

## **AFRICITIES 9**

### **AFRICAN INTERMEDIATE CITIES AND THE A.U. 's AGENDA 2063**

Africities 9 will be held from 17 to 21 May 2022, in Kisumu, Kenya. The 2009 census placed Kisumu as the third largest city of Kenya, with a population of 409,000 inhabitants. This will be the first time Africities will take place in an African intermediary city. "The Role of African Intermediary Cities in the Implementation of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063", the theme for Africities 9, follows on from previous Africities. It will take place in a period of disruption marked by the pandemic crisis and the climate crisis.

2. Africities highlights the network of cities and territories that constitute the backbone of the continent. Africa is the only continent in which the mayors of all the 54 states meet, at the invitation of the National Associations of Local Authorities, and their continental organization, UCLG Africa - United Cities and Local Governments of Africa. The Africities Summit is a unique democratic gathering in Africa, that brings together the largest number of elected representatives from Africa and other parts of the world. Africities 8 brought together 8,300 participants representing more than 77 countries, including 53 African states and nearly 3,000 local elected officials, mayors, and other leaders of local governments. African local elected officials numbered 2,500 people which represents nearly 15% of Africa's 16,008 local and regional authorities. The legitimacy of Africities also rests on the opening of its exchanges to members of the various strata and networks of the civil society; peasants, women, youth, trade unionists, academics and researchers, entrepreneurs, businessmen. Participants adopt the same generic theme to present multiple insights.

3. The Africities Summits are decisive elements of African governance. It is considered as the most important democratic gathering of elected officials; a process for building African unity. A governance that starts at the local level to reach that of national, and eventually the continental level. The Africities approach is to assess living conditions of the populations, with the aim of improving them. The work of subnational and local governments is integral in the daily life of people. The fifteen thousand mayors and five hundred thousand municipal councilors who are impacting the lives of their citizens on a daily basis, represent a renewal in African leadership.

4. The 2020 economic outlook, drawn up by the Economic Commission for Africa, shows interesting growth (at 3.4%), even if it is lower than the ten-year average growth. However, the strong inequalities noted reveal an economic growth whose inclusiveness can largely be improved upon. Recent quarantines in some countries suggest that the best hope of recovery will only be by mid-2022. From the economic standpoint, the impact of Covid-19 risks causing a world recession similar to that of 1920. Measures to combat the spread of the pandemic, particularly the lockdown, have reduced the production of added value by at least one third to one half. The economic implications are multifaceted through the different relationships between branches of economic activities. Given the upstream and downstream relationships between economic activities, numerous bankruptcies are to be expected. Finally, the collapse of the tourism industry, oil prices, the reduction of remittances from migrants and development aid will lead to a severe recession in African economies. Africa's economic rehabilitation will therefore depend on post-covid stimulus measures.

5. The African Union's Agenda 2063 aims at shared prosperity and well-being, unity, and continental integration. The contribution of cities is one of the conditions for the achievement of Agenda 2063. Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development requires social transformation, and an improvement in the level and quality of life, all of which are promises that can only be supported by cities, as Agenda 2063 recognizes. On the other hand, African ambitions

to modernize its agriculture and strengthen its modern sector for more jobs creation and income generation, are closely linked to urbanization and to the sharing of work between urban and rural areas. As for the global challenge of climate change, it can only be reached by localizing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

6. Through local development, decentralized cooperation and the establishment of exchange networks, cities and territories promote the unity of the continent and its development from the grassroots. By showing the virtues of grassroots integration, local governments remain the ideal scale for placing populations into the dynamic of integration by strengthening cross-border cooperation and the pooling of basic services and infrastructure. Local governments anticipate the outcome of the integration process, in particular the free movement of people and the implementation of cross-border development strategies.

