Report of the mission of UCLG Africa to the COP 26
from 1 to 12 November 2021
Glasgow, Scotland
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I. Contexte, enjeux et objectifs

The Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change met from November 1 to 12, 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom (COP 26) after a year of postponement due to the global pandemic of COVID-19.

The context in which this conference was held was marked by:

• The return of the United States to the Paris Agreement under the leadership of President Joe Biden.
• A greater awareness of humanity’s common destiny, which the COVID-19 pandemic has made more evident.
• The red alert issued by the latest IPCC report (AR6) confirming that without «immediate, rapid and deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to around 1.5°C, or even 2°C, will be out of reach by 2100».
• The announcements made by the richest countries, which are also the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, at the recent G7 and G20 summits, to honor the promises they made 10 years ago to provide $100 billion to help developing countries in fighting climate change, and to increase the ambition of the Paris Agreement.
• The frequency of extreme weather events around the world has raised awareness of the urgency of addressing climate change adaptation as the priority for climate action in Africa.

Because of this particular context, COP 26 was seen as the COP of the last chance to demonstrate that the Paris Agreement could still provide an effective response to the climate crisis, and that climate action should be part of a more low-carbon, greener, and more resilient post-COVID-19 global recovery.

It is also a COP with high strategic issues for Africa, as were COP 21 in Paris and COP 22 in Marrakech, since Africa will again host the global climate meeting in 2022 in Egypt. In this perspective and beyond the responsibility to manage the implementation of the results of the COP26. COP 27 is required to make real progress on Africa’s priorities, particularly in the area of mobilization of climate finance and adaptation to climate change, which remains a largely territorial challenge.

To do this, four priorities should form the basis of the negotiation process and the action agenda of the COP26, namely:

• Increasing ambition, in particular from the Group of 20 (G20) members;
• Achieving the financial targets of $100 billion/year
• Strengthening resilience and adaptation measures.
• Encouraging the inclusion of all stakeholders, in particular local and regional authorities

It is in this perspective that the UCLG Africa delegation led by President Christine M’Ba Ndutume went to COP26, with the following specific objectives:

In this perspective, the mission of the UCLG Africa delegation to COP26 was of utmost importance insofar as it was necessary to:

• Call attention to the priority of adaptation to climate change in the climate action of local and regional authorities in Africa
• Open up new avenues for supporting local and regional governments in their post-COVID green recovery plans 19.
• Raise awareness on the need for African local governments to access to climate finance so that they can participate in the acceleration of the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience initiatives

• Place local and regional authorities at the heart of the solutions agenda envisaged for COP 27 in Egypt

• Include the «Climate Day» organized on May 19, 2022 during the Africities Summit in Kisumu, Kenya, as one of the milestones in the process of preparing COP 27

• Strengthen the leadership of the Climate Task Force of UCLG Africa on the theme of adaptation to climate change and resilience through the conclusion of innovative partnerships.

• Strengthen the institutional anchoring of the Climate Task Force in the decision-making process of the climate agenda of the African Union.

The delegation led by the President of UCLG Africa and Mayor of Libreville, Mrs. Christine Mba N’Dutume, was composed of:

• Mrs. Yawa Ahofa Kouigan, Mayor of Atakpame, Togo, and President of the national association of local governments of Togo.

• Mrs. Macoura Dao Coulibaly, President of the Network of Local Elected Women of Africa (REFELA) and mayor of the municipality of Foumbolo in Ivory Coast.

• Mr. Peter Anyang Nyong’o, Governor of Kisumu, Kenya

• Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa

• Mr. Nbou Mohamed, Director of the Climate, Biodiversity and Food Security Department, Head of the Climate Task Force of UCLG Africa

• Mrs Annie Chrystel LIMBOURG IWENGA, Deputy Mayor of Libreville, in charge of decentralized and inter-communal cooperation

• Mr. Aimé-Mannix Rachid MONDJOT, Communication Advisor to the Mayor of Libreville

• Mr. Mohamed Higazy, Director, North Africa Regional Office, UCLG Africa

• Mrs. Soumia Benlebsir, Task Manager, Climate, Biodiversity and Food Security Department, Coordinator officer, UCLG Africa Climate Task Force

• Mrs. Nisrine Bennani, Coordinator officer, UCLG Africa Climate Task Force

II- Conduct of the Mission

Au regard des objectifs assignés à cette mission, la délégation s’est déployée sur quatre fronts:

• Organization and participation in Side Events

• Bilateral meetings with delegations from different countries

• Strengthening the partnership framework of local authorities to accelerate climate action on the ground

• Marrakech Partnership
1 - Side events

The UCLG Africa delegation participated in panel discussions on issues of strategic importance for local and regional authorities, namely:

