2015 Johannesburg

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AFRICA WITH THE PEOPLE
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PART 1

1. Introduction

Africités is a pan-African event that is held every three years in one of the five regions of Africa. It mobilizes communities and local authorities in African countries, as well as financial institutions, civil society groups and development partners at continental and international level.

The 7th edition of the Africités Summit took place at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa from 29 November to 3 December 2015. It was convened by the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) and hosted by the City of Johannesburg (City of Joburg), the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the South African Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (DCOG).

The 2500 participants represented stakeholders of African local life as well as Africa’s partners in development from other regions of the world. Also in attendance were the ministers in charge of local government, housing and urban development, and public service; local authorities and local elected officials and councillors; municipal mayors, and officials of local and central administrations; civil society organizations and associations, and trade unions; economic operators from the public and private sectors, and the social/solidarity economy; traditional leaders; researchers and academics; the media and international agencies; exhibitors; invited guests, speakers and presenters.

Under the theme “Shaping the Future of Africa with the People: Africa’s local government contribution to the African Union’s Agenda 2063,” the Summit met within the context of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 as well the United Nations newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. The challenge was to seek solutions in a collaborative manner to achieve these goals. The Summit also looked forward to the upcoming meetings between Africa and China, COP21 and Habitat III.
Through interlinked sessions, thematic sessions, open sessions, African local coalitions, UCLGA programmes, partners and political sessions, Africities 7 participants engaged in rigorous debates on the best possible ways and practical alternatives for enhancing service delivery to the people who receive local government operations and services.

The Summit took place over five days. An opening plenary on Day One in the morning was followed by parallel sessions in the afternoon of Day One and throughout Days Two and Three. Days Four and Five were reserved for the political dialogues, dedicated to meetings of ministers, mayors and local authorities, African institutions and development partners. At the closing plenary on Day Five, the conclusions, recommendations and resolutions agreed upon during the Summit were adopted.

1.1 The African context

Africa is in the middle of major transitions that are unfolding in its demography, economy, politics, technological development and environment. If these transitions are to lead to holistic and equitable social, economic and environmental development, Africa’s approaches to urban development and the role of local government will need major rethinking.

In the context of rapid urbanization, African countries face complex challenges in delivering services at optimal levels and providing socially just, sustainable and well-serviced living and working environments for its populations. It is becoming clear that the impacts of climate change profoundly exacerbate these complex challenges. These impacts and environmental degradation are already being felt and present local governments (in both urban and rural areas) with unprecedented challenges.

By 2050, Africa’s population will rise to over two billion people, representing 25% of the world’s population, against 15% today. Beyond the sheer size of the continent’s future population, this demographic boom is also unique in terms of its spatial dynamics: both cities and rural areas will grow fast, and their interactions will intensify. While dependency ratios will fall, jobs will need to be created for the youth entering the labour market.

Promoting regional development and spatial inclusion should be at the heart of Africa’s development strategies. Regional development can promote spatial inclusion and unlock the potential of African economies. Initiatives such as the proposed North-South transport corridor from Dar-es-Salaam to Durban, which crosses eight countries, could bring economic growth and better infrastructure, and improve links.

The combination of demographic pressures, rapid urbanization, and environmental and climate change appear to reinforce a host of negative urban externalities. At the same time, the prevailing development concepts applied to Africa’s rapidly expanding urban areas seem incapable of achieving the post-independence visions of human development and prosperity for all. The 7th Africities Summit provided an opportunity to reflect on the radical shift that is needed in our thinking about the future of African cities.
Development in Africa

Despite progress, the level of human development in Africa remains low, and aggregate growth indicators mask significant variations in poverty and deprivation among and within countries. Distribution of income and consumption in Africa is highly skewed, and socio-economic and geographic differences contribute to uneven human development within countries. Both least-developed and middle-income countries face challenges relating to low human development, poverty and exclusion and are vulnerable to health, environmental and social risks. Gender inequality and exclusion exist in many countries with high levels of discrimination present in relation to access to resources and assets, as well as violence against women.

**Human development**

Over the last 30 years, poverty in African countries has barely fallen, whereas worldwide poverty has reduced from about 40% to under 20%.
- Over 40% of people living in sub-Saharan Africa still live in absolute poverty
- 75% of the world’s poorest countries are in Africa and include Zimbabwe, Liberia and Ethiopia.
- Approximately one in three people living in sub-Saharan Africa are undernourished.

In sub-Saharan Africa:
- 589 million people live without electricity.
- 273 million (37% of the 738 million people globally) lack access to clean water
- Every year, $28.4 billion lost due to water and sanitation problems.
- Fewer than 20% of African women have access to education.
- Approximately one in 16 women dies during childbirth or pregnancy.
- More than one million people, mostly children under the age of five, die every year from malaria.

And 38% of the world’s refugees are located in Africa.

**Economy and finance**

Africa’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth is expected to strengthen to 4.5% in 2015 and 5% in 2016, after subdued expansion in 2013 (3.5%) and 2014 (3.9%).
- Despite the impact of the Ebola virus, West Africa achieved growth of 6% in 2014.
- Nigeria’s growth of 6.3% came mainly from non-oil sectors, showing that the economy is diversifying.
- Southern Africa’s growth fell below 3%, as the key South African economy grew by only 1.5%.
In 2015, foreign investments are expected to reach US$73.5-billion, underpinned by increasing greenfield investment from China, India and South Africa. Foreign direct investment (FDI) is diversifying away from mineral resources into consumer goods and services and is increasingly targeting large urban centres in response to the needs of a rising middle class. More than two-thirds of states in sub-Saharan Africa, the majority of which are low-income countries, will receive less aid in 2017 than in 2014.

Despite significant improvements in tax revenue collection over the last decade, domestic resource mobilization remains low. Financing the post-2015 development goals will depend on the capacity of African policy-makers and the international community to harness diverse funding options (e.g. FDI and taxes) and exploit their potential to leverage additional finance.

**Governance**

While several countries continued to experience instability, acts of terrorism or conflicts, Africa saw some major advances in democracy in 2014:

- New constitution in Tunisia
- Transition in Burkina Faso
- A record 179 million people voting in mostly peaceful and credible elections in 12 countries.

The continent remains on a trajectory of improved governance, with the most obvious gains since 2008 being in the participation of citizens in political processes. The number of sub-Saharan Africans living in a democracy rose from 2.5 million in 1970 to 387 million in 2013.
PART 2

2. Overview of Africities

Founded in 2005, the UCLGA is a platform for local governments to voice their challenges, while also proposing suitable solutions for Africa’s growth and development. As such, the UCLGA is the main coordinator of the triennial Africities Summit. The previous summits have been held in four of the five sub-regions of Africa:

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<th>YEAR</th>
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<th>REGION</th>
<th>THEME</th>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Abidjan, Ivory Coast</td>
<td>West Africa</td>
<td>Recognizing the essential role of local governments in the development of Africa</td>
<td>• Africa’s local governments need to speak with one voice about the challenges of decentralization, local development, regional integration and cooperation.</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Windhoek, Namibia</td>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
<td>Funding African local governments to ensure the sustainable development of the continent</td>
<td>• Establishing the All-Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralization and Local Development (AMCOD). • Establishing the Council of Cities and Regions of Africa (CCRA), to build a unified African voice at local government level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Yaoundé, Cameroon</td>
<td>West Africa</td>
<td>Speeding up access to basic services with African local governments</td>
<td>• Establishing the UCLGA, which replaced the CCRA. • Realizing the importance of decentralization, strengthening local governments, participation of local populations as active citizens in improving their living conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>East Africa</td>
<td>Building local coalitions for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals within African local governments</td>
<td>• Confirming the alliance between African local governments and the institutions of the UNs system.</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Marrakesh, Morocco</td>
<td>North Africa</td>
<td>The response of African local and territorial governments to the global crisis: promotion of sustainable local development and employment</td>
<td>• Mobilizing local government and economic stakeholders to work together in unlocking economic opportunities for local development and job creation in Africa.</td>
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| 2012 | Dakar, Senegal         | West Africa  | Building Africa from its territories: Which challenges for the local governments? | • The role of local governments in building Africa both in the present and the future, connecting people, the environment, development and democracy.  
• The AU agreed to the proposed African Charter on values and principles of decentralization and local development, and the high Council of African Union Local Authorities. |


2.1 Theme of Africities 7 Summit

The Summit’s theme was “Shaping the future of Africa with the people: the contribution of African local authorities to Agenda 2063 of the African Union”. This theme is powerfully captured in Agenda 2063 “Towards an Africa we want”, which calls on everyone to play an active role in making the African vision become a reality.

We aspire that by 2063, Africa shall be a prosperous continent, with the means and resources to drive its own development, and where: African people have a high standard of living, quality of life, sound health and wellbeing. A continent full of well-educated citizens through a skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation for a knowledge society. Cities and other settlements are hubs of cultural and economic activities, with modernized infrastructure, and people have access to all the basic necessities of life including shelter, water, sanitation, energy, public transport and ICT. Economies are structurally transformed to create shared growth, decent jobs and economic opportunities for all. (AU Agenda 2063)

This vision is premised on a clear acknowledgement and understanding of lessons of the past, the changing position and role of African states in the rapidly changing international landscape, and the distance still to be traversed to respond to the need of all the people of Africa. Africa is cognisant of the fact that strategic opportunities in the short to medium term need to be identified and harnessed to ensure a positive socio-economic transformation of Africa over the next 50 years.

The Summit’s theme linked this long-term vision for the continent with immediate priorities, given the key role that cities and local authorities have to play in implementing Agenda 2063 – by 2030, more Africans will live in urban areas than in rural areas, and in 2050 more than one billion Africans will be urban dwellers.
2.2 Objectives of Africities 7

The three objectives of the Africities Summit 7 were:

• To explore the issues of urbanization, climate change and transformation.
• To define appropriate shared strategies in order to improve the living conditions of people at the local level.
• To contribute to the integration, peace and unity of Africa, starting from the grassroots.

Since the 2008 economic meltdown, the new global context is characterized by major uncertainties and contradictions, which raises several questions for Africa. The first question touches on the place of Africa in modern globalization and its deepening global crisis in the context of persistent worldwide cultural imbalances. The geopolitical, economic, social and cultural reorganization of the different world regions linked to their specific developments raises the second question on the specificities of the African evolution among the major regions of the world. The third question relates to the forms of democratization that will be adopted across the African continent, specifically in the context of the recent worldwide trend towards rapid reforms of democratization.

The issue of African unity and integration is still key. Decentralization and the creation of regional levels and public governance is a complex exercise. In Africa, four levels of governance are present: local, national, regional and sub-continental. This leads to the fourth question regarding the structuring of the various governance levels across the African continent, the five sub-regions of Africa, the national African states, and the scale of local and regional authorities. The fifth question arises from the spread of a growing global belief system that is pushing a uniform, mainstream globalization development model, which is unsustainable in reality, from the perspective of both ecosystems and equity. This question asks whether it is possible to provide development models for the transformation of African societies that are sustainable and just.

2.3 Africities 7 sessions

Debates and discussions occurred across several types of sessions, each with their own aim linked to the AU’s Agenda 2063.

• Thematic sessions, which sought to deepen the subject of shaping the future of Africa with the participation of Africa’s people. The focus was on increasing the contribution of the African local authorities towards realizing Agenda 2063.
• UCLGA sessions on programmes sustained UCLGA. The purpose was to take stock of the work done in implementing its long-term perspective strategy, also known as the Governance, Advocacy and Decentralization Development Programme in Africa (GADDEPA).
• Sessions of local stakeholders working with local governments.
• Open sessions offered by networks, institutions and cities operating within Africa that wish to strengthen their relations with African local authorities.
• South African Cities Network (SACN) sessions, which analysed the issues identified by South African stakeholders.
• Political sessions, consisting of meetings of mayors, local authorities, ministers and development partners, followed by a political dialogue between mayors, ministers and development partners.

2.4 The 12 Lessons of Africities

A question is often asked: What’s the usefulness of the Africities Summits? In other words, can we assess the effects and results? Are they worth the efforts deployed? Some of the results achieved can be explained by presenting the 12 lessons of the Africities Summits.

1. **An uninterrupted process over almost two decades**
   Since 1998, Africities summits have been held across the continent – in the Ivory Coast, Namibia, Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal and (in 2015) South Africa. The over-riding aim has remained the same: to strengthen local and regional governments and contribute to building Africa from its local governments.

2. **Africities is the most important democratic gathering in Africa**
   Over 2500 local and regional elected officials, including 1500 mayors from 50 African countries participate in the Pan-African gathering. Africities is also open to civil society and all networks of stakeholders: peasants, youth, women, trade unionists, academics and researchers, entrepreneurs and businessmen.

3. **Africities is a forum of exchanges for local elected officials**
   Officials exchange practices and experiences, and participate in debates and discussions with each other and with other stakeholders: national and international political officials, civil society, economic stakeholders, experts and technicians. These exchanges enable learning, good practices, and structural or strategic changes.

4. **Africities is a space to build governance**
   Africities places governance in the spotlight, building a public governance continuum, based on local government, to rethink governance at the national level of each State, at the level of the African sub-regions and regional economic communities, and at the level of the governance architecture of the entire continent.

5. **Africities contributed to the establishment of major African institutional initiatives**
   Established at Africities 2, the African movement of Local Governments (UCLG Africa) and the All Africa Conference of Ministers responsible for Local Governments (AMCOD) materialized at Africities 3. In 2007, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union recognized AMCOD as a specialized technical committee of the AU. Africities has been the catalyst for many initiatives, including:
   • The AU’s development of an African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization and Local Governance.
• The consideration by the AU to establish a High Council of Local Governments as a body of the AU.
• The proposal to have local governments represented within the regional economic commissions.
• The inspiration behind the creation in 2011 of the Council of Local Governments of UEMOA (Francophone West Africa Economic and Monetary Union).
• The first African Network of Local Elected Women (NLEWA) which has become the Africa section of the UCLG Gender Equality Committee.
• The launch of the African Network of Decentralized Cooperation (RAFCOD) in 2012.

6. Africities helped to identify and disseminate major innovations by African local and regional governments

Several innovations presented at Africities have been adopted and adapted by African local governments. Two examples are:
• The ECOLOC local economy development method was first presented at the Africities 2 Summit and is being implemented by over 30 local governments in six African countries. At Africities 4, the UCLGA established the Local Development Network of Africa (LEDNA) programme (www.ledna.org).
• A Charter of Participatory Budgets, which was adopted at Africities 3, led to eight local governments in Cameroon launching participatory budgeting approaches. The participatory budget approach is used in 162 local governments (rural and urban) of all sizes across 23 African countries.

7. Africities helped to consolidate the alliances for local development and democratization between elected officials and the African stakeholders

These alliances are defined by the commitment of stakeholders: women associations; youth associations; peasants’ organizations; labour unions; residents’ associations; NGOs; migrants and diasporas; academics, researchers and experts; operators of local services; stakeholders of the popular economy and microcredit; small and medium-sized enterprises; large enterprises; financial institutions; moral and traditional authorities; staff of local and regional administrations; central administrations and their local representation, as well as local administrations.

8. Africities helps to define the UCLGA programmes

The programmes defined by UCLGA are identified and tested in Africities, including: participatory budgeting, African Observatory of Local Finance, Africa’s priorities for the New Urban Agenda, locally elected women (REFELA); Africa Local Government Academy; Migrants and diasporas (Pan-African network on migrations); LEDNA and Voice of Local Government in Regional Economic Commissions.
9. **Africities is a space to strengthen decentralized cooperation, especially inter-African**
   From the first Africities Summit, decentralized cooperation was present and recognized. Decentralized cooperation fits in with democratization and decentralization. It contributes to the emergence of new international relations, and supports the emergence of a new environment that associates the international system with the new stakeholders (local governments, businesses, associations and NGOs). The focus has shifted from decentralized cooperation with the European local governments to inter-African decentralized cooperation.

10. **Africities helps to raise the awareness of development partners to strengthen African local and regional governments**
    Africities provides a common space for local and regional elected officials, ministers in charge of decentralization and local government, and the development partners. The tripartite dialogue assesses jointly the decentralization policies, the strengthening of local development and their place in cooperation and funding policies.

11. **Africities develops a communication approach that contributes to the visibility of African local governments at the African and international levels**
    The visibility of African local governments contributes to the consolidation of the African municipal movement. It gives them access to more resources and opportunities to achieve their goals. It also puts them in a position to explain, defend, correct and improve their policies. The media coverage of Africities Summits has steadily improved over the successive editions. Africities has a website, uses social media and produces a daily newspaper during the Summit.

12. **Africities encourages the institutions and the partners that formulate recommendations to ensure their implementation, with the support of UCLGA**
    At each Africities Summit, recommendations are made by the stakeholders that attend the thematic and special sessions. The recommendations are intended for the local elected officials, the ministers, the African institutions and the cooperation partners. A summary of the recommendations is proposed for discussion at the political sessions: assembly of local elected officials; Ministers present at the AMCOD meeting; tripartite meeting (local elected officials, ministers, cooperation partners).

    The success of all resolutions, declarations and commitments from Africities 7 depends on unity within the member states and institutional support from the UCLGA. Founded on the vision to build African unity and drive an Africa agenda from the grassroots, the UCLGA’s mandate is to enable local government to be represented in all political and economic dialogues on the continent, while ensuring that local government is a recognized sphere of government. In addition, the UCLGA creates a platform for shared knowledge, intellect and experience for local government authorities. To realize its mandate, the Africities summit needs continuously to evaluate the UCLGA as an institution that is able to effectively carry out its mandate.
PART 3

3. The Speeches

3.1 Mayor Khalifa Ababacar Sall, of UCLG-A, Mayor of Dakar (Senegal)

Minister in the Presidency, Mr Jeff Radebe, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Pravin Gordhan, Ministers who have replied to our invitations, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Councillor Parks Tau, Executive Mayor of our host city, the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Thabo Manyoni, Chairperson of SALGA, Councillor Patrick Klugman, Deputy Mayor of Paris, Josep Roig, United Cities and Local Governments Secretary General, Ambassadors and representatives of international organizations, Mayors and councillors, Partners from the private sector, Members of the UCLG-A Executive Committee and PanAfrican Committee, Distinguished guests and dear friends

In the name of all African local councillors, I am proud and pleased to welcome you to Johannesburg. We wish to give our condolences to all the people of Africa: from Bamako, Tunis, Maidugui, Paris and the world who are currently experiencing violence. May each of us say a special prayer for them. I would also like to give my sincere thanks to our friend Parks and Chairman Manyoni for their warm welcome, their support and all the arrangements that they have made to ensure that the 7th Africities Summit is a success. The quality and quantity of local government colleagues here in Joburg show that this Summit is already a success.

Well done and thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, our organization has been through some challenging years, as Chairman Manyoni reminded us earlier. We appear before you today after several years full of difficulties, dissension and misunderstanding. And we have managed by ourselves to build a united African organization, thanks to a team spirit and commitment. Since Dakar, UCGL-A is a strong and united umbrella organization, which we celebrate today. The General Assembly on 2 December and Africities
will be the opportunity to demonstrate this unity. This is why I am happy to see so many colleagues here, but above all to see the shared commitment to this unity. Let us strengthen the unity of our organisation, for that is its power, especially in relation to Agenda 2063.

To be strong, you must be united. If not, only the slogan will govern us, which is not Africa. Our people have had enough of slogans and divisions. Let us unite before inviting others to work with and for us. Africities 7 takes place against a challenging and yet favourable and hopeful background. In New York, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Agenda 2030 with 17 SDGs. SDG 11 shows clearly the international community’s awareness that effective development happens when local government and people carry out national policies at the local level. This is cause for hope since Africa has adopted its 2063 Agenda.

The AU Commissioner reminded us of the first pillar of this Agenda: cities and human settlements. An urbanization that harnesses the potential of African people, especially its women, to achieve sustainable development. This is important. The idea that development is something that the state delivers to local communities who are seen as beneficiaries must be reversed: from now on, communities must conceive, drive, decide and finally benefit from their actions. All our actions must be based on this reversed paradigm.

Dear friends, after congratulating the Secretary General of the UCLG-A, Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, for many years of excellent service to the organization, I want to make two or three comments on behalf of my vice-presidents. I will comment based on the three points made by the AU Commissioner.

My first comment is that the AU Commissioner said that we must build Africa from and by the bottom. That is a good plan and an excellent strategic choice. Africa is urbanized. Today we say that the next engine for change. But what will this Africa be? Will it be a divided Africa? An Africa of petty quarrels and little flags? Or a strong, united Africa aware of its future, but self-confident and trusting itself? We must trust ourselves. We must be united. We must decide by ourselves and for ourselves. That is what is required. Let us stop reaching out and counting on others. Let us count on ourselves first. We are rich in human and mineral resources. Why look elsewhere for what we already have. Let us rely on ourselves, trust ourselves and we can move forward.

African local governments are aware of and are ready to take and meet their responsibilities. And in this, the African people must not be simple beneficiaries. Instead of residents, we should build citizens. We can start to realize a new consciousness among Africans. Who hold their elected leaders to account. Who sanction them. Who have the means to deal with what is not working. Building cities is building citizens. Capable and responsible people.

My second comment is that local governments must be viable governments. The decentralization charter adopted by the African Union, the High Council of Local Authorities adopted by the African Union, must not be only documents, slogans or wishes. They must be signed and ratified. Since its adoption, only two or three countries have signed and ratified the Charter. This is inconsistent with
the expression of interest. Let us ensure that our actions are consistent with our words. That is what is important. But we must build viable local government. Because our national government must understand that they have to join forces with us.

Distinguished ministers, we invite you to build an alliance between national and local governments. Know that we have the same goal and we have to think global but act local, and this must not be a slogan. Provide the necessary means to build sustainable and credible local governments. If the ministers give functions without funding, nothing will be achieved. Our national states are quick to transfer functions. They are slow to transfer resources. This must stop. Building sustainable local governments means building local governments that have the means to achieve their ambitions.

Finally, local governments will need to have new behaviours. To have a virtuous governance. To be transparent, to fight against corruption. To be accessible at all its facilities. To develop political accountability. We must be accountable to our citizens. If we want to be respected, we must first respect ourselves, respect our rules and Africa will become a winning continent that counts for tomorrow.

Thank you!

Key messages

- Africa must be built from the bottom up by Africans. Communities must not be simple beneficiaries but citizens who demand accountability from their elected leaders.
- Local government must be viable and secure, which means national government must ensure that funding follows functions.
- Local government must be transparent, fight against corruption and accountable to their citizens.

3.2 Councillor Mpho Parks Tau, Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg

Minister in the Presidency, Mr Jeff Radebe, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Pravin Gordhan, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Dr Aisha Abdullahi, Mr. Khalifa Sall, Mayor of Dakar and President of UCLG Africa, Mr. Jean-Pierre Elong Mbasi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa, Mr Joseph Roig, UCLG Secretary General Chairperson of the Eastern Region, Mayor Jacqueline Moustache-Bell, Chairperson of the Northern Region, Mr Ahmed Baya, Chairperson of the Central Region, as represented by Mr Loukakou Alphonse-Benjamin, Chairperson of the Southern Region, Mayor Thabo Manyoni, Mayors from different countries, Senior government officials, Ambassadors, Academics, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen.
Good morning

On behalf of the City of Johannesburg, it is a great honour to welcome you all to the 7th Africities Summit. Johannesburg is a diverse and cosmopolitan City with a population of about 4.9 million, 14% of which are from sub-Saharan Africa. We pride ourselves on being the melting pot of Africa and are delighted to host this Summit, which will strengthen Africa’s local government through discourse and dialogue. Ladies and gentlemen, local government is the indispensable vehicle through which our socio-political and developmental agenda is driven. In this regard, it is important to note that the year 2015 has been an important global year for local government. The commitments made at the financing summit in Addis Ababa (paragraph 34 on financing sustainable infrastructure in cities; the adoption of the SGD’s – with SDG 11 focusing on cities) underscore the critical role played by local government through its advocacy and lobbying. This Summit should enhance our role by strengthening the capacity of organized local government to formulate developmental policy for Africa.

We gather here under the theme “Shaping the future of Africa with the people: Africa’s Local Government contribution to the Africa Vision 2063”. African local government has an immense contribution to make in the realization of this Vision as espoused in the African Charter on the values and principles of decentralization, local governance and local development as adopted by the African Union. The Charter enjoins us to realize its ten main objectives, two of which bear direct relevance to this summit. The first of these aims to promote, protect and act as a catalyst for decentralization, local governance and local development in Africa. The other aims to promote and champion local self-government and local democracy as the cornerstone of decentralization in Africa. It is our collective
responsibility as organized local government to mobilize all national governments on the African continent to ratify this Charter. This will serve as a basis for a strong and capable sphere of local government in Africa.

As the City of Joburg we are guided by our long-term growth and development strategy known as Joburg 2040. In keeping with the objectives of Developmental Local Government in South Africa, our strategy bears testimony to the reality that local government must be able to transform and integrate society through cooperative governance. Through this, we recognize through our GDS that we should be able to collectively harness the opportunities that exist in order to ensure that as African local government we are able to collaborate, robustly engage and actively seek “African solutions to African problems”.

Cities are a foundation from which new systems of governance can emerge. There are some cities around the world that anchor the economy of their respective countries. For example, Johannesburg has about 4.9 million people which is just under 10% of the country’s population but contributes 14% to South Africa’s GDP. Lagos, which has a population of over 21 million - 8.23% of the country’s population- contributes 5.76% of Nigeria’s GDP. Nairobi has a population of 3.363 million - 13.67% of the total population of Kenya - contributes 5.83% of the country’s GDP. In recognizing the role of cities in the development of countries, we must build strong local government associations, committed to citizen participation, transformative development, good governance and unity. In this regard, this Summit should help strengthen UCLG-A’s role in local government in Africa. To do this, the summit discussions should be frank and robust whilst maintaining the unity of purpose, as in the words of the late Julius Mwalimu Nyerere:

Unity will not make us rich, but it can make it difficult for Africa and the African peoples to be disregarded and humiliated. And it will, therefore, increase the effectiveness of the decisions we make and try to implement for our development. My generation led Africa to political freedom. The current generation of leaders and peoples of Africa must pick up the flickering torch of African freedom, refuel it with their enthusiasm and determination, and carry it forward.

Ladies and gentlemen, once more, on behalf of the citizens of Johannesburg may I extend our best wishes to all of you as attendees at the 7th Africities Summit. May you also enjoy all that makes Johannesburg a vibrant, world class, African city.

Thank you

**Key messages**

- Organized local government has a collective responsibility to mobilize all national governments in Africa to ratify the African Union’s African Charter that promotes decentralization, local government and local development.
- Cities are a foundation from which new systems of government can emerge.
- We must build strong local government associations that are committed to citizen participation, transformative development, good governance and unity.
3.3 Mr Thabo Manyoni, Chairman of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA)

Minister in the Presidency, Jeff Radebe, Minister of Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs of South Africa, Mr. Pravin Gordhan, The Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Mayors present here, chairpersons of local government, The president of UCLGA, President and vice president of global bodies and associations, Chairpersons of national associations, Regional leaders on local government matters, Honourable councillors present here, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the South African local government family represented by SALGA and the collective leadership of the southern African regional organization of UCLGA, we deem it a great honour and privilege to share this platform with you for a momentous event in the history of African local government. The importance of this Africities Summit cannot be over stated, as it comes immediately after the adoption of the new post-2015 development agenda, which in our view requires a paradigm shift in our approach to development. It is also 10 years since the establishment of our organized formation: the UCLGA.

While there can be little doubt that local government is the key site of delivery and development and is central to transforming societies, this realization is now increasingly hitting the global stage. The stages and evolution of local governance and its recognition on the continent and globally have indeed come a long way in a very short period of time. And while the context of Africa differs in many respect from the industrialized context of the North, local government is increasingly being identified as the strategic enabler for national economic development.

The most obvious impact of the current global economic system is the rising inequality and its social economic impact. It is said that Africa and Asia will account for 90% of urban growth over the next 15 and 35 years. They have very young populations, which represent a massive potential expansion of the labour force and middle class – if properly managed, this is a great advantage. Chairperson, presently, however, only 28% of the labour force in Africa occupies stable jobs compared to 63% in precarious and vulnerable employment, and over 60% of urban dwellers in sub-Saharan Africa live in an informal settlement. This means that the potential for taxes is relatively small, creating a serious financial imbalance to address the service delivery and economic infrastructure needs. This must inform a differentiated approach to tackling the development agenda in our context. Of course, the global economy is highly concentrated in urban areas with some 2000 metro areas estimated to contribute 75% of global economic growth between now and 2025.

The success of the SDGs will, therefore, be largely determined by cities, which are the fulcrum of employment creation, poverty eradication, inclusive economic growth and environmental sustainability. Due to the accelerated speed of technological change combined with fluidity of capital flows, it is essential that cities lead in addressing multiple complex pressures and exploiting opportunities. However, we should not forget to invest in the development of our small towns and rural villages, which are often the bedrock of our cultural heritage and cultural diversity. We reach into the next phase of the international development agenda: the implementation of the SDGs towards
Vaison 2030 as well as the AU Agenda 2063. The time is opportune for positioning ourselves to lead the localization of this development agenda, by introducing fresh and innovative approaches to tackling the challenges of our people.

We have a responsibility to fashion a uniquely African response to social justice, equality, opportunity and sustainable infrastructure development and resources use. We need to consider several fundamental choices; chief among them is the need to redefine the dynamic of African unity and integration to deal with the ever-increasing complexity of governance. For instance, how can we structure and modernize governance approaches to be more inclusive and people centred as well as linking up people with their activities, ecosystem and institutions? And, how can African citizens and towns pioneer and provide development route and transformation models that are more sustainable and just?

These are pivotal considerations in shaping the future African unity cohesion and prosperity. We trust that this Summit will take us a step further in ensuring that local government is at the forefront of building the Africa we want, which is the cohesive African cities, towns and villages of the future. To optimize the use of Africa’s resources for the benefit of all Africans, organizing ourselves within UCLGA to be able to provide these thought leadership is equally important. If we are going to be key partners and drivers in this new development agenda, it stands to reason that we must appropriately organize ourselves to do so. It is 10 years since the formal establishment of our continental ambitious in this very city/region.

While we have covered much ground in reunifying the various trends of our continental body, our governance arrangements and the serious issues that continue to delay our progress must be dealt with as a matter of urgency. We believe that Africities 7 presents a timely moment to address some of the more fundamental challenges of our organization and to bring greater unity and substance to the African voice of local government, to ensure that we become serious partners in the development agenda.

In conclusion, considering the different capacities, skills and resources across our countries, regions and continents, the task of accessing how the vision articulated in the SDGs and the Agenda 2063 is to find expression in local government is now timely. To ensure that these objectives are not regulated to mere visionary statement, as SALGA we remain committed to working with our regional and global partners to play a unifying role in the transformation ve and sustainable development of our continent. Let us seize the moment to lead the continent in shaping the implementation of post-2015 development Agenda for the benefit of all our people, let us make the Africa we want a local reality. Lastly, I invite all of you to join South Africa local government in celebrating its 15 years of anniversary of democratic local government following a long history of undemocratic local government. Our system was eventually democratised in December 2000. The celebrated dinner at 18h on Monday 30 November at the Galaga convention. You all are welcome.

Thank you.
Key messages

• The adoption of the new, post-2015 development agenda requires a paradigm shift in our approach to development.
• Local government is the strategic enabler for national economic development, and the success of the SDGs will be largely determined by cities.
• Africities 7 is an opportunity to bring greater unity and substance to the African voice of local government.

3.4 Patrick Klugman, Representative of Paris Mayor, Anne Hildago

Sir mayor, Dear mayors, Honourable guests, Your excellence, Dear president of local authorities,

Our cities are facing terrorist threats trying to derail our secular and tolerant societies and to create divisions and conflicts among our citizens. These threats raise new challenges for our cities, such as in which kind of societies do we want to live, and how do we create the condition to ensure safer, healthier, more sustainable and more inclusive life for all our citizens? These issues are at the heart of this year’s Africities theme, which is “Shaping the future of Africa with the people: the contribution of African local authorities to Agenda 2063 of the African Union”. I am here to show the support of Paris, which (as you may know) is probably the most African non-African city, to your work and to this important city gathering.
An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa will be made possible at city and regional level only. The recent sustainable development goals (SDGs), adopted by the international community last September, underline the key roles of our towns and regions. All development goals are local simply because every single SDG addresses problems that are local. And because the real target is for all the SDGs to be reached in every single town and city in the world. These health environment, climate adoption, gender equality, local infrastructures goals can be achieved at local level.

The city of Paris is willing to support African cities in building their future. First, through ongoing and successful cooperation with the City of Johannesburg on adaptation to climate change; with the cities of Abidjan, Cotonou, on urban planning; and with the City of Bamako on health. Second, for continuous and regular lobbying for an access to the financial resources to achieve these goals. Last April, Mayor Hildago gathered 25 African mayors along with Mr. Bolo, companies and NGOs to voice the issues of access to energy in Africa. At this occasion, they endorsed a common declaration for sustainable access to electricity in Africa by 2025.

On December 4, Anne Hildago, Mayor of Paris, and Michael Bloomberg, UN secretary general special envoy for cities and climate change, will co-host the climate summit for local leaders in partnership with the global networks of cities and local governments for climate action. This will be the largest global coming together of mayors, governors and local leaders focused on climate change. On this occasion, we will welcome more than 100 African elected officials. I seize this opportunity to thank especially UCLG and UCLGA for the precious partnership and support to this climate summit at which several African mayors will be invited to speak about the difficulties and challenges for African cities and regions related to climate change. So, from Johannesburg I am glad to invite Africa to come to Paris because cities, African and non-African, are always united to face climate change and other big challenges of the upcoming world. Thank you very much.

Key messages

- Paris supports Africities and African cities in building their future.
- The Mayor of Paris will be co-hosting a climate change summit in December 2015 in partnership with UN and the global networks of cities and local governments for climate action.

3.5 Mr. Josep Roig, Secretary General of UCLG

Dear ministers, mayors and friends, it is an honour to be again at another meeting of Africities. Dear Mayor Parks Tau, we feel always very welcome in Johannesburg; thank you for hosting us here. Mayor Khalifa Sall, as President of UCLG Africa, thank you for these Africities meetings, which I believe are the most outstanding continental events in our organization. Thanks as well to Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, our Secretary General of UCLG Africa, for your continued effort to bring Africa to our network and our constituency to Africa.
Let me first convey to you the apologies from the President of UCLG, the Mayor of Istanbul Kadir Topbaş who cannot be here today. You know that these are complex times for many of our mayors worldwide, and that mayors are always on duty, as unfortunately cities are suffering the consequences of external decisions and events; in the end the closest level of government is the one responsible for bringing the daily lives of citizens back to normal.

Dear mayors, in the last 30 years and now as the secretary general of UCLG, the global network of local and regional governments, I have been a privileged observer of local government worldwide in different moments of recent history. I have seen cities that have thrived, and cities that have failed; cities that have grown, and cities that have not; urbanized neighbourhoods that have lost their population, and populations that have migrated to lands to where cities have not yet arrived.

I have feelings for urban neighbourhoods, happiness, and land that has become a real neighbourhood within cities. Diversity and evolution are the keys aspects of local governments. I am going to summarize those 30 years in three short messages, which come from observing some successful mayors all over the world. These messages are common to all of them, whether from developing or developed countries, or from the North or the South.

