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Minutes

1st Africa-Europe Local Government Forum

#AUEUlocal

Local & regional governments join forces
for sustainable development

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Organised by:



Local & Regional
Europe



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United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
Cité des Gouvernements Locaux d'Afrique
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Minutes of the 1st Africa-Europe Forum of Local and regional governments¹

Opening Ceremony

Mr Gilbert Kone Kafana, President of the Union of Towns and Cities of Côte d'Ivoire (UVICOCI)

Mr **Gilbert Kone Kafana** opened the session with an address and thanks to the:

- Honorable President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
- Distinguished Representative of the President of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA)
- Distinguished President of the Assembly of Regions and Districts of Côte d'Ivoire (ARDCI)
- Distinguished Governor of the Autonomous District of Abidjan
- Honorable mayors and local and regional elected officials of Côte d'Ivoire, Africa and Europe
- Distinguished journalists
- Honorable participants and guests to the forum
- Ladies and gentlemen

In his opening statement he outlined the commitment of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) and the Pan-African association of local governments to strive towards promoting the voice of local Africa wherever it was needed.

In my capacity as President of the Union of Cities and Local Governments of Côte d'Ivoire (UVICOCI), it is with a feeling of solidarity, obligation of dedication and responsibility that I appreciated the decision of the UCLGA General Assembly session, held in Johannesburg in December 2015, to appoint me as a member of the Pan-African Council, a deliberative body of the Pan-African Organization.

On the same date, my peers also decided to entrust to me the delicate responsibility of representing West Africa within the Financial Management Commission of the Pan-African Council. It is therefore in this twin capacity, at the moment when my country, Côte d'Ivoire, is delighted to host over one hundred local elected officials from Africa and Europe, that I have to fulfill the assignment to be the first, to take the floor and wish you, dear colleagues, welcome to Abidjan, a cosmopolitan city and the economic capital city of Côte d'Ivoire.

Beyond these words of welcome, I would like to express the gratitude of the local elected officials of Côte d'Ivoire to PLATFORMA - the European voice of local and regional governments and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions. It is these two European organizations, which in agreement with UCLGA, our Pan-African Organization, have developed

¹ Check against delivery

the initiative to hold in Abidjan this 1st Africa-Europe Forum of Local and Regional Governments, on the sidelines of the 5th African Union - European Union Summit.

On behalf of my colleagues, local elected officials of Côte d'Ivoire, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to the coordinators of UCLGA, first and foremost, Mr. Khalifa Ababacar Sall, Mayor of Dakar, President of UCLGA, who is not in our midst today for reasons you are all aware of. The theme of the 5th African Union – European Union is "investing in youth." This theme is a challenge to us as local elected officials, whether we are from Africa or from Europe. Youth, is a topic of great concern when the national and/ or local public policies do not meet sufficiently the education and employment of the young people. The abundance of news on the migratory adventures of African youth and the return to the medieval practices of slavery, which are now unveiled, constitute strong illustrations of these collective concerns. I hope that the exchange of experiences and opinions that will take place throughout our deliberations will lead to relevant conclusions and recommendations, in terms of solutions, to the global challenges of sustainable local economic development, taking into account the issues of education, training, professional integration of young people and women and the environment in which our people live.

"I am convinced that decentralization, advocated by all our central governments, is an important lever to mitigate all these issues"

Indeed, by granting more authority and resources to local governments, public policies should be more likely to be effective and inclusive since the local authorities and local stakeholders enjoy the advantage of being more imbued with the opinions, needs and expectations of our people and especially young people and women.

I wish success to this first Africa-Europe Forum of Local and Regional Governments.

Mr Jeannot Ahoussou-Kouadio, President of the Association of Regions of Côte d'Ivoire (ARDCI)

It is with a great joy that I am taking the floor today, Monday, November 27, 2017, on behalf of all Ivorian local elected officials gathered within the Assembly of Regions and Districts of Côte d'Ivoire (ARDCI), that I have the honor to lead.

I must confess it is a moment of great pride for Côte d'Ivoire, our beautiful country and for the Ivorian people and especially for the governors of districts, the presidents of regions, the mayors, the district councilors, the regional councilors and the municipal councilors, to host today, the first Africa-Europe Forum of Local and Regional Governments.

I would therefore like, on behalf of the Ivorian local elected officials and their African and European counterparts, to pay tribute to the President of the Republic, H.E. Mr. Alassane Ouattara and express to him our infinite gratitude for having accepted the holding, on the

sidelines of the Fifth African Union-European Union Summit, the present Africa-Europe Forum of Local and Regional Governments.

Our thanks also go to the Prime Minister, Minister of Budget and State Portfolio and Head of Government for the sponsorship, which expresses the support of the government to the issues pertaining to decentralization and local development as vehicles of socio-economic transformation.

My greetings go also to Mr. Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-Africa), as well as to our friends from PLATFORMA, whose structures played a major role in the organization of the present forum.

On behalf of my peers, the Ivorian local elected officials, and in my personal name, I wish you the traditional AKWAABA, that is the cordial welcome to all. Africa welcomes you. Ivory Coast welcomes you. I would also wish, if you could find the time on the sidelines of deliberations, to explore the hospitality and the specific warmth of the Ivorian tradition and the various marvels, including the cultural ones that will be offered to you.

For the Ivorian local elected officials, by offering to Africa and Europe the framework of this exchange forum, Côte d'Ivoire thus offers to the elected officials of the sub-national governments, the opportunity to contribute to the search for solutions to the main issues that will be at the heart of the summit of heads of state and government, namely the issues pertaining to youth, peace and security, migration and human mobility, job creation, investments, but also climate change and access to energy.

It is a great opportunity for local elected officials of Africa and Europe to engage in dialogue, taking into account the specific contexts, the legislations and the constraints specific to each continent.

Most especially, our meeting should help to formulate a common vision of the role of regional and local governments in the management of our territories and the integration of the basic needs of our people into the structural transformation of our societies, as well as the integration of the main issues facing our people. These are development finance issues, the place given to sub-national governments in managing issues such as the SDGs, youth employment and integration and sustainable development.

This forum should also be an opportunity for all the authorities from the local and regional governments to reaffirm, in a clear and precise way, that the reflection and the decisions on the future of humanity, especially on youth as the driving force of sustainable development, the financing of local development and the well-being of our people, can only be addressed by ensuring they are actively involved.

“We have all gathered here, because we want to demonstrate the important role of regional and local governments as development stakeholders to propose solutions in the governance of our societies but also on cross cutting issues”

These especially concern the political dialogue and the redefinition of the strategic orientations of the African Union - European Union partnership, cooperation between our two continents upon the expiry of the Cotonou Agreement signed between the 79 States of the ACP Group of States and the 28 countries of the European Union, as well as immigration and its disastrous consequences, sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The issue of investment in youth for a sustainable future, which is at the center of the fifth African Union-European Union Summit on November 29 and 30, 2017, should also be reflected upon in the heart of our exchanges, in view of the fact that youth is the future of our local and regional governments, our societies, our respective countries, our continents and the international community.

Distinguished representatives of regional and local governments, the international community is watching us and is expecting that we come out of this forum with specific and concrete proposals on the current main issues. There is a need for us, through the various round tables and panels as well as in the Declaration of the Local and Regional Governments, that will sanction our deliberations, to conduct fruitful reflections that can help the heads of state and government at their summit in November, in their decision making.

We, local governments, want to be credible and effective partners of central governments and international organizations. It is with these words that I would like to end my remarks. I wish fruitful deliberations to everyone.

Mr Stefano Bonaccini, President of Emilia-Romagna Region, Italy, President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and co-chair of the Forum

Honourable prime minister,
Honourable presidents of regions,
Honourable mayors and councilors of
Europe's and Africa's towns and regions
All protocol observed



I express my gratitude to your participation, particularly for those who have travelled far from Africa and Europe to be here – given voice to our local and regional governments' priorities and showing how we already contribute to sustainable development. Your presence gives this forum additional importance.

I express also my satisfaction with the fact that for the first time we are having this Africa-Europe local & regional government forum. Our continents are interdependent. At the subnational level we have been collaborating since many years and it is high time we make this visible in the context of the AU-EU partnership as well.

We are at the start of an intensive day of work that will bring us to the adoption of the local & regional governments declaration towards the heads of state. And we will deliver these messages to the summit on Wednesday morning.
Colleagues, Africa is not the cause of Europe's challenges but is part of the solution.

"The future of Africa is the future of Europe"

As representatives of Europe's towns and regions I can only stress that we are eager to contribute to this sustainable future of both continents. We are here because we believe in partnerships. Our messages today are towards the African Union and the European Union to take local and regional governments on board of their partnership as equal partners in the design of policies and programs, to listen to our voices because we have a lot of intelligence that will be needed to make any strategy for sustainable development a success. Post-truth does not work at the local level : our citizens see what is working and what is not. Our close relation with our constituents is our key contribution.

Our messages today are also towards each other. We demand the AU and EU to listen to us but we also need to listen to each other as equal partners. We will hear about concrete initiatives that are worth exchanging: Africa has its network of locally elected women (REFELA) and Europe has the Young Elected Councillors – these are initiatives at the very core of our task to make societies inclusive and we should come out of today's forum with concrete ideas that we can take from each other. Why would Europe not have a network of women mayors

or Africa a network of young people in local public life in the near future. And if the African Union and the European Union are serious about investing in youth, well I invite them to support this kind of initiatives through their joint partnership.
Colleagues,

Today we present our strength to take action. Today we also demand from the heads of states to change their traditional way of doing and to envisage a future that includes more key stakeholders in society – and evidently local governments are an intrinsic part of that.