- Multi-level governance and territorialization of NDCs
- Accelerating resilience and adaptation
- Innovative climate finance solutions
- Capacity building
- Localized MRV system

Theme: «Accelerating the territorialization of NDCs and climate finance in the face of the climate emergency for African cities and territories”

Organizers: UCLG Africa - CoM SSA - ENERGIES 2050

Moderator: Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa

«The objective of the panel was to discuss the different ways and means to ensure a successful territorialization of the NDCs framed by 4 key questions:

- What collaborative framework between the national and local levels to ensure effective vertical governance?
- How to better integrate territorial issues into NDCs?
- How to align the reporting framework at the local level with the transparency framework at the national level?
- What mechanisms and instruments should be put in place to ensure access to financing for local authorities?

Panelists:

- Mrs. Christine Mba N’Dutume, President of UCLG Africa and Mayor of Libreville
- Mr. Mokssit Abdellah, Secretary General of IPCC
- Mrs. Yawa Ahofa Kouigan, Mayor of Atakpame, Togo, and Président of the national association of local governments of Togo
- Mr. Mohamed Nbou, Director of the Climate, Biodiversity and Food Security Department
- Mr. Stéphane POUFFARY, Director General of ENERGIES 2050
Theme: “What participatory mechanisms to accelerate the decision and implementation of strategies and projects for adaptation to climate change in the territories?”

Organizer: Ministry of Ecological Transition (France)
Moderator: Mrs. Bettina LAVILLE, President and founder of Comité 21

The objective of this panel was to discuss how initiatives have emerged in territories with different characteristics and scales, and their accelerating effect on public decision-making and the operational implementation of projects.

Panelists:
- Mrs. Barbara POMPILI, Ministry of Ecological Transition, France
- Mr. Gilles Siméoni, President of the Ecological Transition Commission of Régions de France, President of the Executive Council of Corsica
- Mrs. Agnès Langevine, Vice-President of the Occitanie Region, in charge of Climate
- Mr. Alain Bourque, General Manager / Ouranos, Quebec- Canada
- Mr. Yann WEHRLING, Vice-President of the Ile-de-France Region
- Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa
Theme: «GEMMES-Morocco Project» What impact of climate change on the Moroccan economy, via the agricultural sector, by 2050?

Organizers: Ministry of Economy and Finance - AFD

This panel discussed «Scenarios and options for appropriate adaptation and resilience of the agricultural sector to climate change by 2050»

Panelists

- **HE Mrs. Arlette Soudan-NonaULT**, Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development of the Congo Basin
- **Mr. Mohamed Benyahia**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment in Morocco
- **Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi**, Secretary General of UCLG Africa
- **Dr. Jawad El Kharraz**, Executive Director of the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)
- **Mr. Stephane Hallegatte**, Senior Economist in the Climate Change Group of the World Bank
- **Mrs. Meryem Andaloussi**, Head of the Environment and Climate Finance Department at the Moroccan Agricultural Development Agency (ADA)
- **Mr. Abderrahim KSiri**, National Coordinator of the Moroccan Alliance for Climate and Sustainable Development (AMCDD)
Theme: “Resilient infrastructure and climate action led by city”

Organizers: AfDB - GCA - UCLG Africa

Moderator: Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa

The objective of this panel was to discuss different experiences in collaborative approaches between the two levels of local and national discussions to accelerate infrastructure resilience at the city level.

Panelists:

- Mrs. YAWA AHOFA KOUIGAN, Mayor of Atakpame, Togo, and Président of the national association of local governments of Togo;
- Mrs. Astrid R.N. Haas, Municipal Finance Specialist, AfDB
- Mr. Nicola Tollin, University of Southern Denmark
- Mr. Joep Verhagen, Global Centre for Adaptation
- Mrs. Aziza Akhmouch, Head of Division, Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development -OECD-
Theme: “Art and culture at the heart of the recovery for inclusive, resilient cities and territories that create employment and economic development”

Organizers: UCLG Africa, ENERGIES 2050, Art Planet

Moderator: Mr. Stéphane Pouffary, Director General of Energie 2050

The objective of this panel was to discuss the Terms of Reference for the organization of the ART, Culture and Climate session at the Africities Summit »

Panelists:

- **Honorable Mr. Innocent Uwimana**, President of the Regional Association of Local Authorities of East Africa
- **Mrs. Laurence HALPHEN**, Director of ART’s PLANET initiative, Visio conference
- **Mr. Nbou Mohamed**, Director of the Climate, Biodiversity and Food Security Department - UCLG Africa.
Theme: “Regional mobilization of Chambers of Commerce and Industry for the climate”