1. Empowerment: if local government are not empowered, mayors cannot succeed. Empowerment means having a certain agreement with the national government that is clever and understands that local governments are better able to solve issues. Many of these issues local knowledge, local decision-making, local action and local accountability. Empowerment means governance capacities and resources. A prerequisite for successful mayors is to have national governments that are wise enough to allow a stable government and give resources and power to local governments.

2. Leadership: this is not easy to define but is easy to see. Mayors who succeed have leadership capacities, including these two. They are fast learners and are not afraid of trial and error. They learn by doing and sharing with their peers. Learning by doing means that they dabble in and try solutions. Mayors that succeed are also doers with the capacity to rectify quickly if they are wrong – they need to solve problems and have no time for long preparatory studies and plans, or for ideological discussions. They need pragmatic solutions to solve real problems and are not dogmatic. When successful mayors are first elected, they try to learn from their own citizens, to listen to them and to look for local solutions to local problems. These mayors soon realized that other cities are also trying to find similar solutions. This is the main reason for bilateral relations and for the existence of national associations of municipalities through which they can learn from their national peers, other countries and continents. In Africa, UCLGA and UCLG have shown that peer-to-peer action learning is giving excellent results, for instance between Brazil and South Africa or Mozambique.

3. Accountability: a successful mayor is accountable to the stakeholders, especially to their citizens, and to civil society, local entrepreneurs, as well to partner national governments. Democracy and local elections are still the best accountability tool but must be complemented with other tools, to ensure that both local governments and their many stakeholders are accountable – they need to work in partnership and to be mutually accountable.
Finally, a message from the UCLG as well as associations. As you all know, one of our main roles is to bring the voice of local and regional governments to the main global discussions and agendas. Lately, we have been involved in all the leading global agendas: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals, including SDG 11 on sustainable cities, the financing for the Development Agenda, the disaster risk reduction agreement, the climate agenda in Paris and the New Urban Agenda for Habitat III.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Mayor Sall, Mayor Parks Tau and Mayor Moustache-Belle for representing all the mayors of the world and helping us over past last years with advocacy at the international level. Thank you very much for using education and your effort in very difficult agenda. Thank you.

My last message is clear: do not let all those important solutions on your local governments even in those issues supposed to be addressed by global Agendas. Look at all the global agendas but adapt them to your local needs. Global challenges can only be really faced in many aspects by local pragmatic innovative solutions.

Fight for local empowerment for local government and resources lead innovative and diversify solutions in local problems, learn from peers, learn from actions learn from trial and error and of course reinforce accountability to stakeholders. Dear mayors from Africa and from other part of the world? Do not let an unaccountable global government decide for you; decide your own small pragmatic solutions these will be the best way to contribute to solve global challenges. Thank you.

**Key messages**

- What I have learned over 30 years from observing successful mayors all over the world is that empowerment, leadership and accountability are success factors for transforming and contributing to good local governance globally.
- Local governments, not an unaccountable global government, must find pragmatic, innovative solutions to global challenges.

**3.6 Dr Aisha Abdullahi, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs**

Excellency Mr Thabo Manyoni, The Honourable Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, Their Excellency Khalifa Sall, the President of UCLG-A, Honorable Ministers in charge of decentralization publics’ service and urban development here present, Excellencies, Regional governors and mayors, Excellencies, head of diplomatic missions and International organizations, Representative of Regional and International Organizations, Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen,
Good morning.
I am delighted to be with you, distinguished delegates this morning at this official opening of the Africities 7 Summit, here at the magnificent city of Johannesburg in the great Republic of South Africa.
I will begin by extending the apologies of my boss, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who yielded to peer pressure to go to Paris for the COP21, which is very closely related to this Summit. She apologizes and she looks forward to joining us as soon as she will through with Paris to participate actively in this noble endeavour.

Dear Excellences, This Summit organized by the United Cities and Local Government of Africa in collaboration with the host government and cities has become a popular and important event in the calendar of Local Governments in Africa. Before I go further, I wish to express our deep appreciation and warm congratulations to the UCLG-A, the City of Johannesburg and the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the warm hospitality accorded to us and the unprecedented organization of this Summit. You have indeed done Africa a great pride.

Dear Excellences, you may record that in 2013 we held the 50th anniversary of the creation of our continental organization. The then Organization for Africa Unity and now the African Union. During that summit, we adopted what we call our Agenda 2063. It represents a commitment to collective action to meet the goals of a stable and prosperous Africa. Our Agenda 2063, which is our collective vision, puts emphasis on a people centered, structure transformation of Africa. Supported by industrialization, infrastructure, agriculture, trade, regional integration and a lot more. In doing so, due consideration is also giving to the nexus between urbanization, industrialization, migration, security and economic development. And this, need to be tackled together. This is a challenge for our macroeconomists, development thinkers, urban planners, politicians and other actors who must work in collaboration to make it a reality. Needless to say, all these efforts would require the effort and support of policy-makers and politicians under the leadership of our Head of State and Government. To create an enabling environment for sustainable urbanization and human settlement for development take place requires the adoption of integrate national urban policies, rules and regulations; the strengthening of urban governance; planning and design; and the integration of urban economies in national development.

Dear Excellences, we envision through our Agenda 2063 a prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. This can only be achieved through good governance, democracy and respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law. We must effectively mobilize the domestic resources including the African peoples and the people in the Diaspora to accomplish these noble goals. Our leadership must be democratic and accountable, and our institutions must be confident and effective. Most of all, we must change our mentality on the history and uniqueness of Africa and strengthen the pan-Africa values of solidarity, autonomy, collectivism and most importantly: hard work.

The first pillar of our Agenda 2063, envisions cities and other settlements as hubs of cultural and economic activities. Human settlements require modern infrastructure and the provision of basic services. If well managed, cities are engines of economic growth and can propel our continent to as
greater industrialization and a growing middle class. Harnessing the growth and the potential of cities requires strong local governments and institutions that are close to the people. The importance of events like this one, to enhance and create efficient and effective local governments cannot be overstated.

Dear Excellences, African Cities, regions of Local Authorities need to be committed to serving their people. Involving them in decision-making processes in order to make local government more connected to the people, as the Agenda 2063 demand in its programme: “Africa needs to be a continent where institutions are at the services of the people and where citizens actively participate in social, economic and political development”. The Agenda is there for a programme that involve Local Authorities with a special emphasis on the involvement and on the improvement of the living condition of the grassroots populations.

The Agenda 2063 is a common agenda comprise a set of aspirations for Africans of various backgrounds: men and women, young and old, united in diversity including does of the diaspora and relation as elaborate a consultative process. The aspirations are extremely critical to all of us, requiring consultation, and comprise:

1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.
2. An integrated continent, politically united and based on ideals of Pan Africanism
3. An Africa for good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law.
4. A peaceful a secure Africa.
5. An Africa strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics.
6. An Africa who development his people giving, land and potential effort by African people particularly its women and the youth but also well cared children.
7. An Africa that is strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner.
This Agenda will be implemented through a 10-year plan spanning a 50-year horizon. The AU has on this score the need for the participation of all AU member states, as well as our partners, guided by fundamental principles of subsidiarity, accountability, transparency, participation and inclusion, integration, diversity, leveraging existing structure and system, and harmonization of policies and systems.

Dear Excellences, cities are well recognized to be the engines of growth, critical for development, but at the same time, there are also widespread poverty and face huge governance, service delivery, and infrastructure challenges. The recent terrorism activities in Paris, in Mali, and the Lake Chad Basin make us pay more attention to this development and challenges in our cities. The rapid population growth also impacts significantly on human settlement in the rural and pre-urban areas.

Urbanization is quickly changing the landscape of Africa. Management of urban growth is a major developmental challenge facing our continent. Urban growth will impact our capital and major cities as well as secondary cities. Areas that are often ill-prepared to meet the challenges of urban management. Cities can be drivers of growth or centers of poverty and inequality but also sources of insecurity. As cities, as local managers, we need to devise strategies that will harness urbanization, structural and economic transformation, reducing poverty, inequality, and guaranteeing peace, security, and stability for our nation. Furthermore, the African Union has prioritized the development of an Africa Charter on urban development and human settlements in the work as a specialist technical committee number 8 to lay down key principles and minimum standards to facilitate sustainable urbanization and human settlements development. We recognize the need to consider the continuum of human settlement including mega cities, large, medium, and small towns, market cities, urban growth centers, and villages. A focus on urban-rural linkages is critical as Africa urbanized.

Dear Excellences, across Africa, countries are experimenting with different governance arrangements. They remain a trend to decentralization and empowered local people to play a more active role in local planning and decision-making through established systems of democratic local government. However, there is some evidence of commitment to genuine implementation of decentralization which remains a challenge to many countries for a variety of reasons: from lack of political commitment, weak financial decentralization, a lack of delivery and management capacity, but also resources.

Dear Excellences, challenges had to be fixed hopefully to the implementation of the new African Charter on Values and principles of Decentralization, Local Governance, and Local Development adopted during our Malabo Summit in Equatorial Guinea in 2014. The African Union expects this Summit to come up with innovative solutions to challenges facing our cities.

I wish to end by appealing to our honourable ministers, mayors, and senior government officials present to ensure that the signing and ratification of African Union instruments are prioritized in all our countries. So that collectively, we can achieve our aim of integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa.
I will also not end before reminding ourselves that for us as Africa Union this is the year of women. The theme for the year is “Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063” we hope that our members States have expedited activities to promote inclusivity specially promoting equal participation of the 50/50. Next year the theme will also be the year of “human rights” with a special focus on the right of women.

On this note, I thank you. Thank very much for listening!

### Key messages

- The first pillar of Agenda 2063 envisions cities and other settlements as hubs of cultural and economic activities.
- Events such as Africities are important to enhance and create efficient and effective local governments. The African Union expects this Summit to come up with innovative solutions to challenges facing our cities.
- This is the year of women's empowerment and development towards Africa's Agenda 2063.

### 3.7 Prof Alioun Sall, President of Africities Futures Committee

His Excellency Minister of State, Ministers, Mayors, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Ambassadors, delegates, guests

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you with reverence and to thank you for the honour conveyed upon me and the opportunity to speak before such an illustrious gathering. To all of you to whom I owe this honour, thank you from the bottom of my heart, on my own behalf but also on behalf of the Foresight Group which I chair. I was asked to speak on “Shaping the future of Africa with the people”. I would like – just for this once – stick strictly to this mandate and avoid going off on tangents that could get me into trouble.

First of all, I want to talk about Agenda 2063 (A2063: its identity, the common theme, the process by which it was created). I will then explain the contribution of the Foresight Group to the central theme of Africities 7 that I mentioned just now.

From the presentation by the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, the identity of A2063 is becoming clearer

- Analysis: the analysis challenges a blissful afro-optimism but also an afro-pessimism and establishes that Africa is a contradictory whole with worrying major trends that are counterbalanced by weak yet hopeful seeds of change. What will be the result of these variables? There is no certain answer to that question. The uncertainties are many. And nothing is decided. The analysis is therefore subtle, nuanced and a far cry from dogmatic assertions that confine and imprison thinking in ideological corsets instead of applying the weapons of reason.
• Approach: in a similar situation, the only worthy attitude is one that I have called elsewhere afro-responsibility. Starting from the idea that the future will depend in part on what Africans do or do not do, we must be proactive and strategic. For this, we need to have foresight capabilities, to ask what might happen tomorrow. This attitude/approach is crucial, especially as looking at the future is already a way of participating in shaping the future.

• An instrument for planning and managing development: to shape, not be subject to, the future clearly requires having a project, an ambition, a will, a vision of the future because there is no favorable wind for the sailor who doesn’t know where to go (Seneca). But the full potential of foresight thinking comes from being used as a tool for making decisions, planning and managing change.

This triple identity contains three key ideas/premises for the future. In the language of futurists, we could say that the future of Africa is freedom, power and will.

i. Freedom in the sense that there is no historic fate that societies cannot escape from. Africa is neither condemned to fail nor destined to succeed.

ii. Power because foresight thinking is crucial for decision-makers and role-players who want to avoid the tyranny of emergencies and have some room to maneuver in order to choose, not suffer, the future. Strategic intelligence is an instrument of power.

iii. Will, as to achieve our aim at the lowest economic, political, social or cultural cost requires will because steering a strategic course will avoid the pitfalls and, likewise, take advantage of favourable winds that would have been anticipated.
This is why the A2063 can be considered a foresight reflection. If Agenda 2063 is a product, it also is the result of a process and the process is often as important as the product. Compared to other foresight studies, in my opinion three major features of the A2063 process are well-springs of added value.

- The Agenda is predicated on a philosophy that affirms Africa’s reconquered and rediscovered intellectual sovereignty. A2063 is the first continental initiative since NEPAD, driven by Africans. It is not an international agenda; it is an African agenda produced by Africans that reflects an African vision of structurally transforming Africa to achieve the seven priorities of Africans.\(^1\)
- The exercise was participative. Participation is the condition of ownership. The concern is not only to explain but to engage the largest possible number of role-players whose hope for the future is strong enough to triumph over the apathy, routine and day-to-day adjustment and radically change things. What the AU Commission has understood is that hope for the future will not transform the world but is necessary, indeed essential, to get there.
- The approach adopted is circular, not sequential or segmented and linear. The AU Commission chose from the outset to take on the challenge of implementation, which is the Achilles heel of many initiatives. And to take on this challenge, the AU Commission chose to articulate strategic and operational planning. The vision will therefore be translated in the policy and programme frameworks that will be implemented over time.

Given the features of the Agenda 2063 product and process, I am tempted to say that the AU Commission (as the bee and the architect) makes an impressive entry into the futurist community. How to use this potential? This is the question that we ask as individuals and as a collective.

Having studied the documents and listened to the role-players, we said that it would be more appropriate to stage this summit in the wake of A2063, to deepen and formalize the foresight thinking but focused on a specific question: “What are the possible futures for local governments in Africa?”. In other words, apply the foresight approach to local governments. As the Foresight Group, we chose to contribute to this approach through case studies and through structuring thematic sessions. In both cases, we felt that the foresight approach has three essential analytical steps: a situational analysis, an exploration of possible futures, and the formulation of strategic options. The case studies and thematic sessions were organized around these analytical steps.

As regards the first analytical step, two questions:

1. What is the diagnostic of Africa’s local governments? Urbanization is a dominant and inevitable trend in Africa with the continent having the fastest urban growth globally, at 4.5%. In another two decades, Africa’s population will be predominantly urban, and the size of the urban population will have doubled. Where are we? This calls for characterizing the current historic moment. A situational analysis is the first analytical step in this regard. It brings together all the dimensions of the current state of the chosen municipalities and their strategic environment. These are used to understand the different dynamics that have resulted in the current situation.
ii. How to go from expert diagnostics to participative diagnostics? Experience of foresight thinking on the continent teaches that there is everything to gain from involving communities in exploring possible futures. Different methods have been devised to encourage participation and to reduce the role of external consultants. The session should provide an overview of the methods and the most appropriate institutional arrangements for encouraging proper participation.

With regards to the second analytical step, three sessions will be organized:

i. The future of Africa’s local governments? The development of exploratory scenarios. Where are we going? It deals with finding the possible pathways in the African trajectory, what are the alternative futures. This stage examines Africa’s scenarios and where local governments fit in. Which scenarios are possible? Futurists generally distinguish two types of scenarios: exploratory scenarios that lead to probable and possible futures, by starting from the current situation and past and present trends and making different assumptions about the uncertainties related to the environment and about drivers of change; and normative scenarios which are developed from different images of the future, futures that may be desired or, on the contrary, feared. For Africities, we used exploratory scenarios that certain futurists consider neutral, in that they make no value judgement on the future described.

ii. Territorial visioning; conceptual and methodological progress.

iii. Conceptual studies on the institutionalization of foresight reflection. Several local and even some national governments have adopted the foresight approach in an ad hoc manner. How can foresight thinking become a permanent feature of local or national government planning and managing for change; in other words, how can foresight thinking be entrenched? That is the question. The answer is that it needs to be institutionalized without being bureaucratized. What is the role of national or local governments in the institutionalization of foresight thinking? Can they be limited to the role of facilitator or should they be involved in the strategic diagnostic, with the risk of bias from their short-term interests? There is no clear or satisfactory answer but thinking about this question must take place.

With regards to the third analytical step, five sessions will be organized:

i. Strategy formulation, planning and programming – the art of making possible what is desirable. Whether related to war, business and various communities, or development of nations, a strategy sets objectives and an approach for achieving them. In this definition, the preposition “and” is important: the strategy is neither a simple definition of objectives nor the path to follow to achieve them, but a combination of both. Given that every strategy is, in hindsight, a gamble on the future, the session will deal with the relationship between scenarios and strategies.

This session will be followed by four other sessions focused on areas for strategic planning:

ii. Strategies for financial resources: Here the question of PPPs will play a significant role.

iii. Information as a key resource for strategies formulation.

iv. Strategies for strengthening the institutional environment of local governments: issues of participatory government, decentralization vs. devolution, horizontal decentralization vs. vertical decentralization. We could add the issue of rights.

v. Strategies for natural and material resources.
The 11 thematic sessions should respond to the five major questions that are at the heart of all foresight thinking:

a. Where does the system in question come from or a retrospective analysis allows this question to be addressed?
b. Where is the considered system or what diagnostic can be carried out?
c. What will come from the system: what are the possible futures? The scenarios are used to answer this question.
d. In the range of possible futures, which do the role-players prefer? This is the vision formulation step.
e. How to achieve the desirable? This is the strategy formulation step.

As far as possible, data from the seven case studies, which represent the different regions of Africa and different configurations of territories, will feed into the various thematic sessions.

I would like to end on saying that the proposed structure reflects a belief and an imperative. The belief is two-fold. First, as a poet from my country says, we are unfair to the future and this is especially true for men with power because their time is not the long time of poets or of mystics, but the fleeting time of their mandate, the time of power bestowed upon them by public opinion that is tyrannical and often fickle. My second belief is that foresight thinking helps politicians reach new heights and gives them the means of becoming statesmen. One such statesman was President Mandela who never stopped insisting that an action without a forward vision is a recipe for tomorrow’s nightmares.

As for the imperative, keep both feet on the ground. Foresight thinking is an attempt to decipher, to decode what might be tomorrow’s world, a decoding of history seen as the direction in which we travel, but this attempt only makes sense if we are animated by a desire, a will to take action now to ensure tomorrow is another day. This is what led A. Camus to say that real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.

We wanted to realize this dialectic of the present and the future, this tension between timeframes, by proposing a structure that creates bridges rather than erects walls. Have we achieved this? Will we achieve this? The answer is in the hands of those who participate or host these sessions.

**Key messages**

- Agenda 2063 is an African agenda produced by Africans that reflects an African vision of structurally transforming Africa to achieve the seven aspirations of Africans.
- The Foresight Group’s contribution is through case studies and structuring thematic sessions at Africities 7.
- “Real generosity towards the future lies in giving all to the present.” (A. Camus).
Minister of Traditional Affairs and Cooperative Governance, Mr Pravin Gordhan

Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Mayors, UCLGA office-bearers, SALGA leadership, Distinguished guests,

Good morning.

The time has come to transform local government in Africa. The 7th edition of the Africities Summit takes place at an important time in our development trajectory. Africa has adopted Agenda 2063, subtitled “The Africa We Want”, which defines an African vision for the structural transformation of Africa based on the key elements of drastic reduction of poverty, equitable growth and inclusive wealth.

The 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) and the upcoming Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Urban Development, commonly known as Habitat 3 will also influence our agenda. In South Africa, we have adopted the Back to Basics programme based on the five pillars of delivering basic services, good governance, public participation, sound financial management, and building institutional capacity to ensure that local government changes the lives of people.

All these agendas are aimed at dealing with the challenges of poverty, increasing inequality, high unemployment and underemployment levels, particularly within our young population. They are further aligned to Agenda 2063, which aspires for cities and other human settlements to become “hubs of cultural and economic activities, with modernized infrastructure, and people have access to all the basic necessities of life including shelter, water, sanitation, energy, public transport and ICT”.

Minister of Traditional Affairs and Cooperative Governance, Mr Pravin Gordhan
Broadly, development parameters have been set. The key challenge for us is not only about what to do, but also about how to do it. Time has come to transform local government in Africa. Some of the things we need to urgently do include:

• Empower local government to undertake key functions: Too much centralization constrains capable municipalities’ ability to plan and deliver in an integrated and sustainable manner. This means giving local government original constitutional powers or equivalent, as opposed to having that determined on an ad hoc basis by other levels of government. It also means making sure that local government has sufficient financial resources to deliver on its mandate.

• Ensure sufficient capacity in local government: I should, however, caution that while decentralization is a fundamental tool for empowering local authorities, its success is dependent on the ability of local government itself to carry out the mandate. The role of political office bearers, supported by a capable administration is key.

• Strengthen collaborative planning and integrated delivery between the various levels of government: This can only be achieved if various levels acknowledge that they are not autonomous, and plan in a collaborative manner and properly sequence the delivery of infrastructure and other services.

• Get the basics right: Local government should not neglect the basic things critical to ensure that it functions effectively and efficiently. For example, in South Africa, our assessment of local government in 2014 found that the unsatisfactory performance of local government was not due to lack of decentralization or financial resources, but primarily due to a neglect of systems and processes required to run an effective municipality. For example, by simply ensuring that there is reliable water provision, roads are in a good condition, quick turnaround times on building applications, and other everyday necessities, you are able to promote economic development.

• A strong political will and good governance. We must confront our challenges and act together with urgency. The 2014 MasterCard African Cities Growth Index identifies six key lagging indicators related to governance affecting the performance of African cities namely (i) political stability and absence of violence, (ii) voice and accountability, (iii) government effectiveness, (iv) rule of law; (v) regulatory quality and (vi) control of corruption. Although the study focussed on cities, these indicators are also applicable to any area. Good governance is key for restoring public confidence in political office bearers and government as a whole.

• Invest in community engagement: This is an important, yet often neglected area. The theme “Shaping the future of Africa with the people: the contribution of African local authorities to Agenda 2063 of the African Union” emphasizes this point. This is a key instrument for ensuring that people are the centre of development, and that our interventions are responsive. We should, therefore, create an enabling environment for citizens to participate and shape their spaces.

• Invest in service delivery and institutional systems to promote social and economic development: An article published by Mary Plunkett titled “The Poorest Cities in the World” points out that all the 10 poorest cities in the world are in Africa and are capitals of sub-Saharan African nations. According to the article, these cities are expanding rapidly, while lacking the most rudimentary of supplies; clean water, transportation and overcrowding are key issues.
• Strengthen partnership between our countries and cities to learn and exchange knowledge and practices in pursuance of integrated urban development: The point often not stressed enough is that despite lower percentages (40%), Africa, which has more than 400 million urban dwellers, has the second highest number of urban dwellers after Asia. We therefore need to work together on areas such as urban policies, city development strategies, share innovations on urban planning and management and others to promote inclusive and sustainable urbanization.

In conclusion, the role of local government in effecting meaningful change in the life of the ordinary citizens is incontestable. Its success is however dependent on the level of collaboration with other levels of government. It is therefore important that as Ministers and Mayors gathered here, we explore concrete way of strengthening mechanisms for collaborative planning and delivery. This must be underpinned by a strong governance ethos that will build the confidence of our communities and other stakeholders. Time has come to transform local government in Africa.

I thank you.

Key messages

• Local government’s role in effecting meaningful change in the life of ordinary citizens is incontestable.
• Success depends on level of cooperation with other levels of government and getting the basics right.
• Stronger mechanism for collaborate planning and delivery are needed, underpinned by strong governance ethos that will build the confidence of communities and other stakeholders.

3.9 Honourable Jeff Radebe, MP, Minister in the Presidency: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Chairperson of the National Planning Commission

Chair of the Session, Councillor Khalifa Ababacar Sall, Mayor of Dakar and President of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa, Josep Roig, United Cities and Local Governments Secretary General, Councillor Parks Tau, Executive Mayor of our host city, the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Thabo Manyoni, Chairperson of SALGA, His Excellency, Dr Aisha Abdullahi AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Councillor Patrick Klugman, Deputy Mayor of Paris, Members of the United Cities and Local Governments Presidency, Honourable Pravin Gordhan, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and other ministers from different countries on the continent, Former Heads of States that are patrons of the Africities Summit, Representatives of various regional bodies, Mayors and councillors, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlement
On behalf of His Excellency, President Jacob Zuma, the Government and people of South Africa, I have the pleasure to welcome you to our beautiful country. I would like to start by congratulating the City of Johannesburg, under the leadership of Councillor Parks Tau, for winning the bid to host the 7th Session of the Africities Summit. We wish to convey our gratitude to the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa’s (UCLGA) Political Committee for affording South Africa an opportunity to host this Summit.

The theme of this summit: “Shaping the Future of Africa with the People - Africa's Local Government Contribution to the Africa 2063 Vision” is very befitting. This event brings together local governments of Africa and development partners to jointly learn and explore innovative solutions to improve the social and economic situation of our people.

The previous six Africities summits dealt with very important and pressing matters affecting development on the Continent including the financing of local government to fulfil its role effectively, building coalitions for achievement of common objectives and unpacking the role of local government in connecting people, environment, development and democracy to achieve sustainable development among others.

This summit provides a wonderful opportunity to assess the contribution of local government to the attainment of Agenda 2063 – the Africa we want. The rigorous assessment of likely future trends and discussion of what needs to be done at the local level will ensure that we come up with robust strategies.

One of the trends is that our continent is urbanising quickly. High levels of urbanization and concentration can lead to exponential increases in economic growth and development if the positive energies of our people are harnessed and channelled in the right direction. High levels of urbanization that are not managed well can however lead to multiple negative consequences, such as congestion, over-utilisation of infrastructure, social unrest and more. In Africa, we are currently seeing a mixture of positive and negative consequences of urbanization. The urbanization levels on the Continent increased from just 15 per cent in 1960 to 40 per cent in 2010. This figure is expected to reach 60 percent in 2050, and triple in the next 50 years. Between 2010 and 2050, the number of Africa’s urban dwellers is projected to increase from 400 million to 1.26 billion. The Africa-wide urbanization level is projected to reach 50 per cent around 2035 and may rise further to almost 58 per cent by 2050.

The 2014 State of Cities Report produced by the UN Habitat emphasizes the need for us to use this opportunity to rethink our approaches to urban development considering that on the whole Africa’s population is still well below the 50 percent urban threshold. This overall threshold however masks differences between regions. Southern Africa is the most urbanized region in sub-Saharan Africa, however even in this region urbanization has progressed unevenly, between and within countries. Northern Africa is also highly urbanized, with most of its cities unevenly spread along its Mediterranean coastline and the Nile Valley and Delta. The estimated 11 million population of Cairo, is projected to grow at an annual rate of at least two per cent until 2020. Although Central Africa is
rapidly urbanizing, this sub-region is not expected to reach a region-wide urban majority until around 2030. Eastern Africa is the world’s least urbanized but fastest urbanizing sub-region. By the end of the current decade, its urban population will have increased by 50 per cent and the total number of urban dwellers in 2040 is expected to be five times that of 2010. Eastern Africa will face huge challenges associated with massive urban population increases; monumental new and additional demands for the provision of adequate and affordable housing and urban services. Projections indicate that by 2030 Africa’s population will exceed that of Europe, South and North America combined. But Africa is a very large and a still comparatively sparsely populated continent. Forecasts for Africa indicate that average densities will increase from 34 to 79 persons per square kilometre between 2010 and 2050.

Policy changes will be required to guide Africa’s rising urbanization levels and the desirable dispersion of population. Current and future demographic structures need to be taken into consideration, because the population will remain young for decades.

In recent years, Africa’s economic growth has seen real gross domestic product (GDP) increasing at a rate twice that of the 1980s and 1990s. By 2020, it is projected that 128 million African households will have transited to “middle class” level. The 2015 African Outlook Report maintains that in terms of human development, African countries have made significant progress in all dimensions of human development, comparable with other regions of the world.

Sustaining economic growth and promoting social development is dependent on several things. Key among these is availability of infrastructure services in the form of transport, telecommunications, water, energy and sanitation. To sustain the positive growth trajectory in Africa we must pay attention to our vulnerability to climate change, citizens’ expectations of more inclusive growth, a rise in social demands, demographic growth that will create both opportunities and challenges, rising levels of corruption and more. Youthful urban populations with increasing levels of education are not happy to be unemployed and they demand access to opportunities. North Africa has already seen how this can threaten peace and stability, as well as economic growth prospects.

In September 2015, Heads of States gathered in New York to adopt a new set of sustainable development goals. Before then, in July, governments met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to agree on the financing framework that underpins these goals. As we gather here today, people are already gathering in Paris to attend the 21st Conference of the Parties to engage in crucial negotiations on a new climate change agreement. The stakes are very high indeed. Despite historically low levels of green-house gas emissions from Africa as compared to the developed world, Africa is likely to be the most adversely affected by climate change. Scientists recently confirmed an average increase of one degree Celsius in world temperatures. This however translates into greater temperature increases in some areas, particularly in Africa. Vulnerability to climate change is a significant threat to development objectives on the African continent, particularly food and water security.

Ten of the world’s twelve most drought-vulnerable countries are in Africa. Water scarcity and drought presently affect millions of people in at least 25 African countries, and more than 13 million were affected in the Horn of Africa alone during the 2010/2011 drought. Global environmental change
will affect rainfall patterns. As it is rainfall is already less predictable, leading to uncertainty in timing for crop planting as well as crop failures and insecurity of water supplies. Water supply to urban areas will be severely tested in the future, since this is largely linked to rainfall, basic infrastructures and the capacity to use water resources sparingly.

Urban dwellers in most of Africa presently rely predominantly on rural areas for food security rather than imported foodstuffs. Appropriate infrastructure for supply and distribution linkages is essential, since even surplus crops are useless unless delivered in time to consumers.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Africa of today is not the Africa of yesterday. What has worked previously might not work today to improve our various municipalities, nations and the continent at large. We are faced with massive development opportunities as well as challenges of poverty and inequality. To achieve the Africa we want in 2063, several issues require new and innovative thinking and approaches. The role of local government is critical in enabling cities and towns to be the engines of growth, contributing substantially to national growth. It is important that we identify practical ways of harnessing this urbanization for sustainable and inclusive growth. We need to invest in proper urban planning and management systems in our urban spaces. The existence and continuous increase of informal settlements in the majority of our cities is, to a large extent an indication of insufficient planning for growth, coupled with insufficient resources to provide housing options for the urban dwellers. Addressing this requires strong collaboration between the various levels of government. Our urban planning and management should at help us to create urban form appropriate to the local context; expand basic services; target the urban poor and vulnerable groups; expand social and economic infrastructure and strengthen the connectivity between cities and the domestic and international markets.
In line with sustainable development goals for sustainable cities and communities, the UN guidelines for urban and territorial development were developed to provide a universal framework to guide urban policy reforms and raise the urban and territorial dimensions of the development agendas of national, regional and local governments. The guide emphasizes the importance of strong political will, appropriate partnerships as well as enabling components around an enforceable and transparent legal framework, sound and flexible urban planning and design and a financial plan for affordability and cost effectiveness. In this regard, planning should be more than a technical tool; it should draw extensively on integrative and participatory decision-making processes that address competing interest.

At the heart of the renewed urban governance paradigm, is local democracy, participation and inclusion, transparency and accountability, with a view to ensuring sustainable urbanization and spatial quality. The important role that African local governments must play, requires committed and capable leadership. We know too well that development cannot be attained unless various levels of government work together. It is therefore important that among other things, during our discussions we identify concrete ways of strengthening collaboration between key role-players.

Although the urbanization levels are increasing, rural areas are still home to the majority of African people. These areas are usually characterized by high poverty levels, with little or no access to basic service and infrastructure that can support economic activities. Rural areas have a critical role to play in the national space economy. The sustainable development of our continent, therefore, is dependent on investing in rural infrastructure and strengthening the linkages between our rural and urban areas. Sustainable urban development is dependent upon sustainable rural development and vice versa.

Distinguished guests, in 2012, the Parliament and Cabinet of South Africa adopted the National Development Plan Vision 2030 developed by our National Planning Commission. It projects forward to 2030, outlines a compelling vision of a society we want to be and maps out the actions we need to take over the next 15 years. Our plan recognizes the important role of cities and local government in ensuring the attainment of our overall national development objectives. We have put in place measures to monitor and evaluate its implementation with a view to make adjustments as we progress towards 2030. Since the adoption of our plan, we have embarked on a journey to learn how to accelerate the implementation of development objectives in the complex environment of the 21st century. While we are happy to share the lessons learnt so far, we are acutely aware that many countries on the continent have been on a similar journey for longer and have a lot to teach us. This summit is very important to us for that reason. Addressing development in different regions requires collaboration and structured partnerships between cities and within cities. We look to this summit to help all of us to find ways to build stronger and lasting partnerships for growth and development.

I now declare this 7th Session of the Africities Summit and the exhibition open, and wish you fruitful deliberations during the coming days.

I thank you.
Key messages

- The role of local government is critical in enabling cities and towns to be the engines of growth, contributing substantially to national growth, requiring committed and capable leadership, and the various levels of government working together.
- South Africa is happy to share lessons learnt from the development of our National Development Plan and to learn from the experience of other countries on the continent.
- Africitie 7 can help us to find ways of building stronger and lasting partnerships with other African regions for growth and development.

3.10 Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union

Thank you very much!

May I just say, a very respectful greeting to the panel of the table and all distinguished members, the Mayors and all the Researchers, and everybody here. To begin, let me apologize for not being here at the Summit opening, but I thought it was also important to put our voice at the COP 21.

Firstly, I am very happy, that you talk about unity because the founders of our organization, and the prior pan-Africanists stressed the question of unity. We all know that Kwame Kruma said: Africa must unite or perish. So, that must be something that we hold dear in everything we do. Secondly, Local Government is at the coalface of improving people’s lives; national government is very important, provincial or regional government is very important, but local government is at the coalface. And Agenda 2063 is really about how to get Africa to become a prosperous, integrated, peaceful continent. Driven by its citizens and playing a dynamic role in the world. And there is no way we can achieve that, without full involvement of local government.

The Deputy Minister who welcomed me reminded me that there is nothing that happens in a country that does not happen in the municipality, which is true: even the Head of Government of Pretoria is in the municipality; any big hospital or small hospital is in the municipality; any railway station is in the municipality; airports are in the municipality, as are schools. He reminded me of something that is obvious but often forgotten: that everything that happens and that we do, and every infrastructure is located in the municipality. So it shows how integrated the municipality is to our life. And of course, if we look at local governments, it is about improving delivering services to our people. Sometimes people think only of services in the cities, but cities are very important because they are also hubs of economic growth, the face of our countries, our capitals and so on.

But for me, I grew up in the rural areas, and the municipality is important both at rural and urban setting. If we are to improve the lives of our people, as local government, it means we must improve
the life of women across the continent. Because everyone grows up in part in their rural area, in part in their township. In the rural area, before going to school or after coming back from school, we have to go and fetch water from a distance and sometime when my back is painful, I think of those days when I was carrying 20 litres of water on my head as a young woman. When you think of something to cook with, it is usually with very few exceptions the women. The men here, with due respect, expect a cup of tea in the morning. They know there is no water or electricity in the house, but they expect a cup of tea. So, if a woman has to give birth, it helps to have a road to the clinic or to the hospital in the rural area! it helps if there is a bridge to go across the river to the school. In reality, improvement of life has to be really geared towards women because when you improve the life of women, you improve everybody’s life. Women do not just improve their own life – they improve their family’s life and their community. Therefore, Local Governments must ensure that they are women in Local Governments.