7. Intermediary cities can easily entrench the culture of good governance, democratic practices, gender equality, respect for human rights, justice and the maintenance of the rule of law. In fact, in all African countries it has become the established rule that local authorities are set up with the appropriate councils and local executive leaders. It is also now imperative that apart from the requirement to elect local authorities, there is also a greater sense of accountability by local authorities to the people who elect them. These local authorities are meant to stay connected to the people to allow a close monitoring of their performance and greater control over their actions. The governance of public affairs should therefore improve in principle. Moreover, the modern notion of decentralisation makes up the very fabric of democracy, which essentially means the participation of the people in the running of their community, notably through the election of local councils. For the majority of African countries, democracy at the level of local authorities is the stepping stone towards consolidating democracy at a national level. This is why at the African Union Summit of June 2014, the African Charter on the values and principles of Decentralisation, local governance and local development, was adopted by the heads of State and Government of the African Union.

8. Africa's demography dictates its urbanization. The size of the world's population will range between 8.5 and 8.6 billion in 2030, between 9.4 and 10.1 billion in 2050, and between 9.4 and 12.7 billion in 2100. Of the 2.0 billion addition to the world's population between 2019 and 2050, 1.05 billion (52%) would come from countries of sub-Saharan Africa. By 2050, out of the new urban dwellers of the global urban population, 90% will be in Asia and Africa. Today, the increase in the world's population projects that urban Africa will be around 1.2 billion in 2050.

9. Intermediary cities occupy a strategic place in urbanization in Africa. The current and future trends indicate that most new urban dwellers will move to cities of less than 500,000 inhabitants. These cities should absorb nearly two out of three new urban dwellers. We therefore understand why intermediary cities must be at the heart of global agendas and sustainability strategies for the planet. Whether or not the goals are achieved will depend on the application of the global agendas in intermediary cities. It is therefore more crucial than ever, to strengthen the role of these intermediary cities in the development and integration of Africa. Intermediary cities are an essential link in the structuring of the urban framework, making urban Africa less and less the continent of national capital cities. However, intermediary cities which double in population and area every 10 to 15 years, paradoxically receive very little attention in public policies.

10. According to the Africapolis study of 2015, intermediary cities in Africa account for 30% of the urban population. This study, identified 1,348 intermediary cities gathering 173 million people. The study indicates that the African continent has 26 intermediary cities in the upper bracket of intermediary cities with a population between 400,000 and 500,000 inhabitants representing 8% of the population of intermediary cities. 783 intermediary cities of 50,000 to 100,000 inhabitants are home to 58% of the total population of intermediary cities, which will accommodate at least half of the new urbanites in the next 30 years. 539 intermediary cities with a population between 100,000 and 200,000 inhabitants represent 29% of the population of intermediary cities. The various projections available show that intermediary cities contribute 40% to the African GDP.

11. Intermediary cities support structuring of space. While large metropolises ensure Africa's connection to globalization, intermediary cities structure their space of influence, equip their territories, strengthen economic opportunities, and offer basic local public services to populations, thus supporting structural change, which take shape in their territories. They are also the support of a convergence between space, ecology, the economy and the social dimension. As shown by the studies on local economies led by UCLG Africa, people produce and consume where they live. The way they produce largely determines the mode of social organization and the mode of occupation and organization of space. Any modification of one of the components (population, social organization, occupation of space) entails transformations and the need for rebalancing. This is why we can say that the local dynamics of settlement, economic development, and socio-political and spatial organization constitute a system and explain the change that influences local life.

12. Intermediary cities are at the heart of the ecological transition. Their proximity to the rural hinterland makes them particularly sensitive to the relationship with nature. The integrated territorial approach makes it possible to consider a decompartmentalization of sectoral approaches in order to improve horizontal relationships favoring synergies between sectors with the goal of reduction of the carbon cost of economic activities, and withdrawals from the natural environment. Africities 8 placed emphasis on the ecological, social, and democratic transition and the necessity to take this articulation into account in Agenda 2063. Taking ecology into account introduces a change to the old concepts of economic and social development, reinforcing the democratic imperative.

13. The pandemic crisis opens a disruption. The juncture of the climate and the pandemic crisis mark the transition of a new period whose consequences, already visible, will become increasingly important. The health crisis has had far-reaching effects that are not over yet. The economic and social effects will be consequential. In the immediate term, the crisis affects the activity and involves the regression of growth with its effects on massive unemployment and changes in trade and the international economy. For the moment, Africa is relatively less affected by the Covid-19 pandemic than other regions of the world. The gloomy forecasts did not happen. The Covid-19 pandemic persists, but remains less fatal in Africa than other continents. The reasons for the specificity of Africa can also be explained by its young population, the low population density, less mobility of the populations, and the low rate of aggravating comorbidities, the hypothesis of a possible protection, thanks to an advanced pre-existing immunity.