Organizers: Ministry of Environment of Morocco, the Mediterranean Climate House

Moderator: Mrs. Hajar Khamlichi, expert in sustainability and climate

The objective of this panel was to discuss the means and objectives to align the actions of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Morocco with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Panelists:

- **Mr. Mohamed BENYAHIA**, Secretary General of the Department of Sustainable Development of the Kingdom of Morocco
- **Mr. Rabie EL Khamlichi**, Regional Director of CCISTTA/President of the Commission of renewable energies ASCAME
- **Mr. Grammenos Mastrojeni**, Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean in charge of the Energy and Climate Action Division
- **Mrs. Yawa A. KOUIGAN**, Mayor of Atakpame, Togo, and Président of the national association of local governments of Togo
- **Mr. Jawad El Kharraz**, Executive Director of the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), MENA region
- **Mr. Ahmed Kamal Abdel Moneim**, Executive Director of the Federation of Egyptian Industries
Gulbenkian Humanity Award Ceremony organized by GCoM
Participation of Mr. Peter Anyang Nyong’o, Governor of Kisumu, Kenya.
Representing UCLG Africa at the award ceremony.

2. Bilateral meetings with country delegations:

Bilateral meetings with HE. Mr. Lee White, Minister of Water, Forests, the Sea, and Environment, charged with Climate Change, SDGs and Land-use Planning

Issues:

• Initiate the Regional Readiness process in EMCCA countries
• Strengthen the bottom-up approach in the revision and implementation of NDCs in Africa
• Present the program of the UCLG Africa Climate Task Force in Central Africa and solicit Gabon’s support as President of the African Group, active member of AMCEN and member of the Board of the GCF
• Mobilize high level personalities in Gabon to participate in the Africities Summit and particularly in the « Africities Climate Day »
Content:

- During the bilateral meeting with the delegation of Gabon, Ms. President of UCLG Africa, Mayor of Libreville and Chair of the UCLG Africa delegation to COP 26 introduced the members of the delegation to Mr. Minister and also praised the leading role of Gabon in the field of climate change and carbon sequestration.

- Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, after expressing his thanks to the Minister and his team, insisted on the importance of Gabon’s support as a leader of the African group of negotiators to advance the three priorities that are at the heart of the strategy of the UCLG Africa Climate Task Force, namely:
  - The involvement of local and regional governments in the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the achievement of the Paris Agreement, including the implementation of Locally Determined Contributions (LDCs), thus extending the national effort to increase ambition and build resilience.
  - The access of local and regional authorities to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). To this end, UCLG Africa in coordination with the Forum of Caisses et de Dépôts is preparing a Regional Readiness Program for Central Africa in order to strengthen the operational capacities of the region’s Local Governments in mobilizing climate finance.
  - The priority to be given to adaptation and resilience to climate change in climate action in Africa, and particularly at the level of local governments.
  - Mr. Mbassi presented the main lines of Africities, focusing on the Climate Day in view of the holding of COP 27 in Africa. In this perspective, he requested the participation of the Minister in the work of the Climate Day of Africities, and wished that on this occasion Gabon share innovative experiences in the field of compensation for the role played by the forest of Gabon in carbon sequestration.
  - The Minister congratulated UCLG Africa for its efforts to include African local governments in the implementation process of the Paris Agreement and reaffirmed his support for the various points raised by the Secretary General and Gabon’s full support to lean on UCLGA and to share its experience. The Minister gave his agreement in principle to participate in the 9th Africities Summit.

In the perspective of the post COVID green revival, the Minister suggested the launching of the «green city» prize during the Africities Summit.

Decisions taken:

- Launch of the Regional Readiness Program during the Africities Climate Day, led by Gabon in partnership with UCLG Africa and the Forum of Caisses et de dépôt
- Launch of the «Green City» award at Africities, with Gabon as political sponsor.
Bilateral meeting with HE. Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt

Issues:
- To include UCLG Africa in the process of the organization of the COP 27
- To domicile the African Adaptation Initiative within North African Regional Office in Egypt
- To place the issue of adaptation and climate finance at the heart of the COP 27 agenda

Content of the interview:
- Mr. Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi began by praising Egypt’s leadership in the field of climate and congratulating Africa on its choice to host COP 27 in Egypt, in Charm el-Sheikh. In this context, he expressed his wish that the COP 27 sends a very clear message on the priority given to Adaptation in the climate action in Africa, and on the fact that adaptation is above all an issue to be solved at the level of territories.

- Mr. Mbassi then presented the activities of the UCLG North African Regional Office as well as the efforts made by UCLG Africa to facilitate the access of local and regional authorities in Africa to climate finance, and in particular to the Green Climate Fund, for which UCLG Africa is recognized as a Delivery Partner for the Readiness Program. The same process of recognition of UCLG Africa as a Delivery Partner is underway with the African Initiative for Adaptation (AIA). Mr. Mbassi also expressed the wish to see the secretariat of the African Initiative for Adaptation (AIA) hosted in the premises of NARO in Cairo.