I was talking to one minister from Columbia, when I was still in Foreign Affairs, who told me that in Columbia they realized that the best thing is to give free/low-cost housing to the women. When government gives housing to a woman, it is primarily to ensure that the children are safe. And what they found in Columbia was that, when houses were given to a man, and the man does not like the woman anymore, he chases her and her children out of the house into the street and brings somebody else into the house. And now the kids are out in the street, and their house given by the Government is still there, but the kids are out in the street. So, they decided they must give the entitlement to the women.
So Agenda 2063 will not be achieved without Local Government but will also not be achieved without full involvement of women. And when you look at Agenda 2063, everything that is there impacts on local government, such as the skills revolution, agriculture or improving productivity. Cities and Local Government are very much involved because Africa may be the least urbanized but is the fastest urbanizing, which means many more people within the cities still need to be fed. So we are here to ensure that there is enough food. And we import more than 80 billion dollars’ worth of food as a continent every year. We need to become self-sufficient: the president of Ghana said that they would save 1.5 billion dollars every year if they produced oil, rice, sugar, tomatoes, which are common things used every day. That amount of money will be very useful at local government for education in all sort of areas that are critical for our development. So, agriculture is very important, as is infrastructure and energy.

I hope one of this days, ministers and mayors can seat together to work out the relationship between national, provincial and local government and how we empower Local Government to do more of what they should be doing and doing it better. So, thank you very much for all the things you do as municipalities, as local governments. In everything we are doing is to accelerate the development of Africa not only local government. All of us needs to do a lot more than what we are doing.

Unity is important, and I hope that as we go forward you maintain it and see the continent as a continent. We are looking at how to improve the interaction among Africans across the continent, and at how to have an African passport that can take you to any country of the continent. We also want to move away, from this artificial separation of people. “There is no illegal immigrant; they are illegal borders” is the view of many young people. It is also possible to do that – I am sure you know that Rwanda has led the way: if you have an African passport, you do not need to apply for a visa to visit Rwanda. This is one of the things we would like to do, so that young people can get skills anywhere and can work where their skills are needed as part of integration.

Thank you very much, thank you for all you do, continuing doing it, faster, better, so that you can achieve Agenda 2063 much faster. Older people ask how do you put Agenda 2063 and the SDGs? Agenda 2063 is same Sustainable Development but Africa specific.

Thank you!

**Key messages**

- Local government is at the coalface of improving people’s lives and everything that happens in a country happens in a municipality.
- Agenda 2063 will not be achieved without local government and the full involvement of women
- The AU is looking at introducing an African passport, so people can travel to any country on the continent without needing a visa.
4. Achieving the Future of Agenda 2063

In 2014, the Assembly of Heads of State, the highest organ of the African Union (AU), adopted Agenda 2063 (A2063). This document was prepared with the help of the African Union Commission (AUC) and has two core strengths:

1. It brings greater visibility to Africa’s ambitions.

A2063 is the first continental development initiative to emerge on the continent, managed by Africans, since NEPAD. Subtitled “The Africa We Want”, the A2063 is based on the collective aspirations of millions of Africans on the continent and abroad, from all sectors. In the words of the AUC Chairperson, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the document is “a global strategy to optimize the use of Africa’s resources for the benefit of all Africans!” It draws on lessons of the past to consolidate the progress underway and strategically leverage all potential short- and medium-term opportunities, to ensure positive socio-economic transformation in Africa over the next 50 years.

A2063 reveals an African vision for the structural transformation of Africa, based on the key elements of a drastic reduction in poverty, equitable growth and inclusive prosperity. In a short time, A2063 has become an essential document; a cornerstone of the reflection on Africa’s development. This achievement is even more remarkable because it was prepared at a time when the international development agenda and its institutional landscape were overloaded with priorities. Many initiatives – including the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that followed, as well as the development of BRICS – could have taken the limelight away from the A2063, not least because they were better funded.

2. It brings greater clarity, if not intelligibility, to the role of cities.

The continent’s urbanization is the subject of some consideration in the document. It could not be any other way because by 2050 more than one billion Africans will be urban dwellers, compared to 20 million in 1950 and 400 million currently. By 2130, more Africans will live in urban areas than in rural
Urbanization is an opportunity to be seized but also a challenge to be confronted. It has to be managed. As part of the transformational vision, Agenda 2063 aspires for cities and other human settlements to become hubs of cultural and economic activities, with modernized infrastructure, and for people to have access to all the basic necessities of life, including shelter, water, sanitation, energy, public transport and ICT.

A2063 wants African cities to be a driving force behind development. This is to be welcomed, as it is both possible and desirable. It is possible because, throughout history, cities have often played this leading role; the history of cities teaches us that the same process was repeated on all continents – cities were the drivers behind development during industrial revolutions and the economic take-off phases. It is desirable because urbanization means that the majority of Africans will be urban dwellers, and cities have a key role to play if we wish to democratize the political, economic and cultural spaces. Therefore, in order to implement A2063, urban agendas will need to be developed with more manageable timelines, and thus greater clarity.

In response to this analysis and to the AUC’s call inviting African decision-makers to factor Agenda 2063’s priorities into the transformation of cities, the UCLGA chose as its theme for the Africitities 7th summit: “Shaping the future of Africa with the people: the contribution of African local authorities to Agenda 2063 of the African Union”. Through this theme, the Summit’s objective is to link the continent’s long-term vision to immediate actions to be taken at local level, and to respond to the urgency of the current situation. The aim is to see how cities and local authorities can contribute to achieving Agenda 2063’s objectives. Because of its mandate and its constituent bodies, UCLGA has chosen local authorities as the gateway.

For African cities to achieve the future outlined in Agenda 2063, the starting point is understanding the dynamics of change, especially in cities with the highest growth rates. To help them prepare, a foresight analysis, based on seven case studies of Africa’s most populous cities, was undertaken. The cities are Cairo in North Africa, Khartoum and Dar es Salam in East Africa, Kinshasa in Central Africa, Johannesburg in Southern Africa, and Lagos and Dakar in West Africa.

The thematic sessions were led by African Futures, UCLGA, UNEP, AFRISTAT, Cities Alliance and African Centre of Cities.

### 4.1 Exploration of possible futures

1. **The future of Africa’s local governments**, through case studies of five cities: Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo), Dar es Salam (Tanzania), Cairo (Egypt), Khartoum (Sudan) and Johannesburg (South Africa). The discussion revolved around cities as key drivers of development in Africa, and the consequences of rapid urbanization on Africa’s development and growth. African cities face similar challenges: overcrowding, inequality, unemployment, urbanization of poverty, poor service delivery, pollution, homelessness, insufficient water and poor sanitation facilities. In general, local municipalities lack capacities and planning skills, while the planning of cities require collaboration both between municipalities and central and local governments.
Summit delegates recognized that for cities to be the engines of development requires:

- strengthening the virtuous cycle of government-economy-resources
- improving the collaboration between national and local governments
- developing a suitable infrastructure development plan
- building strategies to make cities attractive to investors
- creating a development culture underpinned by good governance
- building capacity, in particular training more planners, to prepare strategic development plans.

2. **Territorial visioning: conceptual and methodological progress**, specifically as applied in the African context, which is characterised by significant structural change for decades to come, particularly the population explosion, rapid urbanization and globalization. Among the messages that emerged from the discussion was the importance of the foresight approach in a changing urban landscape. The philosophy of collaboration and cooperation was also supported, with the understanding that it did not entrench the prerogatives of local government, but rather assisted local stakeholders to make decisions.

3. **Institutionalizing the practice of foresight practice in local governments**, which is a new discussion and based largely on the work of a working group set up by the African Union. Participants agreed that, if local governments are to use long-term foresight planning for growing and developing their communities, the way in which planning is done will have to change, i.e. no longer plan from election to election, but for the longest possible term. All stakeholders will need to be involved and on the same page, and government planners will need to be trained in long-term foresight planning. The recommendation made was that a committee for the institutionalization of foresight planning in Africa needs to be established.
4.2 The formulation of strategies

1. **Strategy formulation, planning and programming** or the art of making possible what is desirable. Urbanization is happening rapidly, but not in a planned manner, and is outstripping the capacity of institutions to cope. Case studies of strategic planning were presented, from various perspectives of municipal government (from cities to small towns), urban poor networks and experts in urban economy and planning.

The main issues that emerged were:
- strategic planning is imperative
- realistic planning must be based on the realities on the ground, which means proper information is needed, through partnerships with communities
- government must be a key stakeholder in housing the poor
- communication and consultation are essential between communities and municipalities (“bottom up”)
- human capital needs to be developed in order to nourish good leadership, which includes strong, accountable and transparent institutions that consult with communities.

2. **Strategies for financial resources.** Cities need to have the necessary financial resources to deliver the infrastructure, services and administrative capacities required for supporting vibrant economies and delivering equitable services to urban dwellers. While local strategies may vary from country to country, some challenges are overarching, i.e. Africa is urbanizing later and at lower levels of income per capita than the developed world; demand for infrastructure is outstripping expenditure by 25:1, resulting in service delivery backlogs and precarious informality; the majority of cities depend almost entirely on transfers from central government; financial mismanagement, corruption and inefficient spending also need to be sorted out.

The following strategies were recommended:
- Additional revenue should be devolved to cities, as having sufficient revenue is one of the most powerful and effective ways to enable local governments to drive growth.
- More effective policy making and leadership at central government level is required.
- Africans must lead advocacy on the good work that African cities are doing in securing sustainable finances.
- Africities should consider driving a process of sharing best practices across the continent in fiscal decentralization, increasing own revenues and borrowing.
- In the short term, cities should demonstrate efficiencies: audits always show gaps.
- In the longer term, local governments must dialogue with national governments about revenue powers and borrowing.

3. **Strategies for natural and material resources.** Cities are the nexus of social, economic, ecological and technological change, and need to adopt strategies for more sustainable and efficient use of resources. Cities take up 3% of land surface, but generate 50% of waste and 80% greenhouse gases, consume 70% of natural resources and are home to 50% of urban
populations. Changing options and choices can create savings of 30% of water and 30–50% energy. All stakeholders (public and private sectors, as well as communities) need to be active in managing the environment. If multi-level stakeholder participation and consultation are to be effective, information must be decentralized, communities must be involved and simple, practical language must be used. Public parks can help create more inclusive communities and promote better resource use. Sustainable procurement is also an important tool for enabling efficient resource use at local government level. The cornerstone of meaningful resource conservation is financing plans, programmes and systems aimed at managing and efficiently using natural resources. Decoupling, i.e. the ability of an economy to grow without corresponding increases in environmental pressure, is critical for achieving resource efficiency.

The following recommendations were made:

• A robust policy environment is needed to create the right actions and promote environmental conservation in cities. This means implementing not only punitive environmental laws, but also putting incentives in place.
• Research and data collection must be ongoing in order to assess whether or not decoupling is occurring and the actions are having the right impacts. Research policy, practices and data need to be made available through a central database so that knowledge can be shared.
• Rhetoric must be replaced by action, including practical activities and demonstration projects that show what needs to be done. Pilot studies must be up-scaled and become local government practices.
• Communities need to be sensitized to environmental issues through both social media and traditional media, as well as education curricula.
• Networking and opportunities to interact must be promoted so that examples of successful projects can be shared.
• Funding for environmental issues should be increased, i.e. creating financial flows to support city sustainability projects and programmes. Environmental departments are often the least resourced departments.

4. Information as a key resource for strategies formulation. In most African countries, local government lacks good statistics and good professionals who understand the value of statistics in informing initiatives required for development. Statistics help improve the knowledge of local government, but producing them is expensive and national government does not always prioritize the production of local-level statistics. The lack of such statistical data, and thus knowledge, is detrimental to local government and weakens local powers (as decisions cannot be taken at local level).

The following recommendations were made to local governments:

• Local governments need to be transparent and inclusive in the collection of data. In addition, objectives must be aligned when local governments start collecting statistics.
• Local governments need to be open to different views about their municipalities. They must also share experiences and come up with common actions (involving the mayors).
• Technical and financial partners should be found and capacity built within regional departments and different municipalities, with the understanding that different municipalities have different needs.
• Information, including spatial data, must be decentralized and disaggregated, and made available.

5. **Strategies for strengthening the institutional environment of local governments.**
As cities continue to grow at an unprecedented rate, managing urbanization is a priority in Africa today. Governance is a major issue, especially in the context of the decentralization of powers and resources. The Assessment of Institutional Environments Report undertaken by UCLGA and Cities Alliance enables African cities to benchmark themselves against one another. The assessment criteria in this comparative benchmarking are: local and city governments and the constitution; financial transfers; capacity building; transparency; citizen participation; local government performance; and urban strategy. The assessment found significant local government institutional improvement in Southern Africa (an improvement of 15%) and East Africa (6%). South Africa and Uganda were singled out for their strong local government institutions.
Recommendations

From the discussions in these sessions, the following key recommendations emerged:

To the Mayors

1. Local officials must work to improve the quality of local public expenditure and make them more effective and efficient local authorities in order to ensure a better supply of local public services.
2. The definition of local strategies must be based on territorial foresight exercises considering the different components of the population, including the poorest.
3. Local governments must work to expand their tax bases in order to raise more own resources, the only way to ensure their financial autonomy.
4. For the efficient and effective implementation of local public policies, local governments should give particular attention to building human resources capacity.
5. Enlighten citizens for decision making by agreeing to put on the table the real problems to deal with, by calling the social stakeholders to say what they have to say and then to deliberate collectively; shortly to give back to the local decision all its virtues.

To the Ministers

6. The central governments must support legislative developments in the decentralization process by regulations in order to enable their practical implementation.
7. The implementation of the reforms for the development of legal regimes that give way to the implementation of a territorial foresight among African local governments must be supported by the development of tools and methods as well as appropriate training of stakeholders.
8. Develop in conjunction with development partners, microfinance and microcredit systems that integrate the poorest populations in the economic layer of local governments.

To the Technical and Financial Partners

9. The technical and financial partners to assist in setting up of permanent consultation frameworks between the Central Governments and local governments in order to make them more favourable, the institutional environment of cities and local governments.
10. Strengthen national mechanisms for monitoring local finances and boost their mandate to promote financial decentralization.
5. The Contribution of African Local Governments to Achieving the Agenda 2063

The last two days were devoted to the political sessions of the summit, dedicated to meetings of ministers of public service, local governments, urban development and decentralization; mayors and local authorities; development partners; and political dialogue.

These political meetings reviewed the proposals formulated by the thematic and open sessions. The political dialogue meeting attended to questions between each group, interchangeable with the aim of evaluating and/or creating possibilities and conditions of cooperation for the implementation of a strategic programme on shaping the future of Africa with the people.

5.1 Challenges and Opportunities

At the opening plenary session, key speakers presented the challenges and opportunities facing the continent. These informed the dialogue at the Summit.

5.1.1 Africa the continent

Through the AU’s 2063 vision, Africa should continue to focus attention on the positive socio-economic transformation of the continent, and to build a continent that is politically connected in addressing the ties that bind Africans, such as the history of the struggle against colonialism, slavery and neo-colonialism. Africans should work towards unity and peace, ensuring that the ugly practices of xenophobia, racism, tribalism, and regionalism are eradicated from African society. African countries must work together to bring about African prosperity. In this regard, municipalities and local government should advance their mandate.
For success on the continent, governments need to focus on putting people first, ensure good governance, improve public participation, ensure sound financial management and accountability, and build institutional capacity to ensure that local governments have the ability to change the lives of people. However, this focus should not be about developing additional policies, but about strengthening existing policies and translating them into action.

Significant inequalities affect the population of the African continent. Part of the solution to these inequalities lies with urbanization. Africa’s progress in advancing economic growth still faces many developmental challenges, including overcoming poverty and unemployment, upgrading and providing adequate infrastructure and many others. These developmental challenges stem largely from the lack of beneficiation of raw materials in Africa and the continent’s very low agricultural activities.

Urbanization and industrialization are two sides of the same coin, as urbanization facilitates industrialization. But sadly, in Africa urbanization often takes place without industrialization. In addition, there is a weak link in agro-processing, which should be uplifting the standard of rural areas and those migrating from rural to urban areas. Urbanization affects all African development, and it is the role of the local government and municipalities to convert urban areas into engines of growth and development. The deliberations at Africities Summit 7 should consider urbanization as the core of Africa’s development and use this to strengthen Africa’s position in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and to consider carefully its priorities to take to Habitat III.
5.1.2 The role of local government

Africities 7 is an opportunity for vibrant and constructive dialogue, a time of dialogue with self and with others, where the critique and debate in a spirit of truth and respect is spoken while maintaining unity in our diversity. It is in this diversity that the African continent continues to live and work together towards the realization of its development agenda. Much has been achieved, but more still needs to be done. The debates should be about seeking how to build local government in Africa, which will enable local authorities to fulfil their roles. The relationship between national and local government needs to be strengthened. All partners need to support local authorities with innovative ideas to enable them to respond appropriately to the constantly changing needs and demands of African people at the local level.

The time has come to transform local governments in Africa. The Agenda 2063 defines an African vision for the structural transformation of Africa based on key elements of drastic reduction of poverty, equitable growth and inclusive wealth. Local governments need to be empowered to undertake key functions. One way of achieving this is to give local governments original constitutional powers or equivalents, as opposed to having their power determined on an ad hoc basis by other levels of government. It also means making sure that local governments have sufficient financial resources to deliver on their mandates. Furthermore, it means ensuring sufficient capacity in local governments. The success of the decentralization that is fundamental to empowering local authorities is dependent on the ability of local governments to carry out their mandates. The role of political office bearers therefore needs to be supported by capable administration at local government levels.

Other factors and issues that are fundamental to the empowering of local governments include the following:

- Collaborative planning and integrated delivery between the various levels of government needs strengthening. Here, collaborative efforts in delivery of infrastructure and other services is key.
- Local governments should not neglect the basics critical to ensuring that they function effectively and efficiently, such as the systems and processes required to run an effective municipality.
- Good governance is critical for restoring public confidence in political office bearers and government as a whole.
- Investment in community engagement is a key instrument for ensuring that people are at the centre of development, and that local government interventions are responsive. Therefore, it is important to create an enabling environment for citizens to participate and shape their spaces.
- Investment in service delivery and institutional systems to promote social and economic development is similarly important. Many cities are expanding rapidly and becoming increasingly overcrowded, while lacking the most rudimentary of services, such as clean water and transport.
5.1.3 Leadership and governance

The UCLGA is commended for maintaining its vital role with regard to the crucial sphere of local government, a structure that is at the heart of service delivery. The UCLGA should be supported in its excellent work of uniting Africans, and efforts should continue in building this organization into a resilient, well-grounded and formidable institution that will stand the test of time; an organization that will continue to tackle the various problems faced by the African continent, especially at local government level.

The UCLGA needs to help countries establish strong political will and good governance towards achieving a unified approach when dealing with urgent challenges. To this end, and in the context of Africa having the second highest number of urban dwellers after Asia, the UCLGA should focus on strengthening partnerships among African countries and cities to learn and exchange knowledge and practices in pursuance of integrated urban development. It is therefore important for Africa to work together on urban policies, city development strategies, innovations, sharing on urban planning and management, and others, to promote inclusive and sustainable urbanization.

To achieve the above, the UCLGA needs to prioritize the finalisation of its new constitution and put in place good governance systems.

5.1.4 Sustainable development goals

Africities 7 is a platform for dialogue to transform people’s future and to help shape the future of the African continent. Leaders have endorsed Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development where discussions are no longer about North/South relationship but now focus on partnerships. SDG 11 on urbanization will help Africa address its broad SDGs, as more than 60% of Africa’s population are found in slums and informal settlements, a phenomenon that is unforgivable and needs to be addressed urgently. The AU and the heads of African states have, through the adoption of Agenda 2063, paved the way for the SDGs to be met; it is now up to local governments to provide the wheels and wings to make this a fully fledged and operational process. At the heart of achieving this are the issues of governance, land ownership and security, which require a holistic and critical diagnosis.

Local governments are major players in the transformation of African cities. Consequently, the African Development Bank has established a municipal development fund to support infrastructure development at municipal level. However, these funding resources will never be sufficient, and local governments need to strengthen their technical capacities and foster more partnerships with the private sector. In this respect, and in order to effect transformation on a massive but sustainable scale, Africa needs numerous policy reforms in order to be able to respond to the many challenges facing the continent.
5.2 Women’s Voices on the Implementation of the Agenda 2063

The session focusing on women’s voices on the implementation of the Agenda 2063 was facilitated by May Jacqueline Moustache-Belle of Victoria, Seychelles with the following panel members: Mayor Abdel Malick Mint of Mauritania, Rose Moletsane of Slum Dwellers’ International (SDI) and Ms Chantal Uwinana of Transparency International.

A major theme to emerge was that, in order to ensure that issues of women empowerment become a reality, a complete change in mindset is needed that respects simultaneously the traditions, cultures and values of different countries and people. Local government’s actions in addressing gender inequality are not intended to cause conflict but to improve society as a whole. It was noted that women have the capacity to mobilize and that many of those who do rise up, do so not for power but for the benefit of society.

However, the session noted a number of stumbling blocks that stand in the way of women’s empowerment, including include illiteracy and poverty. In fact, the SDI highlighted the disabling effects of poverty on the aspirations of women. The various forms of real and perceived corruption also have a huge negative impact on the development of women in the continent. This meant, for example, that achieving Agenda 2063 and its call to action of gender parity by 2020 is doubtful, given the constant reports of young girls still facing sexual exploitation by male teachers in order to progress in schools. It was noted that, if education was the route to empowerment, then achieving this goal in five years remains hugely questionable. Mayors and local authorities were therefore called on to serve all in the communities and make time to engage with their people around the pertinent issues, such as corruption, education and the eradication of poverty, at grassroots level.
5.3 Tripartite Discussion

The tripartite political dialogue meeting between ministers, mayors and development partners took place on the last day of the Summit, moderated by Clare Short, former Secretary of State for International Development in the United Kingdom.

- The ministers had considered and discussed the recommendations proposed by the thematic and open sessions, and appointed a delegation of three ministers to represent them at the tripartite meeting.
- Mayors and local authorities had met to consider the adoption of the recommendations proposed by the thematic and open sessions, and to consequently set up a resolution committee, comprising mayors and local authorities.
- Local, regional, continental and international development partners had met to deliberate on their contribution and role in journeying with the African continent towards addressing its development challenges, in particular in supporting the AU’s Agenda 2063.

The first basis for meeting was the preliminary report on the foresight in African territories. The second basis was the cooperation and partnership needed to achieve the desired foresight vision for Africa. Prior to the meeting, each group had unpacked the themes and issues were unpacked in the form of questions and responses from the abovementioned stakeholders, as well as the declaration that was read out to the audience in the session.

5.3.1 Mayors’ questions to Ministers and Partners

MAYORS’ QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

1. The Heads of State and Government of the African Union adopted in June 2014 Malabo:
   - The African Charter on Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Democracy and Local Development, and
   - The creation of the High Council of Local Authorities

   To date, five countries signed the Charter: Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, Congo, Chad. Only one country has ratified it, Mali.

   What can the Ministers do to expedite the process of ratification and to deposit related instruments?

2. Local authorities requested at Africities 2012 that their national associations receive public status and are recognized as public interest. Apart from some countries, few organizations have achieved this status to date. The issue of funding the national associations was also raised, as well as the funding of UCLG-Africa, their continental organization. As did South Africa and Morocco, central governments are invited to support this funding.

   Are Ministers who are present here prepared to take action so that this situation is finally resolved?
3. Local authorities based the problem of correlation between the competences that are recognized and the resources to bear them. This correlation is rarely assured. In this sense, local authorities raise the question of better access to financial resources through state transfers, local taxation, and access to financial market.

**MAYORS’S QUESTIONS TO PARTNERS**

1. Agenda 2030 and the Addis Ababa Conference on Development Financing all refer to the role of local authorities in the implementation of ODD and the structural transformation of the continent.

   **Are the partners ready to support the local authorities in this exercise and how?**

2. Negotiations between development partners and African countries often exclude local communities. But they are now first in line to face the challenges of sustainable development and urbanization.

   **How to better involve local authorities in the definition and implementation of cooperation programmes?**

3. COP 21 in Paris will, in particular, define an intervention fund for climate change adaptation and the mitigation of risks associated with it.

   **Will this intervention fund will be accessible to authorities and through what mechanisms?**

**5.3.2 Summary of discussions**

- Decentralization remains the important area for the AU. Ministers of decentralization need to build on earlier contributions in advancing the development agenda for the African continent. The history of decentralization of local government is closely linked to the history of Africities.
- Individual countries are faced with unique challenges and are at different levels of development, so general approaches may not always work. Intervention approaches should take this factor into consideration.
- Reaffirmation of the Agenda 2063 objectives, the African Charter values and the 2030 SDGs commits the incorporation of their principles into the development of the African people at grassroots level.
- Encourage learning and sharing of best practices and structures through inter-country and inter-cities exchange visits. Those countries that are ahead in setting up effective, working structures should to be used as benchmarks for those starting out or en route to assist them to achieve similar levels.
- Some villages in different countries are inhabited by people or families with the same descendants, cultures, traditions and languages. This is largely the result of colonial boundary demarcations. Trans-border development and reformulation is therefore a legitimate issue, but has to be approached with much attention to detail and great sensitivity.
• Governments need to find ways to ensure consistency between the implementation of international development agendas and their own national decentralization processes.
• Governments need to identify at national levels what the barriers are for national government to take the necessary implementing decrees to enact adopted decentralization policies.
• Governments need to find the means to ensure that their local governments are allocated the necessary resources to deliver on their mandates.
• Ways must be found to create enabling environments for local authorities to access international and private funding directly.

5.4 Political Resolutions and Commitments

1. Create a deep and analytical understanding of the common challenges facing the African continent, through rigorous research and data collection. Consultations, engagement and dialogue with all stakeholders should both inform the context and be the basis upon which innovative and effective solutions are developed to deal with challenges facing Africa. Community participation is critical to the achievement of goals to further Africa's development as a continent.

2. Commit to African unity and solidarity that will foster cooperation and collaboration among African states, local governments and African cities. African unity and solidarity will enhance the achievement of Agenda 2063, as well as the UN's newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Unity and solidarity are the foundation stone for growth and development in Africa, for the wellbeing of its citizens and for the environment.

3. Build strong institutions to support the vision of a peaceful, prosperous and integrated Africa, able to drive the development we want. We commit to investing in the development of the UCLGA as a united voice and representative of local government in Africa, providing decisive and visionary leadership enabling us to achieve our desired future. Strong institutions are anchored in good
governance and a comprehensive policy framework to drive the African agenda and enable local governments to act, as well as in transparent and accountable management and financial systems to ensure a healthy institution that inspires confidence across Africa and the world.

4. Invest in the development of inspirational, visionary and committed leaders in all spheres of government. These should be leaders who listen to the expressed and felt needs of the communities and constituencies that they serve, and are willing to participate in collaborative decision making. They must be leaders with high integrity, transparency and accountability.

5. Create mutually beneficial partnerships that will enhance the achievement of our vision for an Africa that is peaceful, prosperous and integrated. Partnerships between business, government and civil society or public-private partnerships seek to share risks, pool resources and talents, and deliver enhanced results on our common agenda. Inclusive partnerships should be developed based on shared vision, values and principles for the benefit of the people and environment in Africa and the world. Partnerships for development in Africa will require both intracontinental and global collaborations.

5.5 Concluding Resolutions

5.5.1 Declaration of Mayors and Local Authorities in Africa

We, mayors and local authorities from Africa, meeting under the 7th edition of the Africities Summit in Johannesburg in South Africa, from November 29 to December 03, 2015, under the theme: “Building the future of Africa with its People: The contribution of local authorities to Agenda 2063 for Africa”.

We appreciate the approach of the 2063 vision of Africa. It enables Africans to operate within a long-term prospect. Such an approach is part of the consideration given to the contradictory trends of the last 50 years, since African countries became independent. It makes it possible to build a strategic approach by articulating the need for in-depth transformation of African societies and transformation of Africa with the need to react to emergencies, to improve the living conditions of Africans, and to preserve peace. We wish to be actively involved in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and be actively involved in the monitoring process.

We also appreciate the approach of Agenda 2030 and of the Sustainable Development Goals that recognize the importance of the territories and the role of cities and local authorities as essential development partners. We also want to be actively involved in the attainment of these goals and their monitoring.

However, we are concerned about the fact that people get used to the rising inequalities around the world that now affects all populations, increasingly weakens their living conditions, and pushes some young people to seek a future elsewhere.

We observe with fear the rise of conflicts, violence and breaches to peace and security. We hope that appropriate solutions to these situations will be defined and implemented with the participation of local authorities.
We affirm that local authorities are at a turning point of their responsibility to support the structural transformation of the continent in the areas of economic development, social justice, preservation of ecological balance and the reinvention of democracy.

We recognize that the implementation of Agenda 2063 must focus more on the territories and requires transition towards sustainable development based on social justice. Such a model requires that we commit ourselves to restoring confidence and dialogue with the population, particularly women and youth, to being held accountable for our actions and to improving the efficiency of our services as a response to people’s expectations.

We are determined to establish a climate that is conducive to social harmony within the territories and which rejects discrimination of all kinds, stigmatization and xenophobia. We also wish to consider all issues related to migration.

We are convinced that Africa has a rightful place to occupy in the world of today and of tomorrow, provided that it knows how to rely on deep cultural values and identities to invent a new modernity. Mayors and local governments of Africa are determined to be part of this momentum so that the Africa that we want by 2063 will be an Africa that is open to the world and true to itself.

5.5.2 Communiqué by the Ministers

We, the Ministers attending the 7th Africities Summit in Johannesburg:

• Taking cognisance of Agenda 2063 and mindful of the relevance and its implications for building a better Africa;
• Inspired by the AU vision to build an integrated, prosperous, peaceful and people-driven Africa that is a dynamic force in the global arena;
• Resolve to contribute to the promotion of the values and principles of decentralization, local governance and local development in Africa.

We affirm our willingness, determination and commitment to support local authorities to take into account the objectives of Agenda 2063 and the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development, and the Sustainable Development Goals, in their respective development plans, as well as the implementation thereof to enable grassroots African people to benefit truly from quality public service delivery for the improvement of their living conditions.

We commit to work with local government for the achievement of the objectives outlined in Article 2 of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development.

We recommend to the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa that it finalizes its new Constitution and a good governance framework within the next year.

Adopted in Johannesburg, 3 December 2015
5.5.3 Declaration of the Development Partners

We, Development Partners, welcome the focus of the Summit on linking the role of local government in achieving positive socio-economic transformation across Africa for the next 50 years. This objective is in direct support of Agenda 2063 for Africa focused on inclusive growth and sustainable development, as well as the 2030 development agenda adopted by Heads of State at the Summit in New York in September 2015.

We consider that local governments should play a leading role in the implementation of global and regional development agendas as reflected in Agenda 2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the upcoming New Urban Agenda. In this respect, we recognize the importance of the African Charter of Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development.

We further emphasize that cities will be instrumental to the achievement of all these agenda commitments. We recognize the challenges that African cities and local governments are facing, including increasing inequalities, unemployment, vulnerability to disasters and climate change and poor basic services, amongst others. We further take note of the knowledge, capacity and resource gaps that constrain local governments to address such challenges.

We, Development Partners, are committed to continue supporting cities and local governments to fulfil their development mandate. We also underline the specific role and growing importance of intermediary cities in contributing to national development.
We, Development Partners, are concerned in some cases by the insufficient clarity around the roles and responsibilities of the different tiers of government and, in others, by the delayed implementation of the decentralization reforms.

The success of decentralization processes and the fulfilment of the development role of local governments will only be achieved with sufficient financial resources. There is huge untapped potential for conventional and innovative resource mobilization for this at international, national and local levels.

Lastly, in partnership with national government, the development partners welcome direct engagement with local governments.

5.5.4 **Africities 7th Summit Declaration**

“Shaping the future of Africa with the people. The contribution of local governments towards Africa’s Vision 2063”. This is the theme of the 7th edition of the Africities Summit, which took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 29 November to 3 December 2015. The summit gathered mayors, ministers, development partners, and African and international institutions and associations from all the sectors of African and international societies.

The summit has bought into the Africa 2063 Vision. This vision provides an opportunity for Africans both to have, and to participate in, a long-term outlook for the continent. It articulates for the urgent need for a deep transformation of African societies, and of Africa itself, focusing on the improvement of the quality of the lives of the people of Africa and the preservation of peace. All Africities participants will have a stake in the implementation of the 2063 Agenda.

The summit is also committed to the Agenda 2030 initiative and the objectives of sustainable development, which recognize the importance of district and local authorities, the role of urban and rural environments of urban and rural dwellers and of the diversity of stakeholders, as essential partners in development.

Africities has once again demonstrated its key role in development, and we would like to extend this role even further. This unique platform has created a space for diverse actors to meet, exchange information, elaborate on strategic debates, and evaluate different opinions, perspectives, as well as implementation.

Africities 7 is an example of engagement in an essential project, that of the future of our continent, and the unity of Africa. In order to achieve unity in Africa, African people need to come together. Africities demonstrates that the inclusivity of people is essential and possible.
5.6 Other Declarations

5.6.1 Declaration of Intent Chinese and African Mayors

The Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the United Cities and Local Governments – Africa (UCLG-Africa) held the 3rd China-Africa Mayors Dialogue within the frame of the 7th Edition of the AFRICITIES Summit on 2 December 2015 and expressed the following Declaration of Intent:

Whereas the Chinese Peoples’ Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the United Cities of Local Governments – Africa (UCLG-Africa) have been collaborating in the strengthening of partnership between African and Chinese local governments through dialogues held within the framework of AFRICITIES summits since the Marrakech Summit held December 2009; and

Whereas the Chinese and African local governments realise the potential benefits to be derived from mutually beneficial partnerships to strengthen ties in specific areas of development; and

Noting the increasing collaboration between African countries and China especially in the social and economic sectors; and

Noting the strengthening of ties between Africa and China through the Forum for China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC); and

Noting that the Chinese and African local governments established the Forum on China-Africa Local Government Cooperation;

Now Therefore

The CPAFFC and the African Local Governments through the UCLG-Africa wish to consolidate their collaboration and strengthen the Platform to coordinate their initiatives; and

ACCORDINGLY Declare the re-affirmation of intent to widen and strengthen the cooperation through the promotion of decentralised cooperation partnerships between African and Chinese cities and towns under City-to-City Partnerships; and

That the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the United Cities and Local Governments – Africa (UCLG-Africa) mobilise for and support such partnering in China and Africa respectively in the social, economic and cultural sectors.
5.6.2 UN-Habitat Declaration for Africities 7

“Africa must do things very differently to take advantage of the current momentum towards the Africa Agenda 2063” (African Union: Agenda 2063 Vision and Priorities). Despite significant overall economic growth, Africa continues to suffer from massive urban poverty and other urban-based problems. A bold re-imagining for achieving greater sustainability, equity and equality is required to harness the powerful transformative force of urbanization through partnership between governments local authorities and their people at all levels!

Africities offered a platform to discuss ambitious but realistic ways to transform urbanization in Africa into a real sustainable path. A great opportunity for this is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and subsequently the Africa Agenda 2063. The Habitat III conference in October 2016 will define the way to achieve these two milestones. The two milestones are to the same destination. UN-Habitat position is that, in order to achieve a coherent, efficient, sustainable and inclusive urbanization, a paradigm shift is needed that ensures good governance, accountability, respect for human rights, promotion of local economic development and renewed participation, collaboration and involvement of African local governments and all other stakeholders.