We recall that the European Union has, on multiple occasions, recognized the role of local and regional governments as actors for development, that the African Union now also has a charter on local self-government and decentralisation but we notice subnational governments are still de-facto largely absent in political dialogues at continental levels. This, we hope will change soon now the African Union Agenda 2063, the European Consensus on Development and the UN Agenda 2030 clearly recognize the goals will not be reached without local governments actively engaged, mobilized and empowered to deliver.

The support we have received from the European Union through the framework partnership agreement it has with CEMR-PLATFORMA and UCLG-Africa and the endorsement by the African Union Commission for this first Africa-Europe local government forum is an encouraging sign and we hope to take it much further. In one year we will be joining our colleagues of UCLG-Africa in their Africities conference in Morocco to make a state of play of this process.

Finally, I recall the value and importance of partnerships. European towns and regions have a long standing tradition of what is often called decentralized cooperation, jumelages or twinnings. These have evolved strongly to become modern and equal partnerships between colleagues. Technical staff and political leaders meet and exchange. These partnerships have concrete impacts in building the governance capabilities of both partners. They merit more support in this changing landscape where on one hand public and political pressure in Europe is big to not invest public means outside of the territory and on the other hand more and more responsibilities are shifted to the cities.

These partnerships are not just anecdotal, they trigger true systemic changes at the subnational level. Such a partnership might not result in a new bridge or tunnel in a city but improves the capability of towns and regions to strategically plan and run the territory. We must insist on this as we are governing for our citizens, not just engineering the built environment of our towns and regions.

Let us not forget that any civil society or private initiative will only be truly successful and sustainable if it happens in a context governed by a capable and accountable local government. The desire to increase private sectors' role in development is understandable but we must insist today in our role to guide these processes – and in many countries it needs increased capabilities at the local level to engage with large external companies so they deliver to the benefit of all.

So colleagues, let us have an open-minded exercise today. Self-critical of what we can do and what we still need to improve. This will make our case stronger when we demand the AU-EU partnership recognized our key role and delivers on its promises to engage local governments more strongly.



Mr Cheikh Gueye, Deputy Mayor of Dakar, Representative of the President of UCLG Africa and co-chair of the Forum

We had to wait the 5th AU-EU Summit for a local and regional government's Forum to be finally recognised. In Africa we have a long tradition of gathering in the Africities Summit, which success has been confirmed since the first edition, here in Abidjan. And it will also be the case for this AU-EU Forum of local and regional governments. National governments must now acknowledge that public authority has three dimensions: national, international but also sub-national.



“National government is too small to address alone global challenges, but is too big to address local challenges”

The three levels of governance must work together. We hope that all stakeholder of the AU-EU Partnership is aware that it is through territories and through the involvement of local governments that this Partnership can successfully take roots at the grassroots level. This is the objective of the cooperation between CEMR, and UCLG Africa: the two regional sections of United Cities and Local Governments, our global association, to translate the partnership between Africa and the EU into partnership between territories. May our work be the starting point of a new era of cooperation, friendship and peace, thanks to the mobilisation of local leaders engaged in development cooperation.

Ms Birgitte Markussen, Deputy Managing Director – Africa Division, European External Action Service, Representative of HRVP Federica Mogherini



Thanked the organisers of the events for inviting the EU to be part of this opening ceremony which represents a unique opportunity of dialogue between local and regional governments of Africa and Europe, Member States of the African Union and European Union, and the AU and EU, on the eve of the AU-EU Summit.

This is the first Forum of local and regional governments and I am pleased to be in presence of so many local leaders, it highlights the commitment of local and regional governments for the AU-EU Partnership. The European union recognises the crucial role of local governments and of decentralisation processes: to make the 2030 Agenda a success it has to be implemented by civil society organisations, local governments, youth and the private sector at the local level. It is therefore critical for the EU to work closely with these stakeholders. The recently adopted

European Consensus on Development recognises the core role of local governments in achieving the 65% of 169 SDG targets that can only be reached by closely working and engaging with local and regional governments. Localising the SDGs is key to the effective implementation of the global agenda. Autonomous and accountable local governments can promote SDGs through genuine local development and the mobilisation of a wide range of local resources. Strengthening your role as local authority make sense to respond to citizens' demand, ensuring inclusion and participation, leaving no one behind.

“Your mandate goes far beyond provision of services, you are far more important”

With regards to urbanisation, your role is equally of prime importance, by 2050, 60% of the world population is expected to live in urban areas. Cities offer large amount of opportunities and challenges, for Africa, Europe and at the global level, but it requires local action. You are also the frontline of reception and integration of migrants. You play a significant strategic role for risk management and reduction in countries where you are the closest and sometimes the only form of government present at the local level.

To contribute to answering these challenges, the EU focuses on some support measures to decentralisation reforms, strengthening of local governments and ensuring the delivery of development resources. This Forum is one of the result of the continuous and strategic relationship between you local and regional governments, the EU and the regional networks from Africa and Europe, and we will continue to support such initiatives in the future. The EU also encourages decentralised cooperation, underlying the added value to implement development agendas through continuous and peer to peer learning, twinning, meetings and exchanges of experience. This type of interaction – being together face to face – cannot be replaced. Finally, I thank PLATFORMA and UCLG Africa for the initiative of this Forum, and I will be happy to hear your concrete recommendations for the AU-EU strategy.

Hon. Roger Nkodo Dang, President of the Pan African Parliament



The integration process of Africa is resolutely on the way, and notably through the work of local and regional governments who answer to the citizens' demands at the grassroots level. The pan-African parliament ensures the presidency of the governance architecture of Africa, in that respect:

“The role of Local and regional governments in strengthening the AU-EU Partnership cannot let us indifereent”

The principle of proximity as well as the 2030 Agenda, and in particular the goals 11, 12, 16 and 17, highlight the scale of the role of local governments in the building of a world that is more inclusive and solidary. This change of paradigm in the joint strategy Africa-UE of 2007 is the best way to treat Africa as one: from the most local level of governance and through a bottom-up approach. I reconfirm the availability of the pan-african parliament to support your work, and it is a pleasure to meet with you on the occasion of this Forum.

Mpho Parks Tau, President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

The message I want to share in this Forum is not new, but more vital than ever before: local and regional governments have an essential role to play in development. Without independent, politically empowered, capable and well resourced local government, development in Africa or anywhere else will simply not happen. United Cities and Local Governments call for a renewed social compact between citizens and the State to tackle inequalities at all level. Local and regional governments must be at the heart of this process, transforming normative ideals into concrete policies.

"I hope we will be systematically involved from now on"



At UCLG, we are committed to play our part in the global agenda. In this, the global north has different responsibilities than the global south, but the ties and role of local and regional governments are similar around the world. Solidarity is one of UCLG's founding principle. And it is particularly reflected through the work of UCLG Africa and CEMR. Local leadership can flourish with the adequate legal framework and resources. We therefore need a renewed commitment to decentralisation and mechanisms linking local, national and international governance and creating synergies to identify and achieve common objectives. I hope this Forum will conclude in this kind of multilevel governance, together between local and regional governments, the EU and AU. We welcome the Strategic Partnerships between the EU and associations of local and regional governments and the cooperation between the AU and UCLG Africa.

Ms Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union Commission



Ms Minata Samate Cessouma thanked the District of Abidjan and the government of Ivory Coast for their facilitation in welcoming all delegations and participants of this Forum of local and regional governments. She welcomed the participation of African and European local and regional governments to the 5th Summit of the African Union and European Union, mentioning it was an honour and pleasure to be among these representatives on the occasion of this Forum. During this event, participants will share their experience, in view of the inclusion of the local dimension in the future partnership European Union-African Union.

She greeted the opportunity offered by this Forum organised on the eve of the Summit to exchange with local and regional governments' representatives, and that her presence translates the strong commitment of the African Union to build unity and development of our continent from the territorial level. Such a development has the potential to accelerate the structural change of our continent. The priority is to build a "people-centered" Africa, a continent that leaves no one behind.

The strengthening of our two unions require the contribution of local governments and their leaders. They have demonstrated through their proximity with population their capacity to obtain concrete results in the implementation of development programmes. The Heads of States decided in their Malabo meeting, the creation of a High Council of local governments as consultative body. The effective creation of this body will complete the representation of all levels of the governance architecture. I wish this high council could be the equivalent of

the European Committee of the Regions, and that it would be operationalised as soon as possible.

“For the post-Cotonou, it will be important that the view point of local and regional government be heard and taken into consideration”

Some of the points to be discussed by the AU and EU - such as increasing the prevention and resolution of conflicts, fight against forced migration and displacements – can benefit from the action of local and regional governments. The different challenges our continents must face can also be addressed through decentralisation and governance. I seize the opportunity of this Forum to call on the States who would not have done so yet to ratify the Charter on the values and principles of decentralisation, local governance and local development. She highlighted the necessity to strengthen the capacities of local elected representatives.

In this Summit focusing on investing in Youth, we will discuss about public life, migration issues, access to energy and sustainable and inclusive development. These issues are also relevant to local and regional governments sphere of action. I invite you in particular to ramp up your efforts to support youth. Decentralised cooperation projects in favour of youth can contribute to keeping young people in their territory of origin, limiting the tragedies of migration for African youth.

This Forum prefigures the key of political dialogue the AU is wishing for. We call for a constructive dialogue between our institutions to build a partnership that reflects the expectations of our people. I wish we could come up with a roadmap for the AU-EU partnership that will contribute to effectively improve the living conditions of the population and the link between our regions. I am aware that we are writing today a new page in History and I wish full success to your work.

H.E. Mr Barnabe Dassigli, Minister for Decentralization and Local Governance, Benin, Chair of the African Union Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and decentralization.