- Finally, Mr. Mbassi informed the Minister of the organization of the 9th edition of the Africities Summit in Kisumu, Kenya, from 17 to 21 May 2022. During this Summit it is planned to organize the Climate Day on May 17, 2022. He requested the participation of the Minister in this day which can be an important milestone in the process of preparation of the COP 27. He also proposed that a Forum of local authorities be organized in the framework of the COP 27 on the acceleration of resilience and mobilization of climate finance, and that the organization of the Forum be entrusted to UCLG Africa.

- HE. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment in Egypt, underlined her full satisfaction with the convergence of views on the central role that local and regional authorities can play in accelerating resilience and adaptation to climate change. She welcomed the fact that the Africities Climate Day was considered as an important step in the preparation of COP 27. She took note of UCLG Africa’s requests to host the AIA Secretariat in her North African offices and to organize the Local Government Forum in the framework of COP 27.
Decisions taken:

- UCLG Africa must submit to the Minister of Environment as soon as possible a concept note on the organization at COP 27, of the Forum of local and regional authorities on the acceleration of resilience and mobilization of climate finance, led by UCLG Africa
- UCLG Africa shall submit as soon as possible to the Minister of Environment of Egypt a note on the proposal to domicile the African Initiative for Adaptation in the premises of NARO
- UCLG Africa shall submit as soon as possible to the Minister of Environment of Egypt a concept note of the UCLG Africa Climate Day and send him an official invitation for this event.

Bilateral meeting with Sherry Zyllika Sykes, Senior Advisor for Africa, U.S. Department of State

Issues:

- Advocacy for the return of the United States to the Paris Agreement to promote a better balance in climate finance commitments between mitigation and adaptation
- Request for political support to make COP 27 the COP of Adaptation to Climate Change, and that the priority given to adaptation be translated into better access to climate finance for local and regional authorities in Africa
- Invitation to high-level American personalities to participate in the Africities Summit organized from May 17 to 21, 2022 in Kisumu, Kenya, and particularly in the Climate Day planned in this framework on May 17, 2022
- Request for support to UCLG Africa so that the organization can contribute more effectively to the acceleration of the resilience of local and regional governments in Africa to climate change.

Conduct:

Mrs. Sykes welcomed the UCLG Africa delegation and presented her extensive diplomatic experience, especially in the topics that she supervised throughout her career, including issues related to climate, water, seas, and climate change, which led her through her return to Washington to become one of the experts Assistants to Mr. John Kerry - the former US Secretary of State and representative of the Biden administration at the Climate Summit.
Ms. Sykes indicated at the beginning of her intervention that she always talks about one Africa in her meetings, and that she works through her career to enhance and deepen the American understanding that Africa must be treated as one, especially when it comes to climate issues.

She presented her experience in the field of local governance and local development, and mentioned that she has had the opportunity to apply this experience in Kwazulu Natal in South Africa when she was stationed in Durban in the US consulate services. She confirmed her conviction that it was necessary to deal with the localities in all matters, including for climate action, to ensure impact of activities.

Speaking on behalf of the UCLG Africa delegation, Mr. Jean-Pierre Mbassi started by congratulating the Biden Administration’s return to the Paris Agreement. He conveyed the greetings of the community of African subnational and local government authorities to the US special envoy for climate, Mr. John Kerry, for his personal engagement to address the challenges of climate change.

UCLG Africa is the umbrella organization of subnational and local governments of Africa. It comprises the 51 national associations of subnational and local governments that operate on the African continent and 2,000 subnational and city governments. Through its membership, UCLG Africa represents over 350 millions inhabitants.

UCLG Africa is headquartered in RABAT, the capital city of the Kingdom of Morocco where it was granted a diplomatic status as a pan African international organization. It maintains five regional offices in Cairo, Egypt, for North Africa; Accra, Ghana, for West Africa; Libreville, Gabon, for Central Africa; Nairobi, Kenya, for East Africa; and Pretoria, South Africa, for Southern Africa.

Given the importance and urgency of climate action in Africa, UCLG Africa is concerned by the need to accelerate the resilience of African cities and territories, and has therefore launched the UCLG Africa Climate Change Task Force with as aim to encourage the involvement of its members into climate action, and through it, to participate in raising the ambition of the Paris Agreement and curb global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of 21st century. UCLG Africa is also actively lobbying the African subnational and local governments to adhere into the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in SubSaharan Africa (COMSSA) co-funded by the European Commission, and aiming at assisting subnational and local governments of Africa design local climate and energy plans. UCLG Africa is also a delivery partner of the Green Climate Fund and is contemplating becoming a very near future, an accredited entity of the Green Climate Fund and its subnational and local government regional window.

