



THE AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ACADEMY  
(ALGA) OF UCLG AFRICA  
THE NETWORK LOCAL AFRICA HRMNet  
&  
THE OBSERVATORY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' HUMAN RESOURCES IN AFRICA

***THE AFRICAN LOCAL MANAGER'S VOICE***  
**N°7, December 2022**

**Theme:**

***"Decentralized Cooperation: A Strategic Lever for  
the Promotion of Solidarity, Partnership and Sustainable  
Development:  
Sharing Challenges, Experiences and Good Practices"***

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Deadline for submission of Contributions:  
November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Climate Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Abeba Agenda for Action (AAAA) as well as the African Agenda 2063, with its Seven Aspirations including Aspiration 7 "an Africa as a Strong, United, Resilient, and Influential Global Player and Partner", have set bold and necessary targets that combine social inclusion, economic development and sustainability.

Decentralized Cooperation (DC) is the extension of twinning, which was once based on the association of two towns on the basis of historical affinities, landforms or other factors, as well as various exchange actions and prospects for development or support for the development of southern countries. The twinning is often the first step, the Local/Regional Governments (LRGs) pursue their cooperation through concrete projects, dynamic exchanges, and the strengthening of friendship links between territories and populations.

The DC can be internal through intercommunality or partnership agreements, as well as regional and international (South-South, North-South or Triangular) or through membership of Networks of Local and Regional Governments Territorial Communities. This new dimension of the international action of African LRGs would like to place cooperation relations of cooperation in a more egalitarian perspective and focused on projects with an impact on development in its various dimensions.

The DC is the development cooperation between LRGs and their associations working across borders to mutually strengthen their capacities and to involve local and regional economic and social actors to address development challenges.

The United Nations Resolution A/RES/70/224, paragraph 2 defines partnerships as "voluntary collaborative relationships between various parties, public and non-public, who decide to work together towards a common goal or undertake a particular activity and, by mutual agreement, to share risks, responsibilities, resources and benefits".

The international action of LRGs is part of the mandate of elected officials and territorial leaders for several reasons, including:

- the opening up and attractiveness of territories through the promotion of economic, tourist and cultural influence;
- the territorial marketing;
- the commitment and involvement of the various actors and stakeholders in shared initiatives;
- the valorization of the expertise of elected representatives and territorial managers;

- the needs for learning and capacity building;
- the exchange of expertise and technical assistance;
- the mobilization and access to additional funding;
- the will to work for the sustainable and resilient transformation of societies and communities<sup>1</sup>, etc...

The COVID-19 pandemic has raised awareness of the fact that the world is closely linked and interconnected. At the beginning of the crisis, it became clear that national responses alone were not enough, as the pandemic put enormous pressure on public spending and resources. The crisis generated and gave expression to various forms of cooperation, partnership and solidarity in the form of strong global partnerships, enhanced collaboration and coordination, and information and resource sharing. Despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic, strong examples of partnerships have been established.

The SDG 17, which aspires to "strengthen global partnerships for sustainable development", is of interest to LRGs as they represent institutions that are on the front line of a multitude of challenges, including demographic, urban, climate, economic and social. These entities do not always have the necessary resources and capacities to face these challenges. It is therefore at this level that partnership, cooperation and solidarity, within the framework of the DC, take on their full meaning and need to be taken into account, deployed and supported.

The benefits of being involved in a DC are not only multiple and diverse, but they are also timely in enabling LRGs to engage not only at the continental level, but also at the international level. There is a wealth of opportunities for these public institutions to:

- Build multi-stakeholder and multi-level governance relationships;
- Peer learning;
- Access to innovations, good practices, successful experiences and case studies;
- Training and capacity building, both for local elected officials and human resources;
- Access to sources of funding, including innovative sources of funding;
- create spaces and opportunities for solidarity and mutual support;
- The impact on the various Global and African Agendas.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/flyer\\_synthese\\_du\\_guide\\_cle063c51.pdf](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/flyer_synthese_du_guide_cle063c51.pdf)

The creation by the General Directorate of Territorial Collectivities (DGCT) of the Ministry of the Interior in the Kingdom of Morocco of the Support Fund for International Decentralized Cooperation (FACDI), since 2020, in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic, is beginning to instigate a real African dynamic for the promotion of South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation on concrete projects with a high impact in terms of sustainable development.

The FACDI is aiming at:

- Orienting DC towards a strategic partnership with African LRGs;
- Including cooperation in the dynamics of decentralization, local development, and the strengthening of LRGs, and local democracy;
- Translate, in the projects and actions to be carried out, through capacity building and the transfer of knowledge and know-how, the improvement of the living conditions of the populations, the access to essential basic services and the creation of jobs;
- Including international DC in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Promoting so-called "triangular" or "tripartite" cooperation by implementing a dialogue between LRGs in the South and cooperation partners such as international institutions, bilateral cooperation agencies and donors;
- Contributing substantially to Africa's economic and social development and increase its capacity for socio-economic resilience.