It's an honour for me to speak here as Chair of the technical specialized committee of the African Union on public services, urban development, local governments and decentralization. This committee aims at improving public services for the population, and to promote decentralization and the role of local and regional governments in African States. Among our successes we can count two fundamental texts: the African Charter on the values and principles of public services and the Charter on the values and principles of decentralisation, local governance and local development which is going through ratification process and will become one of the reference instrument of the African Union when ratified by Member States.

“It is time to demonstrate that cities and territories play a critical role for the elaboration of policies and strategies”

The fields where this principle apply are numerous: be it climate, economic development, migration, youth, all these policy areas that you chose to debate upon in this first Forum.

Local and regional governments represent a extraordinary source of innovation and best practices, that will in turn inspire other cities through sharing experience. Together with the private sector and civil society, this Africa-Europe Forum of local and regional governments was the missing link of the AU-EU dialogue. It is now a concrete debate on life of the populations in cities and territories. The specialized technical committee n°8 is in favor of institutionalizing this Forum of local and regional governments among the official side-events, and is convinced that the conclusions of this Forum will enrich the work of the AU-EU Summit. I hope that you will be given the opportunity to present them during the Summit in two days.



Panel 1: The role of local and regional governments in fostering EU-AU Political Dialogue and Strategic Partnership

The panel was moderated by Mr **Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi**, Secretary General of UCLG Africa.

Mr Hans Janssen, Mayor of Oisterwijk, Netherlands, Member of the Committee of the Regions, member of the PLATFORMA political council

For most European mayors, Cotonou is only a faraway city. That shows an under-estimation of what the EU-ACP partnership means for the local governments in Africa and for the partnerships between European and African local and regional governments. The Cotonou agreement was one of the very first multilateral agreements that explicitly recognises the subnational governments as actors for development.

However, the PLATFORMA study that we release today shows clearly the agreement has not delivered on its promises. The reports first analyse the commitments taken in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, and most specifically on its article 4 and other provisions mentioning local governments.

The Agreement thus clearly specifies:

- Local governments should be informed and involved in consultations
- Local governments should be provided with capacity-building support
- Decentralised cooperation should be encouraged as a mean to mobilise capabilities, innovative operating methods and resources
- Local governments should be provided with financial support
- ACP countries should pursue decentralisation policies

Based on series of questionnaires and interviews it comes to the conclusions that these commitments were not efficiently delivered in all countries, and one of the reason explaining this is the lack of formal and agreed structure or mechanism for local governments involvement.

Let us not allow this to happen to the AU-EU partnership! It has become clear now that the post-Cotonou framework is taking the direction of more regional cooperation, giving even more importance to the AU-EU Partnership in this process. So, let's build on lesson learns, maintain but most of all make real the participation of local and regional governments.

We must make a strong case today and share the declaration we are to adopt at the end of our forum. We should build an action agenda and take stock in short time – not wait until the next heads-of state summit in 5 years.

We must find synergies between actions in Africa and Europe – and between actors from Africa and Europe: In this respect, PLATFORMA – the network of local and regional governments for development decentralised cooperation – will increase its contribution to coordinate European decentralised cooperation practitioners through mapping, constructing a joint narrative and concepts on how to respond to changing contexts in policies and realities. This will create an ever-stronger message to the EU development decision making fora and

a strengthened outreach to the EU Member States level. We believe it will unlock the true potential of what Europe's towns and regions can contribute.

“Peer-to-peer learning is one of the most effective and efficient avenues to build capabilities”

We must boost learning between peers: Triggering the wealth of experiences and expertise that each local government and their associations have been building in both Europe and Africa is having a significant leverage effect to reaching the sustainable development goals.

On behalf of the PLATFORMA coalition VNG International has piloted the [CONNECT initiative](#) to facilitate the exchange of municipal experiences to the benefit of increased local capabilities to deliver on the sustainable development goals. We have seen how this has been a catalyst for change at the local level and we hope the AU-EU partnership can endorse and support an impactful roll-out of this initiative.



Ms Linda McAvan, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Development

Before being elected as an MEP I worked in a local government, in coal-mining town in the north of England that was devastated by the closing of mines. To cope with the many challenges of this situation we needed money to help us rebuild structures and attract new jobs in our town, and we needed ideas. For the money, we went to the European Union where there is a system for redistributing money to poor regions, and the EU set a special programme for coal-mining areas so we get assistance through this programme. But what helped us as much as money was to exchange ideas with other cities of the areas. We therefore created a network of coal-mining regions for all of Europe.

“I am passionate about local governments”

We discussed this morning about SDGs, and in the new European Consensus on Development there is specific part highlighting the importance of local and regional governments. But in the next few months we will start to put down the next 7 years programme and I would like to see some commitments to put local and regional governments as real actors of this programme. We have to make sure cities get the capacities to implement and deliver projects on youth, climate change, etc.

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the post-Cotonou in which we put emphasis on the role of local governments. Now the EU has to put on the table its plans for the post-Cotonou and then the negotiation will open between States. I will not forget local governments at that moment, and African colleagues must push as well during these negotiations.

Mr Väino Reinart, Undersecretary for External Economic Policy and Development Cooperation, Estonia, Presidency of the Council of the European Union

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda requires the involvement of local and regional governments;

“Local and regional governments represent the citizens therefore we have to take on board their opinions”

The Estonian Presidency considers that both the EU and the AU are unique entities. We are well aware in Europe of the difference between places and territories, these differences have to be taken into account. But the Presidency represents the whole Union, and we have been able to take into account the different region's specificities, and we encourage African colleagues to promote as well their regional interest.

Ms Jeanne d'Arc Kagayo, Ministre of local development of Burundi, Member of the Bureau of the technical committee n°8 of the African Union

It is difficult to understand why, since its adoption in 2014, the African Union charter on Principles and values of public services, local governments and decentralisation still have not been signed by all the Member States, while we all agree to promote decentralisation in our national policy, throughout our national strategies. At some point the States seem to be afraid, but as a member of government of Republic of Burundi I am proud to say that Burundi is among the three Member States that have already ratified this Charter. For more than a decade now,

“Decentralisation brings citizens closer to the decision-making processes”

African States have undergone a modernisation process that goes through decentralisation. The ratification process of the Charter must take steps forward so that there would be norms and strong commitments from Member States for advancing decentralisation. I call on all African Union Member States to take these steps forward. I am myself committed to decentralisation and to advocate towards other Member States for the ratification of this Charter.

Mr. Mohamed Boudra, Mayor of Al-Hoceima, President of the Moroccan association of Presidents of Local councils.

It is within a territory that we can assess of the success or failure of a national policy. It is at the territorial level that we can see the concrete results of reduction of poverty, increased school enrolment, avoiding radicalisation. So I hope the recommendations we are making today will be heard.

“Europe needs Africa and Africa needs Europe, but both Europe and Africa needs local governments”



Panel 2: The role of local and regional governments in fostering EU-AU Political Dialogue and Strategic Partnership

The panel was moderated by **Mr. Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions**. He explained that the objective of this second panel was to enrich the political dialogue with the concrete experience of African and European local and regional governments. This panel is dedicated to best practices that contribute to the objectives of the Joint Africa-Europ Strategy (JAES), demonstrating how synergies are possible and how these best practices contribute to the development of our local and regional governments. The themes that will be addressed are: women and youth empowerment.



Ms Koseiyti Odette, Member of the Networks of Locally Elected Women of Africa (REFELA)

On the occasion of Women's day in 2017, the United Nations Secretary General said that women's participation in the active population, offers unprecedented opportunities for growth. A woman works day and night, even when she has no formal job. Women have a lot of daily challenges, and involvement in public life is yet another challenge.

"Without women's participation, public policies will not deliver"

It is not because women are unwilling, it is because they lack time and support. We need both men and women for development. Women must participate to changes as actor and not as observers. And this has to be translated in legal dispositions.

Ms Jocelyne Bougeard, Deputy Mayor of Rennes (France), representative of AFCCRE, member of PLATFORMA Political Council

Between Europe and Africa, but also within Europe and Africa, we have different cultures, different histories different structures, but we also have universal rights. And these rights require strong individual and political commitments. Indeed there are still discrimination and violence, education and training deficiencies.

I strongly believe in the capacities of networks of local governments to be dynamic about these challenges.

“The European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life has more than 1500 signatories, local and regional governments of all sizes”

10 years after its signature in 2007, we have elaborated a guidebook to promote mainstreaming gender equality and gender sensitivity throughout all aspects of public life. One can find concrete examples in many areas. Some articles also concern development cooperation, but the overall principles could very well apply and be disseminated in African countries. What is missing now is the willingness to implement it, and to assess our results through evaluations. At all level development cooperation and aid must be delivered under the condition that it will benefit women as much as men.

Mr Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), suggested to continue advancing on this issue, and together with the UCLG committee on equality, towards the creation of a universal charter of equality between women and men, that would include together the challenges of representativity, of public policies in favour of equality, but also mentioning cooperation between local and regional governments on this issue. We could work on this Charter together with African Union and the European Union and their Member States, with UN Women

The proposal was positively welcomed by Mrs Koseiyti Odette and Mrs Jocelyne Bougeard, however Ms Koseiyti Odette highlighted that the tools are not missing, but what is really needed is the effective implementation of existing tools.

