



**UCLG Africa Session of ALGA during the World Congress of UCLG
“Promoting the Principles of Effective Governance in Africa: Peer Learning among African Local and Regional Governments”**

Tuesday, October 11th, 2022, from 10:00am to 11:30am, Daejeon, South Korea Local Time
Daejeon Convention Center (DCC1 – 204-205)



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On Tuesday, October 11th, 2022, the second Day of the UCLG World Congress, UCLG Africa, through its African Local Government Academy(ALGA) took the opportunity and global space of thi Congress and its Local4Action Track, in Daejeon South Korea, to organize a Session on ***“Promoting the Principles of Effective Governance in Africa: Peer Learning among African Local and Regional Governments”***, as an opportunity to rise awareness about the cruciality of Effective Governance for Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) not only in Africa, but globally, as a key lever to promote and anchor Decentralization, to enhance Local and Regional Governance, and above all to impact the local and regional Development.

On the proposal and thanks to the efforts of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UN-CEPA), the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has adopted eleven (11) Principles of Effective Governance, as part of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in particular SDG 16 which calls for “Promoting the advent of peaceful and inclusive societies for the purposes of sustainable development, ensuring access for all justice and establish effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

These principles, declined down into some 62 Strategies to support their implementation, constitute a framework of reference and evaluation of institutional capacities and aim to assist the Member States of the international community in their commitment to build Public Institutions, at all levels of governance, effective, accountable and inclusive in order to achieve Sustainable Development.

These Principles are based on 3 fundamental pillars, namely: **Effectiveness, Accountability and Inclusiveness.**

The main objactive of this sesión was to inform and raise awareness about the existence of the 11 Principles of Effective Governance adopted by ECOSOC in 2018 and allowing the ownership of such Principles by the LRGs.

And it was the opportunity to:

- Publicizing, popularizing and disseminating the 11 Principles of Effective Governance among LRGs, in particular in Africa;
- Demonstrating to what extent LRGs in Africa are committed to implementing and anchoring Effective Governance in their vision, leadership and governance;
- Sharing on the best way to create a supportive, facilitating and enabling environment for the implementation of these Principles at Local and Regional level;
- Exploring niches of collaboration with UCLG World Secretariat and its Regional Sections on the Principles of Effective Governance;
- Identifying training and capacity building needs in this area.



This Session knew the participation of:

- **Mr Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa, as Moderator.**



“Welcome to the ALGA Session. My name is Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi. I’m the Secretary General of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa and have been assigned the responsibility to moderate this Session.

Thank you for being here to Exchange on the Principles of effective governance in Africa.

These Principles have been adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council to serve as a reference framework for defining, implementing and evaluating the policies and strategies aiming at establishing effective, accountable and inclusive public institutions at all levels of governance.

The implementation of these Principles has as objectives to anchor decentralization and respect of the subsidiarity principle in the management of public affairs and therefore strengthen the role of regional and local Governments in the development Dynamic.

We will discuss:

- the relevance of these Principles;
- their usefulness in addressing the leadership issue, particularly in the context of regional and local governments of Africa;
- the main challenges faces by decision-makers when it comes to their implementation;
- the innovations if any to share that would help ride the extra-mile;
- the role of UCLG and its Regional Sections are expected to lay in populating these Principles and monitoring their effective implementation and impact.

To kick off the discussion, we have got a wonderful Panel that includes 8 Officials and Experts. But unfortunately only 1 hour and a half to Benefit from the panelists.

I therefore propose to allocate a time Budget of 45 minutes to the Panelists that are invited to keep their interventions to more or less 5 minutes each, to allow 40 minutes discussion with the audience in the Room, leaving 5 minutes for wrap up and take away.

I am forced to be a very strict time keeper.



Without further ado, let us listen to a video message by **Honorable Mr Mauricio Rodas**, Member of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UN-CEPA), Former Mayor of Quito, Ecuador, and Former Co-President of UCLG.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SESSION

The Panel discussion was introduced by a video message of the **Honorable Mr Mauricio Rodas**, Member of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UN-CEPA), Former Mayor of Quito and Former Co-President of UCLG, Ecuador, who delivered a video message on “**The importance and relevance of the Principles of Effective Governance at Subnational level**” focusing on the challenges of resources and capacities at subnational level.

