



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



PUBLIC SERVICES
INTERNATIONAL

Memorandum of Understanding

between

United Cities and Local Governments of Africa

and

Public Services International Africa and the Arab Countries Region

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into by United Cities and Local Governments Africa (“UCLG Africa”), headquartered in Rabat, Morocco, the African section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG); and the Public Services International Africa and Arab Countries (“PSI Africa and the Arab Countries”), located in Lomé (Togo), one of the four regions of Public Services International (“PSI”), headquartered in Ferney-Voltaire, France; hereby referred to as “The Parties”.

PART I – Background

NOTING

- that UCLG Africa is composed of 54 National Associations of Local and Regional Governments (“LRGs”) from all regions of Africa, as well as 2000 cities that have more than 100,000 inhabitants, representing overall nearly 350 million African citizen and communities, UCLG Africa Regional Offices are based in; Accra, Ghana (West Africa); Nairobi, Kenya (East Africa); Pretoria, South Africa (Southern Africa); Libreville, Gabon (Central Africa), and Cairo, Egypt (North Africa). The African Local Governments Academy (ALGA) is part of UCLG Africa as its arm for training and empowering Human Capital.
- that PSI Africa and the Arab Countries is composed of 157 affiliated trade union organisations in 45 countries representing a combined membership of around 1.5 million women and men working at all levels of governments, including LRGs, to deliver quality public services to communities and territories. PSI Africa and the Arab Countries Sub-regional offices are in Lomé, Togo (Francophone-speaking Africa); Beirut, Lebanon (Arab Countries); Nairobi, Kenya (English-Speaking Africa); and Johannesburg, South Africa (Southern Africa). It also has project-based capacity in Dakar, Senegal; Niamey, Niger; Accra, Ghana; Kampala, Uganda; Abuja and Lagos, Nigeria; Gaborone, Botswana; and Cape Town, South Africa.

CONSIDERING

- that the Parties share similar missions, complementary objectives and face common challenges.
- that they wish to harness their potential to be stronger and more effective together; each within its areas of competences, roles, and responsibilities.

- that the Parties' agendas include many common goals, such as:
 - enabling equitable access to quality local public services for all
 - making cities, communities, and territories inclusive and fair
 - realizing sustainable, just local socio-economic development
 - building LRG staff's capacity and skills, while ensuring their decent working conditions.

RECALLING

- the positive, longstanding dialogue and continued cooperation between the UCLG and PSI global organisations.
- the promising, constructive dialogue and exchanges that have existed between the Parties since 2018.

The Parties RESOLVE:

- to enhance and structure their dialogue, cooperation, and partnership.
- to seize joint opportunities in areas of common interest.
- to develop joint advocacy; and
- to co-create relevant programmes and activities to the benefit of their respective memberships and of the communities these serve.

PART II - Cooperation

Therefore, the Parties AGREE to cooperate as follows:

Article 1. Ongoing dialogue, exchanges, and co-creation of training opportunities

- 1.1** The Parties will build a practice of ongoing dialogue. They will hold dialogue at HO level on an ongoing basis, as a minimum twice a year (e.g., once every six months) to mutually brief each other and identify low-hanging opportunities for collaboration, joint advocacy, and activities.
- 1.2** In a view to bring their cooperation down to the subregions and territories where they operate and close to their respective memberships, the Parties will also organize complementary joint calls including their staff to enhance information sharing, facilitate collaboration and mutual understanding of each other's work towards effective cooperation and action on the ground.
- 1.3** The Parties will mutually involve each other - as they deem appropriate - in annual membership conferences, activities, and flagship events. For instance, a PSI Africa and Arab Countries delegation will take part in Africities 9, in 2022 in Kisumu, Kenya, and will have opportunities to meaningfully contribute to the debate. UCLG Africa and ALGA will take part in the 14th PSI Africa & Arab countries Regional Conference (AFRECON) in 2023 (dates/venues tbc), where a prime speaking slot will be offered.
- 1.4** The Parties will also encourage each other's participation - as much as possible and appropriate - in field activities (e.g., trainings, public events, expert meeting, campaigns etc.) on cross-cutting issues of common interest (e.g., local public service governance, social dialogue, youth, gender, migration etc.).

Article 2. Joint peer learning, dialogue facilitation and membership capacity building

- 2.1** The Parties will explore opportunities to exchange experiences and build constructive dialogue among their respective memberships; exchange good practices; co-create and develop peer-learning and e-learning tools, including “train the trainers” modules and establish joint curricula on LRG issues of common interest (e.g., staff capacity building, quality public service delivery, sound municipal finance management, socially responsible public procurement, local socio-economic development, etc.).
- 2.2** To do so, the Parties may jointly explore opportunities and apply for project funding (e.g., with the EU, state development agencies or other institutional donors).
- 2.3** The Parties will cooperate and mutually engage their respective memberships in strengthening each other’s knowledge databases and publications (e.g., UCLG Africa’s and ALGA’s Observatory and Publications on HR Capacity) in a view to improve LRG staff capacity and conditions.
- 2.4** PSI Africa and the Arab Countries can contribute to UCLG Africa’s/ALGA’s curriculum for a master’s degree for LRG HR Managers, notably integrating key notions and principles about trade unions for city managers, as well as building together/co-creating the basis for constructive social dialogue in LRG services.