The momentum is there, but important efforts are needed to ensure the achievement of this Agenda, which offers a unique opportunity to adopt a holistic approach to address the urban development challenges of the continent through the Africa Urban Agenda. Based on UN-Habitat sessions at the 7th Africities Summit, the following recommendations emerged:

a. **Enhance decentralization in African countries** of the normative, financial and planning processes. Central governments should adopt legislation and create mechanisms to monitor the performance and standards of ethical behaviour of local governments. Accountability and transparency should be ensured through mechanisms that promote effective citizen participation in local decision-making processes and civic oversight of local public institutions, such as participatory budgeting initiatives.

b. **Promote the provision and governance of common public goods**, chief among these: safety and security, public space, and public services, with citizens as the key actors. The integration of public and green spaces policies with existing and new urban plans can increase its provision, while improving their accessibility, particularly in low-income neighbourhoods. Their protection can be done through the enforcement of existing rules and regulations, and with the involvement of local communities to avoid land grabbing and speculations. Cities should integrate security and crime prevention policies into urban development programmes by introducing safer cities policies into the governance and budgets of common public goods. Safety and security in cities and towns can also be enhanced through mechanisms like the Africa Forum for Urban Safety (AFUS) or The African Union Peace and Security Cluster and Standing Committee.

c. **Promote and reinvigorate the notion of urban planning**, that reduces vulnerabilities and inequalities and incorporates a participatory approach. Slums must be viewed as part of a broader city-wide challenge and be incorporated into planning processes. It is about harnessing the potential of people living in slums conditions by improving infrastructure, basic services, economic
opportunities and connectivity, and supporting livelihood development. Comprehensive slum upgrading and prevention need to be undertaken at citywide level and be backed up by policies that identify slum dwellers as city residents and with whom partnerships can be made. Youth in particular should be included actively in the planning process through involvement and consultation. There is a need for an intentional and an institutionalized framework and strategies for youth mainstreaming and youth involvement into municipal plans.

d. **Promote healthy living environments that enhance quality of life.** The provision of basic services, adequate housing, better infrastructure and connectivity supports the improvement of quality of life, the development of livelihoods, particularly in slums, while adopting a human rights-based approach that prevents forced evictions. Achieving healthier living environments can be enhanced by increased investment in health infrastructure by national and local governments to enable equitable access to basic health services. This will result in the reduction of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and other communicable diseases in cities.

e. **Promote sustainable and sound financial and economic conditions for cities,** amongst others through enhancing Africa’s stake in global foreign direct investment; promoting foreign direct investment (FDI) policies that are directed towards equitable resource management and cross-country FDI attraction that is economically conducive, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable; promoting Pan-African and regional foreign direct investment through regional governmental agreements; developing national and municipal strategies based on empirical evidence aligned with national development policies that define which type of foreign direct investment is beneficial to urban and rural development;

f. **Promote sustainable cities and towns** that are resilient and adapted to climate change. Local governments should be empowered to lead the resilience building process through risk-informed and inclusive practices that allow the city dwellers to voice their concerns and propose local solutions. Low-carbon cities should be promoted by adopting sustainable energy strategies and tools, creating an enabling environment for investments in energy efficient initiatives to support domestic as well as industries through measures, amongst others, the adoption of by-laws, the adoption of tax incentive for clean energy, as well as ensuring the incorporation of green building and resources efficiency measures.

In UN-Habitat’s experience, a strategy to harness opportunities and address these challenges integrates three fundamental components: 1) laws and regulations, supported by solid institutions, that can strengthen enforcement; 2) new strategies of urban planning that effectively address some of the unsustainable urbanization modes, that contribute to reduce inequalities and harness economies of agglomeration; 3) specific action plans to promote local economic development, generate decent employment opportunities for all, particularly the youth.

Local government associations, in particular, need to be reinforced both politically and financially to be able to support all local and regional governments in understanding the implications of implementing and monitoring the development agenda, and to make sure that all scales of government, from the smallest to the biggest are able to start a process of identification of priorities to make the development agenda a reality. Local governments are further encouraged to unite in a
Common Africa Position towards the achievement of regional and global priorities, and commit to support the pillars identified through an inclusive and a people centered approach.

There is a need for the UN system at large, key regional institutions like the African Union Commission and the bilateral donors to trust the capacity of local governments and empower them to directly implement international and national development projects. The implementation of the complementary international and regional agendas – the SDGs and the Africa Agenda 2063 based on the outcomes of Habitat III – will not succeed if it is not localized, and unless local governments are turned into the engines of operationalization.

The sustainable future of all African human settlements is not only about the implementation and monitoring of the development agenda, it is about creating sound policies based on evidence and real accountability mechanisms to make sure that no one is left behind. For African cities and local governments, localizing and monitoring the SDGs requires a data revolution that will ensure that progress is regularly and timely tracked, creating the foundation of informed decision-making for sustainable urbanization in future. UN Habitat is offering tested and sharpened tools such as the National Urban Policy (NUP) and the City Prosperity Initiative (CPI), to support the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs at national and levels. The decision-making needs to ensure that the minorities, particularly the youth, disadvantaged groups, migrants and people in vulnerable situations, are all participants in the decision-making process. Participation in the public and political life is a fundamental vehicle for the protection of identities, the non-discrimination of groups and the promotion of diversity. All this is critical for the implementation of sustainable development in Africa.
6. Experience of Local Government and Partners

This section contains a summary of the main issues discussed at the sessions, as well as the recommendations made and/or resolutions taken. Detailed notes from the sessions can be found on the Africities website.

6.1 The South African Cities Network (SACN) Sessions

The SACN sessions analysed the issues identified by the South African stakeholders within the perspective of Agenda 2063 of Africa.

6.1.1 City-to-city learning in Africa (SA-01)

Cities in the South are faced with challenges that their Northern counterparts are not currently experiencing, such as how to deal with increasingly high populations without adequate services, how to make provision for informal trade, and how to collect revenues from citizens where there is no rates base. In this context, it is more practical to learn from the experiences of developed cities than to get advice from development agencies, through cities sharing what has worked and what has not worked in their particular contexts.

Africa can also draw on the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, with its decades of experience in decentralization cooperation, as well as the UCLGA Academy, whose city learning programme is only just getting underway.
Various partnerships and methodologies were presented, followed by a group discussion about the usefulness of different types of city-to-city learning: exchange programmes, twinning arrangements, communities of practice between mayors, work shadowing, sharing municipal resources (e.g. developing and writing city development strategies) and experiential learning. City-to-city learning involves more than just officials, and dedicated capacity to sustain such learning is essential. Collaboration between cities (and other stakeholders, such as universities and business) can lead to long-lasting relationships and mutual benefits through common approaches.

The following recommendations were made:

1. City-to-city cooperation through peer review will enable work on critical issues and weaknesses, and will indicate where to place further emphasis.
2. Agenda 2063 must create partnerships for creating jobs through local government.
4. Encourage peer learning nationally and through the relevant forums.
5. Use peer review and online knowledge sharing.
6. Move beyond collaborating on learning to collaborating on projects, and use new methodologies where relevant.
7. Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between cities must be clear and must direct the collaboration beneficially.
8. Demystifying global and African agendas can only come from collaboration.
9. Recognize and make use of the specific context in which the collaboration is taking place.
10. Recognize mistakes made when formulating ways of moving forward.

6.1.2 Green buildings (SA-02)

Green buildings can be an effective catalyst in transforming the built environment, ensuring that buildings are designed, built and operated in a way that minimises their impact on the environment. Green buildings are energy and resource efficient, and thus environmentally responsible. The green building movement is a response to the need for cities that are more energy efficient, less polluting and more sustainable, but it has not yet gained the expected momentum. However, the COP21 Agenda included green buildings for the first time in 2015.

The biggest challenge is to create awareness and capacitate municipalities to take the lead, facilitate and regulate. The public sector has a duty to lead the green development of cities, to facilitate mechanisms and resources for implementation, and create regulatory frameworks to accommodate and incentivise green buildings.

Different public bodies and the private sector can enter into partnership with each other to create awareness. Currently the bad construction practices result from the lack of mechanisms to enforce greener buildings and the lack of understanding among customers of the long-term benefit of green
buildings. Local governments and society at large are not always aware of the advantage of green buildings. A major challenge for municipalities starting a campaign to “green” city-owned buildings is the lack of knowledge about the current status of their buildings and where to spend funding. The nature of green buildings (and green cities in general) is complex, and so a cross-departmental approach is necessary when undertaking greening policies and programmes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The following recommendations were made:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. In driving the green building agenda, local government’s role should be to lead, facilitate and regulate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Municipalities should commit to sustainable development, and plan, design, develop and manage the built environment in a manner that mitigates the impact on the environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Cities and towns must collaborate with green building councils/networks/societies in their countries to develop benchmarks and standards that can be aspired to. Benchmarks must take into account the current circumstances in each context and should not be limited to energy and water.</td>
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<td>4. Along with benchmarks, monitoring systems must be implemented to measure progress.</td>
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<td>5. Awareness and skills need to be built in both public and private sectors.</td>
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<td>6. Financing models must be developed that consider both internal and public private partnerships, initial costs and long-term expenditure of a greening agenda.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Institutional models should be developed to drive the green agenda at a local level.</td>
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6.1.3 Changing role of human resources (SA-03)

The implementation of effective development strategies requires politicians and officials to be able to complement one another, and sufficient human capital to be developed. Vision 2063 will not be achieved without good human resources (HR). Formal HR standards have changed the face of people management and contribute to raising the standard of HR practice.

Cities need to combine the strengths of innovative thinkers with those of traditional thinkers (who hold the institutional memory). Senior practitioners can be encouraged to participate in the education of younger practitioners who bring creative and innovative approaches. How the city is organized can assist in achieving this, through a structure that is not too hierarchical nor consists of silos (cross pollination is important).

Partnerships and exposure, together with global interaction, can be valuable incentives for employees and enrich local governments. The pursuit of excellence, not political reasons, should drive recruitment. What is needed: ethics, professionalism and quality results; standards-driven models that measure and audit performance. Performance management in local governments is mostly in a dismal state and needs to be addressed.
The following recommendations were made:

1. The Specialized Technical Committee (STC 08) on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization, should establish a “Local Government HR Network.” The HR Network should be made up of members from academia, professional bodies and practitioners.
2. The network should focus on Talent Management and Workplace Planning Standards as proposed by SABPP. The output of the network should be practical processes and tools that cities can implement to manage their talent and workplace planning.
3. The above outputs should be piloted at three cities in three different regions on the continent. Once reviewed after piloting, the final outputs should be tabled for adoption at the next Africities Summit.
4. A permanent HR agenda needs to be created for future Africities Summits, so that there are regular report-backs.
5. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the above, four members of the meeting, particularly those working in local government, should be nominated to act as champions and drivers of the above project, and to report back.
6. UCLGA should be used to create platforms to follow up on resolutions that emanate from commissions.

6.1.4 Africa’s infrastructure build programme (SA-04)

This session was organized as an Infrastructure Dialogue. Infrastructure Dialogues are platforms that enable government, private sector and civil society stakeholders in the infrastructure sector to engage on solutions for strengthening cooperation within the sector.

After presentations by Urban Dwelling and Design (UN-Habitat) and Engineers without Borders, participants were divided into two separate groups to discuss each of the four topics: financing city infrastructure; water and sanitation; managing risk and resilience; skills and capacity.

i. Financing city infrastructure: efficiency is key, as many financing challenges in cities are linked to the urban spatial structure – much money spend on linking old dormitory suburbs to city centres. The provision of social transfers varies according to the country (e.g. Senegal compared to Togo or South Africa). Sometimes technically good projects meet social resistance;

ii. Water and sanitation: an integrated approach and proper planning is needed, as well as creative financial projects and private sector involvement. Would people use water more responsibly if it was treated as a commodity, not a right?

iii. Managing risk and resilience: people should be educated to be responsible, while looking out for those who are vulnerable. In short, identify risk, share findings and find solutions.

iv. Skills and capacity: the challenge of attracting skills for local government is strongly linked to the overall state of the economy. It is a multi-pronged problem that requires a multi-pronged approach. Some skills are available but unused or not managed well, while other skills are in short supply and might be temporarily solved by importing them.
The following recommendations were made:

1. Shared infrastructure vision, shared infrastructure dialogue and shared responsibility are needed. There should be an increased focus on collaboration in the sphere of infrastructure development among different role-players (financiers, local government, industry etc.).
2. Infrastructure development should be better integrated with the broader planning process.
3. Dialogue is needed around infrastructure provision at the local, regional and national level in Africa. We need to have voices about infrastructure heard and listened to. These dialogues should be representative and diverse, over the whole of Africa.
4. We need to learn to live in an increasingly complex society and, in this spirit, we need to reflect upon our cultural habits, especially our patterns of consumption and use of natural resources.
5. Those who have left Africa, who would be valuable in this sphere, should be encouraged to return, and we should try to find out why they have not done so.
6. We need to provide alternatives to migrating to cities. Infrastructure provision must, therefore, focus not only on cities, but also on local, rural governments.

6.1.5 State of African cities (SA-05)

The State of Cities reports (SOCRs) analyse urban trends and assess the contribution of cities to national agendas. Championed by organizations such as Cities Alliance and UN-Habitat, the state of cities reporting is expanding in Africa. South Africa is currently embarking upon the production of its fourth State of South African Cities Report since 2004, Ethiopia has recently completed its first State of Ethiopian Cities report (2014), and Tanzania is currently completing its own inaugural issue. In addition, UN-Habitat has published three State of African Cities reports (2008, 2010 and 2014).

State of cities reports have four roles:
- To provide a clear structure for analyzing cities.
- To allow for comparisons between cities.
- To allow for comparative analysis over time.
- To provide data/data analysis at making the case for cities in Africa, a case that has been missing champions for a very long time.
Three mega-trends characterise African cities:

i. Urbanization, which is different in the South from in the North, where urbanization occurred over generations. In the South, the rate of urbanization is greater than the ability to provide services (leading to urban poverty), and people look to government to provide services. In addition, rampant urbanization means that informality is the new norm and must be embraced going forward.

ii. Demographic transition, with households becoming smaller, as people become more educated and affluent. As the vast of people live in urban areas, need to invest in these areas to reap the urban dividend, which requires education and internet connectivity.

iii. Food price increases (up to 20% with the recent droughts) will affect the ability of households to purchase food – they will have to choose between buying food and paying municipal services, which will affect the ability of cities to roll out services.

The following recommendations were made:

1. African urbanism needs re-imagining, and Africa needs technology-driven economies, more leadership, cooperation and a new vision.
2. SOCRs need political champions, funding, good data and indicators, peer reviews and dissemination.
3. Data needs to be accessible and available at city level. Local governments must commit not only to openness in data, but also actively collect and manage it, and use it to monitor city performance. Local government must lobby for data collected at national level to be disaggregated and made usable at local level.
4. Local authorities, national authorities and regional authorities (i.e. cross-boundary) should explore the advantages that arise from mutual cooperation.
5. Every country should undertake a State of Cities report.

6.1.6 Sustainable energy in urban Africa (SA-06)

Energy is the life blood of urban economic activity and central to people’s welfare and a functioning urban system. The promotion of adequate and sustainable energy needs a specific focus if a prosperous future is to be realized. Across the world, local government has an increasingly important role to play in shaping the energy supply and demand situation in urban areas. This is the case in Africa as well.

Concerns are the fast rate of urbanization and the lack of capacity in local governments across sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in small- and medium-sized cities and towns. These are likely to contribute to increasingly inadequate energy provision, inefficient energy use, and escalating transport congestion and emissions, with associated economic and social problems. Yet the challenges are now better understood, and, in some areas, successful approaches are being deployed at the local government level. Examples include urban energy programmes, such as SE4All (Sustainable Energy for All), GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), SAMSET (Supporting African Municipalities in Sustainable Energy Transitions), ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) and UN-Habitat.
In recognition of African local government’s key role in the national and global sustainable energy agenda as embodied in Sustainable Development Goal 7, we recommend:

1. The strengthening of local government energy planning, regulatory, human and financial capacity in order to achieve the goal of a sustainable and prosperous energy future.
2. The identification and creation of new financial instruments for local government energy initiatives, including direct access to global climate funds, to enable the development of sustainable infrastructure and service delivery.
3. The inclusion of Africa’s local governments as key sustainable energy agents in global, regional and national energy policies and strategies.

The context for the above is:

• Sustainable energy is an essential component of a prosperous future for sub-Saharan African countries.
• Given urbanization rates, sub-Saharan Africa’s energy future is substantially urban.
• Africa’s future global warming emissions will also be driven largely by urban areas.
• To change national energy profiles will increasingly require attention to energy in urban areas.
• Local government’s role in such transitions is significant, even with existing functions and mandates.
• Local government, therefore, plays a critical role in achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy.
• Strengthening the role of local government is important to diversify energy governance and promote robust, locally appropriate solutions.
• Local government capacity does not match the fast-escalating challenges in this regard, and such capacity shortfalls are most dire in medium-sized cities where most urbanization is taking place.
• Experience demonstrates the positive impact on local government’s capacity of appropriately designed, locally-based, long-term support programmes.
• Empowering local government to better meet the challenges regarding sustainable energy is thus an important component of a sustainable and prosperous future for Africans.

6.1.7 Breaking down barriers to opportunity for youth (SA-07)

On 30 November 2015, the Global Cities Initiative, a joint project of the Brookings Institution and JPMorgan Chase, released a report that provides a framework for the Gauteng City-Region to examine its competitive position in the global economy, offering information and insights to inform regional leaders working to sustain the region’s prosperity, including the employment challenge. South Africa has a very young population: a quarter to a half of the country’s urban population falls within the age bracket of 18–35 years. Youth unemployment is a huge issue.
One of the programmes identified in the report is the City of Joburg’s ambitious and agile Vulindlele’eJozi (VeJ) initiative, a far-reaching partnership with the Harambee Youth Accelerator and 200+ companies to provide multi-channel entry points into the economy for economically disengaged youth. The programme tackles the youth unemployment bulge (estimated at one million economically inactive people aged between 19 and 34 in Johannesburg) by providing skills training and work placements based on actual existing market opportunities. The programme is a city-wide expansion of the existing Harambee programme.

**In light of the above, the following comments were made:**

1. The programme is designed to support participants enter the workforce – no-one is trained unless a company needs workers with that training.
2. Unlike the Skills Education Training Authorities (SETAs), the programme is fluid and built into market demand.
3. The programme works not only with graduates but also with those without a matric certificate.

### 6.1.8 Enhancing urban green spaces for a sustainable future (SA-08)

Although cities cover less than 5% of the earth’s landmass, they contain substantial portions of the world’s natural resources which need to be conserved to enhance the wellbeing of urban dwellers. Key among such resources are urban green spaces (parks, gardens, forests, trees, etc.) which are often referred to as the “lungs of cities”, an expression which shows how valuable these spaces are. However, these spaces are under severe threat with many African cities now having very small proportions of their landmass covered by green spaces.

Green spaces are useful natural assets that enhance the quality of life of urban dwellers and overall sustainability of cities. Enhancing green spaces provides a host of benefits, such as providing avenues for recreational activities, preserving cultural heritage, enhancing social interaction/cohesion, creating job opportunities, attracting businesses, increasing property values and revenues of government, providing several health benefits and conserving biodiversity to support the overall development of Africa. Bottom-up activities and initiatives are great opportunities for increasing awareness and involving the public in appreciating and managing green spaces and, above all, recognizing their importance.

The environmental design experience in Marrakesh, Morroco highlighted the fundamental role that communities can play in implementing programmes and prioritising green spaces. Budgets for consultations, community participation and projects are vital in order to implement successfully green spaces project and increase environmental awareness and commitment among citizens. Green open spaces may offer opportunities to the youth, but the challenge is connecting the offer with the demand, as the majority of unemployed youth in Africa not educated, trained or skilled.
The following recommendations were made:

1. The planning and managing of urban green spaces should be a top priority for cities.
2. Institutions and capacities need to be strengthened to mainstream the provision and maintenance of green spaces.
3. Sustained behavioural change by individuals, institutions and society is needed, towards the importance of green spaces in the cities.
4. Greater participation and interaction is needed between environment and development stakeholders.
5. Development environment linkages should be included in urban, municipal and national plans.

6.1.9 Informal economy (SA-11)

Street traders are citizens and need to be accommodated within cities, not victimised. Informal traders have the right to conduct their businesses without harassment. Street trading is a reality and traders should be given opportunities to improve their businesses and to grow into small formal businesses. Yet the voices of street traders are mainly ignored in city policy and management of economic activity. In most cases, engagement between local government and the traders is constrained, tense or limited. An alternative approach to street trading management must be constructed around a discussion between local government and street traders’ representatives.
The session focused on exploring sustainable, efficient and inclusive ways of managing street trading, which is often seen as a daunting task by municipalities that also have to ensure the urban core is functional and attractive. Street trading is an integral part of a city’s economy and so can enhance street culture, economic vibrancy and social cohesion. However, unorganized street trading leads to congestion in cities. African cities therefore need to explore progressive models of street trading management. Dialogue is very important when organizing the informal sector, and government officials need to be part of deliberations about the informal economy.

The following recommendations were made:

The following recommendations were made in quest of progressive models of street trading management in African cities.

1. Focus on inclusive, sustainable and efficient ways of managing street trading.
2. Move away from focusing on repressive and restrictive models of management.
4. Launch a constructive, progressive and workable discussion on informal trading and its management in cities.
5. Turn the approach around: from wishful thinking to taking stock of the African reality, a condition for efficient management.
6. Recognize and resource an independent Informal Traders Forum: empower traders to make independent strategic inputs into policies and implementation.
7. Establish and engage with a Multi-Stakeholders Informal Trading Committee (MITC): build consensus and find locally adapted solutions with the people involved.
8. Clarify responsibilities and mandates: a clear and accountable department in charge of street trading, with inclusive area-based management committees – limits governance opacity and delegates local issues to area-level.

6.1.10 Modern slavery, human trafficking and climate change (SA-12)

There is a growing awareness internationally of the issues of modern day slavery and human trafficking as a scourge on the human race. His Holiness, Pope Francis, has been a catalytic force in mobilizing the communities and governments to take seriously issues, such as climate change, which exacerbate the plight of the poor thus helping to creating conditions for the vulnerable to be exploited. Addressing poverty and its underlying drivers are therefore key to addressing human trafficking.

Massive urbanization has also led to an increase in trafficking and social problems because it results in communities being broken up and people becoming isolated. Thus, although people are lured by the potential opportunities of the proverbial “big city” it can also reject and destroy you. A lack of human and financial resource limit the prevention and rescue of trafficking victims (e.g. insufficient safe houses, qualified professionals to assist victims with trauma, drug addiction, documentation, etc.). In addition, there is a lack of clarity over who would and should take responsibility for human trafficking, as well as a lack of action from governments.
The following recommendations were made:

The Mayors’ Declaration from their visit to the Pope in early 2015 was read and signed, and the following recommendations were made:

1. The issues of modern day slavery, human trafficking and climate change need to be mainstreamed into the policies and programmes of cities, local governments and municipalities.
2. Acknowledging the role of faith-based organizations and NGOs in combatting these social ills, there is a need for public–private partnerships to rapidly increase awareness and implement programmes that protect the vulnerable.
3. Governments need to become more involved in these issues.

6.1.11 Transport and mobility (SA-13)

Transport is central to development and, as African cities develop, the role of transport in cities will become increasingly important. This must be noted in the context of the challenges that transport creates. Firstly, transport is a major driver of greenhouse gas emissions and therefore of climate change and global warming. Secondly, urban transport constitutes 40% of total transport energy consumption, which is poised to double by 2050, despite ongoing vehicle technology and fuel economy improvements.

Significantly more efforts are therefore needed to reduce carbon emissions generated by transport. Over the last decade African cities have initiated a number of innovative and transformative projects to improve the quality of their public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure. These include introducing rapid transit bus or rail systems, formalising and improving the safety of the paratransit sector and introducing initiatives to support and promote cycling.

People will use public transport if it is convenient and efficient. Too many people in African cities do not have the choice but are captive to certain transport modes that are often unsafe and unaffordable. And access to efficient transport has social and economic implications that must be considered. The challenge is to provide quality transport with limited resources. In other words to ensure safe, affordable transport options through integration, data-driven interventions, improved governance and performance contracting and seeking partnerships with other cities, across regions, countries and internationally. The dynamics of specific places must be considered when planning for public transport. It is not good enough to focus only on infrastructure and fleet provision. These must be complemented by initiatives to enable behavioural change, such as the professionalisation of drivers (Dakar) or the EcoMobility World Festival (Johannesburg).

The following recommendations were made:

No recommendations regarding transport and mobility were made. However, African cities were encouraged to consider endorsing the Johannesburg Declaration on EcoMobility in Cities or adopting some of its principles to promote EcoMobility in their respective locations.
6.1.12 BRICS cities (SA-14)

The BRICS grouping of nations is now a powerful geopolitical presence in the world, rebalancing power between the global North and South. The BRICS cities represent about 42% of the world’s population, and this figure is likely to rise even further as the urban population continues to grow. BRICS has a closed membership but intends expanding its membership. To strengthen cooperation at an intra-BRICS level, knowledge and collaboration are required in the fields of international trade and commerce, research, peer learning and effective local governance, which will assist in setting a developmental policy agenda. Work being done by research institutes should be harnessed to enhance our capacity to research and provide solutions, possibly through a coordinating body.

The following recommendations were made:

1. Ways should be found (through Africities and UCLGA) to encourage the participation of African cities in the BRICS friendship cities forum.
2. The people-to-people and governmental relationships among cities in Africa and those in the BRICS cluster should be strengthened in order to deal more effectively with the challenges and possibilities of urban development and local government in Africa. This would include the direct participation of African cities in BRICS structures, such as the BRICS Urbanization Forum and the BRICS Local Government Friendship Cities.

6.1.13 African C40 cities (SA-15)

Created by cities for cities, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group advances the climate action agendas of the world’s megacities in order to achieve meaningful reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate risks. C40 is a global network of engaged megacity mayors committed to reducing their GHG emissions through the implementation of measurable, replicable and sustainable climate-related policies and programmes. As a network, C40 equips and empowers cities to lead the fight against climate change while building the case for the global importance of climate action in growing city economies, creating jobs and improving cities as places to live and work.

The African C40 cities session provided insight into the climate commitments and actions being taken by C40 member cities in Africa. Ahead of Africities 7, several cities in Africa had made commitments to take action to address climate change. The message was clear: It is possible to make a bold commitment to address climate change and to go further and create an enabling environment to translate commitment to action. It is possible to implement robust projects and activities on the ground. Climate change is not just about environmental issues – the planet does not need our help to survive – but we are doing this to ensure implementation of actions for the survival of the most vulnerable populations. It’s about the commitment of the AU, speaking with one voice, for collective influence and to achieve a better Africa.
The following recommendations were made:

1. Africa needs to continue to grow, but should not follow the same as trajectories as developed nations. The continent needs to learn from the mistakes of the developed world and do better. This is because although the narrative of Africa is changing, with Africa rising (economy and urbanization), all the good stories mean nothing without addressing climate change, as initiatives can – because of natural disasters – be wiped out within days.
2. Africa Agenda 2063 is important for Africa to grow because climate change must be addressed Africa’s development climate-proofed. To achieve this, agreements must be made, partnerships forged, and action implemented.

6.1.14 Land-based financing of urban infrastructure (SA-17)

Finance available to city governments to build urban infrastructure is constrained, but land-based financing and land value capture offer opportunities. The African Centre for Cities recently completed a significant research project on this topic for the UK Government (DfID), covering sub-Saharan Africa. These research findings deal with the nature of urban infrastructure, the institutions involved in providing infrastructure, capital financing options and specific opportunities for using land-based finance.

Despite different contexts in different countries, cities can use land-based financing and land value capture to subsidise and support lower-income communities in a transformative manner (rather than subsidising property developments for middle- and high-income households). Many African states already own much of the land and thus have the power and potential to use land to generate income and different developmental outcomes. What is important is to equip and capacitate African cities and their officials to be able to effectively leverage land resources for development. Linked to this is the importance of ensuring that decentralization takes place with the support of national governments.

Some of the comments made included:

1. With improved access to private sector funding (through developer costs/contribution), the state should have sufficient funds to invest into roads, services etc.
2. Cities require a stable national policy that drives decision-making and ensures public money goes to upgrading slums rather than funding commercial developments.
3. Access to land is often a problem because of the lack of political will (in cases where the state owns much of the land) or the complexity of traditional land management systems (land succession within families).
4. Gentrification is a growing concern, linked to which is the need to identify mechanisms that allow the poor to benefit from land value increases.
6.1.15  Reinvigorating the African Metropolis Network (SA-18)

A quarter of the 100 largest cities in the world are now in Africa. Seven cities have more than five million inhabitants and three cities (Lagos, Cairo and Kinshasa) are home to more than 10 million people. African metropoles account for 36% of the continent’s GDP (US$700-billion), a figure that will more than double by 2030, to US$1700-billion. Paradoxically, despite their leading role as economic engines, Africa’s metropoles are struggling to create jobs and offer opportunities for all within the formal sector, partly because of a weak secondary sector (industry), stagnant employment in the public sector and a general delay in modernizing public services. The result is widespread underemployment and high levels of unemployment, particularly among the youth (60% of unemployed population), as well as increased informality (66% of urban employment). This “urbanization of poverty” leads to deteriorating living conditions for a large part of the population.

The speed at which most metropolitan areas are growing has exceeded their capacity to provide their citizens with adequate basic services. Characteristics common to these cities are unmanaged urban sprawl, strong social polarisation and spatial fragmentation, expanding informal settlements (slums) and insufficient access to basic services. Cities are highly exposed to climate change and natural disasters, and are already experiencing water scarcity, floods and extreme weather events. However, African local governments are not adequately empowered to deal with these and other challenges. An often-fragmented metropolitan governance, the lack of urban planning and low levels of political cooperation between different levels of government hinder collective action to face these problems.

The success or failure of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the New Urban Agenda and the Africa Union’s Vision 2063 will largely depend on Africa’s cities becoming more inclusive and sustainable. To this end, the African Metropolis Network can enable improved cooperation within Africa and internationally, so that cities can exchange knowledge, share experience and learning, and seek solutions to the challenges faced by local government (e.g. accessing financing, capacity constraints and complex governance structures).

The following recommendations emerged from the discussions:

1. Cities need to find alternative methods of generating revenue and reduce their dependency on national governments.
2. Cooperation between cities within countries and with the different spheres of government must be encouraged.
3. Vertical and horizontal cooperation and partnerships should be considered in networks, i.e. involve all government spheres, the private sector and civil society in decision making.
4. Networking needs rethinking, so that all stakeholders participate, not just politicians. Mayors are responsible for ensuring that civil society (an important actor) is included in decision making.
5. Local government must be included in in Habitat III discussions, and Habitat III should support the African Metropolis Network.
Overall Recommendations

For Mayors

- **SA-01** City to City learning in Africa: City-to-city should be strengthened through peer review, supported by resources, and move beyond learning to collaborating on projects.
- **SA-02** Green buildings: Local government should drive the Green Building and sustainable development agenda.
- **SA-03** The changing role of Human Resources: A network should be formed, comprising local government, academia, professional bodies, and practitioners to develop a set of standards of HR Management and practical processes and tools that cities can implement to manage their talent and workforce planning. These standards should be used to audit municipalities and pilot programmes launched in three African cities. HR practitioners in local government need to be champions and keep the network on track and accountable.
- **SA-04** Africa’s infrastructure build programme: Increased focus is needed on collaboration in the sphere of infrastructure development between different role-players (financiers, local government, industry etc) and infrastructure development should be better integrated with the broader planning process.
- **SA-05** State of African Cities: Local governments must commit not only to openness in data, actively collect and manage it, and use it to monitor city performance. Local government must lobby for data collected at national level to be disaggregated and made usable at local level.
- **SA-08** Urban green and public spaces: The planning and management of urban green spaces should be a top priority for cities.
- **SA-011** Informal economy: Cities should recognize the informal economy and empower informal traders to be part of local solutions

For Ministers

- **SA-06** Sustainable Energy in Urban Africa: Sub-Saharan Africa’s local governments should be recognized as key agents in the sustainable energy agenda in global, regional, national policies and strategies. In pursuit of a sustainable and prosperous energy future, local government regulatory, human and financial capacity should be strengthened.
- **SA-12** Human trafficking, modern, slavery and climate: The issues of Modern Day Slavery, Human Trafficking and Climate change need to be mainstreamed into the policies and programmes of cities, local governments and municipalities. Acknowledging the role of faith based organizations and NGO’s in combatting these social ills, there is a need for public-private partnerships to rapidly increase awareness and implement programmes that protect the vulnerable. Governments need to become more involved in these issues.
• SA-014 BRICS Cities and BRICS Direct Foreign Investment: People-to-people and governmental relationships between cities in Africa and those in the BRICS cluster should be strengthened, including through direct participation of African cities in BRICS structures such as the BRICS Urbanization Forum and the BRICS Local Government Friendship Cities

For Development Partners

• SA-015 African C40 Cities – climate action in African Cities: from commitment to action: The AU needs to speak with one voice about climate change, and countries should translate their commitments to actions. Africa Agenda 2063 is important for Africa to grow we need to address climate change and climate proof our development. It is possible, let’s make agreements, forge partnerships and implement action.

6.2 UCLG Africa Sessions

The main organizers of these sessions were: UCLGA, UN Habitat, Cities Allies, UCLG, UNDP, Enda, Tiers Monde, CCT WAEMU, City of Dakar, Transparency International, Echos Communication, ICLEI Africa, VNG International and South African Forum for Migrations.

6.2.1 Participatory budgeting (SU-01)

According to the UN, by 2050 two-thirds of Africans will live in towns and cities. At the same time, African societies are becoming more democratic. In response to the social changes in African countries and the demand by citizens for better services and participation in decision-making processes, several African cities have committed to decentralization reforms and changes to the institutional architecture.

One such reform is participatory budgeting, which allows for democratic decision making and requires much public engagement. Supported by both UCLGA and UN-Habitat, participatory budgeting is an increasing practice of local governments around the world. Following Africities 3 in 2003, three countries adopted participatory budgeting, and the uptake and implementation since has been faster in Africa than anywhere in the world. This speaks to African citizens’ desire for transparency and involvement, and African local governments’ ability and desire to drive democratic and transparent processes.

There are many examples across Africa where local governments are practising participatory budgeting and positive outcomes are being achieved, but monitoring and evaluation need to be strengthened. Citizens are more engaged and more willing to pay taxes, as they know where to money is going. Development plans are longer term, whereas participatory budgeting is short term.
Therefore, they can co-exist – participatory budgeting can supplement development plans and make them more democratic. For a community to effectively participate in forums takes four years and is a learning curve, requiring communities to be educated and informed of the longer-term development plans.

Measuring participatory budgeting performance requires expenditure tracking to supplement the transparency and effectiveness of the participatory budgeting. Participatory budgeting as a tool needs to fall under broader democratic processes and concepts such as human rights and the right to the city. Despite the rapid and significant uptake across Africa and good results, participatory budgeting has not been included in many development charters around the world.

