On the occasion of the Celebration of the International Cities Day

UCLG-Africa will organize a Virtual Urban Thinkers Campus

On:

"Promoting Local Government and Citizen Engagement for the City We Need in Africa, in Time of Covid-19 and Beyond"

From 27 to 29 October, 2020

With the Support and in Partnership with

(in the process of mobilization)

European Commission

Link on Zoom Plateform (TBC)
ID Meeting:
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"Together For An Effective Local Africa"
**Context and justifications**

The African continent is undergoing a process of rapid urbanization that is expected to continue in the coming decades. Its population is expected to reach 2.4 billion people by 2050, including 1.34 billion urban citizens versus 455 million at present. All African cities, whether large or intermediate sized cities or small towns, will face the same demographic, social, economic and ecologic challenges in the coming decades. These challenges are exacerbated by the effects and impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

As the Regional Section of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in Africa, the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) is engaged in the advocacy, lobbying, strengthening and capacitating Local Governments in Africa, for a better implementation and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the SDG 11, as well as the New Urban Agenda, the Climate change agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The SDG 11 is a Goal which directly calls on mayors and city governments to play a crucial role to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, based on their vision, competencies, missions, policies, strategies and activities, and above all their proximity with the population, the citizen and the communities.

UCLG-Africa is also engaged in the implementation and the localization of the vision of the New Urban Agenda, in particular is Paragraph 13 which states: "We envisage cities and human settlements that: b) Are participatory, promote civic engagement, engender a sens of belonging and ownership among all their inhabitants."....

UCLG Africa’s has launched at COP 23 in 2017, the Climate Task Force which is committed to the synergy of different stakeholders around the Climate Agenda bringing together various stakeholders working on climate change issues. Stakeholders include local governments, development banks, institutions specializing in the financing of local governments, technical support agencies for local governments, academic and research institutions, associations of local governments and NGOs active in the field of climate.
Since its flagship event, AFRICITIES 2018, UCLG-Africa has launched the initiative of African Capitals of Culture to promote, protect and value the Culture and cultural heritage, and also the role, responsibilities and engagement of the cities at the local level.

Based on its vision "Building African Unity from its Grass Roots", its mission, its experience and its ecosystem -as a Pan-African Organization representing 47 National Associations of Local Governments and more than 20,000 African cities-, UCLG-Africa has a crucial role to play in the engagement, the ownership, and the implementation of the 10 Principles of the City We Want in Africa, namely, socially inclusive and engaging; affordable, accessible and equitable; economically vibrant and inclusive; collectively managed and democratically governed; fosters cohesive territorial development, is regenerative and resilient; shared identities and sense of place; is well planned, walkable, and transit-friendly; is safe, healthy and promotes well-being; and is learning and innovating.

For UCLG-Africa, the City we want requires political will, proximity, listening, dialogue and communication, holistic approaches, policies and strategies, but above all a concrete commitment involving actors and stakeholders. Among these actors and stakeholders, local authorities and citizens are and must be on the front line, especially in times of crisis, such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

Through its African Local Government Academy(ALGA), recognized by UCLG as a good practice among its Regional Sections, UCLG-Africa will organize a second Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC)\(^1\).

The theme of this UTC which will be a virtual one will be: "Promoting Local Governments and Citizen Engagement for the City We Want in Africa, in Time of Covid-19 and Beyond".

This initiative fits into the challenging context of the Covid-19 Pandemic where concerted, inclusive and participatory approaches that leave no one behind are more than ever useful and crucial to prevent and cope with the pandemic, but above all to prepare to build better institutions, towards a brighter future at the local level in Africa.

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\(^1\) The Academy had the opportunity to organize a Face-To-Face UTC in 2017 in El Jadida, Morocco, in which some 600 participants took part.
This Virtual UTC will be an opportunity not only to celebrate the International Cities Day, but also to bring and show case of concrete experiences of inclusive and participatory approaches, in particular from Local Governments, from Cities, from Citizen and from NGOs. It will be a moment to inform, raise awareness, train, build capacity, share experiences and good practices, learn from peers and identify ideas, elements and materials that can feed a Roadmap for the future.

**The main Objective of the Virtual UTC 2020**

UCLG-Africa aims to create a serene debate, for sharing, exchanging, learning and benchmarking around the commitment of local governments and citizens to build the City We Want in the challenged time of Covid-19 and beyond.

**The specific objectives of the Virtual UTC 2020**

- Raising awareness about the difficulties and challenges;
- Explaining and demonstrating what local government engagement and citizen engagement is all about in times of crisis, such as the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Presenting and sharing successful experiences in Africa and from different other regions of the world on the concept and approaches of inclusive and participatory engagement in time of crisis;
- Informing, raising awareness, learning (and learning from Peers) and training on the 10 principles of the City We Want, with a focus on Principles 1, 2 and 3.
- Organizing a campaign on the promotion of Handicrafts and income generating activities on Social Media.