Article 3. Joint advocacy

The Parties will seek opportunities to develop and advance joint advocacy and activities together in a view to join forces influencing regional organisations - including the African Union, African Development Bank, UN Habitat and UN and other international organisations’ offices in the region -in areas of common interest (e.g. LRG funding, decentralisation, local governance, local development, urban policies, etc.)

PART III – Implementation

Article 4. Resources

The activities identified by the Parties as part of the MoU will not entail additional cost on either Party, unless otherwise specified and agreed. However, they will imply a commitment of time and existing human resources on each other’s side to ensure the successful fulfilment of the MoU. In case of physical travelling to each other’s venues, accommodation, travel, and related costs will be borne by each organisation. This rule is waived in case of public relations/hospitality costs related to attendance of mutual events (e.g., catered, meals, and refreshments).

Article 5. Duration

This MoU is initially established for a period of three (3) years. It is tacitly renewed if neither party calls for a review or termination. Either Party can demand a review or a termination of this MoU at any time. If so wished by both Parties, additional protocols can be added at any time to further cooperation in new areas of common interest or deepen and specify existing ones.

Article 6. Implementation review

The Parties will review overall implementation after a first three-year term. They can decide at any time to set specific goals, methodologies, plans and metrics and jointly review them towards implementation.

Article 7. Approval process

This MoU was presented to the UCLG Africa Executive Committee and to the PSI Africa and Arab Countries Sub-Regional Committee (SUBREC) for review and approval.

This MoU is underpinned by a constructive approach and a spirit of cooperation. The MoU and informal contacts and cooperation between the Parties do not exclude each other but are rather complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Rabat and Lomé, 24 September, 2021

Jean Pierre ELONG-MBASSI
General Secretary
UCLG Africa

Sani BABA
Regional Secretary
PSI Africa and the Arab Countries

Appendix I – Additional Information about the Parties

About UCLG Africa

UCLG Africa strategic priorities include 3 pillars: advocacy and mobilization for decentralization; capacity and knowledge management for LRG and National Associations; access to funding and technical assistance. The latter includes LRG institutional and staff capacity enhancement to delivery local basic services, as well as professionalism, effectiveness, and good LRG governance.

These pillars are anchored around 7 priorities for the 2021-2030 period:

1. Local Economy and Finance.
2. Gender and youth.
3. Climate, biodiversity, and food systems.
4. Basic services and localization of SDGs.
5. Migration.
6. Culture.
7. Peace and security.

The empowerment of women mayors and local elected officials (50-50 percent representation target) and that of young people (below 35) to nurture and strengthen future LRG leadership in the region are cross-cutting priorities. Dialogue and advocacy with the African Union (AU), the African Regional Bank (ARB), as well as partners such as the European Union (EU) are also key. Africities (every 3 years) is a rallying point and the flagship event for the implementation of the UCLG Africa's strategy: Africities 9 will take place on 17-21 May 2022 in Kisumu, Kenya.

With ALGA, UCLG Africa has established Networks to encourage training, learning, peer learning, capacity building, and good practice exchanges. It features dedicated networks for LRG women (REFELA), youth, as well as City Managers, Technical, Financial and HR Directors. The ALGA has taken advantage of the pandemic to push e-learning and education, and to create a virtual LRG knowledge centre. HR are the focus of a UCLG wave of action.

About PSI Africa and the Arab Countries

PSI Africa & AC is organized along public service sectoral lines:

1. Health & Social Services,
2. Utilities (energy, water and sanitation, waste services),
3. Local and Regional Government/Municipal services,
4. and National Administration.

It also works on horizontal, cross cutting issues, including Labour and Trade Union Rights; Gender; Youth; Migration & Refugees; Trade and Tax Justice; Climate Change. PSI Africa & AC Gender equality (50/50 target) and the participation of Young Workers in the PSI Africa & AC leadership are key priorities, too. Priorities are defined by PSI's Programme of Action 2017 and by its Regional Action Plan 2018.

Major issues of concern to PSI Africa are the privatisation and commodification of public services and common resources (e.g., water, health, education etc...); the interference of central governments in LRG governance, resources, and local democracy processes; and the underfunding/understaffing of LRGs, as well as the precarious conditions of many LRG workers. In this sense, PSI Africa & AC's tax justice work is about recovering lost public resources to fund much needed local public services for all. On climate change, PSI Africa & AC works with members on the preparedness of LRG frontline workers to have a say in climate policy, as well as to anticipate, mitigate and confront extreme climate events and disasters. On decentralisation, PSI Africa & AC works supporting and accompanying members in the decentralisation process, including ensuring the recognition of LRG professional categories, occupational safety and health (OSH) needs and training (e.g., in Tunisia). It also works on: LRG unions' capacity building; remunicipalisation/in-sourcing; and the democratic governance of local public services. Peace and security and the delivery of QPS in conflict zones are additional priorities, especially in the AC.

PSI Africa & ACLRG members have 2 active networks: the African Municipal and Local Government Union Network (AMALGUN) for English Speaking Africa; and the LRG/Municipal Union Network for Francophone Africa and the AC. PSI Africa & AC also has close links and cooperation with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa).

About United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

UCLG represents over 250,000 cities, regions, and metropolises as well as more than 175 local and regional government associations worldwide. <https://www.uclg.org>

About Public Services International (PSI)

Public Services International is a Global Union Federation of more than 700 trade unions representing 30 million workers in 154 countries. We bring their voices to the UN, ILO, WHO and other regional and global organisations. We defend trade union and workers' rights and fight for universal access to quality public services. <https://publicservices.international/>