Final Declaration

We, the delegates at the Africities Summit meeting in Kisumu, Kenya, from 17 to 21 May 2022 on the theme of the Implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the African Union 2063 Agenda,

Editorial

Dual partnership between agriculture and industrialisation

African intermediate cities represent a real field of experimentation for a partnership between agriculture and industrialisation. They offer potentialities that allow first of all to highlight the possibilities of transformation in the artisanal state as well as possibilities of development later on. When the need inexorably pushes towards industry, either of transformation, or any other, and when one takes advantage of the proximity of the resources, and later, engage into some commercial activities.

It is this journey and this experience from the grassroots that has favoured the sedentarisation of populations and the transformation of villages into towns. It is for this reason that these intermediate cities have based their raison d’être on a historical process, with a perfect knowledge of their environment. It is also the reason why the maturation of this process will create bridges between agriculture and industrialisation, from which the prosperity of these urban communities will be built.

This partnership between agriculture and industrialisation will encourage an expansion that will take these intermediary cities out of their immutable destiny, as a transit route for agricultural products bound for markets, far away from their place of production. Thus, the aspiration to comfort and to the development of infrastructures, indispensable to their happiness will be inscribed in their own agendas.

The proximity of production sites in countries essentially agricultural powers, always nourishes development ambitions, beyond all expectations.

Hence the urgent need to establish vital bridges, in order to project these intermediate cities into a serene and constructive future.
THE ROLE OF AFRICAN INTERMEDIARY CITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS 2030 AGENDA AND THE AFRICAN UNION 2063 AGENDA
9th Africities Summit - Kisumu, Kenya 2022
Declaration of the Mayors and Leaders of Local Authorities of Africa

We, the delegates at the Africities Summit meeting in Kisumu, Kenya, from 17 to 21 May 2022 on the theme of the role of Intermediate Cities in the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the African Union 2063 Agenda,

Having been honored by the High Patronage and personal participation of His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya, in the presence of His Excellency Joaquim Chissano, former President of Mozambique; His Excellence Danny Faure, former President of Seychelles, of Royal Majesties representing the Traditional Authorities of Africa, and an important delegation of the African Diaspora,

Given the change in pattern of settlements in Africa from being a continent majority rural thirty years ago becoming majority urban in the coming ten years;

Acknowledging that small and intermediary cities currently host 60 per cent of urban dwellers and accounts for nearly 50 percent of the African GDP;

Taking into account the 150 millions people from Africa or African descent living outside the continent and forming the African Diaspora that is spread over the five continents and represent over 4 trillions dollars of purchasing power;

Recognizing that the structural transformation expected from the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and called for by the African Union Agenda 2063, will not materialize if the continent does not leverage on the huge opportunities offered by small and intermediary cities and their rural hinterlands and implement a more balanced spatial distribution of economic activities and jobs creation;

Understanding that climate change is here to stay and that the task of the day is for African local governments to adapt to the consequences of climate change and adopt more climate compatible and resilient pathways to the development at the level of cities and territories, including in intermediary cities;

Aware that the acceleration of the digital transformation of society puts pressure on cities and local governments that are summoned to revise their management and relations with the citizens and the other stakeholders, through the use digital technologies and smart solutions, despite the limitations they encounter in terms of availability of infrastructure, equipment, and skilled personnel.
Fully sensitized on the fact that women and youth are the levers of the structural transformation of Africa and should therefore be more involved in the governance structures of cities and territories;

DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. We wish to make intermediary cities structuring poles of sustainable development in Africa by granting them a prominent place in spatial planning, and creating new territorial dynamics that promote exchanges and linkages between the rural and urban environments.

2. We affirm our willingness to establish a constructive political dialogue between the different spheres of government in order to abide by the principle of subsidiarity, an essential factor in the effectiveness of public policies.

3. We undertake to give priority to urban planning as an instrument for controlling the growth of urban and peri-urban areas by putting in place the institutional, legal, regulatory and operational instruments as well as the conditions for a participatory dialogue with the people.

4. We endorse the objectives of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, the Right to the City and the African Union’s 2063 Agenda and their translation into local development plans and call on African countries to develop concerted urban development strategies with adequate technical and financial resources in accordance with the United Nations New Urban Agenda.

5. We are convinced of the place of youth in the construction of the new Africa and call on the Mayors to create local youth empowerment councils aiming at their blossoming, their integration and their socialization in the city.

6. We adopt Culture as the 4th pillar of sustainable development by strengthening the cultural identity of territories to make it a potential vector of economic development.

