Chenet, Director of the Sustainable Development Department, Expertise France
Mr Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General - CEMR (video)
Ms Kobié Brand, Regional Director - ICLEI Africa (video)

The launching of the national COM SSA support in Togo
Family photo

Coffee break from 11:00 to 11:30

Session 1: Strategic Framework (High Level Round Table)
Moderator: Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa
«How to place the implementation of the territorialisation of NDCs at the centre of post-Covid 19 economic recovery plans?»

• Mr. Thiyu Kohoga Essobiyou, Director of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources of Togo
• Mr. Elie Aloko, Director of Environment and Climate Finance, BOAD
• Mr. Damien Mama, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations Programme

Lunch break: from 1:30 pm to 3 pm

Session 2: Governance framework :
The role of the Structured Dialogue in strengthening vertical governance for an effective territorialisation of NDCs?
Moderator: Mr Mohamed Nbou, Director of Climate, Biodiversity and Food Security - UCLG Africa

• Mrs. Koubonou Touni, President of the Network of Local Elected Women of Africa for the Togo Municipalities Federation (FCT)
• Mr Wilfrid Paterne Abiola, AfDB Country Representative in Togo
• Mr Aliou Sall, President of the Association of Mayors of Senegal
• Ms. Laure Kuhn Bruma, Coordinator of the GCCA+ West Africa project, Expertise France
• Mr. Mankana Korodowou Ahini, Mayor of Tchaoudjo 1 (Sokodé), Togo
• Mr. Koustchane Siangou, Executive Secretary of the Faitière des Communes du Togo (FCT)
• Mr. Thiyu K. Essobiyou, Director of Environment of MERF - Togo
• Ms. Aziza Akhmouch, Head of Division, Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development, OECD (Video)
• Mr. Moubarak Moukaila, Director of the Regional Collaboration Centre in Lomé
Session 3: Implementation framework:
Moderator: Mr Mohamed Nbou, Director of Climate, Biodiversity and Food Security - UCLG Africa

I - «From planning to implementation of territorial climate plans»
• Mr Yawo Winny Dogbatse, Mayor of Kloto 1 (Kpalimé), Togo
• Mr. Aquereburu Alexis, Mayor of Lac 1 - Togo
• Médard Comlan OUINAKONHAN, Director General Environment, GCF Focal Point of Benin
• Mr. Issaka Ouedraogo, Executive Secretariat of the GCF, GCF Focal Point - Burkina Faso
• Ms Omnia Aboukorah-Voigt, Programme Manager - GIZ
• Ms. Marie-Anne Serve, Project Coordinator CoM SSA - Expertise France

Session 4: Putting the mobilisation of climate finance into perspective through a round table discussion
Moderator: Mr. François Albert Amichia, President of the Council of Territorial Authorities
Round table: Regional Readiness Programme and Strategy for mobilising climate finance for the implementation of mitigation and adaptation projects

Closing session from 17H00 to 17H30
Moderator: Mr Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa
• Mrs. Kouigan Yawa, President of the National Association of Communes of Togo (FCT)
• Mrs Macoura Dao Koulibaly, President of the Local Elected Women of Africa (REFELA)
• Mr Mohamed Yassine DAOUDI, Mayor of Guisser Vice President of the AMPCC, Deputy President of UCLG World - Morocco
Reading of the Lomé Declaration by Ms Macoura Dao Koulibaly

Lunch break from 13H15 to 14H30
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa

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