The following recommendations were made, taking the above factors into account:

1. **Capacity building programme for local authorities**: It is a power-sharing exercise, so we need to train elected officials. The Africities Declaration must record that participatory budgeting must be used.
2. **Governments**: Need to institutionalise participatory budgeting in governance policies.
3. **Political committee of UCLGA**: Better representation of participatory budgeting, training and monitoring and evaluation.
4. **Local governments**: Good decentralization is based on use of resources, so effective participatory budgeting and expenditure can raise money at the local level.
6.2.2 Voice of local government in regional economic commissions (SU-02)

On 30 May 2011, the Conference of Heads of States and Governments established the Council of Territorial Authorities of the Western African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). Through this act, the Union gives a clear political signal for the better involvement of local governments in the integration process to meet the challenges of globalization, promote a multi-level governance system, and take into account the concerns of local governments in development policies. The experience of setting up a regional platform of local governments within a Regional Economic Commission was shared. The sole reason behind implementing the WAEMU was to improve the state of the people.

Terminology is a very sensitive issue. If the term ‘local authority’ is used, it implies that traditional authorities will have to be included. Therefore, the local level is referred to as local government. The issue of land managed by traditional authorities has not been adequately dealt with.

The following recommendations emerged from the discussion:

1. Conflict between the various spheres needs to be managed because their powers are not the same.
2. Decentralization is core.
3. The process of ratification in the governance charter needs to be speeded up.
4. Civil society should be included in the process of developing local government.

6.2.3 African Observatory of Local Finance (SU-03)

For decentralization to succeed will require having the necessary financial information. Yet, despite decades of decentralization experience in Africa, financial information remains a concern. The financial data of local governments is not collected on a regular basis, and the different accounting classifications used (particularly related to inherited colonial administrative practices) makes comparisons among countries and communities difficult. Some countries are also finding it difficult to standardize their technology and procedures, and while information is generally available at the level of local government, it is not always centralized.

Therefore, the UCLGA has undertaken to develop an African Observatory of Local Finance, which should be fully operational within two years. The committee will work in coming months on a draft constitution and explore issues such as conditions for accessing data, modalities for transferring data and authorizations required.
In this context, the following recommendations were made:

1. Africa-wide data gathering from municipal authorities should be put in place.
2. Local governments must be given a mandate for doing this.
3. Assistance is needed to provide and create capacity to gather information, which will enable local government to have access to relevant information.

6.2.4 City branding (SU-04)

Territorial (or place) marketing is one of the instruments used to promote territories and cities (for both private and public economic players). This kind of marketing is based on the collective effort to enhance the value of territories (or places). The approach seeks to strike the balance between the marketing of supply of the promoted destination and the marketing of demand based on the knowledge of customers. Territorial marketing relates to a city government understanding its territory and context, as well as its key priorities, for example, the need for job creation and economic growth. African territories are complex and characterized by variety and diversity with its own characteristics.

Some suggestions made for city branding included:

- When branding a city/territory, it is important to define the project being marketed, what the offer is, who it is being branded/sold to, who the competitors are, the action plan, internal and external stakeholders and partners. Based on this, the strategy should then be customized to promote the potential successes of the area.
- Territory should be seen as a physical space with social/economic characteristics, but also as a resource and developmental tool.
- Promoting territories should include the private and public sectors, as well as communities already working in the area, and it is important not to limit thinking to the physical constraints of an area.
- To effectively promote territorial marketing, cities must be provided with the necessary training and resources.

6.2.5 LED World Forum – feedback from Turin (SU-05)

Local economic development (LED) remains highly relevant for addressing African-specific challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of the 2030 agenda. As widely debated at the recent 3rd World Forum of LED (Turin, 13–16 October 2015), the localization of the SDGs, which LED is can enable, is linked to (and a condition for) more balanced, inclusive and sustainable growths paths, improved local governance dynamics, and stronger spatial and social cohesion.
The key messages of the 3rd World Forum were shared at the session. National economic development requires economic development on a local scale. Local government and LED would make a solid base for national and global economic development. The barriers to LED include the lack of clear policy and the lack of a strong public-private partnership. The LED World Forum is a good platform for sharing ideas on successes in developing local economies. Rapidly growing urban populations in slums do not just need access to jobs, but good jobs, and providing these good jobs requires partnerships between local government, communities, the private sector, etc.

The following recommendations were made:

1. The next World Forum should take place in Africa, in Cape Verde (proposed by Angola, seconded by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum).

6.2.6 Strategic urban planning (SU-06)

Africa needs to develop sustainable cities, and a lack of planning affects the GDP of African cities. City officials from different countries shared their challenges, plans and strategies. The City of Johannesburg presented the plans and strategies that are developed at multiple levels, from neighbourhood (precinct plans) to city scale, as well as the principles that guide all these plans. The City of Dakar presented its city development strategy for Greater Dakar (Horizon 2025), illustrating how local planning can include spatial, economic, social, environmental and cultural dimensions, and develop an urbanism that promotes nature protection and citizen participation.

From the discussion emerged the following comments:

1. Decentralization processes require a better understanding of data at a local level, and so systems must be created to assist municipalities to collect data on the ground.
2. Trusting surveys is often not the way to get a good understanding of what is happening on the ground. Reliable public participation is needed to understand what people really need.
3. Local governments need diagnostic tools and inventories of local issues and resources.
4. African cities must consider mobility and integration in their strategic plans.

6.2.7 Africa’s priorities for the New Urban Agenda (SU-07)

Habitat III presents a critical opportunity to frame the region’s priorities in the context of the New Urban Agenda that from 2016 will define global priorities on housing and sustainable urban development for two decades. The general observation across African countries is that people move from rural to urban areas in search of employment. In recent years, the manufacturing sector in urban/peri-urban areas has been shrinking, creating jobless migration from rural to urban areas. People with hard skills are not used fully, which creates structural unemployment. The “pull factor”, i.e. people pulled into the
cities in search of employment is complemented by the “push factor”, i.e. people are pushed out of the rural areas to the urban areas, which are not ready for them, resulting in the creation of informal settlements.

In 2014, Africa agreed on a draft urbanization position, which is under discussion and will be approved in 2016, ready for presentation in Habitat III in Ecuador. Africa has been a divided continent for a long time, each country claiming individual achievements. The Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and the Africa Agenda 2063 give Africa a defined growth path. There are, however, some notable gaps in the Agenda 2063 relating to the high prevalence of slums, the informal economy and high unemployment (especially youth), and the challenges of infrastructure financing. Agenda 2063 also does not appear to have monitoring and evaluation systems in place to track progress and hold countries accountable.

In light of the above considerations, the following needs to be done:

- Africa’s position must be recognized, not as mutually exclusive, but as a contribution to the global initiative to make people’s lives better.
- Cities need to contribute to Africa’s economic development.
- Large African cities need to be empowered to engage in bilateral discussions, to take the lead in urban development, and to start working towards building a new financial structure for Africa.
- Countries need to review their legal texts to support decentralization.
- A common agenda is needed to strengthen Africa’s bargaining power on the international stage.

6.2.8 Local government as custodians of peace and security in Africa (SU-08)

Some consider migration to be an adjustment process, balancing populations across territories, that brings several benefits. For instance, in some countries, the revenues transferred by African migrants far exceed the official development aid received. Others have a more pessimistic view of migration with (especially youth) emigration presenting a risk for development, as it weakens the human capital necessary for economic growth and conveys the wrong message (i.e. for young Africans, the hope for a better future lies somewhere outside the continent).

Over two-thirds of migrations involving Africans take place within Africa. Internal migratory flows, from rural to urban areas, from poor to rich countries, and from the hinterlands towards the coastal regions, are increasing. Local governments are on the frontline when tensions emerge between migrant and local populations. They thus require early warning mechanisms that can only be beneficial if they create an atmosphere of peace and concord between migrant and local populations.

Cross-border cooperation programmes, which involve local stakeholders and draw on experience and on integrated solutions, are also key in maintaining peace. The development of such programmes requires the active collaboration of governments, regional economic communities, local government
associations and communities living near and around border zones. A shift is needed from policing and conventional security-centred approaches, to integrated approaches that draw on communities themselves. In this respect, the Benin experience is applicable beyond border communities. It is a way of thinking creatively about peace and security challenges, and how to engage communities (e.g. dealing with xenophobia, crime and violence, urban safety).

The following recommendations were made:

The following recommendations were made regarding local governments as custodians of peace and security in Africa:

1. Associations of cross-border municipalities need to be expanded to all of Africa and a database created to share experiences and good practices on conflict management, environmental protection and development.

2. Cities should put in place preventative security plans, supported by provincial/national government and donor organizations, through existing self-organizing structures. Furthermore, safety should be at the centre of development plans.

3. International instruments are key guidelines. There must be synergy between international instruments and government implementation to make safety and security alive.

4. Cross-border cooperation centring on the role of locally elected officials is needed (e.g. in cases where they cannot take action because they are not recognized in a particular area/country, even if cooperation is local). This needs to be an initiative taken up at the level of the AU Peace and Security Cluster (or standing committee), supported by national governments.

6.2.9 Innovative solutions for accountable and transparent local governments (SU-09)

The past two decades have seen an increasing trend of devolution of powers, responsibilities and budgets from central governments to local governments, both globally and on the African continent. From basic social services, such as water and sanitation, and health and education, to commercial licensing and construction permits, local governments are playing a greater role in designing policies and delivering key public services.

At the same time, urbanization is occurring at an unprecedented speed and pace in Africa, exacerbating the pressure on local governments to deliver efficient and effective public services, often within the context of weak institutional and governance structures. Fundamental to managing this urbanization and a determining factor in achieving the AU’s Agenda 2063, is ensuring fair and equal access to land in African cities and towns. Mapping and registering on the cadastre is the first step towards the transparency required for this process to succeed. However, fundamental to developing the required transparency is creating people’s trust in their local governments, which means that local governments need to be more transparent, accountable and free from corruption. Transparency should be an imperative, not an elusive concept. Staff should be trained in integrity and ethics issues; recruitment processes should be transparent; electronic registration of land should
be established; and public participation in spatial planning process must be embraced, as the public can become a monitoring tool for urban affairs. Including citizens in the management of basic urban services is key, given that access to basic services is essential to fight urban poverty and to ensure universal access and basic quality for the more disadvantaged inhabitants of the city.

Fostering stakeholder communication, and promoting a culture of integrity, innovation and technology, can empower African local governments, shift the way in which people live and participate in local governance, and make information more accessible, which can result in improved efficiency, quality and cost of providing basic services. UN-Habitat, using the tools developed by its partner, Transparency International, is willing to help bridge local governments’ perspectives and concerns.

**Against the backdrop of the above factors, the following recommendations were made:**

1. Local government should adopt policies and introduce mechanisms that promote effective citizen participation in local decision-making processes and civic oversight of local public institutions.
2. Local government should be trusted to be able to do their job. They should also receive direct funding from national and international partners, as they are ultimately responsible for protecting the common good at local level.
3. Central government should adopt legislation and create mechanisms to monitor standards of ethical behaviour by local governments.
4. Local government should use the necessary tools and developed the required capacities to be able to negotiate with the private sector and benefit from the value created by the urbanization process.

**6.2.10 Peer review (SU-10)**

African local governments can and should learn from each other to create African solutions to Africa’s local challenges. The UCLG-Africa Local Government Peer Review Facility has demonstrated the efficacy of REAL Organizational Learning. Peer review (PR) is a process by which a local government peer from one local authority assesses another against an agreed standard of behaviour and/or performance. As equal partners, peers operate as “critical friends”. The ultimate goal of this systematic examination and assessment of the performance is to help the reviewed local government identify its strengths, improve its policy making, adopt best practices, and comply with established standards and principles. The examination is conducted in a non-adversarial manner and relies heavily on mutual trust among local governments involved in the review, as well as their shared confidence in the process.

During 2012, the UCLG-Africa conducted a pilot project on Peer Reviewing in partnership with the United Kingdom Local Government Association. The participating organizations in the pilot project included both local authorities and national associations. It was found that political factors can affect the outcome of the process, that the budget for the programme has to be adequate and that it is difficult to monitor the implementation of the peer review recommendations. Collaboration between
central and local governments would make the process more efficient. African local municipalities will clearly benefit by undergoing the peer review process. However, a clear roadmap and a monitoring platform need to be developed to make it successful.

In the context of the above, the following recommendations were made:

1. Create a peer review entity within UCLGA.
2. Train peer reviewers.
3. Ensure the participation of technical experts (civil engineers, etc.) in the process.
4. Carry out the evaluation more frequently.
5. Develop a platform to monitor the peer-reviewed municipalities.
6. Make the process more efficient through collaboration between central and local governments.
7. Appeal to central governments to promote democracy and decentralization.
8. Identify partners who can support African initiatives.

6.2.11 Territorial coaching (SU-11)

With increased decentralization and devolution, it is important to empower local actors, such as through coaching. Coaching brings out the natural talent and brilliance in individuals. “Territorial coaching” promotes local governance and provides civil society and local government with innovative tools to facilitate and accelerate a constructive dialogue between the people and the policy-makers to achieve developmental projects together. Such coaching creates synergies among local actors, to mobilize their capabilities in solving specific problems or promoting sustainable development and increase the appeal of the local area.

The Territorial Coaching Programme of Eastern Morocco is the first of its kind in Morocco and Africa. Its goal is to support the Eastern Regional Council in defining and implementing sustainable policies supporting local government in the region. Indeed, the quality of their interventions in organizing synergies with civil society and all driving forces will have a direct impact on the local development. To achieve this, the programme has various components: certified training and capacity building which will lead to a Moroccan team of territorial coaches working in Eastern Morocco; interventions in all provinces in the Eastern Region, to fine-tune tools, measure results and reinforce the practical skills of trained coaches; communication and awareness-raising to promote citizen dialogue using Territorial Coaching.

The programme was adopted to address challenges common to Moroccan municipal councils. It was designed through multi-disciplinary approaches and with the contribution of various experts. The areas covered include good governance, local development, performance coaching, political coaching, and economic, social and environmental development. The focus was to apply these critical knowledge and skills at the local level. The range of expertise was adjusted and validated by numerous field reality checks.
The following recommendations were made, taking the above into account:

1. The programme is not for making money, so no money should be charged but rather focus to support local municipal councils.
2. Territorial coaching should be rolled out to other countries outside Morocco, using the Moroccan model.
3. Mediation is a critical component of territorial coaching and therefore needs to be promoted, as there many conflicts in the African continent.
4. Decentralization and devolution to empower municipal councils is very important and coaching must be emphasized and strengthened.

6.2.12 New context for climate change (SU-12)

The need for adaptation has been a long-neglected issue within the global climate change debate. However, this is beginning to change, as awareness and scientific evidence mount, and the impacts of rising temperatures, increased rainfall variability, melting ice sheets and rising sea levels threaten communities and their supporting ecosystems worldwide.

Consequently, an increasing number of stakeholders at local, national and international levels are looking for ways to manage the now unavoidable consequences of climate change. Nowhere is adaptation more essential than at the level of local government. Local governments serve 70% of people on Earth and so have the power to lead climate change adaptation actions.

Participants shared the findings of research into climate change in Africa, discussed climate change in relation to the developmental goals and challenges faced by municipalities, provided examples of mitigation and adaptation initiatives by local governments, and called on African mayors to sign the ICLEI Compact of Mayors. The Compact of Mayors agreement is the world’s largest cooperative effort among mayors and city officials to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, track progress, and prepare for the impacts of climate change.
The following resolution was made:

**Resolution by African local and sub-national governments towards UNFCCC COP 21/CMP 11**

We as stakeholders from local, sub-national governments together with the local government networks namely UCLGA, C40 and ICLEI Africa gathered at Africitites Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa on 01 December 2015, call on parties of the UNFCCC, collectively with G77, chaired by South Africa to make a strong pro-poor and binding, measurable, reportable and verifiable deal in Paris on the occasion of UNFCCC COP 21/CMP 11.

We call on parties of the nations

- to recognize the pivotal contribution local and sub-national governments collectively make towards addressing climate change effectively, especially for countries in the global south

- to create an environment where local and sub-national governments join hands and work collaboratively with national governments to take urgent and appropriate measures in addressing both adaptation and mitigation to build resilient communities, recognizing the impacts that municipalities and cities are currently and projected to face in the context of rapid urbanization.

- to create an enabling environment for local and sub-national governments to access and secure appropriate resources including new financial mechanisms that are not overly burdened with heavy procedures.

- to create an environment that fosters finance across all tiers of government towards improving resilience to climate change, particularly through food, water and energy security

- to establish a framework for clean technology transfer flows and capacity building (in all directions) that provides access for African local and sub-national governments to the scientific and technological advances of the industrialized countries.

- to support Africa’s enormous potential for low carbon and green economic growth, especially in relation to local job creation opportunities

Local governments, sub-national governments, network organizations for local governments here gathered at Africitites 2015 Summit stand ready to scale up climate actions collectively in close partnership with parties of UNFCCC and other regional and global role players towards advancing climate resilient future.
6.2.13 Better municipal performance – How benchmarking can help (SU-13)

The quality of service provision is key to the legitimacy of local governments. In many countries, local governments face challenges because of limited human and financial resources. Learning from peers can, however, help in making the best possible use of available resources. Benchmarking is one such resource.

In essence, benchmarking is about comparing performance indicators with similar organizations and learning from the good practices of others in order to identify and implement measures for improvement. Benchmarking is not meant to be used for rankings and to punish the least (or applaud the best) performers. Rather, it creates a safe environment in which peers are invited to share positive experiences as well as their difficulties and dilemmas, all of which are based on concrete data.

Local government practitioners from Ghana, South Africa and Benin shared how they have used “benchmarking” as a tool to improve performance, in the field of sanitation and waste management, housing and local economic development (LED) based on systemized exchange with peers from other local governments in their country.

The following recommendations were made, in light of the above:

1. The importance of having high quality data and of measuring (the progress of) the SDGs and the African 2063 agenda is beyond doubt. Benchmarking on the basis of such data must be promoted as a very effective method for horizontal learning among local governments.
2. Horizontal learning through benchmarking should be recognized as more empowering for local government than top down or control-driven forms of monitoring.

6.2.14 Fiscal decentralization (SU-14)

Financial decentralization is the main sticking point of decentralization policies in Africa. The principle of concurrency, which states that financial resources must follow powers and functions, faces a lack of political will. Funds should follow function, which is not happening at the moment. Budget and funding allocation is random, unknown/unclear and selective. Various municipal competences are given to municipalities, but are not supported by financial resources or skills, i.e. funds are not in proportion to functions or not transferred on time, therefore delaying implementation. In some cases, national ministries fight over the financial resources and retain funds allocated to municipalities.

However, national governments are not always to blame. Municipalities need to be more assertive and accountable, and raise some of their own funds. In some places, the law may have to be changed to enable local governments to generate revenue, form partnerships or raise taxes.
As countries have different levels of decentralization, a one-size-fits-all is not possible. Municipalities also have different needs because they differ in size and population. Both financial and human resources should accompany municipal competencies, as without these resources, local government cannot perform.

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<th>The following recommendations were made:</th>
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<td>1. More African leaders must sign the charter on decentralization.</td>
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<td>2. Fight against tax evasion.</td>
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<td>3. Look at convergence criteria for local government funding.</td>
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<td>4. Put pressure on policy makers.</td>
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<td>5. Enshrine roles and duties of municipalities in constitutions.</td>
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6.2.15 Locally elected women: REFELA (SU-15)

REFELA’s primary objectives are to implement programmes that empower women in local government and the community; encourage the participation of women in politics and in leadership roles in local government and communities; strengthen the skills of locally elected women through development and training in leadership and management of local affairs; provide a platform for African women to voice their opinions and concerns in elected bodies such as UCLGA and in the Women’s Commission of UCLGA; and provide a networking system for locally elected women to promote and facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences.

The outgoing board of REFELA presented their report, their projects, the new board and the vision and mission for the new term. The vision involves the integration of the protection of children and youth, economic empowerment and gender equality. The mission encompasses five points: the protection of orphans and street kids within their communities; the protection of women against all forms of violence; taking initiatives that support the adoption of policies and encourage economic empowerment of women through local government; advocating for promotion of female leadership in local government; developing and strengthening REFELA’s network in order to facilitate the exchange of best practices and promote peer review and learning.
REFELA Declaration The Network of Locally Elected Women in Africa

We, Locally Elected Women, gathering within the REFELA Africa network as part of the Africities Summit 7 of 2015, in Sandton, Johannesburg, call upon and recommend:

**To Mayors and Local Governments**, to consider from now the Locally Elected Women as essential stakeholders of good gender-sensitive local governance and as partners and stakeholders within local territories, who should with the male colleagues place the concerns and priorities of women (the most important of which being the protection of childhood and youth, the strengthening of the economic empowerment of women, and the promotion of gender equality) at the heart of the policies and strategies of the local governments of African countries.

**To Ministers, to States, and to Elected bodies**, to put in place laws so that women can enforce their fundamental rights and the exercise of full citizenship.

It goes without saying that one of the issues and challenges to be faced up to by countries of Africa is to increase the political participation of women and their access to decision-making, and for this purposes, it is recommended to increase the use of mechanisms and corrective measures for more parity and equality in access to leadership positions and to work so that elected women can develop their leadership within structured frameworks, by supporting the establishment and generalization of the REFELA country chapters as representative and important entities of REFELA Africa.

**To International financial and technical partners**, to consider Locally Elected Women as promoters of their local and regional territories as mayors, presidents, and vice-presidents, including councilors, of local governments, that still need technical and financial support, so as to give more visibility to their action and to formalize their best practices and contribute to the emergence of a different way of making local politics.

It is therefore recommended not to confine women and their organizations anymore to micro-funding, to micro-projects, and to micro-activities, and it also recommended mainly to increase technical and financial support for women at more strategic levels dealing with more strategic issues such as access to the decision-making process, an area for which the REFELA countries are working within the framework of REFELA Africa.
6.2.16 African Local Government Academy (SU-16)

Different governments supported by development partners have undertaken many initiatives to reinforce the institutional capacities of local government. However, to date these initiatives have not produced satisfactory results. In 2015, the UCLGA developed a virtual African university for training and developing municipal managers: the African Local Government Academy (ALGA).

ALGA programmes will include establishing and implementing an accreditation system for the in-service training of local government professionals in partnership with academic and research institutions. The focus of ALGA is to train senior advisors to mayors, i.e. city managers, city financial officers and chief operating officers. Local governments will nominate candidates for the Master’s course. ALGA is headquartered in Morocco and is in the process of becoming a legal entity. Governments, academic organizations, local governments, national associations, individuals, quality assurance organizations, profession organizations and international partners have been bound together by agreements in the formation of ALGA.

6.2.17 Launch of the Pan-African network on migrations (SU-17)

Many migrants (women and men) cross the African continent, in search of protection from human rights abuses, jobs, and medical care. They risk everything, including their lives, to take the perilous trip across borders and the waves of the Mediterranean Sea in search of a better life in the North. Some die along the way, some are turned back and some who finish the journey realize that life may not be easier across the frontier. But with few jobs, a lack of democracy and dim prospects at home, millions of youths and young adults in Africa still choose to migrate, often clandestinely.
Many African cities do not have a proper programme to welcome, host and manage migration in the continent. Exacerbating the situation is the absence of strong migrants’ networks to assist the host cities in managing migration. The promotion and the protection of migrants in Africa has so far been hampered by a lack of coordination among several associations and networks of migrants that exist in different countries of the continent.

The Pan-African Network on Migration brings together several associations of migrants in different African countries and regions. It aims to be the ‘voice’ of African migrants and an interlocutor of African migrants with authorities of the countries of origin and those of destination. The predominant narrative of negativity surrounding migration needs to be dismantled.

Against the above backdrop, the following recommendations were made:

- Advocate a bottom-up approach, i.e. involve the people on the ground.
- Build human capacity on the local level, with support from international partnerships and cooperation from government.
- Develop communication strategies in order to ensure cohesion of efforts.
- Establish a website where information can circulate and interactions take place, including arranging meetings and workshops.
- Watch over the functioning of this network with other research units and organizations working on the same issues.
- Form a think-tank in order to deepen inquiry and work toward solutions. Regional forums can also enrich the database in terms of findings, experiences, and so on, in order to inform and assist each other.
- Launch awareness campaigns in our communities.
- Have a proper representation of women and youth in the network.

African Local Governments’ Charter on Migrants

By adhering to this charter, African Local Governments:

**Recognize** that Migration is a global phenomenon across this world, and it is particularly important in Africa as it concerns over 50 million people in Africa.

**Acknowledge** that most migratory movements on the continent happen mainly within Africa, and only a small portion of African migrants go to other regions of the world.

**Are mindful** of the fact that only a small proportion of Africans migrate outside Africa and that, despite that situation African international migrations towards Europe and other developed countries are made more and more complicated, pushing African migrants to use Illegal migration routes.
Are alerted on this fact that many African migrants are being discriminated in the cities where they are established, and their human rights are being put at risk each time the economic situation is unfavorable.

Point out that actions aiming to provide sustainable responses to the fundamental causes of migrations are generally the same as the ones aiming to set up local initiatives meeting the pressing needs of the residents and migrants people and should be entrenched in the development of territories and be in line with the regional integration.

African Local Governments meeting at 2015 Africities Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa:

1. Agree to strongly and unequivocally condemn xenophobic violence in all its forms in continent, and hold accountable any public official or citizen making xenophobic statements, involved in smuggling and human trafficking, as well as putting at risk the establishment of social cohesion in cities by integrating migrants in the formal and informal economic sectors of host cities which have the potential of creating jobs and by promoting their positive economic, social and cultural contributions to receiving territories.

2. Agree to launch key engagements at policy level aimed at revamping migration policy, which would stop criminalizing international migrants and emphasize the benefits of migrants working together with communities in host cities as a way of embracing diversity and facilitating coherence.

3. Confirm their commitment to protect the Human and other rights of Immigrants in their localities and strive to facilitate their peaceful integration in their communities.

4. Agree to support the formation of Associations of Migrants People that will facilitate the Dialogue between the Local Governments and Migrants Communities.

5. Commit to advocate for the protection of the rights of Migrants originating from their territories where they are settled including through transparent exchanges with the local authorities hosting their Emigrants.

6. Decide to take advantage of the celebration of Africa day on 25 May and of the international migrant day on 18 December to create a function celebrating migrants’ people, providing an opportunity for enriched cultural exchanges and mutual discovery between the local people and the migrant people.

7. Commit to promote regular and structured dialogue with the diaspora in order that their skills, knowledge and resources contribute to Local Development, structural change modernization of their localities back home.
6.2.18 Youth and the city (SU-18)

The UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund and Cities Alliance’s Catalytic Fund (CATF) bring together recipients of the two funds for an exchange of experiences and mutual learning. Through a peer review of the funded projects, good practices and lessons learned were identified, focusing on innovation and the potential for replication. These good practices and lessons were analysed to understand which can be used to inform practice and policy.

The discussions highlighted what local governments, NGOs and youth groups can do to support/promote youth participation and youth empowerment, with the aim of transforming the findings into policy recommendations that local governments can use to promote youth participation and create inclusive cities that allow youth to reach their full potential.

The following suggestions were made:

1. Young people should insist on being seen; hold officials to account; pay your taxes.
2. Ask municipalities about their youth budgets.
3. 2063 is too far in the future: expect to see change before this.
4. Don’t forget class and inequality; can’t talk about “the youth” as a single group.
5. Young people need to be aware of their power.
6. Take on leadership role: When moving from projects to policy: empower, provide an enabling environment, open up (national, local etc.) spaces for dialogue and consultation, and ensure much-needed organization.
7. Take a bottom-up approach and strengthen relationships with ward councillors/local level.
8. Successes in supporting youth should form part of KPIs of Mayors and other officials.
Recommendations

For Mayors

• It is essential for local governments to create dialogue and consultation platforms with the youth. It will help to strengthen the relation between the youth and local authorities and the implementation of inclusive and participatory approach in development projects of cities.

• Local authorities should adopt policies and design mechanisms that promote effective participation of citizens in decision-making process at the local level and monitoring of local public institutions by citizens.

• Develop a multi-actors participatory process around local government authorities to enhance inter-local authorities and inter-States migration management for greater participation by the communities themselves according to African community spirit.

• Foster the development of public-private partnership in the implementation of the various approaches to participatory budget,

• Local governments, national governments, local governments associations here gathered at Africities 2015 Summit are ready to scale up actions collectively in close collaboration with parties of UNFCCC and other regional and global players towards advancing climate resilient future.

To Ministers

• Recommend that African governments provide legislative and regulatory instruments to foster cross-border decentralized cooperation on the issue of managing security governance and include in local government development plan.

• Communalize the management of migration issues or ensure greater involvement of African local government authorities in the management of migration crisis in conformity with African realities and values.

• Support and assign a part of central governments financial transfer to local governments for the participation of citizens in the definition of their priority investment agenda. Within this framework, the intermediary financial institution are encouraged to play the role of facilitators by setting as condition the practice of citizens’ participation in planning, budgeting and management of local affairs.

For Development Partners

• Submit a support program for decentralized cross-border cooperation (between communities).

• Promote, document and disseminate, in national associations and local governments, the successful experiences of participatory budgets and citizen participation.
6.3 Stakeholder Sessions

The different thematic sessions were organized by working groups established through the initiative of the following operators: the international networks (HIC, IAI, No Vox, SDI and local partners), the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NAFCOC), the Huairou Commission, Courteville / Dangote, MAIN, International Africa Cooperative, Barclays, the APUA, ANSOLE, AAPAM, SAFMM, REFONGAC. The Trade Unions’ session who had been approached and had aroused great hope was not held as planned, as many of its stakeholders had not obtained their visas.

6.3.1 Small farmers’ organizations (SH-01)

The lack of consistent land policies has led many African countries to sell huge areas of land or grant long leases to foreign investors. This has marginalized rural populations, resulted in a massive farmland grab and poses a major obstacle to the development of agriculture. These productive forces (rural populations) do not yet have access to technology or to capital markets, and so are unable to produce on a large scale, much less transform their products, and thus to be competitive on international markets, and create jobs. When revenues do not remain in the country, agricultural activity cannot create added value for the farmers who work the land. National and trans-national African farmers’ associations have a vital role to play, as do rural communities and organizations.

Government, and particularly local government, needs to enable farming, especially small-scale farming. Across Africa, farming, especially small farming, is critical not only for food security but for sustaining rural life and giving it a future; and it relates to people’s sense of identity and worth. A viable rural life needs to be an option to those who choose it. Government policies must be shaped to take account of this, and to ensure its continuity, all the while recognizing the complex challenges facing the continent. More commonage land is needed. The emphasis should not only be on larger mechanized farmers. Government rarely reaches its targets of land allocation to small farmers because of resistance from commercial farmers, the lack of relevant legislation and slow bureaucracy. And
In the context of the above, the following recommendations were made:

1. A fixed percentage of land should be available for women farmers.
2. A/the mother body of African agriculture should devise policies that empower peasant farmers.
3. There should be uniform policy on the allocation of traditional land and state land: chiefs should not be in a position to suppress people’s ambitions.
4. Local government must identify arable land (including land that is not immediately going to be developed, which could be the subject of short term leases).
5. Young people, in particular, should be identified and trained to farm and to set up related SMMEs. Support should be provided especially in the critical early years of a farming venture.
6. African farmers should collaborate.
7. Consideration should be given to introducing policies that govern the amount of food that can be imported, with the aim of encouraging local consumption and production.
8. The problem of collateral for small farmers needs to be addressed, so that they can access loans. Something as simple as belonging to a cooperative may be sufficient.
9. Training for farming enterprises should be carried out locally/nationally and not internationally.
10. If non-nationals want to farm, this should be enabled through leasing land even though it may not be possible for them to purchase.
11. Municipalities must provide commonage, and assist farmers – especially emerging farmers – with access to critical resources such as water.
12. Road shows should be organized to inform the intended target people and groups about, for example, the availability of grants and other funds. Policies need to be known.
13. Local government should play a leading role in securing mentors for emerging farmers.
14. National and all other levels of government must respect and recognize small farmers and the rural way of life generally; development projects which focus largely on urbanization and/or the international dimension tend to lose sight of rural issues and of the role that is played by farming, including small farming.

6.3.2 Associations of inhabitants (SH-02)

The session brought together representatives of social movements, NGOs, elected officials and local government officials to discuss increased dialogue among the parties and to make a concrete contribution to the World Urban Social Forum and Habitat III in Quito in 2016. At Africities 6, the call was made to national governments, international development partners and the UCLGA to recognize the role of, and support, the associations and networks of inhabitants, encourage community-led initiatives and participatory and inclusive urban planning, prioritize the needs of the poorest residents in development, and defend the rights of all inhabitants to security of tenure and to dignity.

The session reiterated that the buy-in of politicians is essential and called for greater representation of people in decision-making bodies. The public must also be more forceful in holding their elected officials to account, balanced against innovative schemes that people create for their own wellbeing. Follow-up and evaluation are essential to hold governments accountable. Nevertheless, as each case is context-specific, local conditions determine the authority and people in power.
The following draft resolutions for the Session of Inhabitants
Associations and Local Authorities were drafted and proposed
for submission to the political sessions of Africities 7.

30 November 2015

We, the undersigned organizations, hereby respectfully submit the following Resolution
developed by the participants in the Session on the Associations of Inhabitants for consideration
at the Political Session of the Summit for adoption into the operational programme of the
UCLGA, and as a contribution to HABITAT III.

Recognizing that:
1. The resolutions presented in 2012 at the Africities 6 have not been widely adopted by
   local governments.
2. Local associations of inhabitants are committed to developing an inclusive network of
   organizations to protect the interests of poor and marginalised urban and non-urban
   citizens in Africa through advocacy for appropriate local government policies, especially
   with regard to housing and shelter

We submit the following recommendations to:

**Mayors and Local Governments of Africa**
1. To accelerate the acceptance and implementation of the resolutions contained in the
   proposals of the Africities 6, by creating committees to follow up on the process;
2. To promote meaningful engagement with communities through associations of
   inhabitants that incorporates them into decision-making processes
3. To make urban housing and land inclusive for the development of our cities.

**The National Governments of Africa**
1. To develop pro-poor strategies to eliminate homelessness and substandard housing.
2. To promote and implement community-based projects in urban and rural areas in
   collaboration with local communities and civil society.
3. To ensure that local authorities and governments have the necessary capacity and
   resources to meet their obligations to uphold the human right to adequate housing for all.

**The International Development Partners**
1. To provide resources including political support to promote dialogue between
   associations of inhabitants and local governments
2. To support methodologies to promote integrated and balanced rural and urban
   development.
3. To ensure the involvement of local communities when implementing projects.
6.3.3 Women’s movements (SH-04)

The Huairou Commission was created out of the Habitat II Conference 20 years ago, to ensure that gender equality and women’s empowerment in human settlements were strengthened. The mission of the Huairou Commission is to empower grassroots women’s organizations, to strengthen their community development practices and to transform public policies at local, national, regional and global levels. Since its inception, the organization has been a leading force in bringing women’s empowerment and gender equity in human settlements to the highly contested process of urbanization and the global agenda that has been limited in delivering on these issues.

In preparation for Habitat III, which will culminate in the adoption of a New Urban Agenda, Habitat III has created a process that includes a General Assembly of Partners (GAP), Urban Thinkers Campuses, 10 Policy Units, 22 initial policy papers, prep coms and regional meetings to provide opportunities for input into the policies and practices that will be included in the New Urban Agenda. Of the 14 GAP partner constituent groups, the Huairou Commission is leading the women’s group that will explore challenges and issues relating to gender and women’s empowerment in the complex task of applying creative and sustainable human settlements and urban growth and design.

Participants discussed strategies for empowering women, preventing gender-based violence and the low representation of women’s issues on the Africities 2015 programme.