**Expected Results**

Based on the experiences, case studies, and best practice that we will mobilize, and the outcomes of the sessions that we will organize, our UTC will allow us to:

- Address the challenges faced by local governments and cities in terms of engagement in times of crisis;
- Take up the challenges for citizen engagement in times of crisis in terms of access to information, spaces for dialogue, consultation and above all concrete and active participation;
- To see where we are in African cities;
- Highlighting the needs for learning, training, capacity building and peer learning;
- Feeding a roadmap that can be presented at the UCLG-Africa flagship event, Africities, in Kenya, Kisume County, November 2021.
- **Expected Participants, Moderators, and Speakers:**

1. **Participants**
   - Representatives of States and Governments;
   - Representatives of International Organizations;
   - Representatives of Local Governments, in particular Mayors of Cities;
   - Representatives of Private Sector;
   - Representatives of Civil Society;
   - Representative of Academia/Research;
   - Youth and persons with disability;
   - Migrants and Refugees.

2. **Expected Moderators**
   - The President of UCLG-Africa, Mr Léandre Nzué, Mayor of Libreville (TBC), Gabon, (TBC).
   - Ms Soham Wardini, Vice-President of UCLG-Africa, Ouest Africa, Mayor of the City of Dakar, Senegal (TBC).
   - Mr Armand Béouindé, Mayor of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (TBC).
   - Mr Mohamed Sadiki, Mayor of the City of Rabat, Morocco (TBC).
   - Ms Fatouma Awaleh Osman, Mayor of the City of Djibouti, President of the National Association of Local Governments in Djibouti (ANCLD) (TBC).
   - Mr Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary general of UCLG-Africa, Cameroon

2. **Expected Speakers**
   - Ms Soham Wardini, Vice-President of UCLG-Africa, Ouest Africa, Mayor of the City of Dakar, Senegal (TBC).
   - Ms Macoura Dao, President of REFELA (TBC);
   - Female Mayors membres of REFELA (TBC);
   - Ms Pam Taylor, Mayor of Paynesville, Liberia (TBC).
   - Ms Fatimetou Mint Abdelmalick, President of the Region of Nouackchott, Mauritania (TBC).
   - Ms Rahmatouca Saw, Special Advisor to UCLG-Africa, Senegal.
- A Representative of the Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development, Morocco (TBC).
- Mr Coulibaly Pélibien Ghislain. Sociologue, Senior Expert in gender, Côte d'Ivoire.
- The Representatives on the African Anchoring Institutes of ALGA from the 5 African Regions (TBC).
- The Representatives of ALGA Partners from around the World (TBC).
- UCLG-Africa Staff.

**Date and Time**

From 27 to 29 October, 2020

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DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1, Tuesday 27 October, 2020

Morning
Official Opening (10:00am-11:00am)
UT Session 1 (1 hour and a half, 11:00am to 12:30)
Mapping the main Actors and Stakeholders involved in the dynamic of sustainable urban development
UT Session 2 : (1 hour and a half, 11:00am to 12:30)
Local Governments and Citizen engagement : Learning from Covid-19 Pandemic
Virtual Tea/Coffee break

Afternoon
Organization of 3 Urban Lab (2:00pm to 4:00pm)
Urban Lab 1: Understanding and mastering the 10 Principles of the City We Need (with the support of UN-Habitat (TBC)
Urban Lab 2 : Transforming Leadership at the local level (with the support of African Union, Peer Review Mecanism, AAPAM, Stellenbosch University (School of Public Leadership (TBC).
Urban Lab 3: Citizen engagement : challenges, concepts, approaches (with the support of UN-DESA (TBC).

Day 2

Wednesday 28 October, 2020, from 9:00am to 6:00pm

The Organizers (UCLG-Africa/ALGA, the City of Rabat et the City of Dakar) will initiate and organize a Campaign Day on Culture products, Handcrafts products and income generating activities, through Social Media (Facebook and Youtoube).

UCLG-Africa and ALGA, with the support of their Partners will identify and mobilize NGOs, citizen, producers, women, youth, persons with disability, migrants involved in these fields.
Day 3

Thursday 29 October, 2020, from 9:00am to 1:00pm

09:00am to 10:00am : Summary of the Day 1 and Day 2

10:00am-12:30

Organization of a Round table : Engaging, Acting, Cooperating to build the Cities We Want, towards a brighter future

1:00-12:30pm

Closing Session

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OUR UTC Action Day

Our Day of the action will be placed under the embrella of the Third Principle of the City We Need that is economically vibrant and inclusive and the promotion of the Local Economic Development. It will be a Day devoted to the valorisation, in a virtual and face-to-face way, of cultural products, handicrafts, local products, and income generating activities and products, as key levers and divers of change, contributing to stability, peace, inclusion and well-being for citizens, elders, women, youth, girls, people living with disabilities, migrants, in particular those living in unstable, informal, and vulnerable conditions.

The organizers will identify these targets in different African cities to enable them to rise their voice, to be visible, to present their productions and products, to share their challenges and daily sufferings in particular during the Pandemic of the Covid-19, and why not be able to sell their products.

It will be our Open, Blended (virtual and face-to-face) African Market
Contact persons:

- Dr. Najat Zarrouk, Director of ALGA of UCLG-Africa, Rabat, Morocco, Email: najat_zarrouk@yahoo.fr/Tél : +212 (0)661 120 552

By copying (CC):

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PS: These contacts are all reachable through WhatsApp.