HARMONIZED IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA IN AFRICA
(Parallel Session, SOU87)

22 November 2018, 14:30-17:30

Concept Note

Introduction

1. Africa is experiencing rapid urban growth with significant implications for its growth and transformation agenda. Well-planned and managed cities and human settlements are essential if Africa is to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity. Therefore, if translated into effective policies implemented in an integrated way, building a robust urban governance structure, as well as deploying supportive rules and regulations, sound urban planning and design assisted by viable financial strategies, cities and human settlements can function as transformational drivers of sustainable development. It is especially critical to strategically mainstream urbanization in long-term national development planning as a key determinant of structural transformation over the coming decades in order to harness the enormous potential of urbanization to drive social and economic development.

2. The central role of urbanization in sustainable development is clearly articulated in various regional and global frameworks such as the New Urban Agenda (NUA), the 2030 Agenda for Development and the African Union’s Agenda 2063. Through these frameworks, African countries have committed to implement, monitor and report on a number of urban development goals and targets through national and sub-national policies, strategies and related investments. A coordinated approach for the systematic implementing, monitoring and reporting of those urban commitments and priorities requires a harmonized regional framework aligned to Africa’s structural transformation agenda.

3. Accordingly, a Harmonized Regional Implementation Framework for the New Urban Agenda (NUA) in Africa was developed under the leadership of the Sub-Committee on Urban Development and Human Settlements (HUD SC) of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization(AU STC No. 8) and the technical lead of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The mandate to develop this harmonized framework was provided by the Second Ordinary Session of the AU STC No.8 in 2016 where Ministers and representatives called “upon the AUC (DPA-STC8 Secretariat) to lead in partnership with its partners, the development of a coherent framework for the follow-up of EX.CL/Dec.933 (XXIX) regarding the Common African Position towards Habitat III”.
4. The harmonized regional framework consists of two elements. Guided by Agenda 2063 and the Common African Position towards Habitat III, the first part outlines 6 transformative policy outcomes to be prioritized for the next 20 years in the implementation of the NUA in Africa, enjoined with 7 systemic priorities for enhancing effective implementation. For each priority area, a set of strategic interventions is outlined derived wholly from positions already agreed upon by African Member States in key global and regional development agendas. Building on this, the second part of the framework presents a monitoring and reporting mechanism for the NUA including targets and indicators building on inter-linkages and synergies across key development agendas.

5. The first draft of the Harmonized Regional Implementation Framework was reviewed by national experts from Housing and Urban Development ministries and stakeholders from African institutions at a meeting held in November 2017, Cape Town, South Africa. The national experts adopted the framework and its two components. The experts also requested for a revised draft to be re-submitted to experts for further review and finalize before it is tabled to Third Ordinary Session of the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, local government, urban development and decentralization (STC No.8) for consideration and approval.

6. In addition, during the 7th session of the World Urban Forum, February 2018, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a side event titled, “Implementing the New Urban Agenda in Africa: Policy and Implementation Priorities” was organized. It served as a platform for further engagement between African representatives regarding the harmonized regional implementation framework while engaging a wider global audience and identifying opportunities and partnerships to support its operationalization.

7. Based on the outcomes of the expert group meeting held in Cape Town, November 2017, the revised framework was reviewed and validated by national experts and ministers in Entebbe in November 2018.

8. Against this background the framework is shared with the local government constituency given that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda will be done at the sub-national levels.

Objectives
1. Provide a platform for sharing of experiences and identifying partnership opportunities for implementing the New Urban Agenda at regional, sub-national and local levels

2. Suggest on the modalities and opportunities for use of the Harmonized Regional Implementation by local governments

**Expected outputs**

The main outputs from the meeting are as follows:

(i) Africities Session report on the Harmonized Regional Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting Framework for the New Urban Agenda in Africa

**Participation**

The meeting will bring together participants from local government, private sector, civil society, international development partners, national governments and academia.

**Questions and issues for discussion**

1. What opportunities are available for aligning subnational plans with national plans in your country.
2. Suggest how coordinated action between local government and national governments can be strengthened.
3. Suggest mechanisms that the local government can deploy to strengthen collection of data, monitoring and reporting.