The following recommendations were made, taking the above into account:

1. Lobby each country to have a women budget.
2. Start a newspaper at a local or continental level dedicated to women issues.
3. Promote equal information and effective participation of women in local government planning and local development participation.
4. Promote innovation through new tool of knowledge and information transfer.
5. Increase social cohesion and equity in the access to cities.
6. Theorize a model of women mobilization.
7. Adopt a gendered approach in cities’ foresight and planning.
6.3.4 Local entrepreneurs (SH-06)

Local entrepreneurship and job creation should be at the heart of local government. In many
developed and some emerging economies, established relationships and partnerships between the
private and public sectors support the drive for economic growth and regeneration. African local
governments need practical support to help them develop effective partnerships and solutions that
will support entrepreneurship and encourage job creation and economic growth. The UCLGA Policy
Framework for Investment (PFI) is a pilot project for local entrepreneurship and job creation. It provides
practical support for local governments to help them develop effective partnerships and solutions for
local SMEs with business proposals that create private sector solutions to public sector challenges.

Growing SMEs will stimulate job creation in all sectors of society. However, banks only fund export or
large companies, and not even SMEs with annual turnovers of US$1-million are guaranteed access
to funding. In this context, the PFI programme was launched in January 2015 with key partners, such
as Stanbic Bank Ghana, Agdevco, an international financial institution, and a major mobile phone
operator. The aim of the PFI is to assist small companies in getting access to funding, and UCLGA
is looking at how local governments can access funding for SMEs more easily. Approaches being
explored include one used by the Jozi@work programme in Johannesburg and similar initiatives
in West Africa. These involve linking SMEs with a large company that incorporates the SME into its
supply chain system in order to provide the municipality with the services it requires.

A concern raised at the session was the high cost of UCLGA pilot programme and how this might
negatively affect the sustainability of the initiative, or the ability to replicate the model.

6.3.5 Microcredit (SH-07)

The informal economy is the basis of local economies, servicing many people in cities, and making
up between one-third and one-half of wealth production, and 60–80% of employment. The informal
sector is extremely important for African economies but is excluded from the traditional banking
system. Microfinance is the ideal financing instrument, especially for the urban and rural poor who
do not represent a lucrative market for traditional banks. During the 1970s until the early 1980s,
microcredit (then microfinance) experienced an unprecedented development, on the momentum
of Professor Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank in Bangladesh and Nobel Peace Prize winner in 2006.
Many microfinance institutions (MFI) were established in the developing countries. Today, tens of
thousands of MFIs exist in the world.

Microfinance is well suited to small informal traders. The main challenge for the informal sector is
market access throughout the value chain, which is usually closed up by formal big businesses. Local
governments can create a system of working together with micro-finance, to create partnerships,
help improve the informal sector's access to microfinance, and build capacity among the beneficiaries
on effectively using microfinance. Local government by-laws must strike the balance between trade
and health and safety issues.
In light of the above, the following recommendations were made:

1. Local government must assist the informal sector by facilitating the provision of means of identification, which is critical for accessing microfinance.
2. This support must stretch to rural communities and migrants who contribute to local economic growth in their areas.
3. Cities should share best practices, especially on similar informal activities – for example, the case of commercial motor-bikes of Lagos, Nairobi.
4. The intervention strategies need to refocus, from providing finance only to developing the business capabilities of entrepreneurs.
5. Attention must be paid to cultural issues that may be contributing to poor repayments of microfinance (as in the South African example).

### 6.3.6 Financial institutions (SH-09)

Cities in Africa face a mix of financial constraints. Their allocations from central governments are usually insufficient, while households in their jurisdictions are often unable to pay their bills and rates. In addition, many of them cannot always raise the finance that they need because of their poor credit rating. As a result, the infrastructure gap is growing.

Traditionally, in Africa, the on-balance sheet funding model has been used, but there is a need to move to alternative financing models, including borrowing. The type of borrowing mechanism depends on various aspects, for example a city’s authority to borrow (legal) and what it is borrowing for (i.e. different powers and functions). Partnerships are important for driving innovative financing of local government, such as municipality-to-municipality, public-private partnerships (PPPs), pooled financing and borrowing, as well as development finance institutions (DFIs) funding which can be shared. But PPPs should be approached carefully, as off-balance sheet financing can lead to transparency issues.

Other innovative finance models include tax increment financing, and capital or development charges. Business taxes are a great opportunity for local government funding, but South Africa does not have a city-level business tax. A challenge facing local government financing is how to bring together retirement funds with lots of liquidity looking for long-term investments and municipalities looking for long-term capital.
The following recommendations were made, taking the above into account:

- Africa requires its own legal and professional advice to ensure a capable team is brought to the table.
- Skills and capacity enhancement and development are essential at local government level, to ensure there is sufficient capacity to play a leading role in financial partnerships.
- Transparency is paramount, as is the rethinking required to find ways around the cumbersome processes involved in accessing financing. There must be more effective ways to achieve transparency, fair competition and value for money.
- The private sector should look at individual institutions in their own contexts, i.e. they should decouple from the central government and look at municipalities and cities on their own merits.
- A monitoring framework for PPP investment should be developed.
- A legal framework for investing should be established and shared across Africa.

6.3.7 Public services: water, transport, waste, energy (SH-10)

Sustainable public services, such as water and sanitation, electricity and public transport, are necessary for the daily activities of people, for the economic growth of cities and (of course) for better health. Water and sanitation are the two most important services in ensuring improved health conditions for inhabitants living in African cities. However, public services infrastructure in African cities is ageing and often in disrepair, while the public transport systems serve mostly the poor and so need to be accessible and affordable. Other challenges include non-revenue water and tariff issues and the longevity of public transport projects (i.e. beyond political cycles).

The African continent does, however, have success stories in water management, partnerships and transport investments. Partnerships are essential, whether with informal transport operators in the public transport sector or with private service providers in the sanitation and water sector.

In this context of the above, the following recommendations were made:

- Multi-sectoral stakeholder participation is paramount to achieving harmonious provision of public services and supportive infrastructure.
- There is need to provide integrated public services to reduce costs.
- Implemented policies and strategic visions must be in line with needs of the population.
- An institutional framework needs to be put in place to manage the provision of public services, with an emphasis on the professionalization and capacity development of players.
- Organizations such as Union Internationale des Transports Publics (UITP; International Association of Public Transport) and Union Africaine des Transports Publics (UATP African Association of Public Transport) should position themselves as pools of knowledge.
- Leadership and governance are essential in public
6.3.8 Professionals from central and local administrations (SH-11)

Members of the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) include governments, private sector, civil society and international organizations. AAPAM programmes are conducted in partnership with reputable institutions across Africa and are aimed at enhancing the capacity and skills of both its members and non-members. The programmes focus on good governance, democracy, respect for human rights justice and the rule of law where development is people-driven, unleashing the potential of women and youth across the continent. APAM is funded by governments and conference fees, and is supported by development partners, publications and individual and corporate members. The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) monitors the quality of its programmes.

Through its various programmes and in collaboration with the various partners, UCLGA, in conjunction with AAPAM, should continue to support local government in the professionalism strategies in the achievement of the AU’s Agenda 2063 Agenda. However, Africa has both generic and country-specific challenges in professionalizing central and local administrations. There is a need to learn from best practices of decentralized government in Africa.

There is a need to learn from best practices in decentralized government from Africa. A suggestion was for the UCLGA to facilitate the hosting of a seminar/workshop in the next six months to come up with a generic programme for professionalizing local government. This workshop would initiate the compilation of a database for each country/local government association, which would assist in developing plans for professionalizing local governments.

In the context of the above, the following recommendations were made:

- Establish a hotline for reporting corruption, misconduct, fraud, e.g. like the one in Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Political will is needed to help enforce the rule of law.
- Develop a system and framework for recognizing effective municipal managers (e.g. awards, acknowledgement) and follow rigorous nomination processes.
- Require officials to have compulsory membership of a professional body.
- Noting that most of the problems facing municipalities are not only political but societal as well, adopt interventions that will address societal problems.
- Promote regular interactions between public and private sectors, which will promote sharing best practices.
- UCLGA should NGOs and solidarity associations
6.3.9 NGOs and solidarity associations (SH-12)

Civil society organizations play an important role in supporting tasks of local governments. An integrated Africa (the AU’s 2063 Vision) can only be achieved through stakeholders working together. Citizen participation, which entails citizens controlling public actions, is an essential element of democracy. However, the success of decentralization in Africa, like elsewhere, depends on the capacities of civil society associations to play fully their part in defining the choices and demanding accountability from those elected.

Inclusive democracy through participatory budgeting means that local citizens are considered; if not, they may end up not paying tax, thereby reducing local government funding. Political will is necessary for promoting participation by local citizens who need to be informed about municipal functions and budgets. Conducive and effective local government cannot be realized without a climate of trust among the different actors. The actors include NGOs, of which some are credible, and others are not.

The following recommendations were made:

- All NGOs should be evaluated.
- Evaluation criteria and feedback mechanisms should be developed that can be used as criteria for funding.
- Increased collaboration and involvement of citizens at local levels must be encouraged.
- Increased transparency of budgeting through participative budgeting needs to be encouraged.

6.3.10 Traditional authorities (SH-13)

In most African countries traditional authorities play a crucial role in managing the use of land and natural resources, resolving neighbourhood disputes, and retaining the values and cultures of African communities. At the local level, African people affiliate themselves to two legitimacy lines: one stemming from the democratic processes, and the other deriving from customary rules. How democratically elected local governments and traditional authorities collaborate largely determines the possibility of creating harmonious local societies. Traditional authorities existed before local government but were taken over during colonization. Nonetheless, they are, in effect, the grassroots of development. Consequently, while African countries can take much from Western countries, they cannot adopt everything.
Recommendations:

To the African Union

1. To incorporate the indigenous values and culture as the foundation of Agenda 2063 for Africa as the vehicle for promoting the African identity.
2. To recognise the role of traditional authorities in the implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2063 for Africa and require the AU to organize the Pan-African Summit in order to provide traditional authorities with the opportunity to give input and contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2063.
3. To ensure that the traditional authorities are involved in representation from local level up to the level of the African Union.

To Governments

1. To ask African governments to adopt laws defining the status, roles and powers of traditional authorities by 2021.
2. To set up the National Forum for Traditional Leaders to promote dialogue and their participation in national and African programmes, and their co-option in legislative, senatorial and local assemblies, to ensure a better monitoring of decisions related to their communities.

To Mayors

1. To recognise the role of traditional authorities in the management and control of natural resources, including minerals and lands, in order to serve and protect local communities, as well as prevent conflict.
2. To incorporate traditional authorities in the decision-making processes and municipal processes in order to ensure the effective involvement of these traditional authorities.

To the International Community and Development Partners

1. To recognise and support indigenous knowledge in research and scientific innovation.
2. To call on the development cooperation partners and NGOs to recognise the role of traditional authorities in sustainable development and to modify and adapt their practices for cooperation accordingly.

To the ULGCA

1. To support the establishment of a Pan-African Organization of Traditional Authorities to put in place a structured dialogue with other partners.
2. To support the establishment of a network of traditional leaders and to support further research aimed at understanding and deepening traditional governance.
6.3.11 Association of migrants/Afro-descendants (SH-14)

For many years, relationships have been strained between different associations of migrants and local governments of the host countries on the African continent. There has been little cooperation, making the lives of migrants more difficult. In addition, negative perceptions of migrants exist in some African countries, where some migrants face xenophobic attacks. Furthermore, some Afro-descendants have identity issues and are not willing to return to Africa.

Migrants are also members of the local communities and should participate in their development while also enjoying their rights. Collaboration between local governments and migrants’ associations will help resolve the multifaceted problems encountered by migrants. It will also help local communities to understand migrants’ problems, while integrating them into their developments plans, in which migrants should also participate.

In terms of the above, the following recommendations were made:

1. Collaboration between local governments and migrant associations needs to be strengthened.
2. Local government should facilitate migrant integration.
3. Regional development policies must allow free movement of migrants.
4. Countries should find strategies to encourage Afro-descendants to return to their country of origin.
5. African mayors need to meet Afro-descendant mayors to discuss Africa’s development matters and facilitate the return of Afro-descendants to their country of origin, and to sign a charter on migration.
6. National and local governments need to collaborate in order facilitate migrant issues, such as integration.
International Decade for People of African Descent and Africans all over the World

On 10 December 2014, Human Rights, in New York, the UN General Assembly officially launched the International Day for People of African Descent. In recognition of the urgency to combat, through concrete measures, all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, afro-phobia and related intolerance, which negatively impact all people, and seriously affect the life of people of African descent and Africans all over the world, especially the youth and women, member states and civil society jointly decided on three themes for this decade:

1. Recognition, a first step towards rehabilitating the memory and making moral and political restitution to one of the major crimes against humanity; to rehabilitate the history and crucial contribution of the African continent and diaspora to humanity, not only in the eyes of people of African descent and Africans themselves; to recognize people of African descent and Africans in deconstructing the structurally organized invisibility; to grow and flourish the dynamic relations of recognition among all countries where people of African descent live and Africans throughout the world.

2. Justice, “promote not only respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people of African descent, but also a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture and contribution of people of African descent to the development of societies”. In addition, “adopt and strengthen national, regional and international legal frameworks according to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to ensure their full and effective implementation”;

3. Development, end discriminations that affect the rights of people of African descent and Africans all over the world to social, cultural, political and economic development; change the paradigm of domination in society; apply the principle of non-discrimination and equality among States, people and nations; end practices that shape the inequalities, including the gap in living conditions of African populations and diaspora that are very different to those of the dominant socio-cultural populations; strengthen links between people of African descent and the African diaspora with the African continent; develop human relations that revoke the racial hierarchy established in the name of a so-called superior civilization; put in place social justice strategies.
**Recommendations**

1. Arrange meetings between African mayors and mayors of African descent, with the aim of facilitating exchanges and contributions to enrich the respective cultures and to build an international network.

2. Discuss proposals for directing, steering and including particular local and national structures, with the aim of evolving and diversifying the governance model in order to strengthen the Pan-Africanist project.

3. Draw up a charter between African mayors and mayors of African descent where each and everyone’s contribution is approached in its richness, diversity, complexity and complementarity, recognizing and bringing alive each and everyone’s specific characteristics, synergistically, which strengthens the African renaissance project.

4. Establish a permanent dialogue between the African continent, people of African descent and Africans throughout the world.

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**6.3.12 Academia and researchers (SH-15)**

The world of African research is constantly growing. Internationally reputed researchers and academics are invited worldwide to represent and to teach the body of African thought, the so-called “African Sage Philosophy”. However, there is a significant gap between the worldwide recognition of African academics and researchers, (that celebrates their strength and competence) and their hands-on involvement in development policies for the continent. It is time to change this state of things and to involve academics and researchers in social, economic, political dynamics of the continent.

African academics and researchers should understand that knowledge is produced in different ways, and should therefore not denigrate pragmatic problem-solving, which lends itself to the coproduction of knowledge. In this way, African academics and researchers can contribute to discussions around issues such as the dichotomy between metropolitan and rural areas, and producing an objective definition of a city. Universal answers are needed that are based on local realities. African intellectuals must have a place to ‘think Africa’, including its urban dimension. This is against a background where the African intelligentsia depends on external funding for 70% of its required funding. The focus must not be only on large urban agglomerations and rural areas because smaller urban spaces are crucial and so should be integrated into thinking and planning. Intra-African communication and communication with the diaspora are also crucial.
The following were recommended:

1. Universities and civic authorities need to explain how they respond to the necessity for coproduction and its complexities?
2. Universities and civic authorities must have clear agendas of what they want as a precondition for collaboration.
3. The effectiveness and relevance of research needs to be considered in the context of scarce resources.
4. A future should be imagined that is not only in bounded structural form, as universities may become placeless and virtual, and cities may change form.
5. We must look back to history to draw lessons that may help us to live ecologically appropriate lives in urban spaces.

6.3.13 Co-operatives (SH-16)

Presentations were made on the International Co-operative Alliance and local governments, and what they do and share in common, as well as how the Alliance-Africa and better foster the AU August 2063 through working in partnership with local governments. The AU Agenda 2063 underlines Africa’s vision and roadmap for sequencing our sectoral and standard national, regional and continental plans into a coherent whole. It is a call to action to all Africans and people of African descent, to take personal responsibility for the destiny of the continent as the primary agents of change and transformation. It is a commitment from national, regional and continental governments, leadership, institutions and citizens to act coordinate and cooperate to realize this vision. Hence the contribution of co-operatives to the AU 2063 Agenda is paramount.

The main issues that emerged from the presentations were:

1. Government’s role is to support co-operatives through partnerships and providing regulatory frameworks.
2. Co-operatives are ideally located to mobilize and empower communities.
3. Co-operatives need to have a close relationship with local government: devolving support functions to the local level results in much better cooperation and benefits the local community more than a top-down approach.
4. Co-operatives are already doing a lot to contribute to the AU Agenda 2063, and their efforts can be supported by partnering with local government, thereby increasing the positive impact on local communities.
6.3.14  Journalists and the media (SH-17)

At Africities 6, a similar workshop discussed the links and disparity between what is happening in African cities and what is reported by both local and international journalists. At Africities 7, the discussion revolved around media’s contribution to Vision 2063 and role in presenting the work of local governments to the people. It built on the outcomes of the Highway Africa 2015 debate around journalism and the city, to address the issue of capacity and network development of media professionals dedicated to reporting on African cities and local actions, giving an African contextual perspective to city management, city branding, local development and governance.

The role of media is critical in cascading knowledge and information down to the grassroots. Proper communication with citizens means improved accountability, trust and working relationships. The local press can be a strategic resource for communicating with communities and the electorate. More reporting needs to be done about the good work done by government, not just the negative issues. However, it is also important to understand that journalism and communication are different: communication requires using information towards a specific agenda, whereas journalism requires using that information much more neutrally.

In this context, the following suggestions were made:

1. Every department needs a formal communications policy and strategy (which needs to be implemented).
2. Elected officials need to work with journalists to improve transparency and accountability to the electorate.
3. Communications training should be compulsory for all local government officials at all levels and including elected officials, not just communication officials.

6.3.15  Professionals from the world of arts and culture (SH-18)

Culture and the creative industries are one of the fastest-growing sectors in the world today. In addition, culture is crucial to fostering of change, identity, social cohesion and the wellbeing of citizens. Furthermore, in relation to local government, arts and culture is important not only for tourism, but also for social cohesion and wider economic and cultural growth. Arts and culture can play a major role in promoting a culture of local pride, innovation, creativity and fostering ownership of local heritage and resources. This role has implications for tourism, foreign investment, etc.
Arts and culture can play a major role in building communities across different social strata and demographics, and in the wake of previous divisions (e.g. apartheid). These partnerships can help foster sustainable development as communities work together. The development and support of the arts in communities fosters a different mentality and culture of ownership, self-belief, innovation, etc., which have hugely positive impacts on the efficacy of development strategies and implementation. International partnerships can result in investment in the local region. Fostering and maintaining communal spaces, where artistic endeavours can have a home, promotes inclusivity, exchange, discourages delinquency, and presents opportunities for income generation (especially for the youth).

Given the role and potential of arts and culture, the following recommendations were made:

1. It is advised that Agenda 2063 itself falls short of fully recognizing the role and potential of culture, especially at the local level. Accordingly, it is recommended that:
   a. An international Pan-African commission be formed to evaluate where culture can be further included in Agenda 2063, and that proposals for such revisions be presented for ratification by the African Union at its next AGM.
   b. In order to ensure a multi-stakeholder process, the commission shall be constituted of regional, national, and local government representatives, as well as civil society actors, notably professionals of the arts and culture sector in Africa, experienced arts/cultural organizations, representatives of the African Union, academics and invited experts.
   c. Its membership will ensure a geographical balance within the continent, and nominations will be renewed regularly in a transparent regulatory process.
   d. The commission shall also be responsible for promoting the cultural aspects of the agenda and ensuring its objectives are met by 2063. It will also monitor the coherence between the Agenda 2063 principles and implementation, and other international agendas, conventions and resolutions in the field of culture, such as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

2. It is advised that the role of arts and culture be strengthened in local municipalities in order to support the implementation of Agenda 2063’s vision. Accordingly, it is recommended that:
   a. A commission be formed in each local government, with civil society and local government representatives, to agree and decide on a cultural strategy at the local level; construct holistic cultural policies; and design and implement programmes with the financial support of local authorities and private sector. The commission shall be accountable to the citizens, representatives must be voted for and the strategic plan must be proposed to the communities before being approved.
   b. Local commissions shall pay special attention to ensuring that the cultural strategy developed contributes to the definition and promotion of pan-Africanism and the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions; the development of the creative industries and contribution of arts and culture to social, human and economic development; and the strengthening of participatory democracy at the local level.
   c. Local governments engage with the world through regional and international cooperation and facilitate professional and people-to-people exchanges in the fields of arts and culture in order to foster innovation, creativity, mutual understanding and peaceful societies.
Recommendations

For Mayors

• Set up a framework of democratic governance and dialogue, institutionally strong to coordinate all public policy actions on the basis of a long-term strategic vision for public services in line with the dynamics of urbanization and growth needs.

• Promote citizen participation in governance with professional public services, sufficiently integrated and shared for improving the quality of urban and civic life (quick and free issuance of identity cards).

• Promote consultation at all levels of their appearance with all the figures of national and local leadership, those in the Diaspora as well as national and local intellectual and academic resources.

• Value the people’s economy as a lever for employment, the fight against inequalities and social cohesion and popularizing microfinance institutions to the population by ensuring contact between the people and microfinance institutions.

• Rethink policy of arable land and their valuation as well as communal grazing rights; help farmers in particular emerging farmers - for access to vital resources such as water; encouraging youth engagement in agriculture by supporting their training and access to credit.

• Create within the UCLGA a working group of Afro-descendants Mayors in the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe.

For Ministers

• Establish a consultation framework for the coordination of public policy actions with the local governments based a long-term strategic vision of public services.

• Enhance the transfer at the local level of a series of skills and resources from the central government in order to initiate policies of cross-territorial cooperation between central governments and foreign local governments; recognize the role of local authorities regarding their capacity of conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

• Promote the consultation at all levels of their appearance with all the figures of national and local leadership and include the issue of the diaspora and migration - Continental and outside the continent - in the development agenda and promote the support and integration of migrants.

For development partners

• Build up the capacities of local elected officials and the technical staff in identifying innovative financing, the elaboration of projects that would contribute to job creation and reduction of inequalities and conflicts.

• Promote and support the initiatives of the movements of migrants in favor of local development.
6.4 Partner sessions

The main organizers of these sessions were: UN-Habitat, UCLG, UNESCO, World Bank, Cities Alliance, NEPAD, FEICOM, the cities of Dakar, Bamako, and the local authorities of Morocco.

6.4.1 Toolkit for localising the post-2015 agenda (SO-01)

On 25 September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit. It includes 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. The SDGs build on the millennium development goals (MDGs), eight anti-poverty targets that the world committed to achieving by 2015. Implementation of the MDGs showed that national and local ownership is indispensable for success. The global agenda should not be used at a local level because it may be viewed as irrelevant and so will not be adopted. Development choices should be grounded in the will of the people, through public participation and ownership.

Therefore, in 2014, the UNDP and UN-Habitat, on behalf of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), together with the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 Agenda towards and Habitat III (GTF) undertook a dialogue aimed at localizing the future development agenda. Consultations took place in 13 countries from different regions of the world, and resulted in some key messages and recommendations. The three partners are developing a toolkit to be used to identify and propose a set of instruments and mechanisms that can facilitate the localization of the SDGs. Local governments need to take from the SDGs aspects that are relevant and will assist them.

The following recommendation was made:

- Local governments need to focus on the SDGs, so that they can be the leaders in implementing the key issues at the local level.
6.4.2 Financing local development in Africa (SO-02)

Financing, which comes from transfers and taxes, is the single largest issue facing African sustainable development. Local government’s financial constraints are due to deficiencies at central government level, while financial intermediation needs to be strengthened for local and regional governments. A number of local municipalities lack the management capacity to manage development effectively.

Challenges facing African cities include: a general lack of fiscal decentralization, despite several country-specific and regional initiatives; poorly structured land that means not enough money comes from taxes on the land; defaulting on debtors is common (tax collection rate is 8% at local government level); central government transfers to local governments are not always predictable and secure. In addition, many cities have neither a strong tax base nor transparent finances, lack capacity and sound borrowing policies, while do not communicate effectively their expenditure needs to communities.

Against the above backdrop, the following recommendations were made:

1. Conduct a lobby exercise to get returns from telecommunication companies in the form of local taxation for LGs
2. National government: fiscal decentralization must be strengthened, i.e. ministerial and legal frameworks, local capacity, specifically the capacity to borrow. LG: improve participation in fiscal decision making and establish national institutions dedicated to funding LG.
3. Provinces and regions: improve revenue and financial management, identify specific sectors to bring growth, and establish structures to benefit from funding options.
4. Local government: explore unexploited sources, group and share experiences, develop partnerships to diversify funding.
5. Partnerships between national and local government.
6. Financial organization networks (RIAFCO etc.) should be used to improve knowledge and access to funding, while the search must continue for innovative and alternative funding options for local governments.

6.4.3 LEDNA steering committee (SO-03)

LEDNA is a UCLGA programme set up in response to a request by the African Mayors at the Africities 4 Summit in Nairobi. Its aim is to contribute to building LED capacities and practices of local governments. LEDNA’s vision is to making LED a vehicle for national economic development, poverty alleviation and improvement of people’s living conditions. Its mission is to support local governments and countries seeking to acquire knowledge, develop human resources and implement LED programmes and projects. The meeting reported on the 2015 activities of LEDNA, and discussed its 2016 plans.
The following recommendations were made:

Although the recommendations are embodied in the organization’s public documents, on its website and elsewhere, participants made some further suggestions:

1. LEDNA should link its website to those of local government associations over the continent, with their permission.
2. As well as English and French, Portuguese, Arabic and other languages should be integrated in LEDNA website as much as possible.
3. Internet access in Africa is limited, and so a strategy is needed to spread LEDNA’s message through “traditional” media, especially radio, but also through mobile phones. An appropriate app could assist, and indigenous languages could be used.
4. LEDNA has a key role in promoting Agenda 2063 and the UN’s SDGs.
5. Africa has many islands, and LEDNA needs to pay due attention to this and be aware of the problems of island nations.

6.4.4 Resilience planning at local level – Sendai Framework (SO-04)

Both the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and the AU’s Agenda 2063 are strategic frameworks for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Agenda 2063 identifies disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies, including mainstreaming climate resilience in planning, promoting DRR and emergency response, and developing climate-resilient policies. Building DRR strategy at local levels is crucial for the resilience of communities and local governments in a context of severe climate changes.

A one-stop solution is not possible, as cities face different kinds of disasters. Contradictions exist, such as water resources result in floods but are also necessary for irrigation. Good practices exist, but there is a lack of awareness at community level. UNISDR (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) and UCLGA will be meeting to develop a platform where elected officials can come together and learn from each other and share their experiences. Finances and resources are needed, to invest in an effective strategy and its implementation, train people and develop advocacy for a long-term disaster reduction strategy.

Within the above context, the following recommendations were made:

• A global plan is needed, as well as national, regional and local plans on risk management and reduction.
• The plan should identify the cities that are most vulnerable to disaster. If we are to support the development of cities, all relevant stakeholders need to be included in this plan.
• The resilience plan needs to touch on all levels of government and not only the city.
6.4.5 Transforming slum dwellers’ lives (SO-05)

Rapid urbanization places a marked strain on housing, and the supply of serviced land is often limited by inadequate governance systems and human resource deficiencies, as well as by obsolete or poorly informed institutions and regulations. The failure of urban planning and the construction sector to meet the demand for homes has resulted in a huge housing backlog that has led to the development of slums in a variety of contexts globally.

Slum upgrading will contribute to reducing social inequalities and to improving urban safety through their social and spatial impacts. Retrofitting/upgrading is not only about improving shacks and settlements, but also people as they are not “fit” to get employment. It is therefore necessary to bring industries and opportunities to slum areas.

Local participation can be turned into a powerful instrument to mobilize low income communities around the planning, management and governance issues of their city neighbourhoods. Participation is often most effective when initiated at the neighbourhood level through individual or community projects, which are relatively limited in scale and develop progressively.

6.4.6 Decentralization in Morocco (SO-06)

Decentralization in Morocco has been ongoing since the 1960s. The Constitution of 1 July 2011 is devoted to consolidating the decentralization policy with advanced regionalization. In 2015, a new era of government was introduced: the country was divided into 12 regions and three levels of local government were established: regions (promote integrated and sustainable development); prefectures (districts administered by prefects) or provinces (promote social development, especially rural areas, and reinforce cooperation and collaboration among municipalities within the territory); municipalities (deliver services close to the citizens). Each level has its own assigned functions, as well as functions transferred by the state and functions shared with the state.

Two important levers of the new decentralization policy are autonomous administration and participatory democracy. In terms of the latter, since King Mohammed VI ascended to the throne, there has been a real revolution in the status and rights of women in Morocco, as part of the building of a democratic and modern Morocco. The law requires political parties to reserve a certain quota of places for women.

Some of the important developments in Morocco can be found in Rabat, Ben Guerie and La Lachune de Marchica. Morocco’s experience of decentralization is a possible model for other African countries.
6.4.7 Urban investment in Africa (SO-08)

Africa is rapidly urbanizing and in need of investment. However, although urbanization is regarded positively, there is insufficient funding to keep up with the demands of and for increased urbanization. Decades of under-investment have had negative consequences for the urban (and national) economies (and most cities do not have up-to-date or complete asset registers). According to McKinsey, improving economic growth would increase by 2.2 points if infrastructures in Africa were at the same level as in India or Pakistan.

Investment in cities would enable the development of industries that would eventually absorb the workforce liberated from the agriculture sector, reduce transaction costs by improving infrastructure (water, electricity, roads, health) and improve the competitiveness of urban economies. In this context, the strategy of the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) is to provide support (including planning, feasibility studies, project preparation funding and post project closure) for sustainable infrastructure projects in selected African markets to promote economic growth, regional integration and improved quality of life for people. DBSA’s work targets investments mainly in the energy, transport, water and communications sectors, as well as support to sectors such as health, education and housing.

Decentralization must ensure that local government is given funding to cover the devolved functions. At the same time, the fiscal capacity of municipalities must improve, through developing their own tax base and exploring new financing instruments. For instance, land-based financing (e.g. Ethiopia sells lease rights to developers), developer charges (which the city can use to finance bulk infrastructure) and betterment levies. African thought leadership is necessary. African cities need to develop or adapt models from their own perspective, and not merely cut and paste models from elsewhere (e.g. construction in Benin uses local products instead of cement). Africans need to define the framework of an African city and take ownership of their space.

In light of the above, the following recommendations were made:

1. A standard model of financing infrastructure linked to African solidarity (oil-rich, resource-rich nations helping others) is needed. If not, a standard model that is accessible to everyone must be put in place.
2. Private capital may need to finance Africa’s development (but reforms are needed to attract the private sector).
3. Silo-based thinking must be broken down because integrated solutions and interventions are crucial.
4. Development programmes must last long enough to build city capacities.
5. Financing sources (e.g. banks, private operators) should be easily accessible to people.
6. Governance must be improved, not just for delivery, but also for strategies and planning.
7. Whole life-cycle approach to infrastructure development and municipal infrastructure development plans are needed.
6.4.8 Inclusive partnerships and the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III) (SO-09)

The outcomes of the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD), the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the UNFCCC COP 21 will significantly shape the global development agenda for the coming decades. The sustainable development goals (SDGs) have the most direct relevance for Habitat III because of the inclusion of a standalone urban SDG (SDG 11), and the recognition of the importance of local government in several targets of other SDG goals.

Participants discussed the role of decentralization and local governance within the New Urban Agenda (NUA) for successful implementation of the SDGs at the local level. Issues highlighted included the lack of financial capacity and of partnership between local governments and local communities. In terms of the latter it was pointed out that, for example, Shack Dwellers International could assist local governments by collecting data on informal settlements. Other issues highlighted included the need to link the NUA to the different international and national policies, and the importance of focusing on housing and ensuring land tenure.

The following recommendations were made:

1. The urban dimension of SDGs should be unpacked in order to implement the NUA.
2. Local governments should collaborate, as equals, with local communities. However, local governments and partnerships need to be strengthened.
3. Local government agencies need to be promoted and stakeholder participation strengthened.
4. Funding must be mobilized to strengthen local government capacity.

6.4.9 African urban transition and launch of Housing Report (SO-11)

The world is urbanizing and Africa along with it. United Nations statistics are unequivocal: more than half the people (54%) on the planet live in cities, compared to less than a third (30%) in 1950. The most urbanized zones in the world are North America (82%), Latin America and the Caribbean (80%), and Europe (73%). UN forecasts show that Africa and Asia will undergo more rapid urbanization, reaching 66% and 64% respectively by 2050. Urbanization is seen as an important opportunity for improving a population’s standard of living, and the development of African countries is increasingly linked to how well their cities perform.

Africa has latecomer’s advantage and can learn from other countries’ successes and mistakes in urbanizing their cities. However, cities in Africa face challenges including the employment gap, low level of infrastructure coverage, limited institutional capacity and inadequate municipal finance. Urban planners need to plan for the two-thirds of their cities that do not yet exist. The three key factors urban planners must bear in mind when they do this, and which are required for a city that works, are good, affordable housing, stable jobs and great public transport links between the two (housing and jobs).
At the session, the World Bank launched its 2015 report entitled “Stocktaking of the Housing Sector in Sub-Saharan Africa”, which analyses regional housing and urbanization trends in Southern Africa. Challenges include the growth of slums, expensive formal housing, land tenure systems in crisis and inaccessible housing finance, while government housing subsidies have done little to help with access to housing. The report emphasizes the importance of affordable, adequate housing for economic growth and social inclusion, and makes several recommendations, including the need to extend basic infrastructure, to ensure tenure security, to target incremental and self-upgrading of housing in low-income areas and to expand access to finance.

6.4.10 Innovative mechanisms for local finance (SO-13)

Municipalities cannot depend only on fiscal decentralization or transfers from national government to respond to the needs of their growing urban populations. They need to find innovative financing sources and new approaches to taxation and local revenues. Global funds often have very bureaucratic structures and systems, making it difficult to listen to local community needs. A way needs to be found to differentiate projects and funders based on local needs, to better match requirements and enable the right types of development. A balance is needed between regional and local government funding and priorities.

Megacities have the means to obtain big funding, but secondary (intermediate) cities do not have access to the same funding benefits. The focus needs to be on all cities, to make sure some local governments are not marginalized. This will require differentiating between tools and abilities of different local governments. The key constraint for local government is that poor residents may not be able to pay for municipal services, and yet municipalities need to be able to pay for services and fund new development projects.

Suggestions made in the context of the above included:

• Innovative municipal funding will require a major policy shift and a change in thinking.
• Most important is engaging and including the local population.
• The key challenge to enabling innovative funding options is to really decentralize, which involves 100% transfer of competencies and resources to local government.
6.4.11 Leadership and local governance (SO-15)

Today the decentralization principle is accepted as an integral part of an effective democracy. However, up until now local governments have not played their full role in catalysing local development because of the lack of financial resources, competencies, transparency in decision-making centres and weak participation of citizens and non-state players. Many countries have no dialogue or agreed public participation mechanism. This results in frustration among taxpayers who want to play a full role as citizens and assume their rights and duties, and mutual distrust between the local politicians and defiant, hostile voters. Leadership and local governance are crucial issues for African cities in search of participatory democracy and citizenry.

