

“UCLG Africa - ASAN - AMPCC LOCAL AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD” First Edition_2023

PRESENTATION NOTE

I- Context:

On the 20th of May 2022, during the 9th Africities Summit held by the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) in the City of Kisumu in Kenya, three champions of Local Governance and Innovation in the Public Service, namely the UCLG Africa, the State Agency for Public Service Innovations under the Patronage of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAPSSI or ASAN), and the Moroccan Association of the Presidents of Communal Councils (AMPCC) signed the Protocol of Intention establishing the “UCLG Africa- ASAN- AMPCC Local Africa Public Service Award”.

The Award was established in the context of the need to effectively and efficiently implement:

- 1) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS), in particular the SDGs 11, 16 and 17;
- 2) The Africa Agenda 2063, through its 7 Goals/Aspirations;
- 3) The African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance, and Local Development (2014);
- 4) The African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration (2011);
- 5) The vision, mandate and engagement for Good Governance and Sustainable Development of UCLG Africa, ASAN and the AMPCC.

This initiative is also among one of the pillars of the RoadMap of UCLG Africa engaged to become a Smart Panafrikan Organization, as it fits in the vision of ASAN and the AMPCC on sustainable public services and innovative transformation.

It also falls within the framework of the implementation of the Protocol of Intention signed between UCLG Africa and SAPSSI in 2018.

The “**UCLG Africa – ASAN - AMPCC Local Africa Public Service Award in Africa**” aims to recognize, reward and celebrate innovations, best practices and initiatives that represent new solutions to the challenges and difficulties faced by African Local and Regional Governments in Decentralization, Local Governance and Local and Territorial Development, through their commitment to Innovative Digital Transformation.

The Beneficiaries of the Award will be rewarded by UCLG Africa, SAPSSI and AMPCC during the Celebration of the African Day of Decentralization, which is the 10th of August of each year, based on the Article 20.4. of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance, and Local Development.

II- Main Objective of the Award

The main objective of the Award is to promote, recognise and celebrate the culture of innovation through Digital Transformation in Local and Regional Governments in Africa.

III- Specific Objectives of the Award

- 1) Promoting the initiatives and approaches of African Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) political leaders in the use of Digital Solutions for effective governance, service delivery and local development;
- 2) Promoting and giving visibility to the initiatives, projects and programs undertaken by these Institutions in terms of public service delivery, and local development;
- 3) Recognizing and motivating Local and Regional Public Administrations as well as their Human Resources, for harnessing digital transformation to advance effective service delivery and local development;
- 4) Identifying best practices that can serve as source of inspiration and replication for other Local and Regional Governments in the Continent.

With the above objectives, the Award will serve as a platform for:

- a) Advocating for innovation and digital transformation for improving the local governance, the delivery of public services and local and territorial development in Local and Regional Governments;
- b) Research and learning through identifying best practices in digital transformation and public service delivery at local level in Africa;
- c) Capacity building and learning through sharing and replication of successful practices in digital transformation and public service delivery at local level;
- d) Promotion of partnerships, cooperation and exchanges.

