The transition to sustainable cities and territories
The role of African local and subnational governments

Summary of sessions and recommendations

The general theme for the Summit is "*The transition to sustainable cities and territories, the role of African local and regional authorities*". This theme reconciles the need to provide concrete responses to the demands of the populations for the improvement of their conditions and living environment, with the need to adapt to an environment marked by climate change and the growing divorce between expansive growth models and the impossibility of continuing to borrow from natural resources at the rate that such models do impose, under threat of jeopardizing the lives of future generations. Africa will become the world's largest home to humans in just less than two generations. The continent can and must take the path of sustainable development now, especially in its cities and territories, because it is the region of the world that is the least entrenched in the globalized economy, and therefore most likely to branch off to a more sober economy in terms of borrowing and discharges into the natural environment, an economy that is fairer and more socially inclusive.

The African Union's Agenda 2063, which develops a vision of Africa, suggests that the transition to sustainable cities and territories is not an option but a compelling obligation, if Africa wants to be able to effectively achieve the universal Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and the structural transformation of its economy and societies. It is in this way that cities and territories will contribute to integration, unity and peace within the African continent.

By bringing together 3, 000 representatives from cities and territories out of a total of 16,500 local and subnational governments in Africa, the Africities Summit 2018 in Marrakesh asserts itself as the most important democratic gathering in Africa.

The general theme of the Summit was addressed through 161 sessions and events distributed in political sessions   ; thematic sessions on transition   ; sessions on local strategies and policies   ; sessions on actors and local coalitions   ; open sessions proposed by local governments, institutions, associations, economic actors ; and special events. Each session has contributed to a more in-depth treatment of the overall theme and offered recommendations.

The summary of the sessions and recommendations is organized through eleven themes:
1.   **the demographic transition ;**
2.   **women's rights ;**
3.   **youth ;**
4.   **migration ;**
5.   **the ecological and climate transition ;**
6.   **the political and democratic transition ;**
7.   **the economic and social transition ;**
8.   **the cultural and communicational transition ;**
9.   **the strategies and local policies ;**
10.   **the actors and local coalitions ;**
11.   **innovative practices.**

All session reports and recommendations are posted on the Africities 8 website as they are transmitted by the operators.

1. Demographic transition

In the transition to sustainable cities and territories, the issue of demographic transition is one of the major challenges. It translates into Africa's increasing share of the world's population, the rapid urbanization of the continent, through generational changes and through a decisive shift in the place of women in the political and social arena. These are at the same time undeniable facts and fundamental changes within Africa and within the world.

Africa had 1.2 billion inhabitants in 2015 (16 per cent of the world population) and 640 million inhabitants in 1990. Mainly rural until today, its population will become predominantly urban 30 years from now. The continent now has 80 cities of more than 1 million inhabitants, compared with only two in the early 1960s, and five cities exceed 8 millions. Urbanization is not limited to large cities, as 70% of Africa's urban population lives in intermediate cities and small towns. The first challenge of the demographic transition for cities and territories in transition is therefore that of hosting, within the next twenty or thirty years, 300 million new urban inhabitants. It will be necessary to build as much infrastructure as has been built until today. But Africa's urbanization is also a paradigm shift that offers to cities and territories unprecedented opportunities to harness the potential of the urban economies allowing for economies of scale and the pooling of services.

The Africities 2018 sessions have made it possible to take stock of this demographic fact and of its effects that engage the continent in an urban, societal, economic and political transition, and to discuss the issues that arise for local authorities. **African local governments will have to operate large cities and even cities having more than one million inhabitants**. The need to organize these cities is a condition for their proper functioning. Many community leaders will have to change the way they administer and relate to their constituents. They must prepare themselves and adapt their practice, which very often already integrates the urban reality. The urbanization of Africa is already at work. Learning from this urban management is an effective preparation for the changes envisioned.

For the cities and territories in transition, the first challenges are those of **the reform of urban and territorial planning as a response to urbanization,** a task of primary importance and a very urgent one, as well as the challenges related to **upheavals that will result from the demographic transition**, with the impossibility today of considering cities and rural spaces as two distinct territories, hence the need to invent a common land management.