The following suggestions were made in light of the above:

- The relationship between local government, national government and civil society needs to be redesigned based on common principles, shared objectives and global choices for sustainable human development.
- Mayors or local leaders must be able to make decisions, listen (to discern the needs of the people they serve) and adapt (if the population’s needs change, the mayor must adapt).
- Citizen participation must be a factor of local development (e.g. in Dakar, street traders are considered as development agents). Informal trading needs to be reorganized and restructured so that it contributes to the development cities local economies.

6.4.12 Urbanization for Africa’s structural transformation (SO-16)

Africa has the fastest urban growth rate globally at 4.5%. Within two decades, Africa’s population will be predominantly urban, and the size of the urban population will have doubled. Rapid urbanization presents an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate the region’s structural transformation and capacity to respond to its development challenges.

Evidence around the world suggests that linking economic and urban development can generate positive interactions or “spillovers” that improve economic productivity and competitiveness, open wider job opportunities, help reduce poverty, enhance rural development, and widen fiscal space to better respond to social challenges.

Conversely, ignoring the spatial implications of economic trends heightens the risk of producing imbalanced, exclusionary and destabilizing effects. However, in Africa, the urban trajectory has not generated significant formal economic development, nor has urbanization derived from economic development. Few African countries have adequately factored the challenges and opportunities of sustainable urbanization into their national development plans.
In light of the above, the following comments or recommendations were made:

- Africa’s transformation agenda must be aligned with the urbanization agenda, which has become quite urgent, at the local, national and regional levels.
- Local and national governments need to proactively steer urbanization by mainstreaming it into national development planning processes for an integrated and holistic approach.
- Continental solidarity needs to be created, built from the bottom up.
- Local organizations (government and non-government) should find synergy in order to provide services more effectively.
- Large cities face crippling challenges (in terms of infrastructure, cultural conflict, congestion, etc.) Consideration should therefore be given to building new, small cities that provide a high quality of life, as a new way of managing urbanization.
- To realize Africa’s structural transformation through urbanization will mean managing a wide range of competencies, mobilizing the African intelligentsia to engage with the issue of urbanization and dividing this big issue into smaller components, while looking at urbanization from a continental perspective.

### 6.4.13 Decentralization in Senegal (SO-17)

Senegal is now in its third phase of decentralization. The first phase involved dividing the country into departments. The second phase is ongoing and focuses on finding funding solutions. The third phase involves addressing problems of management and redistribution of resources and human capital.

The Emerging Senegal Plan was meant to boost the economy of Senegal and make an emerging country by 2035. It was a very clear plan formed with international input that focused on economy and growth, social protection, and governance peace and security.

Senegal has enough resources to meet its needs but has to harness those resources using government investment. Government must speak to and involve all stakeholders and form international partnerships so that resources can be found to help make decentralization a reality. The principle of decentralization should be part of the constitution, and more people need to be involved in the conversation. It was agreed to reconvene in Dakar to discuss a way forward.

### 6.4.14 Global solidarity for diversity, inclusion and non-discrimination (SO-18)

More than a decade since the International Coalition of Cities against Racism (ICCAR) was launched by UNESCO in 2004, the call for a united common front in combating all forms of discrimination has never been more urgent. Globally, there are various and relatively new instances of coalitions to address discrimination, such as European Cities against Racism and the Network for Locally Elected Women of Africa.
Xenophobia in cities results from competition for jobs and other resources, as well as residents’ feelings of being displaced by immigrants. Communities need to be educated about, for example, democracy, in order to reduce xenophobia. Sensitising children about discrimination and racism should start at school and during games at an early age. In addition, to address discrimination, strategies must be developed and implemented to minimise the sense of “us” and “them”. This is because discrimination and marginalisation can give rise to radicalism.

Some of the challenges facing attempts to address xenophobia and other forms of discrimination are financial. Local governments, for example, do not have enough money from national government to deal with all aspects of migrants’ issues and so must work with the private sector. In addition, emergency responses to outbreaks of xenophobia cost money: R30 million in the case of the 2015 outbreak in Durban, South Africa. Another challenge is that women, even if elected to positions, tend to have deputy roles and are not taken seriously by men in various ways (patriarchy is deeply ingrained). Elected women tend to ignore interests of other women and distance themselves from communities.

**In view of the above, the following comments and recommendations were made:**

- Sustainable development means aiming for inclusive cities. The diversity of cities should be preserved.
- Policy making at city level should involve all citizens.
- Changing public perceptions and mindsets of immigrants, etc. is essential for safe cities.
- Cities are well-placed to collect and act on discrimination-related and citizen-created data.
- The international nature of exclusion requires global networks.
- Services need to be developed for those most in need.
- There should be learning exchange programmes so that people can learn from others, e.g., Ugandans living in South Africa.

**6.4.15 City Prosperity Initiative (SO-19)**

Globally, cities require good and timely data to make informed policies and decisions. In addition, while cities should be interested in productivity, infrastructure and social services, they also need to look at the impacts of delivery on the lives of people by collecting qualitative data.

In Africa, a sustained data revolution is needed to drive social, economic and structural transformation. Such a data revolution has the potential to transform the way cities make use of data and information to take correct decisions on the best policies. Mainstream statistical institutions should not have the only mandate to collect and maintain data. This mandate should be devolved down to local government levels, where they can use private sector companies to collect and interpret relevant data. To this end, the statistical community is working on defining what a data revolution would mean at the sub-national levels, engaging communities in entire data value chains and processes.
African-based development agencies/institutions should also come together and leverage resources in order to track progress. In this regard, the UN-Habitat proposed that the Mo Ibrahim Foundation develop a CPI for Africa. This index would look at capital and next largest cities, and track their development using an urban information database.

In the context of the above, the following recommendations were made:

- An inclusive data ecosystem needs to be created involving all relevant partners.
- Government should play a proactive role to engage partners, take the lead and provide the necessary resources to support the data process.
- Data needs and capacity must be reviewed, including reflecting on and learning from existing practices, e.g. communities/citizens that collect their own data.
- An effective monitoring system is needed to ensure success (through effective partnerships, increased access to information and the use of evidence for city policy and planning).

6.4.16 Building urban resilience (SO-20)

Urbanization in Africa today is happening in a way that is different to urbanization in the past. Today’s migrants are pushed from rural areas into urban areas in the hope of finding jobs and a better life. But the reality is often despair and vulnerability. City resilience is an important topic, especially small and medium cities in Africa. These cities often experience the highest levels of urban growth, but do not have the skills, capacity and resources needed to build resilient communities.

There are many ideas on how to build resilience – the key is deciding on the most important and integrating them into both local and regional institutions. Understanding both risks and vulnerabilities, and developing means to deal with these, has to be done as an inclusive process, including anyone who is vulnerable within an urban area. To this end, local governments have to plan for climate change. This means working in a sustainable manner, prioritizing actions with the local population, synchronizing plans, working together as local government to make national government listen (think globally but act locally), and encouraging the youth to take responsibility and to understand climate change.

With financial support from the European Commission and the World Bank and facilitated by UN-Habitat, Habitat III established the Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR). It was launched in 2014 by the governments of Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and the Union of Comoros with the support of the European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the ACP-EU Natural DRR Programme as well as the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), in cooperation with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). The City Resilience Action Plan (CityRAP), which has been developed, is an innovative tool for building urban resilience that identifies problems and technical solutions while fostering capacity building.
The following recommendations are based on the experiences of DiMSUR and CityRAP:

1. **Municipalities must lead the resilience planning processes.** Local governments play a crucial role in adapting to climate change, reducing urban risks, and building overall resilience of cities. They should be in the driver’s seat of resilience planning in order to ensure capacity is retained and the final product is used.

2. **All municipal departments must be included in resilience planning.** From the assessment to the participatory decision making. This strategy allows the municipality to address municipal issues beyond disaster risk management. It allows a real development strategy that considers potential shocks and stresses. The final plan has to be inter-sectorial and implementable with defined priority actions and specific short-, mid- and long-term activities.

3. **Cities should conduct and enforce participatory risk mapping and participatory physical planning** for hazard prone areas, protection areas, expansion areas, and work for the upgrading of existing at-risk areas, especially informal settlements. Participation is an effective way to learn and include the most vulnerable. Moreover, participative tools such as risk participatory mapping allow considerable leveraging of local knowledge to assess and understand specific areas and meet community’s needs.

4. **Capacities of local governments and urban communities need to be built,** to address urban risks and build resilience to develop, deliver and enforce Resilience Action Plans at city and sectorial levels.

5. **Risk and climate change impact assessment must occur at local level in sub-Saharan Africa.** The first step for reducing risks and building resilience is getting to know the risks of the area and analysing possible impacts. Hence it is crucial to undertake comprehensive local risk assessment and leverage local knowledge with cutting-edge analysis based on sound scientific grounds.

**6.4.17 Multi-stakeholder participative planning in local government (SO-21)**

Since the end of 2014, the Urban Planning and Design LAB of the UN-Habitat has been a part of the collaborative efforts to draft the Review of the Spatial Development Framework for Johannesburg 2040 (SDF 2040). UN-Habitat’s role has been to facilitate the multi-stakeholder process of drafting a vision for the spatial transformation of the city that would enable the city to shift away from its current urban pattern of low density sprawl, spatial segregation, dispersed jobs, services and amenities, and long commuting hours.

Besides offering technical expertise, UN-Habitat’s main contribution has been to guide the institutional process of building the SDF 2040, ensuring wide participation of all affected stakeholders. The UN-Habitat’s LAB’s methodology is research by design, an approach that fosters collaborative and continuous learning, and practice-based training.
The process of making of the SDF 2040 has been facilitated through four workshops, so-called “charrettes”, or intense periods of design/planning activity. At these charrettes, the stakeholders held discussions, exchanged knowledge, problems and desires, and together reached a collaborative solution for the SDF for Johannesburg. The SDF 2040 was thus incrementally built and gradually polished into a spatial vision, a series of priority transformative projects and policies for implementation that respond to the needs of all affected stakeholders.

The lessons learned from this process include:

- The framework needs to be developed as a participatory process.
- The framework consists of three aspects: spatial, legal and financial.
- Participatory planning is a continuous process.
- If the ideas and thoughts of the SDF are not supported by or shared with civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, the implementation will not be fully supported and most likely will be unsuccessful.

6.4.18 State of African cities (SO-23)

The UN-Habitat’s latest State of African Cities 2016-17 analyses the roles of current foreign direct investment (FDI) flows with a view to identifying the interventions required for promoting diversification, growth and resilience of African urban economies. The focus is on generating urban employment; improving urban food, water and energy security; strengthening rural-urban linkages and promoting infrastructures that can enhance regional economic cooperation; as well as reviewing channels for increasing municipal revenue streams and strengthening local level governance capacities.
Phase 1 (2015), comprising empirical research, is being undertaken by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA), UN-Habitat, the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) / Erasmus University Rotterdam and Oxford Economics. Under an additional partnership with the Department for International Development (DFID), Phase 2 (2016-17) will entail case studies of selected African cities, in-depth empirical research on the economic impacts of FDI flows to these cities and policy advice on how to attract new and additional FDI flows for sustainable urban development.

Ultimately, well-guided FDIs should generate employment, knowledge and technology transfers; establish and reinforce global supply chain linkages; and enhance access to world markets besides many other catalytic benefits, such as investments in infrastructure and the development of human resources and skills through knowledge and technological transfers. FDI has been in Africa for many years, but no substantial developments or advanced local economies have been realized.

In light of the above, the following comments were made:

1. The research is very Eurocentric and should be contextualized. There needs to be less portrayal of Africa as hopeless and more focus on African cities’ potential to be places of innovation and authenticity – Africa is complex and much has changed in recent decades.
2. The advice should be structured more sustainably, so that cities and national development can benefit, e.g. the real estate FDI-supported development is for the high-end consumers instead of intervening at the middle-low income level where housing units are needed.
3. Africa needs sustainable partnerships and to revive intergovernmental relations where trust between local and national government has eroded.
4. FDI needs to be aligned with national and regional development priorities, structural adjustments as well as the 2063 Agenda.
5. FDI is one of the economic tools in a basket rather than the only solution.

6.4.19 Moroccan experience in human development (SO-24)

In Morocco, high levels of poverty in both rural and urban areas associated with underdeveloped and depressed infrastructure forced the government to devise ways of dealing with these challenges. Various policies, plans and programmes have been adopted and implemented to improve the people’s lives.

In 2005, the Moroccan government adopted the Initiative Nationale pour le Développement Humain (INDH – National Initiative for Human Development), with the aim to fight extreme poverty, alleviate job insecurity, and empower and recognize the dignity of people. Since then, more than 9.7 million people have benefited from the INDH, and infrastructure (roads, electricity etc) have been provided to remote areas. Today, Morocco occupies 3rd place out of 136 countries in terms of human development standards.
Human development is about improving the standard of living of humans. Both rural and urban areas must be incorporated in the discourse of human development, and community participation is important to ensure people are empowered. A general challenge is getting finance to achieve human development.

The following comments were made:

1. African countries need to learn from Morocco about human development.
2. Traditional communities and their leadership need to be recognized and supported.
3. Africa’s massive successes in human development should be commended and strengthened.
4. There is a need to learn from our mistakes and implement corrective actions.

6.4.20 Dakar: An attractive city (SO-25)

Dakar, ancient capital of francophone West Africa, is known for its many islands and monuments, in brief, its tourist attractions: the Sandage market, the monument to the African renaissance, etc. But Dakar is also a city in difficulty. Although the problems of violence are growing, the major challenge is pollution in all its forms, caused in particular by discharges into the rivers and greenhouse gases from the transport sector. In this expanding city, the polluting structures are concentrated in the Hann Bay, a suburb that was previously a well-known seaside resort. In addition, the city has problems of urban mobility and shelter, as a result of rapid population growth.

For several years the municipality has been putting in place an economic and cultural development strategy based on social and environmental responsibility, with the aim of making Dakar an economically attractive place, while retaining the characteristics of a tourist town that respects the ecology. This strategy is a management tool that will help transform Dakar from a historical/colonial city into a smart and sustainable city by 2025. Some of the key issues include: the choice of technology for lighting the city; sources of funding (past negative experience); tensions between local needs and the profitability of private investments; conflicts between local and central governments; the mismatch between Dakar’s vision and the rhetoric of progress compared to the realities in some communities on the ground; the growing migration from rural to urban areas; the disparities in the distribution of developmental projects in Dakar; the limit of the replicability of Dakar’s vision in other African contexts such as in the DRC; ownership of land by local communities; and the protection of private properties and individual liberties.
6.4.21 Measuring development for better policies (SO-26)

National and sector development strategies are drawn up to solve problems whose diagnosis is based on indicators measured at national level, like the Human Development Index developed by the UNDP. In Africa, national statistical systems have shortcomings and comprehensive information on the level of development of regions is lacking, especially relating to better understand the real needs of the population. This does not facilitate the task of the institutions responsible for planning operations for populations. Most existing information is not broken down to the local level, and this deficiency is reinforced by the weak capacity (human, material and financial) of local government in statistical production.

The following comments were made:

Reliable measuring tools are needed to provide updated information on local and regional development. To assist local governments to collect local data in order to monitor progress and development, the following recommendations were made:

1. National statistical systems must be established.
2. The capacity of the local governments in the field of statistical production must be strengthened, and local government representatives should fully participate in AU statistics committees.
3. The creation of local information systems needs to be supported, so that reliable data that can be used to develop decentralization and local and regional development policies.
4. Advocacy is needed for funding of African national statistical systems, which provide information used to formulate realistic and specific programmes for allocating resources.
5. Services dedicated to statistical production and finance development, and a platform for exchange of good practices in statistics production, must be established.
6. Statistical information must be made available to local people and development actors.
Recommendations

For Mayors

Resilience

• The capacities of local governments must be improved to strengthen their actions in terms of urban risk reduction and resilience building. The programs initiated and led by municipal leaders shall involve people living in vulnerable circumstances, particularly young people (interesting example of the City RAP Tool developed by UN-Habitat and DiMSUR).

• In addition, the investments aimed at building urban resilience are more than mere investments to save lives, but also investments to support local economic development as proposed in Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction from 2015 to 2030.

Spatial planning and urban development

• To find sustainable solutions to the rapid growth of cities, the development plans of the territories should be developed on the basis of documented and open exchange of ideas between stakeholders, and resolutely take into account the long-term consensus built upon those exchanges. The development plans of the territories must also take into account the economic role of cities by focusing on developing their comparative advantages while controlling their carbon footprint.

Public investment in urban infrastructure

• Public investment in urban infrastructure should not be treated as a burden but as a productive investment likely to create social and financial benefits for the inhabitants, the city's businesses, and, in fact, for the municipal administration.

Exchanges between local authorities

• One should develop trade channels between the various local authorities within the framework of decentralized cooperation, including the sharing of experience in terms of management of local public services within African local governments.

Statistical information

• It is recommended to set up services dedicated to the production of statistics, to finance their development and to make available statistical information to local populations and development players, and to conduct further advocacy with the African Union so that representatives of Local Government are fully involved in statistics commissions.

To the Ministers

Urban development and resilience

• Although urbanization reflects economic growth and represents a development opportunity, it is also a risk factor. This should be taken into account to achieve the
objectives of resilient cities. Solutions must be sought on a regional scale. It is therefore crucial to establish cross-border regional partnerships that enhance practical coordination on issues such as water management.

**Place of agriculture**
- Africa needs an agricultural revolution. Cities are getting crowded with farmers who do not have the skills to meet the secondary and tertiary demand. This leads to booming informal economies and to the development of sums. It is suggested that urbanization and the associated urban investment should be tempered through investment in the agricultural production in rural areas but also around cities in order to use large amounts of urban migrants and develop food security in cities.

**Statistical information**
- Granting importance to statistical information to reflect the development at the Local Government and Local Governments. This requires strengthening the capacity of Local Authorities in terms of statistical production, supporting the creation of local information systems, and to finance and to advocate for the financing of African national statistical systems in accordance with SDD No 17.

**To the Development Partners**

**Fostering the resilience of cities**
- When properly managed, cities can be local economic development engines. Cities must be well prepared to cope with climate change and potential natural risks to sustainable economic growth. Thus, the investments aimed at strengthening the urban resilience are more than investments to save lives, but also investments to ensure that local economic development is sustainable. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction of 2015-2030, recognized as a key instrument for addressing risk and improving resilience at the local level in this respect, deserves to be promoted and implemented.

**Promoting foreign direct investment in Africa**
- In recent years, there has been a steady increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) in all the countries of the South even if the share of Africa remains low with only 2% of total world volume of FDIs. What matters is to target these FDIs to maximize their positive leverage effect on knowledge and technology transfer, building local logistic links, the urban and global infrastructure, and the improvement of access to global markets. We must therefore help cities determine the forms of FDIs and sectors of the economy that are most conducive to their development goals.
The Exhibition at Africities 2015

The Africities 7 exhibition was held in Johannesburg in the same space as the Summit from Sunday 29 November to Wednesday 2 December 2015.

The objectives were:
• To strengthen the exchange of experience and cooperation among local governments
• To stimulate the local development initiatives of cities and local governments
• To provide new synergies at the institutional, economic and industrial level
• To provide solutions to the problems and needs of African cities and local governments
• To promote innovative technologies and solutions for cities and local governments
• To propose funding mechanisms for local governments

The conference was open to local authorities and their associations, as well as governments and their partners (cooperation and development agencies, financial institutions, businesses, professional organizations, NGOs, universities, research centres).

The exhibition’s aim was to present the best practices and innovations in:
• Regional planning, urban planning and local development
• Urban networks and services: highways, road signs, water, sanitation, waste, energy, lighting, transport and logistics
• Construction and public works, housing, community facilities, and urban furnishings
• Environment, sustainable development, recycling and the green economy
• Education, training and employment
• Health, hygiene and social development
• Tourism, culture, heritage and sports
• Prevention, urban security and civil protection
• Studies, engineering, consulting, ICT, telecom, Internet, finance, investment and insurance
• Business intelligence, territorial marketing, media, publishing, communication, decentralized cooperation and urban development.
For the first time during an Africities summit, an exchange of projects and partnerships was organized to facilitate contacts and exchanges between local governments and potential partners or service providers. 93 records were selected from several countries (including Cameroon, Benin, Senegal and Comoros). The 93 projects, which were selected from several countries (including Cameroon, Benin, Senegal and the Comores), cover most of these areas.

At the request of exhibitors and some partners (CEO, Salvi Lighting, Senegal Pavilion, Transparency International, FEICOM, CEFAM), several related conferences were organized on the stands and attracted a large audience.

During the closing ceremony, six prizes were awarded to the outstanding stands:

**Best stand design**
- City of Joburg: A two-level architectural designed stand showing the different municipal services and departments with attractive and appropriate products and finishes.
- DGCL (Morocco pavilion): A traditional open structure, welcoming and highly visible, evoking typical Moroccan architecture.

**Stand with the most innovative content**
- Société Safe Water (France): Innovative solution for producing potable water (purification process) from brackish or polluted water: sea, river, well, etc.
- RLB Systems: soft management solution for municipalities under a PPP contract (zero cost for the municipality), responding to a real need of local government (currently operating in Mauritius, Mozambique and Zimbabwe).

**The most entertaining stand**
- South Africa: Attractive stand presenting the social, economic and cultural diversity of the country, with high-tech products that drew an uninterrupted flow of visitors.
- Senegal: Strong mobilization of stakeholders from Senegal on the national stand, attracting a remarkable flow of visitors, and culminating in Senegal Day that generated significant interest.
PART 7

7. Spotlight on 7 Cities: Johannesburg, Cairo, Khartoum, Kinshasa, Dar es Salam, Dakar and Lagos

In preparation for Africities 7, researchers\textsuperscript{11} from the countries concerned developed case studies of seven of Africa’s most populous cities: Cairo in North Africa, Khartoum and Dar es Salam in East Africa, Kinshasa in Central Africa, Johannesburg in Southern Africa, and Lagos and Dakar in West Africa.

The objective of the case studies was to understand the dynamics of change in some of the fastest-growing African cities, in order to help them prepare better to achieve the future outlined in Agenda 2063.

7.1 Environment and Natural Resources

Like elsewhere, human settlements in Africa are the result of numerous interactions between the natural environment and societies. It is no coincidence that the most urbanized parts of the continent are in the coastal areas of North and West Africa, the Nile valley, Ethiopia and, in Southern Africa, along the coast between Cape Town and Maputo. Major factors underlying this reality are the geography and natural resources. For the seven case study cities, the settlements developed as a result of a combination of geological, topographical, hydrologic and climatic factors.

For example, the history of Johannesburg is inextricably linked to the geological formations known as the Witwatersrand Basin, while Khartoum owes to its position on the confluence of the Blue Nile and White Nile, and Dar es Salam owes its growth and development to climatic conditions.
7.2 Demography

7.2.1 Precolonial Africa had cities but …

Precolonial Africa had major agglomerations that can be described as cities. Monomotapa in present-day Zimbabwe, Mapungubwe, Thulamela, Axum in Ethiopia, Timbuctoo and Djenné in Mali are a few that have become well known. The history of Kinshasa is testament to the fact that Africa had cities and shopping centres. Until 1880, Kinshasa was an important commercial centre where local people traded slaves for local needs, wild meats, potteries, raphia, tobacco, boats, crafts, tools, and bought weapons, clothes, alcohol, foods, ivory etc. However, although cities existed in precolonial Africa, the ones in this sample, i.e. the ones that are witnessing the fastest growth today, are not precolonial cities. Precolonial cities declined and lost their importance before or during the colonial era. The current cities are either colonial creations or cities that grew during the colonial era. This means that they are linked to a rapacious political economy, which takes many forms throughout history.

7.2.2 The urban explosion is recent

In 1950, the African continent had only 20 million urban dwellers; today it has more than 400 million. More than any other city, Lagos symbolises this rapid urban growth. Lagos has grown from a population of about 300 000 in 1950 to a megacity of over 10 million today. While estimates of Lagos population often differ, recent figures indicate that the urban areas of Lagos are currently home to more than 12 million people and are expected to exceed 24 million people by 2030. Like Lago, in less than a century Dar es Salam has transformed from a small fishing village to a wealthy metropolis of more than four million inhabitants. Its population is growing at a rate of 5.6% per year and will rise to about 5.2 million inhabitants by 2020. Between 1925 and 1957 (just before independence) the region’s population grew from 30 000 to 129 000 inhabitants. Between 2005 and 2012, the population grew significantly, from 2 456 100 to 4 364 541 inhabitants. With an average density of 3 133 people per square kilometre in 2012, the region of Dar es Salam is the most densely populated part of continental Tanzania. Dakar has a similar story. Senegal’s urbanization rate grew from 25% in 1961 to 39% in 1988. Today, after the last wave of demarcation in 1990, when 12 new city councils were created and are now regarded as towns, Senegal’s urbanization level has reached 50%, according to all estimates, i.e. around six million urban dwellers. Almost half (49.6%) of this urban population is based in the Greater Dakar area, which is home to more than three million people.

7.2.3 This urban explosion received several boosts

The first one occurred with the arrival of colonisation

Thanks to its strategic position, during colonisation the city of Dakar benefited from structural investments and migratory flows, even from outside Senegal. Therefore, the absorption of people from other areas started a long time ago, reinforcing the city’s power.
The second occurred immediately after independence

Dakar's growth exploded just before independence and accelerated after independence. Dakar's share of the total population increased steadily, from 14.3% in 1961 to 17.7% in 1971, and then to 18.8% in 1976 and 21.6% in 1988. In Cairo, the urban explosion started between 1952 and 1956, during the first years of Nasser's regime. Khartoum's burst of rapid growth happened around 1956, just after the country's independence, while Dar es Salam's urban explosion started around 1961, when Tanganyika gained independence. In 1964 Tanganyika and Zanzibar merged to form Tanzania, and Dar es Salam remained the country's capital.

The third boost came during the 1980s and 1990s

Despite Dakar's population growth falling from 9% (1955–1961) to 4% (1976–1988), the city remains the main reception area for about a third of the country's internal migrants. Khartoum is home to 21% of Sudan's population, having seen its population rise from 245,000 inhabitants in 1956 to 7 million inhabitants in 2015.

7.2.4 This urban explosion is due to several factors

Push factors, including technical factors (e.g. the mechanization of agriculture in Sudan), climatic events (e.g. the 1980s drought in Sudan and Senegal and in the Sahel belt), political factors (populations displaced as a result of e.g. tribal/civil wars in Sudan and the ending of pass laws and arrival of democracy in South Africa), and economic factors (e.g. in Senegal, the structural adjustment programmes implemented during the 1980s and 1990s that led to the elimination of subsidies to family agriculture, causing "peasant unrest").

Pull factors, including the opportunities created in urban areas. This was the case in Sudan, with the discovery of oil in the 1990s and its extraction after 1998. The urban landscape changed rapidly, as from 2008 Khartoum became the country's economic engine, home to 75% of manufacturing industries and 85% of service businesses in Sudan. The same thing happened in Dakar and Dar es Salam, where the populations of the hinterlands are attracted by the non-agricultural employment opportunities in cities.

The youth bulge/age pyramid. In Khartoum, the youth (15–29 years) made up a third of the population in 2008 and is set to rise to 2.5 million inhabitants by 2018, which is a 42% increase over 10 years. No doubt the cities in our case studies will experience similar trends. In any event, this young urban population, which is clearly visible in all the cities, is undoubtedly a great opportunity. However, this age structure (population pyramid), in which more than half the urban population is economically inactive, results in a very high level of dependency, which makes public and private saving very difficult.

A changing racial composition: Johannesburg is a good example of this. In 1911, Whites dominated in the city (50.6%), followed by Blacks (43%) and then, far behind, were Coloureds (mixed race) and Indians, which together made up 6% of the population. By 1996 the landscape had
changed dramatically, with Blacks making up 70.2% of the population, followed by Whites (18.7%) and Asians and Coloureds (10.2%). However, the change in the racial composition did not result in a similar change in the economic weight of different racial groups; with the advent of democracy in 1994, political power was transferred to the Black majority, but economic power was still largely held by White capital. While not as spectacular as in Johannesburg, other cities have seen significant changes in their racial composition, with a marked downward trend in the foreign population around independence and a domination of national/local populations.

7.3 The Economy

7.3.1 Extraversion and its manifestations

Although some of the cities studied (Dar es Salam, Cairo, and Lagos) are linked to the West’s mercantile and slave trade period, the evolution of European capitalism in the 19th century explains and shapes their history. Gold made Johannesburg rich at the end of the 19th century, more precisely from 1886, with the discovery of massive deposits in the Witwatersrand, until 1950. Huge investments made by London-based firms allowed the exploitation of these reserves. These investments can only be explained and justified by the fact that the major European economies of the time used the gold standard. Therefore, Johannesburg emerged as a mining centre, thanks to a liquidity crisis in European capitalism.

From the outset, the other cities would be shaped by an outward-looking political economy: Dakar, Lagos, Léopoldville (later Kinshasa) and even Dar es Salam were staging posts in the wealth drain policy. The economic and socio-economic infrastructure that made these cities attractive were all created with a specific objective: to export primary commodities and raw materials that the colonial powers needed for their industrial development. The pre-independence modern private sector would be concentrated in these cities and would grow after independence, particularly in the secondary and tertiary sectors. This is the origin of cities’ dominance in the economies of African countries; this dominance is both an opportunity and a potentially worrisome threat because the modern sector is creating very few jobs, as shall be seen later. Independence did not bring an end to outward-looking economies, and experiments with import-substitution policies through light industries failed. As a result, the economies of countries have remained commodity-based and have not managed to develop sustained competitiveness. Instead a multi-faceted dependency on former colonial powers and global markets developed.

The failure of these industrial policies, coupled with high debt levels, led to macroeconomic imbalances that were used to justify austerity, stabilization and structural adjustment policies, which had a negative impact on both rural and urban areas. The ending of rural subsidies and decline in prices of agricultural commodities affected small-scale farmers and family farming, and caused a massive rural exodus in several countries, including Tanzania, where the Nyerere government (which was rather anti-urban) tried to discourage this rural exodus that had fuelled urbanization elsewhere.
The result is a situation that is particular to Africa: in other parts of the world, urbanization was linked to industrialization, but in Africa urbanization took place and accelerated against a background of deindustrialization. From the 1980s/1990s, as these austerity measures also led to massive layoffs in both the public and private sector, and social services essential for a predominantly young population were curtailed, poverty began to have an urban face.

After independence, the outward-looking economy/extraversion continued to manifest in migrations that would also shape the urban landscape. Between 1980 and 2010, the Greater Cairo Region doubled in size, thanks to remittances from Egyptian workers who had migrated to the Gulf States. These revenues have kept rising, growing from US$2.5 million in 2000 to an estimated US$20 billion in 2014. The same point can be made about the impact of migrant remittances on Dakar.

### 7.3.2 The city’s influence on the national economy

Although the countries concerned have tried to promote more balanced development, none have achieved this, judging by the importance of the case study cities to their national economies. From the 1950s, Cairo’s importance to Egypt’s economy grew significantly, despite efforts by central government to redirect urban migration to other cities or regions: the city “hosts 25% of Egypt’s total population, 51% of the country’s urban population and generates 31% of Egypt’s GDP.” Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Khartoum and Kinshasa show similar figures.

### 7.3.3 Unemployment and underemployment

Unemployment is certainly the burning issue for urban dwellers. In Kinshasa, 65% of the inhabitants are officially unemployed. Unemployment levels in Kinshasa have risen steadily since the end of the 1970s. While particular reasons – contraction of the formal economy, looting of the economic infrastructure and companies by the army and civilians, structural adjustment policies – may explain this high unemployment level in Kinshasa, even in countries (such as Tanzania) whose economies are growing, employment has not followed. Thus, according to the National Bureau of Statistics, in Dar es Salaam, 2,854,237 jobs were created between 2005 and 2014, but these jobs are in the formal sector and are not enough to address unemployment and underemployment.

### 7.3.4 The large informal sector

The informal sector was for some time (and in retrospect, very naively) seen as “transitional” and would be absorbed by the development of modern economic sectors. Also referred to as the “popular economy,” the informal sector is alive and flourishing and has become a dominant feature of the urban landscape. This is because it quickly became the entry point of rural people into the city economy. In Cairo, the informal economy is estimated to absorb more than half of the active labour force/working population, a share that has been increasing since the events of 2011. The informal sector is so big that new government ministries have been established to draw up policies and programmes to formalize this sector, which is male dominated: 85% of the people involved are men.
7.4 Social Structures

An ideal meeting place, the city is a melting pot for cultural and economic exchanges – a space where individuals can express themselves, where people can escape more easily from social pressures and experience new forms of community life, which do not necessarily replace traditional forms: new consumption fashions, with meals often consumed away from the home or family space and the middle class shopping in big shopping centres; the proliferation of residential and matrimonial models (infidelity and divorce are easier); ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious integration makes maintaining this diversity a major challenge that must be met. The African city is also the place of the youth (the average age of urban dwellers is 18 years) who are the most affected by job insecurity, the collapse of the education sector and the end of the welfare state. Although some of them are tempted to migrate, others find new ways to affirm their identity, make political demands and earn a living.

7.5 Governance

Governance, which can be defined as the relationship between the state and citizens, has always been problematic in cities. The contestation of the colonial and postcolonial power has always been strong in urban areas. Among the reasons advanced to explain this, one deserves consideration: the violent way in which cities were created, or what can be called the structural violence associated with urban spaces. The city is a space created out of violence.

7.5.1 The violence can be economic

From 1842, after the arrival of British explorer Henry Morton Stanley on the shores of the Congo River, the area that would become Kinshasa started developing. At the time, a community of local traders wielded a level of influence but disappeared very quickly: “When the colonisers arrived, most of the local traders lost their influence, businesses and livelihoods because the Belgians pushed them away from the coast to build a European city. The Europeans took over their commercial activities and invaded the entire market”. Dakar was founded in 1895 to drive the policy of exploiting the colonies in French West Africa. At the time, Dakar’s urban role was strengthened by an eviction policy from those urban centres perceived as competition. This was the case with Rufisque and St Louis. Infrastructure played a key role in this process. Between 1890 and 1911, the construction of the railway linking Leopoldville (that became Kinshasa) and Matadi stimulated the city’s development. In 1920, Matadi was linked to the village of Kinshasa by road. The construction of bridges on the Blue Nile in 1909 and on the White Nile in 1928 played a major role in Khartoum’s development.

7.5.2 The violence is also physical and military

Strategic and military considerations influenced the choice of where to locate human settlements. For example, the French settled on the Cape Verde peninsula (where Dakar is) for strategic reasons; before this area was just a continuous chain of Lebou villages. Locals were chased from a city or had their movements restricted. From the moment they occupied it, the city belonged to the colonial
settlers who shaped and administered the city. Segregation was the norm: the colonial town was White, the peripheral suburbs were Black; with separate socio-economic, education and sanitation facilities. Only after the Second World War did this situation start to change, with the construction of schools, offices and health centres. Linked to this structural violence was the masculine nature of cities: In the first years of the Congolese capital, the majority of inhabitants were men who were the main labour force for the building of the city and the economy. The same phenomenon was witnessed in the gold mines of Johannesburg.