(For more information on the FACDI: <https://www.collectivites-territoriales.gov.ma/fr/accueil>).

In addition to this initiative, several African LRGs are involved in DC initiatives, either internally (inter-communality, partnership agreements, membership of national or regional associations of local authorities) or internationally (twinning, partnership agreements, membership of networks of local authorities, city diplomacy).

Although DC appears to be an ideal and strong lever for the promotion of solidarity, partnership and sustainable development in its various dimensions, it is nevertheless difficult in Africa to implement and, above all, to achieve the expected results and impact, due to a series of challenges and obstacles linked to the following main aspects:

- The institutional environment which is specific to each Country;
- The legal recognition of the competence of LRGs in the field of DC, both internally and internationally;
- The multitude of actors and stakeholders concerned and involved;
- The complexity of the procedures and implementation modalities;
- The lack of knowledge and project management for the preparation and implementation of projects;

- The lack of means and resources;
- The Capacity limitations ;
- The difficulty of sustaining and capitalizing on DC experiences, etc...

Taking into account the current context of DC and Partnership, and the multitude of initiatives taken by African LRGs, UCLG Africa, through its ALGA Academy, its Local Africa HRNet and its Observatory of Human Resources in Local/Regional Government, has decided to dedicate this 7<sup>th</sup> Issue of the Bulletin " The African Local Manager's Voice" to the following theme:

***"Decentralized Cooperation: A Strategic Lever for the Promotion of Solidarity, Partnership and Sustainable Development: Sharing Challenges, Experiences and Good Practices"***

### ***I- EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS***

Expected contributions to this 7<sup>th</sup> Issue may include:

- The challenges of DC (institutional, legal, political, human, technical, social..);
- The institutional environment of decentralized cooperation: actors, stakeholders, legal framework, support and facilitation mechanisms, etc;
- The experience of a Local and Regional Governments in Decentralized Cooperation (Internal or International);
- The state of DC at the level of a given country (Internal DC or International DC (Institutions involved, project initiated, issues addressed, timeframe, budget allocated, implementation modalities, state of progress, obstacles encountered, proposals for improvement...));
- The good practices that allow the DC to be anchored in local Governance and in the dynamics of sustainable development.

### ***II- WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE?***

The Bulletin is primarily open to contributions from African Territorial Managers, independently of their field of activity or professional sector. However, in a spirit of openness to the African Local Government environment and Benchmarking, any other contribution with added value, in terms of information sharing, successful experiences and good practices, will be welcomed. This Bulletin considers these contributions as those of "Friends of African Territorial Managers" and who can be civil servants from Central Administrations, Deconcentrated Services, University Professors, Experts, resource persons, representatives of the Private Sector or from the Civil Society.

For this issue as well, we encourage contributions from Mayors, Presidents of Local and Regional Governments, Local Elected Officials as well as the different components of Civil Society.

### **III- SOME PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

UCLG Africa invites you to make contributions on any initiative on Decentralized Cooperation (DC), according to the following framework:

1. The name, surname, position and contact details (Tel and email) of the author;
2. The title of the contribution;
3. The Institution/Organisation concerned;
4. The date of implementation;
5. The main objective and specific objectives of the initiative;
6. Description of the initiative (maximum 1 page);
7. The target audiences and beneficiaries of the initiative;
8. The budget allocated to the initiative;
9. The source(s) of funding for the initiative (own resources, loan, state subsidies, donors, decentralized cooperation, partnership, donations...);
10. The expected results;
11. The results achieved;
12. The impact of the initiative;
13. Pictures related to the initiative;
14. Any other relevant information related to the initiative.
15. **The contribution should consist of four (4) to five (5) pages, or between 1,500 and 2,000 words.**
16. Type of police: **Times New Roman, and Police Size 12.**
17. **Language of the contribution:** English, Arabic, French, Portuguese.
18. Any quote from another author must be placed between brackets and include its source, i.e. the author of the quote or the document from which it is taken, the exact title of the document, the date of publication, the place of publication, out of respect for intellectual property rights.
19. You must attach your photo and a very short biography (100 words maximum), mentioning the name of your Territorial Collectivity/Institution, as well as your contacts (mobile phone, Tel, Fax, e-mail, Portal or Website of the Territorial Collectivity/Institution to which you belong).
20. Deadline for submission of contributions: **November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

Contributions should be sent to:

- Dr Najat Zarrouk, Director of Development, Capacity Building and Knowledge Management and of the ALGA Academy of UCLG Africa, Rabat, Morocco. e-mail: [Nzarrouk@uclga.org](mailto:Nzarrouk@uclga.org) or [Najat\\_Zarrouk@yahoo.fr](mailto:Najat_Zarrouk@yahoo.fr)
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**NB** : These contacts are all reachable via WhatsApp.

Do not hesitate to contact us and to visit:

- the Portal of UCLG Africa: [www.uclga.org](http://www.uclga.org)
- the ALGA Academy website: [www.uclgafrica-alga.org](http://www.uclgafrica-alga.org)

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