



Sub-Regional Consultation #05 Southern Africa

CITIES AND TERRITORIES RESPONSES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN AFRICA

Tuesday, September 15th, 2020 – 09AM GMT- <http://www.webinaire.oidp-afrique.org/>.

I. Background

The emergence and rapid evolution of the new Coronavirus, commonly referred to as COVID-19, is prompting policy makers at different scales to provide immediate and urgent responses to a global health crisis that has revealed in a very short period of time the limitations of the systems we took for granted. This crisis threatens the health of the population, social cohesion (education of children when schools are closed, care for vulnerable communities, etc.), the economy and infrastructures at all scales.

After the first case of Covid-19 appeared in February 2020, today all 54 countries on the African continent are affected. Although being the least impacted continent (a little more than 500,000 cases recorded in July 2020, i.e. 3.4% of the cases recorded in the world), the African continent is facing challenges in terms of health, security, food, etc.

At the local level, local authorities are in the front line in the fight against the spread of the Coronavirus and play a very important role, by ensuring the continuity of basic services, social protection and provision of food and health kits, the development of reception sites, funding of awareness campaigns, etc.

Given the diverse nature of the roles played by local authorities in the fight against the Covid19, it seems obvious that the impacts observed during the pandemic, and consequently the post-COVID recovery and resilience strategies will be equally varied. The Coordination for the Africa Region of the International Observatory for Participatory Democracy (IOPD Africa), in collaboration with UCLG Africa and Enda ECOPOP, is engaging in reflection through a series of webinars bringing together African cities and various actors in the field of decentralization, governance and local development.

II. Objectives

The main goal of this initiative is to share and discuss the evolution of the Covid19 pandemic in African cities through lived experiences, impacts (on local development, democracy and citizen participation) and resilience strategies.

Specifically, five webinars will be organized, one session in each of the sub-regions of Africa, bringing together elected authorities, technical departments, civil society organizations, researchers/academics and technical and financial partners involved in decentralization, governance and local development.

Each category of actor will be able to share according to their perspective and their trajectory of support to cities and territories.

III. Organizational arrangements

The second consultation for North Africa will be held on **15 September 2020** at **09:00 GMT** via videoconference, via the link: <http://www.webinaire.oidp-afrique.org/>. It will record the interventions and testimonies of the various actors involved in decentralization, governance and local development, according to the following format:

Opening speeches:

- Mr. Jean Marc YACE, Mayor of Cocody (Ivory Coast), President IOPD,
- Mr. Jean Pierre MBASSI, Secretary General UCLG Africa
- Representative of SADC (tbc).
- Minister (tbc)

 Framing and orientation: Mr Bachir KANOUTE, Coordinator Enda ECOPOP and IODP Africa

 Interventions of the Panelists:

- Representative **Angola**,
- Representative **Botswana**,
- Representative **Mozambique**
- Representative **South Africa**,
- Representative **Zambia**

 Debate and exchange with the public

 IOPD's development prospects in East African sub-region,

 Synthesis and closure of the consultation.

Moderator: Mr. Bachir KANOUTE, IOPD Coordinator for Africa.

Working languages: English, French Portuguese.