

Young elected local officials face the effects of COVID-19
Cultural, social and economic impacts of an unexpected crisis
27 July 2021; 14:30 (Rabat Time)

Concept note

Young people are the engine for the development of Africa's cities; and Africa's cities are the engine of development for the continent. However, young people are not a homogenous social group as often assumed by decision-makers. Numerous local, spatial, cultural, social and economic specificities call for greater caution when addressing the issue of their integration in public policies.

With the COVID-19 crisis, young people and cities alike were deeply affected in their sociability. Initial security and health responses provided by the states (curfews, lockdowns, travel restrictions, etc.) led to a slowdown, or even a suspension of economic, social and cultural activities as a result. The measures really undermined the dynamics created by the activities of young people in African cities. Particularly hard-hit are the young people involved in the informal economic activities. This reveals major flaws in policies to integrate and support young people at both local and national levels.

The democratic opening up and evolution of African states has enabled young people to gain access not without difficulties to business and elective office, and several cities now have young leaders on their municipal councils and also at the head of companies involved in local life. Both cities and companies have been affected by the effects of the crisis: weakening of cultural industries (collapse of the employment market, drop in attendance at cultural venues, etc.), changes in citizens' urban habits (desertion of public places and transport) and transformation of the social relations of the actors in the cities. The growth of young people that once fueled the dynamics in African cities before the COVID era has had to adapt to propose new forms of resilience for the sustainability of their territory.

As the engine of development of African cities, young people are concerned by the future of their city; now more than ever. Elected officials, entrepreneurs, researchers, civil servants, students, young people are key elements of governance and local development.

Join us as we review and examine to rebuild better strategies to support and accompany young people in this crisis. What should we bring to the governance of subnational and local governments in order that the concern of youth are reflected in the policies to rebuild better.

Objective of the meeting

To initiate a first exchange between young leaders; local elected officials and entrepreneurs, from the African continent. As we share experiences of the impact of the pandemic on our lifestyles and livelihoods, we look to learn from one another on the various initiatives brought on by the pandemic. Several might be adaptable to our particular context.

The discussion will also explore the way forward to build sustainable cities and business resilience within the youth of Africa.

Methodology:

This sharing meeting will bring together around the table young leaders, young mayors and councilors, young researchers, concerned by the issue of the inclusion of youth in local governance.

Date & place:

The meeting will be held on July 27, 2021 on Zoom platform, 01:30 p.m GMT

The translation will available both French and English.

Agenda:

1- Introduction

- Welcome address by the **Secretary General of UCLG Africa**, Mr Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi
- Opening remark by the **President of the Young Elected Local Officials - Network (YELO)**, Mr. Christopher Kang'ombe, Mayor of Kitwe (Zambia), President of Local Government Association of Zambia

2- Youth and responsibility

- Tom Marten, Managing Director, Travizory Border Security SA Seychelles
- **Thérèse Faye Diouf**, Mayor of the municipality of Diarrere (Senegal)
- Discussion with the participants

3- Youth in workforce and growth of the continent

- Frederik TCHOUNGUI, Founder, Community of Global Leaders
- Oliver Bastienne, Chairman of the Seychelles Chamber of Commerce
- Discussion with the participants