



FORUM OF THE REGIONS OF AFRICA

SAIDIA DECLARATION

We, the participants in the Forum of the Regions of Africa leaders gathered in Saïdia, Morocco, on September 8th & 9th, 2022,

Declare the following:

We commit to work tirelessly to implement the mandates of regional governments, unleashing the full potentials of our territories, natural and human, tangible and intangible, to create wealth, jobs and opportunities in order to improve the living conditions of the people. In that regard we will work to improve the attractiveness and economic performances of our territories.

We will strive to manage the rural-urban linkages in a way that cares about maintaining appropriate balance with the ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity, and will implement food systems that ensure ensuring food security.

We are determined to contribute to localize the national public policies of our respective countries, as well as the global and continental agendas, such as UN Agenda 2030 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and Agenda 2063 of the African Union, among others, for effective and better impact on the ground. In doing so we strongly call on national governments and development partners to make sure that the financial means of implementation of these national policies and global agendas reach the budgets of regional governments

We highly support the Africa Continental Free Trade Area that represents an important milestone in the building of the integrated Africa We want, and for which the regional governments are the cornerstones. We are therefore committed to collaborate with the AfCTA secretariat and Afreximbank for its implementation, and wish that a MoU is established to this effect between these institutions and the FORAF.

We are sensitive on the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic acted as an accelerator of the digital transformation of our societies, and we are willing to adopt the digital transformation of our regional governments to improve our delivery capacity, the performances of the operations and services rendered to the populations, and the relations between the public authorities and the citizens. We stress however that there are basic requirements for this digital transformation, mainly access to energy, ICT equipment and skilled staff in digital



We appreciate the open government initiative and encourage our members to adhere to it. We also call UCLG Africa to sign an MoU with the open government initiative.

We wish to express our deep greetings to His Majesty King Mohammed VI for the High Patronage He awarded to the first meeting of the Forum and humbly ask Him to continue support our mother organization, the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa.

We also thank the government of the Kingdom of Morocco for its strong support to the organization of this Forum.

We commend the dedication of the Association of the Regions of Morocco, the Oriental Region of Morocco, and the UCLG Africa secretariat for the efforts they put to make this first Forum a resounding success.

We express the wish that the seeds that are planted here in Saida, in the Oriental Region which is so dear to any African committed to the independence and pride of Africa.

Done in Saïdia, on 9 September 2022

The Participants