One of the specificities of the Africities summits is the holding of political sessions after the thematic and open sessions that bring together experts and partners around local and regional elected officials. For this edition of the summit, the political segment began with a constructive dialogue between the former heads of state of Mozambique and Seychelles and the young elected officials of the continent.

Mrs. Fatimetou Abdel Malick
President of UCLG Africa

The recently elected president of UCLG-Africa, the pan-African organization that organizes the Africities every three years, is in Kisumu to attend the 9th Africities Summit. She said she was very honored to have been elected to head this organization, which she knows well, having been one of the pillars of the REFELA, the network of locally elected women founded in 2011 in Tangier, Morocco. She wished to express to the reporter of “Africities Daily” how proud she was to have belonged to this network which marked her loyalty and commitment to UCLG-Africa.
A few speeches punctuated the opening of this session where the elected officials proposed five questions to the former Heads of State in order to benefit from their experiences, advice and recommendations to drive sustainable development in the territories of the continent. The representative of the Board of Governors of Kenya welcomed this innovative initiative of UCLG Africa to have a dialogue between the elected representatives of the continent and the former Presidents of the Republic. It is an opportunity to gather ideas to improve our internal public policies. For the Governor, «these sessions positively influence our urban planning. All these themes have led to fruitful conclusions that feed this political session. I invite everyone to work for the ratification of the African Charter on Decentralization» he wished at the end of his speech. The Secretary General of UCLG, Emilia SAIZ, indicated that Africities is the movement of movements, before continuing in these terms: «While we are mobilized for gender, we must give opportunities to women to lead our cities. We have the responsibility to propose a new social contract that is in line with the SDGs to change the world. This protocol phase was closed by the Kenyan Minister of Decentralization who wished every success to this session.

The five concerns shared by the continent’s young leaders

It is the Secretary General of UCLG Africa, Jean Pierre ELONG MBASSI who relayed the comments of the young people in five questions. The first concern of the young elected officials is related to the way politics is done in our countries. The young elected officials think that they do not want to get involved because they see it as a waste of time. The second question concerns adaptation to climate change. What recommendations can former heads of state make to ensure that local and regional authorities take their full part in this adaptation? The third question concerns the transfer of resources to local authorities, which is weak in our countries. The problems are decentralized but the resources are at the central level, they said. The fourth question concerns the effectiveness of the African free trade zone, which has not taken into account local authorities, which are home to economic activities and infrastructure. Finally, the young people, through the voice of the SG of UCLG Africa, wondered how local authorities can be a key to African unity through local cross-border cooperation.

His Excellency Joaquim CHISSANO finds the exercise very important

“I am happy to come to this great conference. It is a testimony to the great reach of Africities on the continent. I am delighted with the active involvement of women in the African municipal movement. Addressing the issue of the transfer of competences and resources, the former leader of Mozambique said that “it is important for local governments and cities to engage in a structured dialogue with the states. In the case of Mozambique, we took time to move towards decentralization after the liberation struggle. We started by exchanging with countries that were already decentralized and we understood the importance of decentralization. We contacted Brazil, whose municipal experience edified us. We started with the big cities. But I would like to invite the elected officials, especially the young elected officials, to develop and mobilize local resources before negotiating an additional transfer from the State. In addition, the elected officials must work on partnerships of all kinds» advised Joaquim CHISSANO.

On the issue of adaptation to climate change, he invites the new leaders to pay attention to the use of resources such as woods, forests and buildings. He invites them to a better planning of land use by having clear options on the worst-case scenarios. For him, it is necessary to rethink agriculture and land security and review legislation and adapt it to the challenges of climate change. All of this must be done by working together, including with the private sector, which allows for better results, without forgetting to invent new energy sources.

For Joaquim CHISSANO, the African Union must continue the implementation of NEPAD which is an instrument of integration. He recommends that the African Union and the UCLGA work together to integrate cities into the free trade area.

Joaquim CHISSANO ended by inviting Africans to develop a conquering mentality and show that we are capable by ourselves. This point of view was also relayed by the former President of Seychelles. For him, Covid is a good opportunity to show our capacity and Africa must stop blaming the West.

His Excellency Dany FAURE, former President of Seychelles, emphasizes the involvement of local and regional authorities in climate management

“Let me say that in Seychelles we have 28-year-old elected officials». On the issue of adaptation to climate change, his recommendation is formal, «It is important to have the cities at the table of discussion and negotiation on the management of climate change.

The African common market requires states to ratify decisions and improve decentralization and cooperation between local governments. It is also necessary to build the capacities of leaders and improve connectivity between countries, which must include local governments.

For him, Covid was an opportunity to see what needs to be improved, especially in terms of health. And this is where local governments have an important role. This can be done by working together with the states and also with local governments.

From page 1
I convey to you the greetings of the 16,000 Local and Regional Governments, and the 51 National Associations of Local Authorities (NALAs), grouped within the organization of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa, UCLG Africa.

Thank you, Excellency Mr. President of the Republic, for having accepted to grant your High Patronage to this ninth Edition of the Africities Summits, organized by UCLG Africa, in collaboration with the Government of Kisumu County, the Board of Governors of Kenya, and the Government of the State of Kenya.