7. We call on the Mayors to develop programs and action plans to fight precariousness and vulnerability, especially the ones of street children, isolated women, and dissocialized youth, to combat violence against women by participating in the actions of women’s groups, and to sign the African Charter for Gender Equality of REFELA and applying its principles in our local governments.

8. We affirm that climate change is a key issue for our territories and recommend to local governments to adopt the necessary measures to prepare their territories for the consequences of climate change and invite them to adhere to the Convention of African Mayors for Climate.

9. We call on all States to sign and ratify the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development and to ensure the proper implementation of the principles it contains.

10. We call for a better distribution of public resources in favor of the development of intermediate urban centers and for a greater attention to the public policies intended meant for them.

11. We call for a better use of local taxation and an effective collection of local government taxes, notably property tax.

12. We call on the Central Governments to develop programs to strengthen connections between intermediate cities and their hinterlands in order to strengthen exchanges around economic watersheds by eliminating transaction costs.

13. We propose to strengthen the links between intermediate cities and the capital cities of States by building secure road networks, railway infrastructures and air links based on local realities and to strengthen digital connectivity.

14. We would like the African Union and the African States to recognize the importance of decentralized cooperation and exchanges between local and regional governments so as to strengthen the knowledge and powers of our institutions.

15. We support the establishment of an African Erasmus scheme for committed young people, as enshrined in the 2063 Agenda.

16. We call on the entire African community to commit itself to the emancipation of women and young people by promoting economic support programs dedicated to women and young people, but also by facilitating access to decent and affordable housing, guaranteeing security, by preventing delinquency through campaigns to combat violence against women, and by offering young people integration and socialization programs through sport and culture.

17. We call on international partners to support the development of African intermediary cities by setting up dedicated programs and funding adapted to local realities.

18. We call on the partners, in accordance with the Paris Agreement on Aid Effectiveness, to align themselves with the ongoing decentralization processes in African States based on decentralized or ongoing sector-based policies of decentralization.

19. We call on the international community to take into account the point of view of local and regional governments in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of global agendas.

20. We call for the emergence of a world where Africa is recognized as a continent contributing to the emergence of a united global society that respects the planet, the climate, the biodiversity and primarily men and women who form the same and common destiny.
The tripartite dialogue between African ministers, mayors, and leaders of local authorities on the continent and representatives of development partners closed the political segment of the Africities summit on May 21, 2022 after side meetings of the same stakeholders. These side meetings reviewed the state of decentralization, devolution, and sub-national governments in Africa; the enabling institutional environment created by national governments for African cities and sub-national governments...

The tripartite dialogue examines the resolutions, recommendations, and declarations produced by the thematic sessions, the sessions on territorial policies and strategies, and the open sessions. While the mayors insisted on the transfer of skills and resources, the ministers emphasized the capacity of local authorities to absorb financial flows by respecting good governance. While maintaining the delivery of basic social services to the populations, the technical and financial partners have emphasized compliance with -and implementation of the decentralization policies adopted by the national Governments. That lively dialogue showed the interest of all actors for a better implementation of the process in our countries.

Ministers want an improvement in local governance

The first question was addressed to mayors and local authorities by the Minister of Local Government of Rwanda on behalf of his peers, in essence, how can mayors ensure financial accountability at the local level, improve the good management of resources at the local level, and strengthen the absorptive capacity of these resources?

Taking turns, the mayors of Chad, Egypt, Kenya, and the deputy mayor of Dakar provided answers to these concerns of the central authorities.

Recalling that the good management of resources is a guarantee of the sustainability of these resources, the mayors deplored the late dispatch of resources to local authorities which no longer have time to carry out the often-cumbersome budget execution procedures in our countries. The mayors also insisted on the necessary support from the national government to improve local capacities, on the basis of certain rates of absorption of the resources by the central government to the local governments. The national government and local authorities must work together. The mayors made a point of reassuring the central governments on the importance of the transfer of competences and resources on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity reinforced by citizens’ participation. In local authorities, development plans and the resulting action plans are all participatory. As far as the Deputy Mayor of Dakar is concerned, she expressed the wish for the establishment of mutual trust between the national and the local level.

How can local authorities facilitate dialogue between the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Local Governments, Decentralisation or Devolution?

To this question of the ministers, the mayors insisted on the fact that the dialogue must be tripartite and not between ministers. They went very far by proposing to include local authorities in budget forecasts and planning. The participatory approach when establishing the finance law should facilitate consultations between the Finance Ministry -which are a cause of delays in the financial transfers to local authorities- and the Ministry in charge of territorial administration. For other mayors, it is necessary to simplify the procedures for transferring resources to local authorities and facilitate the participation of local elected officials in the process of planning the national Government’s budget so that this budget takes into account transfers based on local participatory planning. For the Rwandan Minister, his country has overcome these difficulties by integrating into the national Government’s planning also that of local and regional governments and of the governorates. So this is a case of bottom-up planning where mayors and governors plan and defend their proposals to the Ministry of Finance. In Niger, as in Benin, for example, mechanisms for dialogue between the Ministry of Finance and the ministry in charge of local authorities do exist through the National Local Finance Commission. Niger has created the Department of Local Finances within the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of the Interior has a consultation framework for a balanced dialogue.