Mr. Elong Mbassi stressed however that Africa has not contributed much to global warming that is at the basis of nowadays climate change, but is paying a huge price to its consequences, in terms of recurrent flood, drought, and climate-led disasters resulting in loss of lives and goods.

Reducing green gas emissions should be for sure everybody’s business. But the reality is that for Africa, the priority is on the adaptation to climate change. So far, adaptation has received only 25% of the funds allocated for climate action. It is UCLG Africa hope that the coming of the USA back to the Paris Agreement, allows adaptation to receive more attention than before, so as to abide with the requirement of a balanced allocation of funds between mitigation and adaptation.

Also adaptation is mainly a territorial and place-based issue. Territorializing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is therefore key to ensure that adaptation action has impact on the ground. In that regard subnational and local governments should be recognized as front-liners in the design and implementation of actions addressing adaptation to climate change. They should be also the prime beneficiaries of the financial resources allocated for the adaptation action plans. The fact is also that so far, there is lack of metrics and tools that are necessary for the transparency process required to ensure accountability of the resources to possibly be allocated to subnational and local governments for climate adaptation projects.
This calls for the definition of a robust research and capacity building program on adaptation to climate change targeting African cities and territories. For such program to succeed, one has to utilize the research capacity of the UCLG Africa Climate Task Force to advance the work concerning metrics and tools; and the calling capacity of national associations of subnational and local governments and of the African Local Government Academy (ALGA) of UCLG Africa to accelerate the reach-out of the capacity building programs.

One should also explore the possibilities of peer-learning and exchange of best practices through city-to-city decentralized cooperation. In that regard, UCLG Africa would be interested to develop such decentralized cooperation programs with American-based Association of Sister Cities International. As the umbrella organization of African subnational and local governments, UCLG Africa has helped Bloomberg Philanthropies disseminate its Bloomberg Mayor Challenge competition across Africa. It is expected that the African winners of the Bloomberg Mayor Challenge will be announced during the 9th edition of the Africities Summit to be held in Kisumu, Kenya, on 17 to 21 May 2022.

The Africities Summit is the flagship triennial event of UCLG Africa. It is the most important dialogue platform on decentralization and the role of subnational and local government on the Africa continent. The theme of the 9th edition of the Africities Summit in Kisumu is “The role of intermediary cities in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and the African Union Agenda 2063”. Among the special events organized during the Kisumu Summit is a Climate Day which is conceived as a milestone towards COP 27 to be held in Egypt in November 2022. UCLG Africa warmly invite the US special envoy for climate, Mr. John Kerry, to grants it with the honor to take part in the Kisumu Climate Day. UCLG Africa would be grateful to benefit from Mrs. good offices to convey this invitation, so that following a green light in principle, an official invitation letter would be sent.

Mr. Elong Mbassi indicated that, during the meeting that UCLG Africa will be having with the Egyptian Minister of Environment the day after tomorrow, the discussion will be around allocating a special day for subnational and local governments in the agenda of the COP27 climate summit.

Mr. Mbassi also pointed out the importance of the role that local institutions in the United States, including the private sector, can play in accelerating the resilience to climate challenges. He stressed that special attention should be laid to the two main levers of structural transformation in Africa that are worn an youth.

Mr Mbassi concluded by requesting again to convey the greetings of UCLG Africa to Mr. John Kerry and the invitation to participating the Climate Day during the Africities Summit in Kisumu. He also expressed the wish that Président Obama accepts to be the Special Guest of the Africities Summit in Kisumu.

After Mr. Mbassi’s presentation, Ms. Sykes raised a number of questions inquiring about the relationship between the African Union and the UCLG-Africa Organization. Mr. Mbassi indicated that it is a long and extended relationship since UCLG Africa was instrumental in drafting the African Charter on the values and principles of decentralization, local governance and local development adopted by the heads of State and Government of the African Union at their conference held in June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. At that same conference the heads of State also created the High Council of Local Authorities as a consultative body of the African Union. This was also an initiative of UCLG Africa. Furthermore, UCLG Africa ensures also an advisory role for the African Union Specialized Technical Committee Number 8 (AU-STC8) regrouping ministers of public service; urban development and housing; decentralization and local governments.

Given the services rendered by UCLG Africa to STC 8. The bureau of STC 8 requested that a Memorandum of Understanding be established between the African Union Commission, which handle the function of secretariat to the AU-STC 8, and UCLG Africa. This MoU is to be signed before the end of the year 2021, the exact date of signature to be decided by the Président of the African Union Commission.