Ms Linda Hes, Councillor of Castricum, Netherlands, Representative of YELAC network of young local elected practitioners

I would like to share with you my experience as young local leader and as participant to the YELAC project. When I was first elected as councillor it took me several days just to understand how it works, how politics and administration work. And with the YELAC programme I got to know better how the EU works and what are the concrete impact of EU

legislation in my country. I got the bigger picture. I also learned about the different challenges of local politics in other European countries. But maybe most importantly, I got to meet with other young representatives. It was important to exchange, especially because as a young local elected representative, it is not always easy to conciliate this with private life. Also, other established politicians tried to use the fact that I was young and new in politics. And I also had to find a way to fulfill both my public life commitments as councillor and also to combine another professional life after my studies. These are all kind of challenges that could discourage young people from actively stepping in in political life.

*“When youth is not represented in local public life,
it is also bad for democracy”*

Ms Therese Faye Diouf, Mayor of the Diarrere Local Government, Senegal.

Youth needs to be motivated, trained, and political parties must put forward inter-generational solidarity, it has to be reflected in local governments as well, otherwise, youth participation will keep on decreasing.

“Youth participation must be regarded as a priority”

Especially with regards to the recent demographic trends, migration and abuses such as what we saw in Libya, the issues of unemployment. And local governments are the closest governance level to their citizen and therefore they must find mechanisms and policies to keep youth within their territories. And it also needs concrete projects targeted at youth.

Mr Jean-Marie Tetart, Mayor of Houdan, France, representative of Cités Unies France

In France we have decentralized cooperation partnerships that have been active for more than 40 years. In France the way we live decentralized cooperation, is not only a punctual expertise project, a training, an internship. It is rather a longer-term adventure, where we try together to change or build something. Indeed, so far this mostly happened in the developing country, and indeed the “hardware” dimension is very often present. But the trend is to go towards improved service, improved local management and contribute to strengthening the capacities of cities and regions. All this with progressively including gender equality and youth inclusion issues.

We now have the Sustainable Development Goals, and contrary to the previous Millennium Development Goals, the SDGs are not limited to developing countries, it applies to our municipalities also in Europe. SDG targets are relevant for South cities as well as for North cities.

“Through our decentralised cooperation, we must make progress together on all SDGs, so that by 2030 they will be reached for the two partners”

The international community, and the European Union in particular must therefore acknowledge that local and regional governments are the engine of Sustainable Development, in Europe and in Africa. The finance must also specifically enable long-term action, a local government' sustainable development strategy cannot constantly adapt to punctual calls for proposals.

It is also time to have an evaluation of what works and what does not work, of what is decentralized cooperation and what is not. For instance, decentralized cooperation can also be a tool for development education, fostering inclusive societies where citizens become themselves actors and engine of development cooperation.

Ms Macoura Dao, Mayor of Fombelo, Côte d'Ivoire, Member of the Bureau of the Union of cities and towns of Cote d'Ivoire, Member of the board of the network of locally elected women of Africa (REFELA), Winner 2017 of the excellency prize Alassane Ouattara of the best local elected representative of Cote d'Ivoire.

Initiatives for women and youth, in particular training and access to jobs are the key, this is why I opened in my municipality a manioc cooperative run by women.

Regarding decentralised cooperation our key challenge is access to funding and access to information. For instance, myself, as a mayor of a small municipality, I never heard before about the Cotonou agreement of 2000 and the ongoing negotiation towards a post Cotonou agreement.

“A local government is the place where development implementation and programme evaluation is best experienced, yet mayors are often not involved”

A local government is the place where development and programme evaluation is best experienced, yet mayors are often not involved. I call on the AU and the EU in their cooperation negotiations to take on board concretely and officially local and regional governments, so that they become truly actors of development.

Ms Monica Barni, Vice President Tuscany Region (Italy), member of PLATFORMA political council

There are two key factors for successful cooperation, first is the involvement of the different territorial stakeholder in our international action. For instance, local governments of Tuscany Region as well as NGOs are involved in our support to decentralisation process in Burkina Faso and Senegal, providing partner local governments with juridical capacities and supporting the civil society in participatory democracy processes. We are also undertaking similar actions in Tunisia to support the difficult but necessary administrative decentralisation reform. And in this cooperation, it is the Sienna University that supports the Tunisian experts who are in charge to define the new national law aimed at conferring power to local authorities.

“The second key factor for success is awareness that the localisation of SDGs is the essential condition for their proper implementation”

Mr Touzi Ahmed, Vice-President, Region of Marrakech-Safi (Morocco)

The Region of Marrakech-Safi is opened to equal-to-equal partnerships both with European cities and other African cities. We have many partnerships with other regions in Africa.

“Partnership is never about lecturing the partner, but rather about sharing the best from both territories”

In this regard one key dimension is support to regional elected representatives and territorial civil servants so as to train the future elite of Africa.

We all mentioned series of international agreements, from the SDGs to the Paris Agreement for Climate, all these instruments must be implemented at the local level. It is the States who decided their NDCs, but the climate action to deliver these NDCs must be conducted at the local level, indeed municipalities are at the frontline when it comes to facing the consequences of natural climate related disasters. This is why local governments should get access to the Green Fund so that they would be able to implement the necessary adaptation and mitigation policies.

Panel 3: Financing local development

Mr Paolo Ciccarelli, Head of Unit Cities, Local Authorities, digitalization and infrastructure, Directorate General for international cooperation and development, European Commission

I would like to focus my intervention on presenting to you the European Investment Plan (EIP), as you know it has been put in place last year but it has been a challenging process to make it fully operational, which will be announced at the AU-EU Summit tomorrow.

This Plan is made of 3 main pillars: 1) investments; 2) technical assistance; 3) Policy dialogue. The first investment pillar aims at ensuring private sector investments, especially in those areas where the private sector would otherwise not invest because it is deemed too risky. The guarantee that will be launched tomorrow will cover sectors of energy and connectivity, digitalization, agriculture, small and medium size enterprises and sustainable cities. More specifically on sustainable cities it should benefit cities directly so that to enable local authorities to access credits.

"Beyond investment opportunities, the investment pillar of the EIP targetted at sustainable cities will also include capacity building to increase municipalities' capacities to secure direct access to financing"

So far, the EU has mostly support cities through national government's sovereign loans. With this guarantee we open new avenues for municipalities to get access to private investments for their infrastructure projects. The system will work through call for proposals launched beginning o December and targeted at financing institutions (e.g. AFD, GIZ). Those financing institutions will provide us with financial products and suggestions of countries and themes where they want to work. In a second phase they will more clearly define the activities. These financing institutions will create the link with the private sector. Therefore, local authorities who are interested should start engaging with financing institutions and European delegation in their country. The first contact for a mayor should be the EU delegation.

Ms Maria Shaw Barragan, Director, Global Operations, European Investment Bank

The EIB is investing 8 billion euros – 10% of its activities outside of the EU. One area of investment in particular is addressing the effects of climate change.

To be efficient, investment need planning and has to be integrated, putting together the different strands of investment.

"Investment need financing and one essential source of financing is taxes for local services"

For this you must analyse what is the right and affordable price of the service for its users.

Some concrete examples of EIB activities: In 2017, the EIB financed a project for clean water and sanitation in Bamako. We are now signing a project in Angola that will improve access to clean water in 9 municipalities. We are also working here in Abidjan on a project to improve access to water. We also work a lot on urban transports, mainly financing rapid bus transit lanes, putting cars off the roads and enhancing social inclusion, especially for women through transport.

How does it work? Through the ministries of finance or ministries in charge of local governments. The loan will first go to the national government – it works the same way within the EU. That way the central government can control the debt of the local governments, but the city implementing the project in the end gives its agreement for the investment project.

All the EIB activities are enshrined within the EU-ACP Cotonou Partnership Agreement framework.

M. Tshepo Ntsimane, Head Metros, Intermediate Cities & Water Boards, Client Coverage Division Investments; Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)

Outside of South Africa, we lend to sovereign states interested to invest in development. In South Africa, municipalities are created by the Constitution, which require a number of supportive pieces of legislation for those 259 municipalities, metros and districts.

“The legislative framework in South Africa creates a conducive environment for both state owned and private sector investments in local governments”

In particular the Municipal Finance Management Act was created to provide confidence for investments in local governments. 4 metros are borrowing about 2 billion \$ through issuance of bonds, and this is allowed by the legislative certainty. This is why a conducive legislative environment is key for securing investments in municipalities. We also realised that capacity of local governments is equally a very important issue to ensure bankable projects.

Ms Kalev Härk, Councillor of Valga, Estonia, Member of PLATFORMA political Council

As local and regional governments we have to be as efficient as we can, because responsibilities have to be shared. In Estonia we can discuss with the State the money that goes to local governments. But Estonia is also a newcomer in the EU and for us as well as for developing municipalities in Africa, exterior investment remains very important.

A suggestion I will make for the European Commission and the European Investment Bank would be to look for increased flexibility depending on the different local governments they are interested to invest in. You also have to properly understand their needs: not only money but also easier regulation. It is also very important to keep working with all kinds of municipalities independently of how big they are, to provide opportunities for all, leaving no one behind. In Europe it is also smaller cities that are growing the faster.

Decentralised cooperation is an easy way to collect knowledge and extra competencies. PLATFORMA, the network representing about 100 000 European municipalities that have different knowledge and experience dealing with investment for city development.

“The power of cooperation is huge. We must look at all municipalities one by one, leaving them all development opportunities windows”

Mr Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio, President ARDCI, Former Prime Minister, Côte d'Ivoire

In Côte d'Ivoire, the State dedicates about 2% of its budget to regions which is derisory in regards of the infrastructure needs. We are now expecting a strong directive by the WAEMU (UEMOA) to bind its Member States should dedicate 20% of their budget to decentralisation and local governments.

