

## **AFRICAN TERRITORIAL AND TRADE AGENCY PRESENTATION:**

UCLG Africa is the umbrella organization and the united voice and representative of local governments in Africa.

Now has a membership of;

- 44 national associations of local governments from all regions of Africa,
- 2000 cities that have more than 100,000 inhabitants.
- Cumulatively now UCLGA is the active voice of nearly 350 million African citizens.

The vision of UCLG Africa is “Building African Unity and Driving African Development through the Grassroots through the realization of the AU Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

To achieve this vision **UCLG Africa's Mission Statement** outlines its principal goals to:

- Unite African local government; place it in the continental political and economic development context and represent it in all relevant forums
- Strive for the establishment of local government as a distinct sphere of government working in support of national and other spheres of government in Africa
- Ensure democracy, equality and respect for human rights at the local level
- Promote sharing of human and intellectual capital as well as other resources among local authorities in Africa
- Empower local governments through research, training and capacity development
- Pursue sustainable development in partnership with institutions, structures and programs of the same mission

But at the world stage UCLG Africa's membership pales to the rest of the world regions who are also members of the UCLG World.

Asia Pacific has a membership of 7000 local governments representing 3.76 billion people which is basically about 47% of the world population.

The European Chapter has 130,000 members from municipalities and regions. Latin America chapter has a membership of 14,000 local governments and municipalities.

This shows you the capital the world has placed on the role of territorial governments and their contribution to economic advancement of the people at the grassroots.

It is also a fact that sub national governments have a commonality of challenge in addressing the issue of mobilizing resources to finance service delivery and development.

To address this challenge UCLG-A organized a conference in Marrakech, Morocco held in December 2014 on "*Financing African cities: agenda, alliances and solutions*" where African Mayors and local governments recommended the creation of a special Pan-African vehicle dedicated to the financing of African sub national governments and Cities, named "*Africa Territorial, Trade and Investment Agency*". The underlying scheme is a joint instrument allowing cities to issue bonds on national or international markets

## So, What has been achieved?

1. Formation of a committee of eminent persons representing the regions of UCLG Africa and Chaired by the Governor of Kisumu in his capacity as the Vice President of East Africa to spearhead engagements with International Financial Institutions.

Such engagements have been opened with **Africa Development Bank, Afreximbank and Arab Development Bank.**

In the case of Afreximbank, an MOU has been finalized with a view to having the bank operate as an anchor financial institution to this SPV with substantial commitments made by the bank.

Some of these commitments are anchored on the presentation at slide 5 and we need to make haste to ensure that we achieve our ends of the bargain.