7.5.3 The violence is also administrative

Dakar was given administrative powers that would assimilate the Lebou (the indigenous people) authorities. In the same vein, the transfer of Senegal’s capital city from Saint Louis to Dakar was accompanied by the transfer of public sector jobs, which Saint Louis never recovered from. Here, social housing policies that targeted civil servants meant that housing projects were allocated to the displaced civil servants and extended to others. Dakar’s colonial destiny was thus the main driver of urbanization, and this voluntary concentration of urban infrastructure led to abnormal development, which is reflected in the land tensions that today affect more than ever all spaces. This violence that characterizes relations between colonisers and indigenous people is also expressed in relations between colonisers. After the Second World War, Germany lost Tanganyika and the country became a British colony. The British kept Dar es Salaam as the country’s capital and declared it a commune in 1920 and, in 1949, a Municipality under the first appointed British Mayor Mr. Percy Everett.

7.6 Major Trends and Seeds of Change

“The urban structure of several countries was not designed for the purpose of development but for economic control and exploitation by colonial administrations”.25 The colonial system of domination implemented after the Berlin Congress (1884–1885) left a long-lasting, if not indelible, mark on the African case study cities. Cities were fertile ground for the 3Ms: Missionaries, the Military and Merchants who played a dominant role in the colonial conquest.

Three major trends emerge, both in the AU’s Agenda 2063 and in the case studies.

The magnitude and speed of Africa’s urbanization have not only changed the face of the continent but have had a long-lasting impact that now affects the future. The speed at which the continent is urbanizing is without precedent.26 It is estimated that by 2050, Africa’s population will have reached two billion, of which more than one billion (over half the population) will be living in urban areas. The demands to be met will be many: energy, food, health. To meet these demands, Africa has no alternative but to capitalize on the potential and reduce the risks of urbanization, and to address the challenges linked to uncontrolled urbanization. Local governments will be key role-players in addressing these challenges and transforming cities and urban centres into drivers of growth and social transformation.
Cities are overcrowded, with one out of every two Senegalese an urban dweller, and one out of every two urban dwellers from Dakar. This also holds true for the other case study cities. With the exception of possibly Johannesburg, competes with other South African cities, whether at political, economic and administrative level, the cities studied have developed abnormally compared to other cities in their territories, creating a human desert around them.

The central government has power over urban governance, and decentralization efforts have encountered many obstacles in all the cities studied. The measures taken here and there appear to be devolution policies, rather than true decentralization. Centralization, and even extreme centralization, has continued; it is fully consistent with the authoritarian nature of the regimes and the strong executive feature of the presidential system that is a trademark of African constitutions.

Seeds of change are emerging in these cities. These seeds of change, which may influence even major trends that are apparently deep-seated and impossible to uproot, are both tangible and intangible. They include:

• The emergence of urban cultures and a certain “Afropolitanness”27 that is not without ambiguity – if Samba Diallo’s Africa28 was ambiguous, caught between tradition and modernism, that of the Afropolitans is no less so;
• The growing interest of local government in greater accountability and the emphasis on participative governance, despite the ambiguities of this concept;
• The growing power of civil society in urban governance;
• The spatial features of vertical expansion and densification.
• The planning of new districts.
Until recently, horizontal (outward) expansion seemed to be the norm. Khartoum is an example of this: between 1955 and 1998, the city’s built-up area multiplied by 48. However, today the built space is expanding vertically. Dakar’s is another example: the city has extended east, swallowing up the last remaining spaces, in particular the difficult-to-develop unbuilt areas. The city is also densifying. Dakar has a population density of 4,646 people per km². In 2009, it was estimated that almost a quarter of the total population lived in Dakar, on just 0.3% of the country’s land areas. At the same time, the city is expanding vertically, propelled by an urban growth that shows no sign of abating. This highlights Dakar’s abnormal development and urban overcrowding, marked by the imbalance between the area in the west and the rest of the country.

The planning of new districts produces effects similar to infrastructure. This can be seen in Kinshasa, where “[t]he districts of Bandalungwa, Kalamu, Matete and Lemba were among the newly planned districts. The district of Kinshasa was created by decree on 10 August 1923. In 1941, Kinshasa became a city and, in 1951, grew from 46km² to 75km². In 1954, the city covered 1,977km² when adjoining areas were organized into districts like elsewhere in the city”.

Rapid urbanization in Africa can be seen as “an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate the region’s transformation and capacities to respond to developmental challenges”. Evidence around the world suggests that linking economic and urban development can generate positive interactions or “spill overs” that will improve economic wellbeing and production. None of the emerging Asian countries could have achieved high growth and industrialization without building effective and competitive cities; cities that became important hubs of innovation, information, knowledge
exchange and economic production, strongly linked to global value-chains. What is uncertain is whether in Africa there is a correlation between urban development and economic development, as was the case elsewhere.

Both Afro-optimists and Afro-pessimists agree, however, that urbanization presents a huge challenge. Similarly, the inadequacy of old paradigms, which pitted cities against rural areas and stressed the need to think in terms of territories, should be noted. Although rural Africa still exists, and rural areas even continue to be populated, the rural-urban dichotomy, which has been part of development literature, is becoming irrelevant today because most African villages are less than 50km away from a town of at least 50,000 inhabitants.

7.7 The Scenarios

Many, intertwined uncertainties can be grouped under the five thematic areas of the situational analysis, with the addition of “wild cards”.

Natural resources: Cities often developed in environments that have natural resource advantages, but exploiting these natural resources was also problematic. The question is whether there are enough resources (especially water and energy) to ensure long-term sustainable growth.

- Some cities depend on water sources that are very far away. Johannesburg relies on water resources that include some from outside South Africa’s borders, while Dakar’s water supply comes from 300km away.
- Many cities depend on a national electricity system based on coal or imported petroleum products, even in the case of petroleum-exporter Nigeria. Power outages are common, and the middle and upper classes are increasingly turning to polluting diesel generators, while the large social groups without access to electricity use wood and charcoal as their main source of energy, with devastating consequences for the countries’ forest resources.

The sustainability of natural resources is a major uncertainty, made worse by climate change.

Demography: Fertility rates are declining in urban areas, with some demographers suggesting that the average number of children per woman will decrease by one every ten years. One of these uncertainties is the speed of the demographic transition, but the changes in the fertility rate will probably only have a real impact on the growth of the urban population after 2025. Until then, cities will face new challenges and uncertainties:

- An ageing population that will affect the demand for health services, pension payments for employees in the modern sector of the economy and social structures that provide insurance for those without access to basic social services.
- Intra-African migration is very sensitive to the economic situation in the host, transit and departure countries. Cities such as Johannesburg or Kinshasa, may see their attractiveness to migrants drop and even reverse29 – especially if xenophobia develops, as happened in Johannesburg in 2008 and in 2015 – but this would probably not be the case for cities such Cairo, Dakar and Dar es Salam.
The economy: Development and economic planning experiences – whether socialist, as in Egypt under Nasser, or in Tanzania under Nyerere, or neoliberal-inspired, such as in countries that implemented SAPs backed by the Bretton Woods Institutions – have shown how unrealistic it would be to think that direct interventions lead to economic growth. This has led many futurists to conclude that “it is a variable that does not have to feature in the scenarios’ basic assumptions but will undoubtedly emerge in the picture painted by each scenario”\(^{30}\). What is certain is that two categories of factors will directly influence economic growth:

- External factors, such as the future state of the international economic environment. This is true for Johannesburg, which suffered more from the 2008 economic and financial crisis than the other cities, and for Khartoum, which was affected by both the fall in the oil price (which also affected the Gulf countries, Sudan’s traditional donors) and the sanctions imposed by the international community.
- Internal factors, including the competitiveness of national economies, and social and political factors. There is also the question of inequality and disparities of all sorts between urban dwellers. Economic and social disparities in urban areas make differentiation, even apartheid, viable terms to use because the disparities are so great and sometimes follow ethnic and racial lines. These disparities reached extreme levels in Johannesburg and are found everywhere else.

Social structures: Two concepts, which can roughly be defined as relational and economic, coexist in cities. The first one tends to want to minimize risks associated with cities by investing in, diversifying, and giving preference to social relationship, while the second one seeks to maximize profit by introducing, where possible, changes in production systems and methods. We can only speculate on the relative influence of these concepts in the future. The current reality has two faces:

- one that is reassuring, where urban cultures emerge that are driven by the youth, based on openness, and recognizing each person’s individuality and rights;
- one that is frightening, even hideous, where there is xenophobia, racial discrimination, gender-based violence and homophobic behaviour.

Governance: Different governance systems are also found in the cities, although it is difficult to know which will dominate in the coming years and decades. For a long time, political rulers from the colonial administration and postcolonial authorities have influenced and controlled cities whose growth was moderate. Today, tensions run high between local governments and the people they govern, and violence flares up in several spots because the service delivery by local and/or national government does not meet expectations. Informal settlements are often the theatre of these clashes because they are the soft underbelly of urban government – the municipal wastelands. The question of which is the most appropriate governance structure to meet the multiple, complex and ever-increasing needs of cities remains to be answered; cities are more and more indistinguishable from regions and therefore cannot be managed without collaboration between local governments and authorities of larger jurisdictions.
The wild cards: These are totally unpredictable or unexpectedly large events, such as the Ebola epidemic, which hit three West African countries but whose effects were felt far beyond the affected countries. The fall of the Berlin Wall is another example of an event even the most experienced futurist could not have predicted at the time. The future will bring other unforeseeable events, which may be positive or negative, emerging from technological advances, major scientific discoveries, environmental disasters and even economic crises. Cities cannot prepare for wild cards, other than to put in place effective governance systems and rapid response systems.

Three scenarios are presented. The first one is a trend-based scenario and the other two scenarios deviate from it, based on trajectories presented.

7.7.1 Trend-based scenario: the city is worth nothing, but nothing beats the city\(^1\)

In this scenario, urban growth is correlated with economic development. The two trends – demographic and economic – coexist without fuelling each other. The accumulation of problems, resulting from a disjointed urban planning, unregulated construction and inadequate urban infrastructure, start to seriously call into question the cities’ capacity to attract and influence that was inherited from a favourable geographic, geopolitical or even administrative positioning. This leads directly to increasing urban poverty. The growth rate is not sufficient to create enough jobs to meet the increased number of urban dwellers. Many cities do not have sufficient resources to build adequate infrastructure and housing. The levels of investment required far surpass the financial capacity of countries or municipalities. As a result, the majority of urban dwellers live in shantytowns or makeshift homes, without access to running water and electricity.
Spatially, this scenario will reveal paradoxical situations, of which the city of Dakar is a clear example. Currently, one in every five Senegalese lives in Dakar. This proportion will no doubt remain the same due to the demographic shift, but, given Dakar’s restricted site and the difficulties of residential integration within Dakar proper, the city will no doubt continue to grow and experience the paradox of a city that continues to attract people, despite reaching saturation point.

In terms of social structures, this scenario will be accompanied by “total disorder organized as urban order” [32]. The city will be where the urban and rural worlds overlap in a muddle that is called informality, which means nothing because it refers to a negative, informal and hollow reality. It is not an impossible existence, but “straddling two overlapping worlds is a headache” and will remain so. Urbanization will therefore be seen as an “ailing Africa” [33].

The associated urban models will build on the structural adjustment model and the world-liberal city. In this context, housing and the living environment will remain the same. Over-indebtedness of households will exacerbate insecurity. Privatization of the public space will be on the increase, and security will become a key element. Land will remain a safe haven, acceptable to financial markets. The gap will widen between major cities with access to financial markets and other cities that are subject to budget control.

This scenario is plausible because the ambiguity will be carried forward by the youth who are in the majority demographically but marginalized sociologically. And the decision-makers will have to work with these youth. [34] However, such a scenario can become a nightmare, easily slipping into a cut-throat city: a city that has ceased to be a city because of being overrun by informality on a continent that will be in the hands of warlords, famished lions or a can of worms. In this scenario, the decision-makers will give up and allow the current crisis situation to worsen; the city will then become practically ungovernable, a danger area. In this trend-based scenario, the present has no future. Fortunately, such a scenario is not inevitable. It is reasonable to assume that such an undesirable prospect will jolt people into action and that society will respond strongly and take measures to change the current trends.

**7.7.2 Modernization/industrialization scenario**

In this scenario, the economic integration of the continent will play a central role. The AU has raised the prospect of a free trade zone between SADC, the East African Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The 26 countries involved represent an enormous market that can learn about the free movement of goods and persons from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Such a project requires dynamic cities where goods can be produced, stockpiled and commercialized locally. The manufacturing sector will have to develop because intra-African trade cannot be limited to trading in primary commodities and products. African ownership of the means of production is obviously an integral part of this scenario. Only then can the continent move up the value chain and reach its full potential.
In this scenario, Africa will have to put an end to the situation where the vessels that exploit the seas are foreign-owned, the sailors are foreigners, the food consumed by these sailors comes from abroad and the fish are offloaded overseas. In some ways, this scenario will require a Keynesian regulation of some kind. Such a regulation will have to be based on a major overhaul of capitalism, including public regulation and income redistribution. This approach is recognized but not applied because it implies a break with the dominant rationale, that of global capital markets, which is against Keynesian approaches and the return of inflation.

Urban models corresponding to this scenario will revive some of the proactive policies from the first years of independence in Africa or between 1945 and 1980 in Europe. The housing and living environment could again find some of the characteristics from the Ford and Keynesian period. Housing, as well as health and education, would extend the social protection offered by the Welfare State. Income redistribution would be in the form of “family allowances” and significant housing allowances. Wage and job stabilization would complement salaries in the form of job sharing. Transport systems would preserve and strengthen public spaces. Prevention would be part of addressing the social, civic and ecological problems. These urban policies might go even further; they would find their limits in the contradiction between industrial production and environmental constraints.

Two of the basic requirements to make such a scenario a reality:

i. The state and municipal authorities must regain legitimacy in the eyes of urban dwellers/citizens and new modes of finance and innovation must be discovered, to replace the twin ills of aid and indebtedness that NEPAD aims to combat.

ii. To stop the abnormal development of cities and their dominance of the economy. Balancing development around medium-sized cities could help in this regard. In fact, the growth rates in these medium-sized cities could be higher than in capital cities.

This scenario has to be developed now, so that its effects can be felt in the medium term.

**7.7.3 Transition to sustainable development scenario**

In this scenario, which does not exist anywhere, a virtuous circle will form, of economic, social and ecological concerns. Such a scenario will allow the necessary actions to be taken to avoid risks or limit dangers and exploit the potential and opportunities, by pooling technical, financial and human resources. It is an optimistic scenario.

Politically, peace will be restored in a continent scarred by colonial and postcolonial violence. Migrations caused by wars and other political conflicts will become a distant memory because the democratization of societies will become a reality. The AU’s “Silencing the Guns” project, which aims to end all wars and violent conflicts in Africa by 2020 – a project that was met with some scepticism at the time – will have gained credibility with improved political governance and democratic societies in countries where leadership changes will have become the norm.
Economically, growth will be boosted by the renewed momentum of emerging markets after some years of slowdown. The economic rationale will have gained ground, and many social groups will be successfully integrated into economic networks. The popular economy, which was previously a survival sector, will have become more productive in a peaceful atmosphere, and its relations with the local government and the modern sector of the economy will have been rethought. A slowing population growth will help economic growth, resulting in a rapid rise in per capita GDP. Not only will incomes grow, but wealth will be more evenly distributed, due to investments in social sectors (education, health, vocational training) and sound support to marginalized groups to help integrate them into society.

Environmental concerns are addressed, and energy and water will now be available and affordable because governments will have adopted bold and sound policies for these sectors. This will have been done in harmony with the local governments and civil society organizations, which will play an increasingly important role in managing urban areas. “The African city of the future will be designed with energy-efficient and environment-friendly and resilient materials, which are largely locally sourced on the continent.”

Public transport mobility will be greatly improved due to significant investment, not only reducing travel times for the previously disadvantaged but also encouraging middle-class families to abandon private vehicles in favour of public transport. Regulations will reduce dependence on polluting
products, such as charcoal or petrol. Citizens and national and local governments will be aware of and support climate change adaptation measures. Decision-makers will have also found solutions to waste management, including sound recycling policies. This environmental protection will be facilitated by the fact that, like for the previous scenario, other medium-sized cities will welcome national and international migrants.

Socially, the value of diversity will be recognized, and xenophobic or hostile attitudes towards minorities will have reduced or stopped. Migration will be seen not as a threat but as contributing to development. This change of attitude will be justified by improved economic conditions and decreased unemployment. Higher numbers of educated women will make greater gender equality possible. New, largely hybrid social identities will emerge, and racial integration, which is already happening in schools and workplaces, will extend to homes. Residential areas will be mixed, now that vertical growth and densification have continued, albeit more slowly. The spatial apartheid that features in the first scenario will be a thing of the past. And cultural expressions will find their place “A truly African city will celebrate African heritage, and Africa’s heroes and heroines”.37

The scenario is not far from the scenario known as the transition towards achieving SDGs. It corresponds to a notion of social, ecological and democratic transition that is being developed and discussed in certain municipalities, university centres, and social urban movements in the North. The proponents of this approach have called for new ideas, and new means of production and consumption, e.g. public goods and new forms of ownership, control of the finances, living well and wealth without growth, the reinvention of democracy, common and differentiated responsibilities, and public services based on rights and free participation.

None of the three scenarios outlined above is inevitable. They are all possible and plausible, but decision-makers and urban community role-players are not doomed to succeed or fail. The future is a realm of freedom because it has not yet been determined. Of the three scenarios outlined above, the third one is the most favourable. What needs to be done to make it a reality? How will it be possible to arrive at the desired city of the future? What are the options? What are the policies that need to be implemented? Those are the questions that the next section will try to answer.

7.8 Strategic Options

With backcasting, a successful outcome is imagined for the future, the question being what needs to be done to achieve that outcome. The most critical factors that need to be considered can be summarized as a triple challenge: rethinking the city; having dialogues about the city; and working on – or better still – reinventing the city.
7.8.1 Rethinking the city

A city is an assembly, an interconnection of several economic, social, political, environmental, cultural and technological systems, an “assembly of assemblies.” Rethinking the city also means asking questions about the meaning of the economy. The concept of the economy that gave birth to the city and presided over its development generates not only wealth, but also poverty, exclusion and many negative externalities. Both industrialized countries and countries of the global South are questioning this concept of the economy in which the city inserts itself.

- What does **informality** mean when it is no longer marginal but defines the means of production and structures the urban space in a certain manner?
- Do the **concepts of centre, periphery and peripheral city** mean anything when in many urban metropoles the periphery is merging into the centre, or the centre is extending to and absorbing the periphery?

7.8.2 Dialogues about the city

The city is a melting pot of many social, ethnic and racial groups, but is also a place where the many role-players and stakeholders operate, according to different and continuously evolving viewpoints. While not necessarily an exhaustive list, the stakeholders include:

- Municipal authorities: their role is vital but their political, financial and human resources fall short of what they should be. As one of them said, they are expected to do gigantic projects with Lilliputian resources.
- Governments: they are responsible for long-term planning, which covers critical issues, such as energy, water resources, transport infrastructure, etc.
- The private sector: it plays an essential role in driving urban development and creating sustainable wealth. However, the correlation between urban growth and economic growth is not automatic. Urban development can, if mastered, become a lever that serves and feeds the economy, but, if uncontrolled, act as a brake on sustainable economic growth.
- The informal sector (or everyone in the popular economy) cannot be ignored because it contributes directly to the economy and plays a role in meeting the needs of the poorest of the poor.

Platforms that enable dialogue among stakeholders are essential to rid the city of the violence that dates to colonial times and its authoritarian style of governance, and to democratize the relations between the many urban role-players or, better still, to rebuild the city starting with its inhabitants. The dialogues need to talk about the immediate problems and challenges as well as long-term problems and challenges, and the long-term vision that must inspire these policies. Unfortunately, there is a glaring lack of such dialogue. The long-term plans that exist have been prepared by technocrats with no real participation by all urban role-players. Just as war is too serious a business to be left to generals, so, too is urbanization far too complex to be left in the hands of urban planners alone, especially if they are foreigners.
7.8.3 Reinventing the African city

Cities and towns were not unknown in pre-colonial Africa, even though discussions about the African city focus on the colonial and post-colonial modern city. Yet many examples of African ingenuity exist, but often “very little attention is paid to the accuracy of infrastructures, the sustainability and practical design provided by great African cities such as Axum, whose majestic grandeur still dominates the valleys and rivers of Ethiopia” 40

Optimize resources

“Reinventing the African city means upgrading its physical, socio-economic and intellectual capital to achieve sustainable development.” 41 There are five categories of resources: financial, human, environmental, information and institutional.

Financial resources: Municipal finances are notoriously weak because of inefficient local taxation systems, the size of the informal economy, which mostly falls outside the tax net, and the difficulties in collecting taxes in conflict-struck countries, such as Kinshasa during the 1970s and 1980s or Cairo since 2011. As a result, municipalities depend on transfers from central governments to fund their recurring, operational and capital expenses. This greatly affects their decision-making powers and their legitimacy in the eyes of urban communities.

Human resources: It is important to find ways of strengthening the capacity to formulate or implement urbanization policies and programmes, especially if the ambition is to encourage participatory planning, which involves dialogue about long-term visions of the city and urban areas. A participative approach, which separates the skills necessary for foresight thinking from other skills, and institutional support necessary to enable foresight thinking, independent of power games, need to be put in place, while staying close to local decision-making. Decision-makers here include not only the local government and government administrative units but also local civil society organizations.

Environmental resources: Rapid and uncontrolled urbanization threaten the resources that made many cities attractive. For example, Cairo owes its existence to the Valley of the Nile, which cannot absorb more people without compromising the wellbeing of its inhabitants, the city’s economy and the environment. Social justice and economic competitiveness, which are the main priorities of Egypt 2052 (national development plan) are likely to be compromised if the environmental question, which is becoming a bigger challenge, does not receive attention.42

Information resources: We cannot know without measuring, but we can only measure what we know. All the case studies showed a lack of knowledge when it comes to measuring the city. The African city eludes the usual measurement instruments and statistical apparatus – for example, GDP, which measures wealth, is of little value in a context where informality dominates.

Institutional resources: Urban governance needs rethinking. The first governance difficulty is simply to delineate the city limits – if “we can govern from afar, we can only administer at close proximity.”43 The city boundaries for the case studies seemed to take the form of a variable geometry shape rather than result from rigorous calculations. Using criteria from several agencies for establishing
boundaries, the size of Johannesburg was found to vary between 1,645 km² and 7,700 km² and its population to fluctuate between 5 million and 9.5 million. The same varying proportions were found for Cairo, Dakar and even Dar es Salam. The second difficulty comes from what could be called the retrospective stubbornness of decision-makers who struggle to rethink their powers, even when they realize that excessive concentration and centralization leads to weak and inefficient urban management. The result is a gap between the intentions and ambitions on the one hand and reality on the other hand. For example, in Senegal, decision-makers created new local governments to respond more effectively to the needs of urban communities, but financial resources have not been transferred to the new local authorities—“delaying the transfer of financial resources to the new local government is a way of continuing to control them.”

Municipalities do not have enough of the managerial skills, and anticipation and foresight skills required for true decentralization. But this constraint can be overcome through sound capacity-building of local governments in financial resource management and even in foresight thinking. Local governments can become “smart-future”. For this, what is needed are bottom-up processes that enable local municipalities to speak to each other and with the national and supranational levels.

7.8.4 Implement different strategies

To manage these different resources, various strategies will have to be implemented, under three categories: reactive, pre-active and proactive.

Reactive strategies, which include everything that needs to be implemented immediately in order to transform colonial cities into African cities. Some priorities are:

- Upgrade informal settlements – provide integrated infrastructure and services that target the poor, the youth, women and elderly people.
• Mobilize local and foreign urban finance to invest in creating better living conditions.
• Develop an effective public leadership that tackles racism, xenophobia and discrimination and violence based on gender and sexual orientation.
• Make greater efforts to further develop and implement positive city-level policies focused on compact and densified cities, and transit-oriented development.

These are reactive strategies are necessary, and should be implemented as a matter of urgency, but are not sufficient to build the city of the future, as outlined in scenarios 2 and 3.

**Pre-active strategies** are necessary for the cities of the future and can only be built in the medium term, even if the foundations need to be laid now.

• Densification versus expansion (vertical or horizontal growth);
• Decentralization, and not simply relieving congestion and devolving power;
• Working with national government on long-term planning, water and energy security, and the implementation of all possible measures within the city's control to ensure efficient use of water and energy reserves;
• Diversification of economic activities through creating new economic hubs geared to sustainable and value-added production and export.

**Proactive measures** aimed at promoting a more equitable distribution of wealth and opportunities in the city, especially programmes targeting education and skills, and human capital. Resilience policies will be an integral part of this, consisting of:

• comprehensive measures aimed at improving air and water quality and an even greater effort to promote waste recycling;
• effective climate change adaptation strategies, and effective early-warning monitoring strategies; in short, the implementation of policies that will help build “sustainable, less polluted and climate resilient cities.”

### 7.8.5 The role of local governments

Local governments have a crucial role to play in thinking, opening up for public debate and implementing these strategies.

**Local governments must institutionalize the foresight approach at the local level:** The future must be placed at the core of self-determination of African local government. This foresight approach should not be reduced to simply using a tool such as the scenario-building. As processes at local government level and in relation to national and supranational levels become more complex, territorial foresight can be a key factor in making governance more inclusive and centred on the aspirations of the people. To plan and build a municipality’s future requires: exploring plausible futures (desirable and undesirable), a collective and transparent reflection (to make societal choices that correspond to a shared vision), and a process of open reflection and implementation that makes it possible to identify and implement the actions necessary to achieve a shared vision and
to avoid undesirable pathways. This requires political and public will that rest on two principles: developing endogenous foresight capacity (creating a critical mass of “smart-future” citizens and organizations) and implementing local foresight initiatives based on the concept of empowerment and accountability.

**Local governments need to plan differently:** Meeting today’s challenges requires a strategy that differs from conventional planning in two aspects: the products, i.e. urban development plans; and the process used to draft these plans. The plans would need to be based on rigorous analysis – sound knowledge of the dynamics of economic, political and cultural transformation in urban communities, not simply on perceptions or political aspirations. Secondly, short-term interests govern these plans because they are instruments for politicians whose long-term vision is not the same length as that of planners. Therefore, the drafting of a plan should involve all development role-players because a plan that is not the result of consultation, dialogue and negotiation will have no more value than a statement of intent or a political party manifesto. Among other issues that should be discussed is the very concept of urban development. The idea that development is a product delivered by the state to populations that are seen as beneficiaries is no longer relevant. No municipality can meet the needs of its citizens by itself, and urban populations (especially disadvantaged groups) are increasingly fighting to regain their status as active transformation agents and calling ever louder for more decentralization, not administrative devolution, which all too often is the case.

### 7.9 Conclusion

Africa is now an urbanized continent, with the fastest urban growth rate in the world, at 4.5%. This trend will continue. Within the next two decades, most Africans will live in urban centres and the size of the urban population will have doubled.

Will there be a correlation between urban development and economic development, as was the case elsewhere? This is one of the major uncertainties that cannot be ignored because the urban trajectory in the case study cities has not generated significant economic development in the economy’s formal sector. The scenarios showed that, if this correlation is not forthcoming, urbanization increases the risks of societal and economic destabilization. But if well managed, urbanization, together with the continent’s demographic transformation, could be critical for the continent’s economic and social development in the coming years. If well managed, rapid urbanization is a great opportunity to accelerate the region’s transformation and to increase its ability to respond to development challenges, including the eradication of poverty.

Given that a scenario of virtuous urbanization is possible and plausible, the winning formula is: to rethink the concept of the city, organize dialogues about the city and reinvent the city as organized, competitive jurisdiction containing hubs of innovation, information, knowledge exchange and economic production that are strongly linked to global value chains. To achieve this, planning and management are essential and, in this regard, the importance of the role of local government cannot be overemphasized.
8. Annexes

8.1 The UCLGA Assembly

The UCLGA Assembly was duly constituted, and it was confirmed that a proper quorum was present to discuss the business of the organization from a programmatic and governance point of view.

8.1.1 Programmatic decisions

The Assembly was presented with the content of the discussions and deliberations covered during the 7th Africitities Summit. Of all the content discussions held during the summit, the meeting adopted the resolutions and recommendations or 23 key content issues that will face Africa in the coming years. The assembly also passed a statement of intent that was prepared by the UCLGA secretariat.

8.1.2 Leadership and governance

- It was acknowledged that there is a need to resolve the institutional and organizational processes, as well as practices, of the UCLGA.
- The assembly elected the Pan-African Council, the Executive and the Presidency.
- Through consensus it was agreed that:
  a. Mayor Khalifa Sall be re-elected the President of the UCLGA.
  b. Mayor Parks Tau be nominated the Co-President of the UCLGA (at continental and international levels)
  c. Mayor Parks Tau be nominated as a candidate for World President – subject to his nomination by Southern Africa.
List of Acronyms

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AAPAM</td>
<td>African Association for Public Administration and Management</td>
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<td>AfDB</td>
<td>African Development Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALGA</td>
<td>African Local Government Academy</td>
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<td>AMCOD</td>
<td>All Africa Conference of Ministers responsible for Local Governments</td>
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<td>AMN</td>
<td>African Metropolis Network</td>
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<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
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<td>AUC</td>
<td>African Union Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRICS</td>
<td>Brazil, Russian, India, China and South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATF</td>
<td>Cities Alliance's Catalytic Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCRA</td>
<td>Council of Cities and Regions of Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>CityRAP</td>
<td>City Resilience Action Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMESA</td>
<td>Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>COP21</td>
<td>21st Conference of the Parties</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCOG</td>
<td>Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRR</td>
<td>Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAC</td>
<td>East African Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECHO</td>
<td>European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECOWAS</td>
<td>Economic Community of West African States</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDI</td>
<td>Foreign Direct Investment</td>
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<tr>
<td>GADDEPA</td>
<td>Governance, Advocacy and Decentralization Development Programme in Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAP</td>
<td>General Assembly of Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFDRR</td>
<td>Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHG</td>
<td>Greenhouse Gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIZ</td>
<td>Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Society for International Cooperation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GTF</td>
<td>Global Task Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS</td>
<td>Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR</td>
<td>Human Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCAR</td>
<td>International Coalition of Cities against Racism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICLEI</td>
<td>International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDH</td>
<td>Initiative Nationale pour le Développement Humain (National Initiative for Human Development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPIs</td>
<td>Key Performance Indicators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LED</td>
<td>Local Economic Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEDNA</td>
<td>Local Development Network of Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFI</td>
<td>Microfinance Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MITC</td>
<td>Multi-Stakeholders Informal Trading Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUs</td>
<td>Memorandums of Understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAFCOC</td>
<td>National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEPAD</td>
<td>New Partnership for Africa's Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLEWA</td>
<td>Network of Local Elected Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUA</td>
<td>New Urban Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFI</td>
<td>Policy Framework for Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPP</td>
<td>Public-Private Partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR</td>
<td>Peer Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAFCOD</td>
<td>African Network of Decentralized Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFELA</td>
<td>Réseau des Femmes Élues Locales d'Afrique (Network of Locally Elected Women in Africa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIAFCO</td>
<td>Réseau des Institutions Africaines de Financement des Collectivités Locales (Network of African Local Government Financial Institutions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACN</td>
<td>South African Cities Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>SALGA</td>
<td>South African Local Government Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMSET</td>
<td>Supporting African Municipalities in Sustainable Energy Transitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAQA</td>
<td>The South African Qualifications Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDI</td>
<td>Slum Dwellers’ International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE4All</td>
<td>Sustainable Energy for All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SETAs</td>
<td>Skills Education Training Authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFDRR</td>
<td>Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCRs</td>
<td>State of Cities reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STC</td>
<td>Specialized Technical Committee (African Union)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UATP</td>
<td>Union Africaine des Transports Publics (African Association of Public Transport)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLGA</td>
<td>United Cities and Local Government Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UEMOA</td>
<td>Francophone West Africa Economic and Monetary Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>UITP</td>
<td>Union Internationale des Transports Publics (International Association of Public Transport)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDG</td>
<td>United Nations Development Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNECOA</td>
<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNISDR</td>
<td>United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNISDR</td>
<td>United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAEMU</td>
<td>Western African Economic and Monetary Union</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes

1. Inclusive growth and sustainable development, integrated continent, good governance, peace and security, strong cultural identity, development driven by people, especially women and youth, an influential global player and partner.

2. Participatory governance: vertical decentralization refers to the transfer of authority, functions, responsibilities and resources from central government to local government, while horizontal decentralization entails the empowerment of local communities and neighbourhoods to determine, plan, manage and implement their policies.

3. With reference to Africités 6, Dakar, it should be remembered that “Building supranational spaces may be derived from local government recommendations. It suggests an alternative approach to development, that of access to rights. This is the territorial aspect of rights that is part of local politics. It’s the convergence of rights that make the territorial aspect of rights meaningful”.


6. See Dr Dlamini-Zuma’s speech, in which she says that “In transforming our cities we must pay particular attention to Agenda 2063 priorities”.

7. See the presentation note.

8. The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group is a network of the world’s megacities taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. http://www.c40.org/

9. Resolution 68/237, UN General Assembly


11. Dr Guillaume Iyenda (Dar es Salam, Kinshasa), Dr Mona Serageldin (Cairo and Khartoum), Prof. Philip Harrison (Johannesburg) and Dr Cheick Gueye (Dakar and Lagos)


15. “The crown but not the jewel” according to Prof. Ali Mazrui

16. A term used to describe the ways in which Africans have actively participated in the processes that created and maintain the continent’s dependent position within the global system

17. As explained by P. Harrison (page 16)

18. Samir Amin, Futurs Africains

19. M. Serageldin (page 7)

20. C. Gueye

21. M. Serageldin (page 7)

22. Page 13 of Dar es Salam report. See also Bruno Losch

23. M Serageldin, page 22

24. Iyenda

25. As noted in an African Development Bank (AfDB) report

26. Carlos Lopes, the Executive Secretary of the ECA writes in the October 2015 edition of New African: “urbanisation in Africa is set to become the fastest ever in human history”.

27. Posited by the historian A. Mbembe, professor at Wits University.

28. Character in the novel Ambiguous Adventure by C.H. Kane, published in the early 1960s

29. The alternative scenario is one that sees political and/or economic breakdown in one or more countries to the north, within renewed streams of migrants into South Africa, and Johannesburg and the Gauteng City Region in particular.

30. See the book on IFA Afrique 2025, page 123

31. The name of this scenario is borrowed from a slightly adapted quote by André Malraux “Life is worth nothing but nothing can replace life,” says one of his characters in L’Espoir.

32. Mbourourou Mbarara is the title of his collection of short stories on Dakar.
33. See the book Le Maroc en Afrique: La Voie Royale, Institut Amadeus, 2015
34. The #FeesMustFall campaign in South Africa is quite emblematic in this regard. The movement is a harbinger of new forms of expression and organization and also evidence of a breakdown in communication between political leaders and the youth.
35. This approach is defended by eminent establishment economists such as Joseph Stiglitz, Paul Krugman and Amartya Sen and often described as neo-Keynesian economics.
36. Speech by Dr Dlamini-Zuma, 23 June 2015 during the African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum held in Johannesburg
37. ibid
38. P. Harrison, Johannesburg Foresight, page 5
39. See the project Great Transition Initiative directed by Paul Raskin.
40. “Tomorrow’s African Cities…Today”,
41. Interview with Alioune Badiane, UNO Housing
42. “Environmental friendliness” according to the term used by M. Serageldin, page 41
43. This phrase is said to have been coined by Marechal Lyautey.
44. Alymana Bathily in Seneplus, 4 November 2015
45. The term is borrowed from Michel Godet.
46. 23 June 2015 during the African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum held in Johannesburg
47. Carlos Lopes, the Executive Secretary of UNECA. 2015. New African, October 2015