There is also a law to allow local governments to engage in decentralised cooperation with local and regional governments from the North., but most of development investment comes from development agencies such as AFD. For instance, the project Ecoterre aims at enhancing together agriculture, economy and environment for the development of rural territories. 8 regions benefit from 29.5 billion CFA francs on the basis of poorest regions.

“The associations of local and regional governments are the privileged interlocutors because they have a clear mapping of the different territories and their needs”

They can make the link between municipalities and regions and international development donors so that donors or investors can target funding most efficiently to increase the wealth and attractiveness of these territories.

Mr. Bruno Leclerc, Director of the French development Agency (AFD) in Abidjan

AFD is conducting different kind of activities that can benefit local and regional governments:

- Loans to national governments for them to invest in structural investment for final beneficiaries in the territories

- Loans through intermediaries such as municipal development funds (eg. In Ghana the district development fund)
- Direct loans to a local or regional government, without State guarantee: if a city has stable finances, a good business plan and reimbursement capacities (eg. Dakar, Ouagadougou). AFD is the only development agency to do this kind of direct loans.
- Subventions in countries where we don't do loans, that can be accessible to local governments. E.g. FICOL (financing facility for French local governments) can finance decentralized cooperation projects; the CICLIA financing facility also aims at financing mutually beneficial climate projects for 20-25 cities by 2020, through technical support and studies to work with cities on climate, particularly on adaptation.
- Debt relief and development contracts to convert the debt into a subvention (e.g. Ecoterre in Côte d'Ivoire) to foster public and private investments from the economic, development and environment territorial development plans. Some concrete examples are the urban markets in Bouaké and Yopougon or the project of revamping development of the poorest districts of Abidjan.
- Technical assistance and trainings: strengthening capacities through a training center on planning, services, finance management: many cities send their officers to benefit from these trainings.

For the future we have to think of new financing resources, for instance how to use the diaspora funds – that are superior to development aid funds – to finance local development.

“Any good project will find a financier”



Thematic roundtable 1 – Climate action

Co-chairs:

- **Mr Mohamed Sefiani**, Mayor of Chefchaouen and Member of the Executive Committee of the Global Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy;
- **Mr Ronan Dantec**, Senator, France, President Climate Chance

Experts:

Ms Marianne Overton, CEMR spokesperson on Environment, Vice Chair of LGA England and Wales

Good Afternoon. Dear Colleagues, it is very good to see so many of you have chosen this session on climate change, the biggest long-term issue facing our shared future. Translation difficulties aside, I hope you will share with me in seeking solutions and opportunities, working locally for a better future.

Personally, I am a living part of the AU-EU. Africa and Europe are both part of me, as my birth and childhood was in Kenya and South Africa and I am now in London and Lincolnshire, in England. I am Vice Chairman of the Association of Local Government representing 350 authorities across England and Wales and a member of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, spokesperson on Environment matters.

For twenty years, I worked in remote wildlife areas of Malawi and was pleased to meet their representative earlier today. I took groups of volunteers from Europe to help with anti-poaching patrols and contribute to the nation's records of biodiversity. That helped establish the significance of the Wildlife areas and to bring a step change in resources and their protection. It was a joy to see the game populations better protected and flourishing with many young. So I see that as part of development, a country is well served to protect and benefit from on those living natural resources that identify it as so special.

I am going to talk on three things; 1. To share some ideas, 2. To promote the Covenant of Mayors of sub-Saharan Africa be signed this evening and 3. to share tools and financial opportunities.

Firstly, some ideas from my own Municipality, which we call a Council. Our Councils have pension funds for staff. We have pooled them into one big pot, which adds up to £46bn. That is a lot of money. We have agreed to use a percentage of it to support innovations that help reduce climate change. This is a fast-growing industry of new inventions that we need to support and we see it also makes financial sense. Secondly, our Council owns around 2,000 houses for rent. We have put solar panels on the rooves, so tenants pay little or nothing for their heating, lifting hundreds of families out of fuel poverty. In my home county, Lincolnshire, we no longer throw any waste into landfill. We reuse all the materials, currently 50pc recycled and the remainder converted to energy. In addition, our Council encouraged and achieved a power station using locally grown biofuels which provides not only renewable

electricity but also free heat for our public swimming pool. We met our targets for reducing CO2 emissions, two years early.

Local and regional government can achieve a great deal to reduce climate change and improve their finances at the same time. As a result, local and regional government is now recognised by the national and international community for its role in climate change. At their summit in Bonn, the COP23 supported our declaration, adopted by local and regional leaders. Local and Regional government is a key consulted on European Legislation. New EU external programmes focus on actions at local level, such as the Global Climate Change Alliance.

Our 2015 Covenant of Mayors, extended later today to include the Sub-Saharan countries, is a unique ground-up approach. 7,600 local authorities are invited to develop action plans and direct investment towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. Thus, thousands of local and regional authorities are voluntarily committing to implementing the EU climate and energy objectives in their home areas. The covenant commits to submitting a sustainable energy and action plan, within two years. A baseline emission inventory is the measure of the starting point and reporting occurs every two years after that.

The climate risk and vulnerability assessment help identify priorities in the plan. These signatories plan to deliver almost a third of the EU's 2020 climate target, equivalent to 240m tons of carbon dioxide. So how is this done? More energy efficient buildings, electricity from renewable sources, and lower carbon public transport systems. And the result? Places that are better to inhabit, with cleaner air, less traffic congestion and more affordable, healthier homes. So, we have clear financial advantages from using energy that is cleaner and more efficiently used.

We can achieve little in isolation. So, the Covenant of Mayors is going global. To support the Mayors of Sub-Saharan Africa to get their own programmes to combat climate change, there is a new EU programme, outlined by the European Commissioner this morning. (Ref: Director General for International Cooperation and Development DEVCO). City to City, region to region, it is a great opportunity to share, learn and strengthen each other, learning from our successes and making sure it is only the successes that are replicated. Thus, we can move more rapidly to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement for Climate Change. There are many examples of decentralised cooperation on the environment, waste and water management and on tackling climate change.

To take two examples; Firstly, in Wales in the U.K., we have the Wales for Africa joint programme with Mable in Uganda, the Mbale coalition against Poverty, working on health, livelihoods and fair trade, gender, environment, climate change and education. Through this project, 4.2 m trees have been planted and 10,000 fair trade workers assisted of which half are women. This involved beehive and goat projects as well as enhancing the quality of coffee and developing the market to achieve higher prices. A second example is from the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. They are supporting capital grants to develop resilience in the small island developing states that are most at risk in climate change.

CEMR, PLATFORMA and partners are co-piloting two multi-stakeholder coalitions, one on the circular economy and one on the decentralised co-operation between regions and cities. These create opportunities for exchanges of people, for dialogue, and sharing innovations. As you know, climate change has no passport. The effects of our local actions are global. It is the industrialised countries that have been the biggest contributors of greenhouse gases, but we cannot afford to replicate our mistakes of the past. Africa has a largely less favourable financial position, so all the more reason to build on the experiences of our cities and regions to limit the impact on the environment and to prepare for changes ahead. The launch of the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa and the increasing attention to climate issues at the local level across the world through PLATFORMA, are initiatives that the EU should support more intensively. The action is local, but the effect is global.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage all colleagues, all locally elected representatives to consider how we can create bridges of international cooperation on climate mitigation and adaptation, working at local level across our two continents. Finally, thank you for listening and for your thoughts. The world is global and nothing can be achieved in isolation. It is only when we work together that we succeed. Let's pull together to protect this beautiful world we share and to improve the lives of our peoples. I look forward to hearing your ideas and discussions.

Mr Victor Odaga, Council of Governors, Kenya

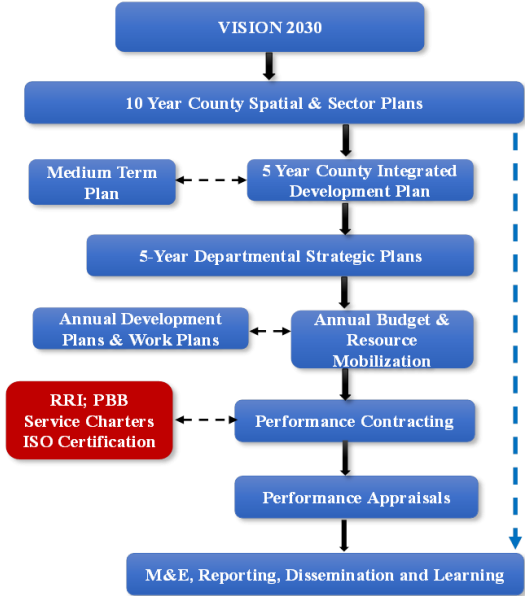
Environment has been identified as a key sector in realization of Kenya's Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals. In 2016, the Government continued to institute and enforce policy and legal measures that govern the management, conservation and exploitation of natural resources.;

The Council of Governors was established under section 19 of the Intergovernmental Relations Act 2012 (IGRA), to provide for a forum of consultation for the forty-seven County Governments as created by the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The objectives are: Sharing information on the performance of the counties in the execution of their functions with the objective of learning and promotion of best practice; Considering matters of common interest to county governments; Dispute resolution between counties within the framework provided under the Inter-Governmental Relations Act (IGRA).

The CoG devolved functions with relations to environment: Fourth schedule of the constitution 2010 devolved the following sectors and functions to the county governments: Refuse removal, Refuse dumps and solid waste disposal, Control of air pollution, Noise pollution, Other public nuisances and outdoor, Water management systems and water and sanitation services; Disaster management. County governments are also to implement specific national government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation, including soil and water conservation and forestry

Kenya and by extension the counties have in the last few years come face to face with the impacts of climate change corresponding to socio economic losses. Between 1990 and 2010, Kenya lost an average of 12,050 ha or 0.32% per year. In total, between 1990 and 2010, Kenya lost 6.5% of its forest cover, or around 241,000 ha. The constitution requires for maintenance of at least 10% tree cover. At the moment 7.1% or about 4,467,000 ha of Kenya is forested. The county Governments Act 2012 further provides for planning: "county governments shall plan within a framework that integrates economic, physical social environmental and spatial planning.