14. The consequences of the pandemic on the African economy will be catastrophic. The World Bank forecasts a recession, unprecedented for twenty-five years, of between -2% and -5% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020, versus a forecasted growth of 3.2 % expected before the pandemic. At the end of June 2020, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had evoked a recession of 3.2 % for sub-Saharan Africa for the year 2020. The drop in the revenues of the inhabitants will be similar to the levels of 2010. According to the AfDB, nearly 50 million Africans could fall into extreme poverty due to the economic consequences of the pandemic. The recession will deepen and affect four of Africa's five largest economies in 2020; South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, and Morocco. The fifth economy, namely Egypt, as well as medium-sized economic powers with relatively diversified economies, such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal would withstand better. Finally, the coronavirus crisis also poses an increased risk on the public debts of African countries, with budget deficits which " should double " on the continent, to reach 8% to 9% of GDP, while "many African countries approached this crisis with high debt-to-GDP ratios".

15. The development of an African strategic approach to the situation is urgent. The strategic approach involves responding to the emergency by dealing with the immediate effects of the new situation. It also implies opening up new prospects for Africa, based on the lessons that can be drawn from it. This involves articulating in this process the general lessons of the period and the situation with the specific contexts that make up the diversity of Africa. This approach should be applied at the level of the continent, at the level of each African country, and at the level of African local governments. At the level of the continent, the strategic approach should be to build a common vision and strengthen coordination between African states. At the level of each country, national policies will be

decisive; they must be re-examined and coordinated in the light of the global and African agendas and within the framework of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

16. The local approach requires rethinking regional planning, based on public and citizen actions. At the level of local authorities, one finds the connection between the territories and the local institutions. The quarantines demonstrated the importance of local and neighborhood bonds. The pandemic crisis equally demonstrated the necessity of the human rights-based approach and equal access to rights. The right to health has found its place. The right to education and information is strategic. The right to housing has proven to be vital. The right to work, employment, and income are essentials. The right of expression of culture encourages building of societies. The rights to nature and environment with emphasis on ecological obligation. Territorial planning and development can be based on the dynamic of solidarity which was strengthened during the pandemic crisis. The rights and responsibilities correspond to the definition of democracy, liberty and solidarity

17. Intermediary cities continue to function on their relationships with their hinterlands. The intermediary city is an extension of the small city that is created from the grassroots. The intermediary city makes it possible to link the rural and the urban areas and to rely on the different aspects of modernity in Africa. The intermediary city is critical in any food security strategy. The intermediary city is the place for the localization of economic activities, making the most of the potential of the territory and of the industries linked to the resources of the territories. UCLG Africa's ECOLOC program has shown how to make some of the informal activities visible and build local investments and maintenance policies adapted to the reality of local and regional residents under the control of their representatives from local institutions.

18. Africities is a Summit of leaders and elected officials of local governments in Africa, organized and led by them. Leaders and elected officials of the local governments are assigned the most prominent places of activities of Africities. Each session includes among its panelists, at least two leaders or elected officials of African subnational authorities, one of whom chairs the session. Each session offers recommendations to Mayors, Ministers, development partners, pan-African institutions. All these activities lead to the political sessions which are conducted during the last two days of Africities proceedings. In total five political meetings are held. These are the Assembly of Mayors, which is the General Assembly of UCLG Africa; the meeting of Ministers of African institutions; the meeting of development partners; and the quadripartite political dialogue meeting between Mayors, Ministers, African institutions and development partners. In parallel, an Africities Investment Forum will be held with investors, economic actors and African local authorities. Africities is also the Exhibition, opened to companies, institutions or organizations to allow them to exhibit their products, tools, know-how to the ordering parties of regional authorities in Africa.