Ms. Sykes concluded that she was keen to extend the invitations mentioned in Mr. Mbassi’s speech, provided the invitation letters are sent very soon.
Decisions:
- UCLG Africa sends to Mrs Sykes the concept note of Africities and the Africities Climate Day
- UCLG Africa sends an invitation to participate in the Climate Day of the Africities Summit in Kisumu to the attention of Mr. John Kerry

Bilateral meeting with the Kenyan delegation

Issues:
- Preparations for the 9th Edition of Africities
- Climate Day and its link with COP 27
- East Africa Region Readiness Program

Content:
- Visa facilitation procedures
- Air transport
- Infrastructure works of the site
- The Africities climate day

Decisions taken:
- Air traffic frequency will be reviewed and Air Transport will be strengthened
- A climate focal point will be designated by the Kenyan side to contribute to the organization of the Climate Day of the Africities Summit in Kisumu, and to the preparation of the Regional Readiness Program dedicated to local governments in East Africa.
Bilateral meeting with the Moroccan delegation

Issues:
- UCLG Africa’s accreditation process to the GCF
- Readines Regional Program

Content:
- The Readiness Regional Program
- 9th edition of the Africities Summit
- African Fund for the Support of International Decentralized Cooperation of Local Authorities

Decisions taken:
- Strengthening South-South cooperation: Examination of the possibility of creating a line dedicated to strengthening cooperation between African local authorities in the field of climate within the African Fund for the Support of International Decentralized Cooperation of Local Authorities.
- Strengthening the collaboration with the Climate Task Force of UCLG Africa
- Participation of a high level delegation to the Africities Climate Day
Bilateral meeting with HE Mr. FOLI-BAZI Katari, Minister of Environment and Forest Resources of Togo

Issues:
- Consolidate the achievements of the Lomé Forum which took place on June 10 and 11, 2021
- Structure the framework of decentralized cooperation in the field of climate

Content:
- The experience of Togo in the process of territorialization of the NDC
- The importance of the role of women in climate policy in Togo
- The Readiness Regional program of local authorities in the WAEMU region carried by Togo

Decisions taken:
- Organization of a ministerial meeting of the WAEMU region inviting the Presidents of the Associations of Local Authorities of the countries of the WAEMU region
- Mobilizing the countries of the WAEMU region to make rapid progress in the implementation of the Regional Readiness
3. Strengthening the partnership framework of local governments to accelerate climate action on the ground

Meeting with Mr. Pa Ousmane Jarju, Country Director of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Issues:
- UCLG Africa’s accreditation process
- Readines Regional Program

Content:
- FMCA Financial Management Capacity Assessment
- Readiness with Morocco on the territorialization of the NDC
- Readiness of local governments in WAEMU countries
- Prioritization of actions

Decisions taken:
- Official designation of UCLG Africa as a «Dilevery Partner»
- Prioritization of the two Readiness (Morocco and WAEMU) for the current year
- Participation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in the Africities Climate Day
Réunion avec SE M. Akinwumi Adesina, Président de Banque Africaine de Développement (BAD)

Issues:
- AfDB support to the implementation process of the Africa Territorial Agency
- Mobilization of a high-level AfDB delegation to the Africities 9 Summit
- Financial support to local governments in the context of accelerating resilience
- Support to the Network of Locally Elected Women of Africa

Content:
- Programs to accelerate resilience and adaptation in Africa
- Local Government Council within the AfDB
- Initiatives to support women’s empowerment
- REFELA’s flagship programs (Cities without street children; combating violence against women, women’s economic empowerment)
- Readiness program with Morocco on the territorialization of the NDC
- Readiness program for local authorities in WAEMU countries
- Prioritization of actions

Decisions taken:
- The AfDB President took note of the date of the 9th edition of Africities (Climate Day) with an agreement in principle to participate
- The AfDB President also took note of the request for AfDB’s participation in the establishment of the Local Territorial Agency and promised to give it special attention.
- Mr. President gave his agreement in principle for a reinforced partnership with UCLG Africa to accelerate adaptation and resilience to climate change in African cities and territories
- Mr. President agreed in principle to participate in the launch in Abidjan of REFELA’s Cities Without Children Living on the Street campaign
Signature of the partnership between UCLG Africa and the Global Centre for Climate Change Adaptation at the level of African cities and territories.

Issues:

- Accelerate the implementation of adaptation projects in African cities and territories
- Improve financing mechanisms for adaptation investments in cities

Content:

- Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between GCA and UCLG Africa to accelerate climate change adaptation and resilience in African cities and territories
- Participation of GCA in the Climate Day organized on May 19, 2022 as part of the Africities Summit scheduled to take place in Kisumu, Kenya, from May 17 to 21, 2022.