The counties should further protect and develop natural resources in a manner that aligns national and county government policies". Prolonged droughts, flooding and rising temperatures have had a negative impact in the agriculture sector, drastically reducing food production in the country. Impacts on health include increased vector-borne and malarial diseases while the roads have severally been gradually spoilt due to extreme weather conditions like flooding or increased temperatures.



How to mainstream Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in County Planning. This is in spatial plans, county integrated development plans, sectoral plans. Emphasis on resilience, rather than disaster response and recovery is now a mainstream idea in disaster reduction'. A county government shall, in development, updating and approval of the County Integrated Development Plan, and the County Sectoral Plans mainstream the implementation of the National Climate Change Action Plan, taking into account national and county priorities.

Kisumu County has set up a department on Green Energy and Climate Change. The department: Coordinates and controls implementations of Green Energy and Climate Change interventions; Integrating and mainstreaming of Green Energy and Climate Change interventions into other programs; Implements climate change mitigation and adaptation interventions.

The projects that were successfully initiated to enhance LED and mitigate climate Change are: Solar installation in small village markets, streets and schools; School Hub project aimed at empowering class eight children to extend hours of learning and teachers to get radio news and TV news.; Biogas for schools to provide clean energy and support lunch for nursery children (pith kochiel, masogo, odiyanya, kobura and ochok primary); Community solar lighting to extend trade hours in markets, e.g Holo Market; Biotechnology centre – ongoing.

On the biogas for schools to provide clean energy and support lunch for ECDE pupils: \$ 10 billion a year is spent on kerosene in sub-Saharan Africa alone to illuminate homes, workplaces and community areas. Globally, the figure has been put at \$ 36 billion

(International Finance Corporation) Every year worldwide, poor households spend \$37 billion on kerosene for lighting, biomass for cooking, and other unsustainable and unhealthy fuels. Kisumu county ECDE schools serve as representative of the high dependence of most learning institutions in Kenya on biomass - firewood, charcoal, straw and crop residues - as a source of energy. Until recently, 1000 mature trees were felled every year to provide cooking fuel for 5 schools in Kisumu, at a cost of about KES 2,000,000 (USD 20 000)-

These resources could be used for other better purposes. Biogas technology, installed by the county is now providing a clean source of cooking fuel and energy for cooking, replacing kerosene or firewood and preserving the environment. Average firewood consumption per month per school was estimated at 5000 Kgs and 2220 Kgs before and after installation of biogas respectively This translated into monthly net reduction of 2780 Kgs (55.6%). Charcoal consumption also reduced significantly at 83.9%, with use of biogas. Financial savings on fuel expenditure which is composed of both fire wood expenditure and kerosene has averaged KES. 10,000 per school totaling KES 600,000 per year across the 5 schools.

This savings has ultimately been cascaded to the household level where the money has gone back to local pockets and is being used to pay school fees, construct better houses, buy food and make investment by the citizens. Slurry from the plant provides an excellent fertilizer that has increased the productivity of the school farm. This means additional saving as the school consumes its own farm produce instead of buying from the market; help needy students in the school. Reduced expenditure on household farm fertilizer- acquired freely from the biogas slurry.

Initiatives taken by other counties to mitigate climate change and promote LED: Isiolo- tested a model for devolved County Adaptation Fund to access global climate fund to enhance production of solar and wind energy; Makueni- County has made progress by allocating 1% of its total development budgetary cost on climate change; Marsabit- Over 50% of the population depends on relief food. Due to persistent drought, livestock and human diseases, development resources are diverted to take care of emergencies arising these disasters. The CIDP therefore emphasizes on strategies which include water harvesting techniques, exploitation and utilization of other sources of energy.

Way Forward: Need for a lot of lobbying at the County level with the support of the Climate change directorate from national level-political lobbying through COG; Capacity building for the community. This is geared towards attitude change; Participation in CIDP development; Lobby for more allocation through public budget forums and legislation of County Climate Change policy; Support by the National Directorate and COG to enhance the County Climate Change directorates or units.

Thematic roundtable 2 – Migration and human mobility

Co-chairs:

- **Mr Andreas Wolter**, Vice Mayor of Köln, Germany
- **Mr Anacko Mohamed**, President of the Region of Agadez, President of the Association of the Regions of Niger

Experts:

- **Mr Hans Janssen**, Mayor of Oisterwijk, member of the CoR
- **Mr Marcel Baglo**, Beninese Agency for Integrated Border Management

1. When we think about migration we tend to forget that there is also a big migration flow inside Africa itself. Some country in Africa need a lot of workforce, as some others have workforce qualified but no employment opportunities. For example, Egypt has a lot of medical doctors unemployed in the country as Nigeria is in need of this profession. Another example is linked with the problem of agriculture, a good majority of countries have a great percentage of young people leaving the countryside and jobs in the area of agriculture and prefers to tend their chance in urban areas. It is the case in Gabon that has a lot of fertile land but don't have the workforce to exploit the soil. So, the country is obliged to import food products from his neighborhood or from outside of Africa.

The migration to Europe is another issue for which solutions has to be found as soon as possible. Migrants leaving Africa are generally young people with qualification but often if they can make it to Europe they don't have access to their job areas as their diploma or experience is not recognize.

2. The main reason to migration his poverty in the country that is also linked to climate change. Migration is a global matter, if nothing is done to reduce the climate change people will still losing their job and the migration flow will get better. If there were good job opportunities to be found, not so many people would try to migrate to other places. It is also a loss for the country when qualified people leave to other places as they don't have the opportunity to develop their own nation.
3. Dialogues between local African governments should be reinforced to structure migration flow internally. Solution like creating an African platform with cities that already created initiatives in that matter, could be a first step. Giving the opportunity to all African citizens to travel within the all African continent as European citizens can do in Europe would also help to avoid illegal migration. To avoid the investment for local development to disappear into corruption maybe we should look into investing directly with local governments and region. At the European level, legalizing the migration and make it formal is another step to make migration more human.

Thematic roundtable 3 – Local Economic Development

Co-chairs:

- **Mr Sunday Hanson Amaechi**, Vice-President Association of Local Governments of Nigeria
- **Mr David Simmonds**, Vice-Chair of the Local Governments Association of England and Wales

Experts:

- **Mr Luc Martens**, Mayor of Roeselare, Vice-President CEMR
- **Mr Philipp Heinrigs**, Senior Economist, Sahel and West Africa Secretariat / OECD

The city of Roeselare in Belgium has a long-standing relation to the community of Dogbo (Benin). One of the main axes of work and exchange in the partnership has been the upgrading of the local market space as engine to local economic development. Therefore the infrastructure and sanitary upgrading has been accompanied by exchanges on local policies and campaigns to engage the market traders of whom many are part of the informal economy. As such the partnership has led to upgrading the service delivery of Dogbo community, the quality of the market services and the way the municipality engages with the market traders and the citizens alike. The topic of local economic development proved a very effective field of action to impact citizens' lives as well as change local governance practices.

Mr. Heinrigs shared the findings of an OECD research project on food production and trading as main economic activities in West-Africa – representing 66% of the formal and informal employment in the region. A World Bank report shows that food manufacturing stands out as the most important contributor to [formal] value added and the second biggest contributor to [formal] employment. (...) While the share of firms in the agribusiness sector was only 4% in 2012 it generated 18% of jobs. These jobs are changing together with the fast urbanisation of the region, decreasing the relative share of agriculture jobs in the food economy.

The OECD work shows that food system transformations create large new employment opportunities and the food system, including local, rural-urban and urban dimensions should become central to any local economic development strategy. Policies should be geared at reducing barriers to social and economic opportunities stemming from the food sector – recognising also the dimension of the informal economy. Meanwhile, investments should focus on connectivity, infrastructure, rural and urban public services (particularly in small towns and cities) to create incentives for private sector investment. For this the local governments should be endowed the appropriate resources and autonomy to act.

Thematic roundtable 4 – Youth Empowerment

Co-chairs:

- **Mr Guy-Michel Chauveau**, Mayor of la Flèche, France
- **Mr Lima Dos Santos Ekeneide**, Mayor of Acqua Grande, President of the Association of Mayors of Sao Tome e Principe

When we engage in partnership in another country we always keep youth as a priority. As Federica Mogherini highlighted, this is the first Summit that specifically addresses youth and that instituted a group of young leaders from AU and EU countries: the AU-EU Youth Plug In Initiative, who have been joining our debates today.

Experts:

Ms Linda Hes, Councillor of Castricum, member of the YELAC project, a project to invite young local elected representatives, women and men (under 35) to exchange on their experience of young European local decision maker. She asked local leaders present in the room how they get young people involved in local politics. She particularly emphasised the difficulty to interest young people when they are pursuing secondary or university education, or when they start searching for a job. It is very difficult as a young local leader to conciliate the local mandate, the first professional experiences and the youth social life. Young people are interested but we need to help them to find time and support them. She started when 19 years old and it has been 8 years since she is engaged in local politics.

