



Africités 8

THE TRANSITION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND TERRITORIES: THE ROLE OF AFRICA'S LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

22 of November 9.30-12.30

Open Session (SOU 30): **African-EU Forum of Young local Elected Representatives**

Concept Note and Agenda of the workshop

In November 2017, local elected Africans and Europeans convened in Abidjan in the context of the [1st Africa - EU Forum](#) organised alongside the 5th African Union – European Union Summit, in order to strengthen the partnership which ties the two continents together. The summit concluded with a general declaration in which elected officials highlighted the importance of maintaining and developing platforms for dialogue between the two continents at all levels. They reaffirmed their engagement to put in place a reinforced partnership, also between youngsters and local elected representatives in line with the global agendas.

The multiple challenges, both in Africa and Europe, that young generations are facing were identified as one of the main priorities to address in the near future together with the need of strengthening the cooperation between the 2 continents in a number of domains: **migration, local development, employment, political engagement, education or culture**. Investing in youth is of crucial importance for nation states as well as for African and European local governments if they aspire to nurturing sustainable towns and cities. Without a bright future and opportunities for youngsters in which local and regional governments, youngsters themselves and young politicians from both continents exchange on good practices to tackle the most pressing challenges, illiberal ideas might rise even more all over the world. Cities seem to be the place where cosmopolitanism, openness and diversity subsist. This issue is particularly critical for Africa, where more than 60 percent of the population is under the age of 35, while the presence of this age group in the governance and administration structures of local and regional governments remains low.

The global challenges confronting Africa as well as Europe call for recognising young generations as drivers of change and openness, as well as the engines of our future societies. The differences between African countries and EU countries with respect to demographics, technological change or urbanisation can be off great added value to experiment with new solutions and learn from each other. The capacity of societies to adapt to the 4th industrial revolution, demographic changes and skyrocketing urbanisation will depend on the leadership of youth as well as on municipal actors able to experiment with new ideas together with the private sector, civil society and the academy.

Young EU and African leaders do not only have a role in **contributing towards the renewal of leadership** (at national and local level), but also at mainstreaming youth participation at all levels, enhancing youth-friendly environments at the local level and influencing policies at other levels of government in all areas of concern. If we are not able to provide responses to the concerns of youngsters and re-build their trust in democracy, the economy and institutions, we might not be able to face the challenges ahead. In light of the **Agenda 2063** of the African Union and the European Commission's "**Next steps for a sustainable European future**", the contribution of young people, and more specifically local elected young politicians, is enormous given the hopes which they shoulder in both continents.

Young municipal leaders must have a voice with respect to questions such as local development, resilience, education or employment. In the framework of the Africities Summit 2018 that will take place in Marrakesh between the 20 and 24 of November, The Council of European Municipalities (CEMR) together with PLATFORMA and the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa will give continuity to the discussions that started last year. The session of 3 hours aims at coming up with new ideas to respond to a series of challenges that were identified last year during the African Union – European Union Summit in Abidjan. More concretely the aim is to come up with new ideas around 6 topics identified last year and presented in the [Abidjan Declaration of the 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit](#) as the main priorities for the upcoming years. The concrete topics to be addressed are:

- **Culture and Arts (table 1);**
- **Promotion of global agendas (table2);**
- **Peace and Security (table3);**
- **Political involvement and Democratic Inclusion (table 4);**
- **Entrepreneurship and employment (table 5);**
- **Education and Skills (table 6);**

The first part of the workshop will set up the scene by providing some feedback about the work that has been done in previous years as well as the follow-up of the Abidjan Declaration. 3 African representatives and 2 Europeans will present the main challenges of young generations as well as how to strengthen cooperation between the 2 continents from to provide better opportunities for youth from a local and regional perspective. The first part of the session will closely examine the commitments taken by African and European elected representatives in Abidjan through three main questions:

- How to energise the Africa - EU partnership in light of the exchanges from the 2017 Abidjan partnership (invest in youth) and the localisation of the SDGs from a youth perspective?
- Which are the main challenges we are facing with respect to the follow-up of the Abidjan Declaration of 2017 and how to strengthen cooperation between youth organisations at the local level?
- How to reinforce coordination between levels of government as well as between the EU and the African Union in order to better face common challenges?
- How to concretise indicators that enable us to measure improvement in each field?

The session also aims at reinforcing exchanges of common interest for young local elected representatives from Africa and Europe, mainstream their participation at all levels and influence other levels of government.

Structure of the first part of the workshop: 1h

KEYNOTE: [Ahmad Alhendawi](#) - Former UN Special Youth Envoy (tbc)

Mr. Luis Alvarado,
President of the European Youth Forum (tbc)

Mr. Carlos Carreiras,
Mayor of Cascais, European Youth Capital 2018 (tbc)

Mr. Christopher Kang'ombe,
President of the Local Government Association of Zambia LGAZ

Mrs Bouabid Ikram,
President, Municipal council of Ouled Toualaa

Dhoha Bouzid,
Deputy Mayor of Sfax (Tunisia)

2nd Part of the workshop: World Café format: 1.30h

The second part of the workshop will address in more detail the 6 topics identified in Abidjan through (see above) in order to come up with concrete ideas as a follow-up. 6 different tables (each colour corresponding to 1 of the topics) will be established and each one will focus in one of the topics identified by the Abidjan Declaration.

There will be 2 rounds of discussion (45min each) and participants will be able to select 2 tables maximum (1.30h maximum). Each table will have to present 2 main conclusions that will be discussed and incorporated to a declaration to be discussed in the political sessions to take place at a later stage during the Summit.



Moderators from each table provide 2 main recommendations

The final part of the workshop will present, through the moderators of the tables, the main 2 conclusions to be incorporated to the declaration as well as present the follow-up.

Each moderator will have 5 minutes to present the main discussion and the recommendations. At the end, CEMR and UCLG-Africa will incorporate the 12 recommendations to a final declaration.

The intended outcome at the end of the session is **to define a roadmap for joint action to mobilize young people to invest themselves in the territories** so that they become the spurs of the implementation of the transition to sustainable cities and territories.

Languages:

- English, French and Portuguese for the **first part** and the **Wrap-up**
- **No interpretation for the World Café** (collaborative interpretation between participants in the table is kindly recommended in case of need).