

NOTE ON AFRICAN LOCAL FINANCE REVIEW AND CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

INTRODUCTION:

The General Secretariat of UCLG Africa is pleased to inform African local finance stakeholders about the existence of the "African Local Finance Review." This publication aims to serve as a platform for exchanging ideas, experiences, and research related to local finances in Africa. The Review seeks to become a valuable resource for all stakeholders interested in advancing the field of local finances on the continent.

BACKGROUND:

With the ongoing implementation of decentralization policies across African nations, the responsibilities assigned to subnational territorial entities, including financial autonomy, have gained prominence. The African Charter on Values and Principles of Decentralization and Local Development underscores the importance of financial autonomy for decentralized territorial authorities. As a result, local finances have become a central component of decentralization policies, with significant implications for the future of African governance and development.

PURPOSE:

The African Local Finance Review has the mission to support the objectives of the Africa Finet network, including:

Dissemination of Best Practices: The Review will disseminate case studies, analyses, and successful experiences in local government financial management. It will serve as a platform for sharing exemplary practices.

Capacity Building: The Review will contribute to enhancing the skills among local government financial directors. It will provide information and advice to improve financial management at the local level.

Advocacy for Financial Autonomy: The Review will support advocacy efforts aimed at enhancing the financial autonomy of local governments. It will foster discussions on the equitable allocation of resources between the central government and local governments.

Reflection on Financial Decentralization: The Review will encourage African discourse and reflection on financial decentralization by highlighting the issues and challenges related to local finances.

PUBLICATION FREQUENCY:

Initially, the African Local Finance Review is published every year. However, our long-term goal, is to increase the publication frequency to provide more timely information on the evolving dynamics of local finances and fiscal decentralization.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI):

We invite all african interested parties, in particular local finance experts, CFO of African cities, African professionals and academics, african local government officials, Central government representatives, members of African integration institutions, national or panafrican development banks, African financial institutions, and other stakeholders, to contribute to the African Local Finance Review.

THEMES AND TOPICS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:

Contributions are welcome on a wide range of themes and topics related to African local finances. While not exhaustive, the following areas are of particular interest:

Financial Autonomy: Analysis of the extent and impact of fiscal autonomy for subnational territorial entities in Africa.

Local Revenue Generation: Strategies and best practices for enhancing local revenue collection and management.

Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations: Examination of the fiscal relationships between central and local governments.

Local Development Financing: Case studies on financing local development projects and initiatives both off balance sheet and on balance sheet,

Innovative Financing Mechanisms: Exploration of innovative financial instruments and mechanisms for supporting local governance and development.

Decentralization Policies: Assessment of the effectiveness of decentralization policies and their impact on local finances.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Contributors are encouraged to submit their articles, research papers, case studies, and other relevant materials for consideration in the African Local Finance Review. Submissions should adhere to the following guidelines:

- Articles should be written in English or French.
- Articles should be original and not previously published elsewhere.
- Manuscripts should follow academic or professional formatting standards.
- All submissions should be sent to Ehajar@uclga.org and fyatta@yahoo.com by the end of February.

CONCLUSION:

The African Local Finance Review is an essential initiative to promote the sharing of knowledge and experiences in the field of local finances in Africa from an African perspective. We invite all interested parties to contribute their expertise and insights to make this publication a valuable resource for the advancement of local governance and development on the continent.

For inquiries and submissions, please contact Ehajar@uclga.org and fyatta@yahoo.com .

Sincerely,