19. During the first three days, the thematic sessions will be devoted to deepening the themes around African intermediary cities, exchange of views and ideas, and development of proposals. About 90 sessions will be proposed to the participants. Some of these sessions are proposed and organized by the governing bodies of Africities 9 designated by UCLG Africa, and by the Kenyan authorities. Most of the other sessions can be proposed by local authorities, institutions and associations. The operators of a session designate a facilitator and a rapporteur. A session lasts three hours, and is led by four people, of which two are local African elected representatives. One of the African elected official chairs the session. Recommendations intended for the political sessions are adopted by the session. Summaries of recommendations are prepared for the political sessions.

20. The sessions are grouped into sets that organize and structure the contents of Africities 9. Summaries for each of the sets will be prepared for the political sessions and for the proceedings of Africities 9. Five sets of sessions involve:

- the different variations of the theme of intermediary cities

- the policies and strategies to be implemented to improve the contribution of intermediary cities to the achievement of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda 2030 and of the African Union's Agenda 2063
- the definition of coalitions with the different categories of local actors whose partnership with intermediary cities is necessary for the latter's contribution to the structural transformation of the African continent
- the sessions proposed by the Kenyan national and local authorities
- the sessions which are the concrete translation of the UCLG Africa programs.

Five priority themes are the subject of dedicated days; the sets are developed around priority themes:

- Climate Day
- Women's Day
- Youth Day
- Migration and Diaspora Day
- Culture Day
- Urban Planning Day

Communication highlights will be organized for each of these priority themes.

21. The official opening of the Summit will be followed by an intervention addressing key elements of the central theme on African intermediary cities.

The theme will be discussed in six sessions:

- the situation and evolution of intermediary cities in the urbanization dynamics of Africa
- the contribution of African intermediary cities relating to health and sustainable development of Africa
- the responses and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in African intermediary cities
- investment needs of African intermediary cities in the aftermath of the pandemic;
- human and financial challenges
- African intermediary cities in the urban, social, and cultural evolution of Africa.

22. The policies and strategies of local authorities will take into account:

- the planning and programming of intermediary cities
- the strengthening of human resources and the administration of intermediary cities
- the improvement of the environmental policies of intermediary cities
- social inclusion and gender equality in intermediary cities
- the digital economy and information systems in intermediary cities.

Five essential functions will be underlined:

- feeding intermediary cities;
- building intermediary cities;
- providing basic services in intermediary cities;
- maintaining infrastructure and services in intermediary cities;
- administering and organizing intermediary cities.

23. AfriCities 9 will define and propose a specific program for African intermediary cities based on several proposals:

- The priority is to raise the level of development of African intermediary cities
- African intermediary cities can renew the conceptions of land use planning.
- African intermediary cities can guarantee the populations' access to public services which is decisive
- African intermediary cities can link basic services and development strategies.
- Intermediate African cities can materialize the priority given to ecology
- Intermediate African cities can build a new model of relations between the rural and the urban world.

- Intermediate African cities can support industrialization policies
- African intermediary cities are attaining the democratization process

African intermediary cities are experimenting with decentralization and comprehensive global reform of public action. Intermediate African cities can allow the overhaul of public policies. African intermediary cities are at the heart of migration and of their understanding.

24. Africity 9 will be part of the global and Pan-African agendas. Africity 9 will deepen the approach of the Africa Regional Forum of Intermediate Cities organized by UCLG and UCLG Africa, in May 2017 in Odienné in Côte d'Ivoire, in order to take stock of the implementation of global agendas in intermediary cities. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which follow on from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were defined in 2015 by the international community with the goal of fighting poverty. The Climate Agreement signed in December 2015 in Paris gives an important place to cities in the struggles against climate change. Finally, the New Urban Agenda, adopted by the 2016 United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held in Quito in 2016, aims to make cities more inclusive, safer, more resilient, and more sustainable.

The in-depth translation of the theme of Africity-9 will result in four developments:

- a specific program for the development and planning of intermediary cities
- a review of planning and development methods in Africa by taking the grassroots as a starting point and by relying on the planning of intermediary cities
- a redefinition of the African urban framework giving greater visibility to intermediary African cities
- a refocusing of African development on the territories that specifies the orientations of the African Union's Agenda 2063.