Mr Tagro Lazare, Coordinator of Youth Service Platform, Agneby-Tiassa Region, working especially on employment of youth. A steering committee involving young people, women and other civil society organisations was settled. The city's strategy was to build on this platform of services to insert young professionals (18 to 40 years old) in all employment areas of the territory. The city contributes financially to this project together with AFD and ADB. The funds allowed for instance the creation of a municipal computer room for young people to be able to access job offers online. The programme also includes training between 6 months to 2 years, but the resulting professional insertion is sustainable and long lasting. The result is 251 young people inserted in self-employment and 547 creations of jobs.

The exchange of experiences revealed that some other regions or municipalities had various experiences to empower youth and foster young people professional insertions e.g. loans for young people of the village to finance a specific project, that they reimburse when it has been successful. In Dakar there is a municipal development fund to create a business incubator together with the city of Marseille, France. Dakar also works with the FAO and the city of Milano to enable young women to live on micro-gardening at home and supporting agriculture in peri-urban areas. This project allows young women to both grow their own food but also to sell it. Chefchaouen in Morocco also put in place an innovative project in the framework of a decentralised cooperation with Barcelone city. a simulated enterprise to

allow young people to have a first training for professional activity. This training includes 2 months of theoretical learning and 10 months for practical learning.

Mr Guy Michel Chauveau raised the question on how to raise young people interest for local public life. Some municipal council organize youth councils were young people become spokesperson for their district or school. Yet is it sufficient to keep young people involved in the municipal life. Most of the times young people migrate to another city for university studies and it is not given that they would later come back to their home town. He also suggested that the international exchanges of youth fostered by European civil service be implemented also between cities so that cities will also benefit from young people willing to engage in local public life abroad.

To conclude, **Ms Julija Humar**, one of the youth fellow of the AU-EU Youth Plug In initiative from Slovenia also shared her personal experience as young politician. She intends on running for Parliament office in June and her advice to the local governments is to involve and raise the awareness of young people in local political life. Young people also need to see new faces in the political scene to understand change is possible and that they can shape it. She also introduced the participants to the activities of the AU-EU youth fellows.



The AU-EU Local & Regional Government forum concluded with the Secretary generals of UCLG-Africa Mr Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi and of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions Mr Frederic Vallier bringing together the main conclusions and outcomes and receiving the mandate to present the common messages to the AU-EU Heads of state summit.

The Abidjan declaration was adopted by the participating local leaders and formally handed over to Sidiki Diakité, Minister of Home Affairs and Security, Côte d'Ivoire.



Annex 1: DECLARATION OF THE AFRICA-EUROPE LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS' FORUM

We, as leaders of local and regional governments of the Member States of the African Union and of the European Union, meeting on 27 November 2017 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on the side-line of the 5th EU-Africa Summit of Heads of State and Government of the two regions, address this declaration to the institutions and Member States of the Africa Union and European Union:

OUR APPRECIATION ON TODAY'S CONTEXT:

- **Considering** the importance of developing and maintaining a structured and continuous dialogue at the highest level between Europe and Africa, through the organisation of African Union/European Union Summits;
- **Given** the changes that have occurred in recent years in the political environment at the level of each region and globally, as well as the multiple crises affecting both Africa and Europe;
- **Considering** that it is more than ever necessary to give a new impetus and greater ambition to the AU-EU political partnership, to bring shared, innovative and sustainable solutions to the increasingly complex challenges and issues faced today and tomorrow;
- **Recalling** that the AU/EU Summit in Abidjan in 2017 takes place at a key moment in the history of the two regions, particularly the reintegration of Morocco within the African Union, and the opening of discussions on the Post Cotonou Agreement which shall provide an overall guiding framework for the Africa/Europe relations from 2020 onwards;
- **Given the commitments** of African Union Heads of State and Government in favour of decentralisation as expressed by the adoption of the African Charter of the Values and principles of decentralisation, local governance and local development, and the creation of the High Council of local authorities as consultative body of the African Union, during the Malabo Conference in Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014;
- **Given the commitments** expressed in the European Charter of local self-government, as well as European Union's recognition of the role of local governments within the international cooperation and development policies expressed in the 2008 Communication "Local authorities: actors of development" and the 2013 Communication "Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes";
- **Aware** that every country and region of the world must now enshrine their policies and strategies within the frameworks of the major regional and global agendas, in particular within the African Union's Agenda 2063, the new European Consensus on Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the New Urban Agenda;

- **Convinced** that to be strong and sustainable, and to concretely impact people's lives, the EU-Africa political partnership must include, mobilise and create synergies between all relevant actors at the different levels of governance, from local to global, national, sub-regional and continental levels;
- **Convinced** that the development of cooperation between territories contributes to the emergence of an environment defined by understanding and mutual respect, which favours pacific and amicable relations between the people of both continents;
- **Convinced** that equality between women and men is both a major objective for our societies and a critical driver of social, economic and environmental development, and that inequalities affecting women to access decision making, education, economic resources and health, must therefore be fought;
- **Recognising** that the condition of youth in our societies will be one of the key indicators to assess the success or failure of any strategy for inclusive and sustainable development;
- **Certain** that local economic development is one of the key factors for inclusive and sustainable growth, as long as it is based on fiscal decentralization, an appropriate legislative, regulatory, institutional and financial environment, ensuring greater autonomy of local and regional authorities in governance and in taking initiatives and actions within cities and territories;
- **Considering** the dramatic situation of displaced people or migrants seeking better opportunities and living conditions, and that the final responsibility of temporarily or permanently hosting migrants, ensuring dignified and fair conditions lies with cities and territories in both Africa and Europe, and **reminding** that migrant populations leave one local government to settle in another local government in a host country in Africa or Europe;
- **Agreeing** that migration should therefore be viewed as a way of bringing Africa and Europe closer, to stimulate the meeting of cultures, while respecting the principle of equal dignity, to share and disseminate know-how and the revival of genuine co-development between our two regions involving migrants and the diaspora.

OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUTURE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE EUROPEAN UNION:

1. **We support** the organisation of a continuous dialogue at the highest level between Africa and Europe, with the objective of developing a genuine partnership between the two regions, and **we commit** ourselves to contribute by sharing grassroots experience, embodied by the sphere of governance closest to the citizens and to the realities they live in;
2. **We welcome** that the AU-EU Summit of Abidjan has scheduled on its agenda the discussion of strategic issues that affect the EU-Africa relations and have an impact on the people living in our cities and regions, and particularly the major issues related to access to energy, youth

employment, education and participation in public life, as well as the challenges related to migration and human mobility, climate change and sustainable inclusive development.

3. **We are determined** to mobilise the vital forces of our cities and territories, especially young people and women, to participate more actively in the dynamics of structural transformation promoted by the African Union's Agenda 2063, the new European Consensus on Development, and global agendas adopted by the international community, with the aim of leaving no one behind.
4. **We commit** to align our decentralised cooperation actions with the concerns of the Africa/Europe Partnership, and to communicate demands coming from the people of our local and regional governments in the appropriate fora of the Partnership Agreement to ensure that the renewed Joint Africa/Europe Strategy (JAES) and action plans deriving from them are in tune with the expectations and realities experienced by the people of the two regions at the grassroots level;
5. **We commit** to include a gender approach at all steps of our territorial development and decentralised cooperation activities, so as to better answer the needs of women and men in both regions, and so that our development cooperation contributes effectively to reducing gender inequalities;
6. **We commit** to increase investments in our local and regional governments in the field of youth education and vocational training, as well as in the field of women's empowerment, with the perspective to offer to all better employment and income opportunities where they live, in our cities and territories;
7. **We strongly promote** the involvement of our cities and territories in the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. Our cities and territories are the most appropriate settings to translate the commitments set at national level (NDCs) into action, in view of the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. We therefore ask that local governments' access to climate finance is facilitated.

OUR PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN THE AU-EU PARTNERSHIP:

8. **We insist** on the importance of including representatives of European and African local and regional governments in the framework of the high-level dialogue AU-EU, as development players and as stakeholders fostering regional integration and cooperation between the two regions;
9. **We call for** the partnership to be organised in the framework of the two regional unions, which governance structure allows for a fair, inclusive and multi-stakeholder dialogue (national governments, parliaments, local and regional governments, civil society, private sector);
10. **We call on** the Member States of the African Union that have not done so yet to sign and/or ratify the African Charter on the Values and principles of decentralisation, local governance and local development, and support the implementation of the High Council of Local Authorities of the African Union;

11. **We encourage** the African Union to involve local and regional governments in its early warning mechanisms on conflicts and in the sustainable recovery from conflicts at the local governments' level, in order to manage tensions and to prevent them from transforming into open crises;
12. **We call for** a redefinition of the JAES in order to implement the political partnership between Europe and Africa, supported by appropriate financial instruments that treat Africa as one;
13. **In consequence**, we ask for the creation of a dedicated financial instrument to support AU-EU political partnership. We believe such an instrument should be an integrated part of the post-Cotonou agreement – which should moreover include a regional dimension covering Africa as a whole;
14. **We call** for the launch of an ambitious programme "Youth Employment" that mobilises African and European youth creativity, fosters the creation of economic activities and job creation within our territories, and encouraging exchanges and mutual learning between young people from Africa and from Europe;
15. **We also call** for the JAES to support initiatives and actions fostering participation in local public life such as the Network of Elected Women of Africa – REFELA and the CEMR Standing Committee for Equality, as well as exchange and mutual learning opportunities;
16. **We highlight the need** for any project aimed at mobilising domestic or external private investment in local development to be aligned and consistent with the development priorities of our cities and territories. Local economic growth should be sustainable and equitable. All infrastructure or business investment should be geared to this end and ideally include dedicated attention for businesses belonging to the popular economy sector (informal sector) and to the social and solidarity economy, which account for more than 60% of jobs in African towns and villages.