The link to the video message:

 [Hon. Mauricio Rodas - Video Message.MOV](#)



The PANEL DISCUSSION

This was followed by a series of sharing of engagements and challenges faced by Local and Regional Leaders:



- **Honorable Ms Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malick**, President of UCLG Africa, President of the Region of Nouakchott, Mauritania who gave her reactions around the relevance of these Principles in the context of Africa.



- **Honorable Ms Roheyatou Malick Lowe**, President of REFELA, Lord Mayor of the City of Banjul, Gambia who, based on her experience, shared the main challenges that need to be addressed for these Principles to be implemented.
- **Honorable Ms Asmaa Rhlalou**, President of the Communal Council of the City of Rabat, Morocco, was asked if these Principles are applicable in a sustainable way, if they allow a flexibility and innovation when faced with crises and shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and as the Mayor of the Rabat, the Capital City of the Kingdom of Morocco, after having been confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic, how she rates the robustness and resilience of these Principles.
- **Honorable Ms Wobine Buijs-Glaudemans**, Mayor of Oss, The Netherlands, shared the main challenges and innovations in her City.
- **Honorable Cllr Florah Mpetsane**, President of Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA), Botswana, after having listened to the different experiences and situations exposed by the Panelists, and following her own experience, she was asked if frankly these UN Principles on effective governance are of any help to her in Botswana context, and to what extent and with which limitations.
- **Honorable M. Innocent Uwimana**, President of Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA), Rwanda was asked, if as it seems to be the case, the majority of the panelists find the UN Principles of effective governance relevant, what he is expecting from UCLG and its Regional Sections to be doing to populate these Principles among their membership and monitor, and assess their implementation and impact.
- **Honorable Ms Daniella Levine Cava**, Mayor of Miami-Dade, Florida, USA, who is just in the midst of a climate emergency situation that puts the UN Principles of effective Governance under stress test, her City having been recently hit by the Hurricane Ian, sent just after the closing of the Session : Link to the Video message:

 [Hon. Daniella Levine Cava - Video Message.MOV](#)

The Panel highlighted the relevance of the UN Principles on effective governance for LRGs, and shared the following issues:

1) Focus on Effectiveness:

- The process and policy of Decentralization are not effective in Africa;
- The lack of investment in Human Capital;
- The Local and Regional Leaders are asked to innovate and find solutions;
- We need Learning and capacity building at all levels
- We need references, sharing knowledge and Good practices, peer learning; and a continental benchmarking;



- We need spaces for cooperation and collaborative work;
 - Urban planning and urban mobility are key;
 - The challenges of funding after COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2) Focus on Accountability:**
- We need to prevent and fight corruption;
 - We need to invest more in the Access to information and transparency;
 - We need to engage concretely in Digital Transformation;
 - There's a need top ut in place public scrutiny mechanisms on Public affairs, in particular at local and regional levels;
- 3) Focus on Inclusiveness:**
- Local and Regional Governance level is the first level of Governance where we meet the citizen needs, expectations, and priorities;
 - We need a participatory Governance;
 - We need to invest more in Participatory Budgeting;
 - We need to engage in a Territorial dialogue with all actors and stakeholders;
 - We need to gain Trust from Citizen and Communities that we are serving;
 - Women and girls are encouraged to engage in politic;
 - All what we do should be built on Multi-actors and Multi- Stakeholders approaches, based on Bottom-up approaches.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND TAKE AWAY:

- 1) All the 11 UN Principles of Effective Governance are relevant for LRGs in Africa;
- 2) There is a crucial need to provide, capacítate and skill Human Capital;
- 3) Digital Transformation is also crucial to better inform Citizen and Communities, LRGs Leaders and their Associations;
- 4) We need a Participatory Local and Regional Governance;
- 5) There is a need for references, sharing knowledge, Good practices, innovations, through the investment in Peer-Learning;
- 6) All what we do should be built on Multi-Actors and Multi-Stakeholders approaches;
- 7) We need to strengthen Bottom-up approaches;
- 8) Transparency and Accountability are key;
- 9) We should reinforce the social accountability and the citizen engagement;
- 10) There is a need top ut in place a system to allow scrutiny on public affairs.