Decisions taken:

- GCA and UCLG Africa must set up a technical committee to meet every 3 months to monitor the implementation of the identified projects and a piloting committee to meet every 6 months to verify that the trajectory of the implemented projects corresponds to the acceleration of the Race to Resilience in the cities and territories of Africa.
- Proposal by UCLG Africa to GCA of a work program with an estimated budget of approximately 1 million dollars.
- Establishment of a technical committee meeting every 3 months to monitor the implementation of the identified projects and a piloting committee that will meet every 6 months to verify that the trajectory of the implemented projects corresponds to the acceleration of the Race to Resilience in the cities and territories of Africa.
- Confirmation of the participation of GCA in the 9th Africities Summit and in the Climate Day
- UCLG Africa sends to GCA the concept note of the Africities Climate Day
Meeting with Mr. Liviu ŞTIRBĂŢ, Deputy Head of Unit - Adaptation DG Climate Action, European Commission

Issues:

- Inform the European Union of the organization of the Dakar Roundtable of African Mayors on Water Governance with the objective of including its conclusions and recommendations among the climate change adaptation support programs supported by the European Union
- Discuss how to capitalize on the achievements of the Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa supported by the EU, and discuss how to follow up on this initiative after the current phase ends in June 2022
- Consider how to move from territorial climate-energy plans to projects implemented on the ground

Content:

New EU adaptation strategy aimed at strengthening resilience measures in territories for risk prevention, preparedness and management. Three priorities are adopted:

- Nature-based solutions
- Local adaptation measures
- Integration of adaptation into budget planning

The three steps of the Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) highlighting the advocacy role jointly led by UCLG Africa and CEMR

- The territorialization of the European Commission’s support as well as the financing mechanisms of each country
- The water sector as a strategic axis in the adaptation measures. In this context, the world forum is an opportunity to highlight adaptation measures in cities.
- Africities 9 and the role of intermediary cities in the implementation of SDG6

Decision taken:

Designation of Mr. Nbou as a focal point to identify with Mr. Liviu ŞTIRBĂŢ opportunities for cooperation in the adaptation component
Meeting with Mr. Francisco la Camara, Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

**Issues:**

- Renforcer le cadre opérationnel de CGLU Afrique pour soutenir les collectivités territoriales à l’accès aux énergies renouvelables
- Appui à la structuration des projets d’atténuation

**Content:**

IRENA is in favor of a partnership with UCLG Africa as a project implementation partner (An MoU is being finalized)

**Decision taken:**

Finalization of the MoU in relation with the Moroccan authorities

Meeting with Mr. James Grabert, Director of Mitigation, UNFCCC Secretariat
Issues:

• Reaffirm the willingness to strengthen bilateral cooperation on the priorities and issues of African local governments
• Include Africities in the preparation process of the COP 27

Content:

• The 9th Edition of the Africities Summit: Africities Climate Day
• The coordination between the two events Africa Climate Week and Climate Day
• The mobilization of the Executive Secretary at the Africities Climate Day in order to give a strong signal on the need to include the climate issues of African cities and territories in the COP 27 agenda

Decisions taken:

• Assign an important role to the Climate Task Force of UCLG Africa in the organization of the African Climate Week to be held in Uganda in August 2022
• Agreement in principle by UNFCCC for the Africities Climate Day to be included in the organization process of COP 27
• UCLG Africa sends an invitation to the Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, Mrs. Patricia Espinosa to participate in the Africities Climate Day
• Sharing the Africities concept note and the Climate Day with the UNFCCC team

Meeting with the Mediterranean Climate House
Issues:
Structuring South/South - North/South/South cooperation

Content:
Discussion on the establishment of a partnership between UCLG Africa and the Mediterranean Climate House in December 2021

Decisions taken:
- Designation of focal points (Mr. Nbou/ Mrs. Kamlichi) for the elaboration of an MoU to which an action plan is annexed
- Participation of the Mediterranean House in the Africities Climate Day

4. Partenariat de Marrakech pour l’action

As part of the consultation with the key actors of the Marrakech Partnership for Action agenda, a meeting chaired by Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations was held to review the work of the COP.
Mr. Peter Anyang Nyong’o, Governor of Kisumu, Kenya, represented UCLG Africa at the meeting.