OUR PROPOSAL FOR THE WAY FORWARD:

17. **We welcome** the support from the European Union and the African Union for the organisation of an Africa-Europe Forum of Local and Regional Governments, **and call for** local and regional governments and their representative organisations to be systematically included and involved in the dialogue on the AU/EU political partnership. Therefore, we ask that the Abidjan summit establish the Africa-Europe Forum of Local and Regional Governments as one of the official platforms of this political dialogue;
18. **We ask** that the Abidjan Summit authorises the organisation of an inclusive hearing of the main stakeholders involved in this political dialogue, in order for the spokespersons of the Forum to benefit from the opportunity to present the conclusions and recommendations of the Forum's work to the Heads of State and Government of the two regions.

Adopted in Abidjan, 27 November 2017

The Forum

Annex 2: List of participants (based on registration list)

Name	Surname	City/Region/Organisation	Function
Kalev	Härk	Association of Estonian Cities	Councillor of Valga/Estonia
Maria Dina	Tozzi	Region of Tuscany	MANAGER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES SECTOR
Monica	Barni	Region of Tuscany	Vice President of the Regional Government of Tuscany with responsibility for Cultural, University and Research policies and international cooperation
Hes	Linda	Castricum/Noord-Holland/VNG	Local representative
Parks	Tau	UCLG	President
Lixi	Anna	European Commission	Head of sector Local authorities
Cicarelli	Paolo	European Commission	Head of unit Cities, Local authorities
Emilia	Saiz	UCLG	Deputy Secretary General
Andreas	Wolter	City of Cologne, Germany/ Platforma	Mayor
Bougeard	Jocelyne	AFCCRE / Platforma	Vice Présidente
Walid	Matouk	Tripoli/North Africa/Cilg Vng international	Team Leader
MMACHAKGA MPHO BW	Moruakgomo	Botswana association of local authorities	Bala president /CLGF
Martens	Luc	VVSG	Member of Executive Committee
David	Simmonds	Local Government Association of England and Wales	Vice Chairman of Local Government Association of England and Wales
Eva	Banos de Guisasola	CCRE	Policy Adviser
Celine	Bloch	PLATFORMA	Assistant
Marine	Gaudron	PLATFORMA	Policy Officer
Wouter	Boesman	PLATFORMA	Policy Director
Frédéric	Vallier	Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)	Secretary General
Hans	Janssen	VNG	Mayor of Oisterwijk
Kwena Prince	Mashita	South African Local Government Association (SALGA)	Africa-Europe Local and Regional Governments Forum
Marianne	Overton	Local government association, london	Vice Chairman / CEMR spokesperson on environment
TETART	Jean-Marie	Cités Unies France	Maire de Houdan ((France)
REY	CARLA	AICCRE - ITALIAN SECTION OF CEMR	SECRETAIRE GENERALE
BONACCINI	STEFANO	CEMR	PRESIDENT

CHAUVEAU	Guy-Michel	Ville de LA FLECHE / Cités Unies France	Maire / Représentant de Cités Unies France
Tewodros Gebiba	Geda	Hawassa city/SNNP Region/ Ethiopian Cities Association	Myayor of Hawassa City & President of Ethiopian Cities Association
Ronan	Dantec	Nantes/Loire Atlantique/Sénat - Association Climate Chance	Sénateur / Porte-parole climat CGLU / Président Association Climate Chance
Romain	Crouzet	Paris/Île de France/Association Climate Chance	Coordinateur des Programmes
Jean-Yves	Camus	Ville de Paris	Chef du pôle diplomatie et Europe de la Ville de Paris
Luc Sètonджи	ATROKPO	Communauté des Communes de Zou (CCZ)	Président de la CCZ
Cheikh	THIAM	Communauté Urbaine de Nouakchott (CUN)	Vice-Président de la CUN
Abdoulaye	THIMBO	Pikine	Maire de Pikine
Kossi Ametowoyona	Loglo	Tsévié	Président de la Délégation Spéciale de la Commune de Tsévié
Régine	Bibi Epouse Amougou Noma	Yaoundé IV	Maire de la Commune de Yaoundé 4
Jean Oscar	Sanguza Mutunda	Lubumbashi	Maire de Lubumbashi
Etienne Marcel	OTELE MANDA	Yaoundé III	Maire de la Commune de Yaoundé 3
Sarah Sebagala	Kanyike	Kampala	Deputy Lord Mayor
Ndiouga	Sakho	Dakar	
Léontine	Yangba Bonna	Bangui	Vice-Présidente
Manuel Antonio Alculete	Lopes de Araujo	Quelimane	Municipal Council of Quelimane
Sidi Mohamed Alioune Mohamed El Abd		Communes du Sud	Association Mauritanienne des Communes du Sud
Clara	Doe Mvogo	Monrovia	
Armand Roland Pierre	Beouinde	Mairie de Ouagadougou	Maire de Ouagadougou
Adama	Zerbo	Mairie de Ouagadougou	Chef de Département des Relations Internationales
Valentin	Bayiri	Mairie de Ouagadougou	Conseiller Technique Principal
Paulo César	Pires velhinho rodrigues	Praia	Maire Adjoint
Bernard Jean Joel	Belinga	Yaoundé IV	Coordonnateur du Projet PACAEDC de Yaoundé IV
Ibrahima	Etia	Cercle des communicants en décentralisation	Spécialiste en communication

Abdoul Gafarou	Tchalaou	UCLG Africa	Help Desk Officer CoM SSA
Juliet Mekone	Sale	UCLG Africa	Regional Director West Africa Regional Office
Amougou Noma	Régine	Commune de Yaoundé 4	Maire
Onana kounou	Jean pierre	Commune de Yaoundé 4/ Mairie de yaouné 4/Cameroun	Point focal projet « d'Appui à l'Amélioration Citoyenne et à la Planification de la Gestion Intégrée de l'Environnement et des sources d'Energies Durables dans la Commune d'Arrondissement de Yaoundé 4 »
Ndiouga	Sakho	Ville de Dakar - Senegal	President commission aménagement urbain, développement durable, cadre de vie et gestion du littoral
Cheikh	Thiam	Nouakchott	Vice-Président
Saleck	Ahmed Cherif	Nouakchott	Directeur des études et projets
Etienne Marcel	Otele Manda	Commune de Yaoundé 3/ Convention des Maires pour l'Afrique Subsaharienne	Maire
Abdoulaye	Thimbo	Ville de Pikine	Maire de la Ville de Pikine
Claude	Edzougou Nkoumou	Commune de Yaoundé 3 / Convention des maires	Point Focal du Projet Plan d'action en faveur d'un accès à une énergie durable et du climat
Clara doe	Mvogo	Monrovia, liberia	Mayor
Nathalie	Koffi	Sénégal /Enda Energie	Chargée de communication
Mohamed El Abd	Sidi Mohamed	Association Mauritanienne des Communes du Sud (AMCS)	Président
Ndiaga	Fall	Ville de Pikine	Coordonnateur projet climat energie
Damalie	Nyamatte	Kampala/Kampala capital city authority	Participant
Jean Pierre	Ilunga Ngwej	Lubumbashi	Coordinateur Projet Lubumbashi"2030"
Kossi Amétowoyona	Loglo	Ville de Tsévié	Maire
Kodjo	Sodjavi	Mairie de Tsévié	Responsable de suivi de PPED
Ndiouga	Sakho	Ville de Dakar	Président Commission Aménagement et Développement Durable
DAMALIE	Nyamatte	KAMPALA/ KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY AUTHORITY	PARTICIPANT
ETIENNE MARCEL	Otele manda	Commune d'Arrondissement de Yaounde III	Maire
Claude Bernadin	Edzougou nkoumou	Commune d'Arrondissement de Yaounde III	Point Focal PAADC / CAY3

Sarah	Kanyike Sebagala	Kampala Capital City Authority	Deputy Lord Mayor, Kampala
Linda	McAvan	European Parliament	Member of the European Parliament, Chair of DEVE Committee
Väino	Reinart	Estonian Presidency of the EU	Undersecretary for External Economic Policy and Development Cooperation
Bruno	Leclerc	French development Agency in Abidjan	Director
Maria	Shaw Barragan	European Investment Bank	Director of lending Operations in Africa, Caribbean, Pacific, Asia, and Latin America
Manuel	Manrique Gil	European Parliament	Administrator
Jérôme	Notebaert	Ambassade de France en Côte d'Ivoire	Attaché de Coopération « Enjeux Globaux »
Melissa	Kerim-Dikeni	Tsevie, Togo	Conseillère en charge des questions énergétiques
Youssouf Nicolas	Djibo	Commune de Bouake	Maire
Komenan Pierre	Kouame	Commune de Bouake	Chef projet BOVIVE - CD
Thierry Nicaise	Dognondo	Commune de Bouake	Responsable action sensibilisation projet BOVIVE - CD
Aïssatou	Diouf	Enda Energie/ Reseau Climat et Developpement	Climate change advocacy officer
Esmat	Waheed	Egypt	AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative
Teodor	Kalpakchiev	Bulgaria	AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative
Julija	Humar	Slovenia	AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative
Hilda	Liswani	Namibia	AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative
Misheck	Gondo	Zimbabwe	AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative
Aissatou	Toure	Belgium / Senegal	AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative
Fabian	Wagner	Germany	AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative
Feben	Tamrat Mengesha	Ethiopia	AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative
Jacopo	Bencini	Italy	AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative
Aminetou	Bilal	Mauritania	AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative
Triinu-Liis	Paabo	Estonia	AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative
Okonkwo	Gerard	Nigeria	AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative
Birgitte	Markussen	European External Action Service	Deputy Managing Director – Africa Division

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African Union - European Union Summit 2017

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