IV- Categories of the Award

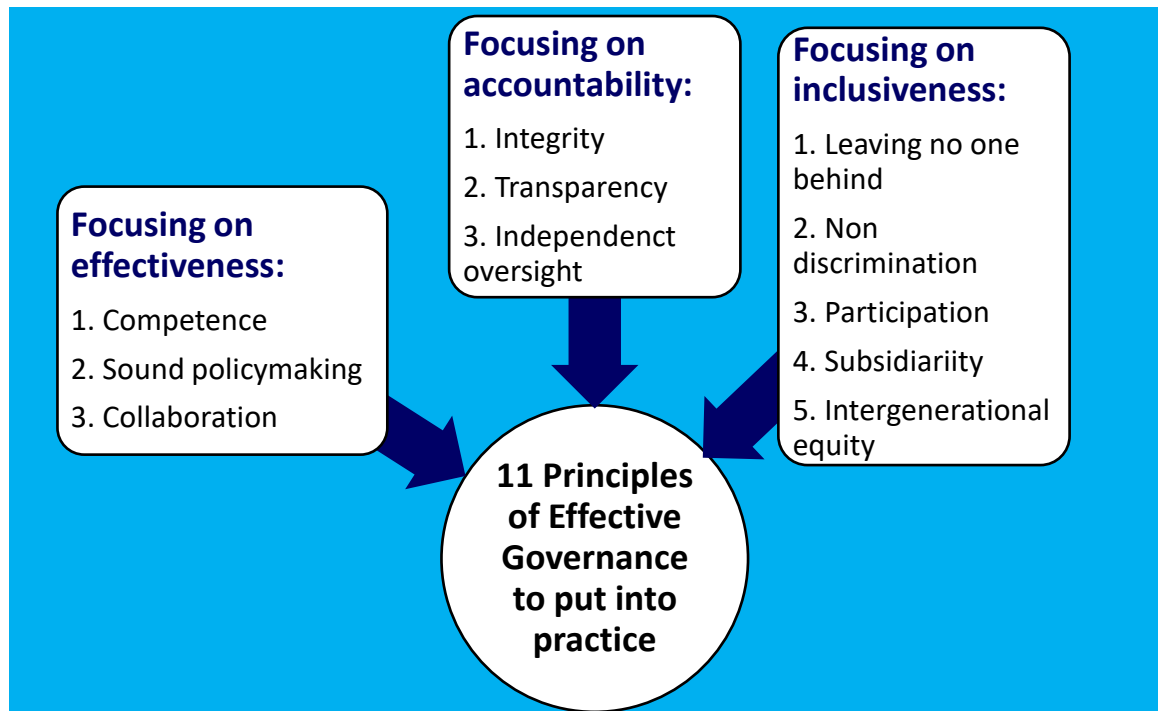
The Award is in the following two categories:

Category 1: Promoting Local and Regional Effectiveness through Digital Transformation

Category 2: Promoting Quality Local and Regional Public Services.

In determining the above two Categories, UCLG Africa, SAPSSI and AMPCC will rely on the eleven (11) Principles of Effective Governance developed by the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UN-CEPA) and adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2018. As shown in the diagram below, these Principles are based on 3 pillars, namely: Efficiency, Accountability and Inclusion.

Figure 1: The eleven (11) Principles of Effective Governance



V- Elaboration on the Categories and Criteria

In a general way the following will be the criteria to guide the assessment of the initiatives contending for the Award:

- Novelty
- Relevance to Transparency and Accountability
- Significance/positive impact
- Adaptability and Replicability
- Sustainability

Category 1: Promoting Local and Regional Effectiveness through digital transformation.

The following 6 criteria will guide the assessment of Award contending initiatives category one:

Criteria 1: Novelty: Introduction of an innovative idea, policy, practice or structure that is new/unique in the Local and Regional Government context and which is implemented.

Criteria 2: Relevance to Transparency and Accountability: The new idea, policy, process, practice or structure which is implemented to improve the quality of the service is relevant in that it leads to effectiveness, transparency,

accountability, inclusiveness, equity and equality in the delivery of services or local development in general.

Criteria 3: Significance and Impact: the initiative makes a significant and impactful contribution to the achievement of SDG 11 (i.e making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and SDG 16 (i.e. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development).

Criteria 4: Adaptability and Replicability: The initiative has been adapted and replicated or demonstrates potential to be replicated to other Local and Regional Governments in the same country, region, or other countries/regions.

Criteria 5: Sustainability: It demonstrates significance socially, economically and environmentally as well as capability to keep evolving with developments in the digital sphere and has provisions for availability of the requisite resources for its continuity.

Criteria 6: Equality and Equity: The initiative takes into account and integrates the principles of equality and equity among users and beneficiaries of public services, in the specific context of African Local and Regional Governments.

Category 2: Promoting Quality Local and Regional Public Services.