How to avoid the management of local competences by central governments and can a deadline be set?

This question from mayors to ministers was reinforced by that from partners, also addressed to ministers, on how to improve the implementation of decentralization policies that governments adopt, and which are often not implemented. The ministers’ responses to these concerns did diverge. The Rwandan minister explained his country’s efforts to implement its decentralization policy, which involves an effective transfer of resources and competences to local authorities. The minister distinguished three levels of decentralization, namely the transfer of powers, the transfer of competences, and then a transfer of resources a later stage. It is necessary in our countries for ministries who have links with the local competences to transfer them from the financial and human standpoint. This challenge is taken up in some ministries and is being managed in others in Rwanda. But on the other hand, for the minister of Niger, it is advisable to do things gradually. The framework decentralization policy has provided for mechanisms for the transfer of competences and resources. Nevertheless, the evaluation demonstrated the impossibility for the municipalities to properly manage all the competences. Added to this is the resistance of some ministers to transferring competences and resources. For the Minister, it is not with no light heart that the ministries manage local competences in Niger, but this is necessary to ensure the continuity of public service in the face of the deficiencies of local authorities. As far as the Deputy Mayor of Dakar is concerned, she suggested to the ministers to provide support to the municipalities to strengthen their human resources because the transfer of resources also includes the human resources allowing the municipalities to properly manage the competences that have been transferred. As for the Egyptian Mayor, she recommended an integrated approach to the implementation of public policies based on subsidiarity and respect for each level of competence.
The third day of the Africities was marked by the elective general assembly of United Cities of Local Government of Africa (UCLG Africa) (www.UCLGA.org). The general assembly elected the new office bearers of the organization, namely the 45 members of the UCLG Africa Pan African Council; the 15 members of the Executive Committee; the 5 members of the UCLG Africa Financial Management Committee; the 5 Vice Presidents, among which the Region of Nouakchott, Mauritania represented by its President, Mrs. Fatimetou Abdel Malick, was elected the new President of UCLG Africa.

The mandate that is beginning will be the mandate of all challenges, which we can only take up together and each one separately in its segment. For my part, I will strive to carry our voice as far and as effectively as possible and to contribute to making our organization a key player at the continental level but also at the international level, « she said.

The new leadership of UCLG Africa elected for a 3-year mandate is composed as follows:

UCLG Africa Presidency (5 Vice Presidents): Region of Nouakchott (Ms. Fatimetou Abdel Malick), County of Kisumu (Prof. Peter Anyang’ Nyong’o), City of Libreville (Ms. Christine Mba Ndotum), Union of Cities and Communes of Côte d’Ivoire (Hon Claude Paulin Danho), and Botswana Association of Local Authorities (Mr. Jeffrey Sibisibi); to which to add, ex officio, the City of Banjul, The Gambia, President of the Network of Locally Elected Women of Africa, REFE-LA (Mrs. Malick Lowe).

The Region of Nouakchott represented by Ms Fatimetou Abdel Malick, was elected the new President of UCLG Africa until the next general assembly due to take place in 2025.

UCLG Africa Executive Committee (15 members): Kisumu County Government (Kenya); Rwanda Association of Local Authorities, RALGA, (Rwanda); Victoria District (Seychelles); Botswana Local Authorities Association (BALA), South African Local Government Association (SALGA); City of Kwe Kwe, Zimbabwe; La Faitière des Communes du Togo (FCT); Association of Local Authorities of Nigeria (ALGON); Union des Villes et Communes de Côte d’Ivoire (UVICOI); Communes et Villes Unies du Cameroun (CVUC); Commune de Libreville, Gabon; Association des Maires de Congo (AMC); Region of Nouakchott; Moroccan Association of Presidents of Communal Councils (AMPCC, Morocco); and the Governorate of Cairo (Egypt).

The Local Government Association of South Africa, SALGA (Cllr. Bheke Stofile) was designated to be the candidate of Africa for the Co-Presidency of the world organization of UCLG.
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.

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SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS: UNDP’S RENEWED GOVERNANCE AND PEACEBUILDING FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICA.

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.
Kisumu Governor Nyong’o and Kenya’s Minister of Devolution, Eugene Wamalwa with officials