5- Meeting of the Climate Task Force of UCLG Africa

En marge des travaux de la délégation de CGLU Afrique à la COP 26, une réunion de la Task Force Climat de CGLU Afrique a été tenue ayant pour objectifs :

- Evaluation of the progress made since the COP 25
- Reorganization of the 8 commissions of the Climate Task Force:
  1. Decentralized cooperation - UCLG Africa
  2. Adaptation and resilience - AAA
  3. Mitigation and sustainable energy access - ICLEI Africa
  4. Territorialization of NDCs - ENERGIES 2050
  5. MRV system - CDP
  6. Climate finance - ADB
  7. Capacity Building - PCCB
  8. Communication - Climate Chance
At the end of this meeting, it was decided that each committee leader should send a draft action plan to the secretariat of the Climate Task Force of UCLG Africa.

III- Assessment and Results:

The presentation of the mission’s assessment includes the following parts:

a) POLITICAL RESULTS OF THE MISSION: The political leadership of the climate agenda of local governments during the COP has given significant weight to the position of local Africa in the face of the climate emergency as demonstrated by the important advances that have been recorded, namely:

- The consideration of local Africa in the organization of the COP 27 in Egypt.
- The interest shown by all partners to participate in the Africities Summit from May 17 to 21, 2022 in Kisumu, Kenya
- The strengthened and renewed partnership with key partners in climate finance and climate action on the ground
- Agreement to work towards strengthening the structured dialogue between the central and local levels
- A better anchoring of UCLG Africa’s Climate Task Force in the decision-making process of the African Union

b) STRATEGIC RESULTS: The strategic declination of the political advocacy has allowed to formalize and to act on a set of points allowing to strengthen the leadership position of UCLG Africa in the acceleration of the implementation of the climate agenda at the level of the local governments of Africa.

At the UNFCCC level

- Observer status of the UNFCCC officially granted to UCLG Africa during the COP 26
- Officialization of UCLG Africa as a Member of the CTCN network to open the way for access to new technologies to local governments in Africa in order to improve their contribution to the implementation of the Paris Agreement
- Status of Delivery Partner of the Green Climate Fund granted to UCLG Africa

At the level of major initiatives

Race to Resilience

- Signature of an MoU between GCA and UCLG Africa with the objective of accelerating efforts to adapt to climate change in African cities and territories. The operational translation of the MoU will be done through the proposal of an action plan budgeted at 1 Million $ which must be discussed and validated with the GCA (AfDB).
- Discussions with DG Climate of the European Commission to include African local authorities in the implementation program of the new adaptation strategy of the European Union
- Negotiation of a $200,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to UCLG Africa to further structure and strengthen the operational framework for climate action at the territorial level in Africa.

Race to Zero

- A draft MoU is being finalized with IRENA, with a signing ceremony scheduled for January 2022 in Abu Dhabi. This MoU aims to accelerate the access of African cities and territories to renewable energy. A draft budgeted action plan will be prepared and submitted to IRENA for approval.

African Adaptation Initiative (AIA)

- Discussions are advanced with the Egyptian government to domicile the Initiative at the UCLG Africa Regional Office in Cairo, Egypt.
COP 27

- Organization of the Local Government Forum in partnership with the COP 27 Champion on Accelerating Resilience/Adaptation and Mobilizing Climate Finance.
- UCLG Africa is involved in the preparation process of the COP27: African Climate Week, Africities Climate Day.

**At the level of Africities / Climate Day: Action-oriented day**

- A high level round table will be organized in consultation with the Kenyan Ministry of Environment
-Official launch of the «Green City» Award Initiative, whose political leadership will be provided by Gabon
-Launch of two new Readiness programs to strengthen the capacity of local authorities in the following regions to access to climate finance:
  - East Africa led by Kenya
  - Central Africa led by Gabon
-Organization of the annual CoM SSA Conference

c) Programmatic assessment: Workshops of the Climate Task Force of UCLG Africa:

- An important step forward was made in the WAEMU Readiness program insofar as all the focal points of the countries in the region expressed their willingness to accelerate the Readiness implementation process: $900,000
- Morocco’s Readiness program has been prioritized by the GCF. An expert has been commissioned by the GCF to make the final adjustments to initiate the budget commitment. The payment of $250,000 will be made by early February at the latest.
- The Minister of Environment of Togo in coordination with the President of the national umbrella association of municipalities of Togo, has offered to organize a regional meeting of the Ministers of Environment and the Council of Local Authorities of WAEMU to adopt a common approach on the territorialization of the NDCs and the access to climate finance of the local authorities.
- Mobilization of climate finance actors in the organization of the Local Government Roundtable of the World Water Forum
- Mobilization of GCF focal points to feed the database of African experts of UCLG Africa
- Mobilization of 40.000$ UCLG to structure the operational framework of the two initiatives Race to Zero and Race to Resilience
- Mobilisation de 40.000$ CGLU pour structurer le cadre opérationnel des deux initiatives Race to Zero et Race to Resilience
IV. Annexes

1. Link to Glasgow Pact


2. Link to Photo Album

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