The following criteria will guide the assessment of Award contending initiatives in category two:

Criteria 1: Novelty: Introduction of an innovative idea, policy, practice or structure that is new/unique in the Local and Regional Government context and which is implemented.

Criteria 2: Relevance to Transparency and Accountability: The new idea, policy, process, practice or structure which is implemented to improve the quality of the service is relevant in that it leads to effectiveness, transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, equity and equality in the delivery of services or local development in general.

Criteria 3: Significance and Impact: the initiative makes a significant and impactful contribution to the achievement of SDG 11 (i.e making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and SDG 16 (i.e. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development).

Criteria 4: Adaptability and Replicability: The initiative has been adapted and replicated or demonstrates potential to be replicated to other Local and Regional Governments in the same country, region, or other countries/regions.

Criteria 5: Sustainability: It demonstrates significance socially, economically and environmentally as well as capability to keep evolving with developments in the digital sphere and has provisions for availability of the requisite resources for its continuity.

Criteria 6: Equality and Equity: The initiative takes into account and integrates the principles of equality and equity among users and beneficiaries of public services, in the specific context of African Local and Regional Governments.

VI- Nature of the Awards

The “**UCLG Africa – ASAN – AMPCC Local Africa Public Service Award**” consist of a Grant of Thirty-Seven Thousand-Five-Hundred (37.500) Euros for each of the two (2) Winners, supported by UCLG Africa, ASAN and AMPCC.

This Grant is comprised of several advantages, including:

- 1) a Financial Grant (20.000 euros for each of the two (2) Winners);
- 2) a Study trip and a Training in Azerbaijan and ASAN (5 days);
- 3) a technical assistance provided by ASAN in the application of innovative solutions and modern design of Public Services;
- 4) A free access to the e-Academy of UCLG Africa (5 days).

VII- Application rules

- 1) Eligibility: Who can apply: The Award is open to all Local and Regional Governments in African countries;
- 2) To apply, the initiative must be innovative and relevant to one of the two categories of the Award;
- 3) To avoid awarding initiatives that are at project stage with no real and verifiable impact, the initiative must have been implemented for a minimum of two (2) years, with demonstrated and documented impact;
- 4) The application form must be duly filled out as required. Applications that do not fill out the forms as required will be excluded;
- 5) The submission of the Application must include all the supporting documents requested;
- 6) On-site visits will be conducted to assess the relevance of the proposed initiatives to the short-listed candidate Local and Regional Governments
- 7) Applications received after the deadline will be excluded.

VIII- The Process from calling for Application to Granting the Awards

The process for selecting the Award winners will be as follows:

- 1) Launch of the Call for Applications for the Award through a Call of Expression of Interest;
- 2) Receiving of Applications;
- 3) Pre-screening by the Award Secretariat of the Applications to remove those that are ineligible;
- 4) Evaluating the Applications by the Award Jury;
- 5) The Award Jury will submit the recommended winners of the Award to the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa), the State Agency for Public Service Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAPSSI/ASAN), and the Moroccan Association of the Presidents of Communal Councils (AMPCC).
- 6) On-site visits will be conducted to assess the relevance of the proposed initiatives to the short-listed candidate Local and Regional Governments.

- 7) The Award will be given during an official Ceremony held every year on August 10th, which corresponds to the African Day of Decentralization and Local Development.

IX- Governance and administration of the Award

For the governance and Administration of the Award, it is recommended that the three Partners (UCLG Africa, SAPSSI/ASAN and AMPCC) constitute the following three (3) structures:

- 1) **An Award Steering Committee** composed of Representatives of the three Partners, in charge of validating and approving the recommendations of the Award Jury and announcing the Award Recipients.
- 2) **An Award Jury** composed of a maximum of five (5) members with the necessary experience and expertise to evaluate the nominations for the Award;
- 3) **A Secretariat** composed of their managers (maximum two per Partner) to prepare, administer and monitor the entire Award process.

X- Deadline for submission of nominations for the Award

For this First edition of 2023, the deadline for submission of applications for the Award is **July 20th, 2023** at midnight (Local Time in Rabat, Morocco).