I thank you all, very sincerely, for having responded to this official ceremony, of the Africities Summit in Kisumu, and express to you through my voice, the joy of the African Community of Local and Regional Governments, to meet you so many and in person, to this unique meeting of dialogue with Local Africa, the beating heart of the Africa of the Peoples.

The choice of Kisumu, to host this unmissable meeting of all those who are interested and concerned by local governance in Africa, is an act of faith that demonstrates the conviction of UCLG Africa, that starting from its cities and territories, and more specifically from its intermediary cities, that Africa can most surely renew its reflection on its structural transformation and its sustainable development.

Intermediate cities are indeed the most faithful reflection of the state of development of our countries.

They are in direct contact with their rural hinterland, of which they are the service centers for the people of rural areas, and the market places on which the development of local economies is based.

They are therefore the most appropriate strategic places to take on the challenges raised by the triple health, ecological and governance crisis in public affairs.

It is for this reason that the Africities Political Committee proposed to reflect on the role of intermediate cities in the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the African Union’s 2063 Agenda.

I am convinced that the Africities Summit will be a milestone in the long march towards the Renaissance of Africa.

I wish everyone fruitful exchanges and full success in our work.
Mrs. Fatimetou Abdel Malick
President of UCLG-Africa

President of the Nouakchott region (Mauritania)

The recently elected president of UCLG-Africa, the pan-African organization that organizes the Africities every three years, is in Kisumu to attend the 9th Africities Summit. She said she was very honored to have been elected to head this organization, which she knows well, having been one of the pillars of the REFELA, the network of locally elected women founded in 2011 in Tangier, Morocco. She wished to express to the reporter of «Africities Daily» how proud she was to have belonged to this network which marked her loyalty and commitment to UCLG-Africa.

It is an honor for Africities to have hosted the signing ceremony of the Gender Equality Charter. This is a sign that our organization proudly carries the banner of gender consideration.

The President of UCLG-Africa wished to express her satisfaction at seeing the growth of women’s leadership in Africa with women’s accession to national and international importance positions.

For the president of UCLG-Africa, «Africities summits are a great moment of exchange, of meeting partners and especially of sharing experiences that could not be obtained elsewhere. This is what makes the strength of the different Africities. The mission of our organization is to supervise and accompany local elected officials.

The President of UCLG-Africa thanked the Kenyan authorities and the Governor of Kisumu for the warm hospitality extended to the participants throughout the week.
The third part of the political segment of our summit was one of the most moving time of Africities. Honorary members of CGLU-A received an award as recognition of their contribution to the local governance.

They are divided on four colleges:

Des présidents:
- Danny Faure
- Joaquim Alberto Chissano

Mayors and local governments officials:
- Khalifa Ababacar Sall, Souleymane Maiga, Eneas Comiche, Ahmed Ould Hamza, Tarayia Ole Kores, Thabo Manyoni, Daby Diagne, Hughes Ngouélondélé, Simon Compaoré, Omar Bahraoui;
- Mpho Moruakgomo, Celestine Ketcha Courtès;
- Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda, Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio.

Private sector: Seidnanaly Sidhamed, dit Alphadi

Academics:
- Akinlawon Ladipo Mabogunje
- William (Billy) Cobbett

The beneficiary, each one with it’s own manner, contribute to strengthen UCLG-A and they help it to become the most spectacular gathering of local and national officials in Africa.
Addresses help us find people and places, and they help people and things find us. An address is necessary to secure official documents, do things like open a bank account. You can order products online, and they show up at your doorstep. In an emergency, you give your address to an ambulance or fire truck, and they quickly get to you.

There are many places in Africa without traditional addressing systems and some areas with no addresses or road names at all.

Plus Codes are a free and open source addressing system to provide addresses for everyone. Plus Codes are like street addresses for people or places that don’t have one.

Attend this session to hear from Google & their partners in Kenya (Kisumu and Vihiga Counties), The Gambia and South Africa about how Plus Codes are being used as an official addressing solution. You will also learn more about how Plus Codes can help ensure that everyone, everywhere can exist on a digital map, with digital addresses, no matter where they live.

maps.google.com/pluscodes
UNDP champions the pivotal role that local and regional governments play in the rising urban future of Africa, and subsequently, in achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and African Union Agenda 2063.

Building on its longstanding partnership with local and regional governments across Africa, UNDP now presents its Renewed Governance and Peacebuilding Framework for Africa 2022-25. It outlines actions proposed to support local governments towards people-centered governance innovation, with a focus on participatory governance systems and local economic development for transformative change at the local level.

COME VISIT US AT THE AFRICITIES EXHIBITION AND JOIN US FOR AN INTERACTIVE SESSION ON UNDP’S OFFER TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON 17 MAY 14.30-18.00.
Media Brief: The Director of the African Local Government academy (ALGA) of UCLG Africa, Dr Najat Zarrouk

Ms. Fatimetou Abdel Malick, Elected President of UCLG Africa, President of De Region of Nouakchott (Maunitania)

Session on UCommune of Burundi

Session on Urban - Rural linkages and COVVID-19

Session on Land Readjustent in Egypt, the Hayenna project

Room A: Opening Sessions of the political Segment- UCLG AFRICA

Civil society speaks Social justice in African cities

Meeting of ministers