For cities and territories where the substandard housing accentuates the exclusions and the segregations, the **emergence of organizations of city-dwellers in general and of urban poor in particular is also the occasion to adopt new technical approaches**, since these organizations are able to collect data that usually are absent in urban studies, **and especially political approaches** with the **development of planning based on the confrontation of the stakeholders in the definition of the city to be produced.**

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following recommendations are selected:

To mayors and territorial elected officials:

- Accept the change in the scale of their role, that of administering large or even very large cities while until that time their cities were relatively small. They will also have to represent many more people and to preserve the direct contact between the municipalities and the city dwellers and the local democracy.

- To insure the functioning of their city by relying on an organization of their territory describing the prospects of development and equipment of the parts of this territory, after having discussed it with the populations.

- To develop new tools to be used in urban management, that are likely to be shaped by the municipal services.

- Take a position on the integration of informal land use areas to be developed or redeveloped.

- - To empower people to manage their neighborhoods according to the principles of sustainable cities and enter into public agreements with communities in the greater democratic transparency.

To Ministers:

- Ensure that the rural exodus is limited, that the countryside is valued and that the birth rate is regulated in order to maintain a certain intergenerational balance,

- To make a political as well as a legislative position concerning the incorporation of customary or popular land practices into the common law area of the city.

To Partners and International Institutions:

- To financially support African local authorities in the urban transition generated by the demographic transition,

- Carefully monitor the experiments, support the municipal services, ensure the financing of the communal facilities considered as priorities,

- Establish broad inter-municipal cooperation throughout the world and first of all inter-African municipal cooperation.

- Play the game of local subnational governments in their experimentation work.

2. Women's rights

The emergence of women into the African political scene is causing a major upheaval in the debate on the development of the continent. It is a central issue for the transition to sustainable cities and territories. The involvement of women is crucial for the implementation of public policies and strategies at the territorial, national, regional, continental and global levels.

Since the Africities 5 summit held in Marrakech in December 2009, great progress has been made in the inclusion of women in African local governments. In March 2011, the Network of Local Women Elected in Africa (REFELA) was created, which now stands as the legitimate voice of territorially elected women of the African continent and which translates the action of the continental network in each country. The Network has renewed its governing bodies on the occasion of the Africities 8 summit. This recognition is the result of years of struggle, of mobilization and of demands made by women's associations, including within the local and subnational governments movement.

These issues of women's rights and of their place in the political and social field have been present through the entire Africities 8 summit and in all the themes of the transition to sustainable cities and territories. These issues were discussed in sessions on the demographic transition in Africa and its implications for urban planning, cultural and communication transition, women's leadership at the grassroots level, migration, ecological transition, access to basic services, political and democratic transition, inclusive cities, human capital, and other issues.

For cities and territories in transition, the first issue is **equal rights and an inclusive city** that ensures that no one, especially women and girls, is left behind. This issue is particularly evident in the question of **safe and secure living spaces in the public space and the fight against violence against women and girls**. It is also about the **reception of refugee women in African cities**, while Africa shelters more refugees than any other region of the world. **Women's economic empowerment, better recognition of their work and creativity** are also challenges for sustainable and inclusive development.

To answer these questions, the REFELA network initiated three continental campaigns at the Africities 8 summit: a **campaign for "zero-tolerance cities for violence against women", a campaign for "African Cities for Economic Empowerment of Women" and a campaign for "African Cities without Street Children", whose official launch was presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Meryem.**

For cities and territories in transition, the issue is also the role of women in the governance of local communities, with the demand that they be **better represented in the central government structures and those of local governments.** There is also the need **to articulate representative democracy and innovative participatory democracy, so that women and their organizations participate in the definition and implementation of all local development policies.**

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following recommendations are selected:

To mayors and territorial elected officials:

- Collect localized data so as to know the needs of women and girls for inclusion in planning and decision making in cities and territorial management and development

- Creation of a global network of locally elected women for enhanced co-operation among African countries, and among women to enable them to be strong in order to ensure transformation at the local level

- Design and implement an African cities and territories green campaign on sustainable solutions so as to guarantee a sustainable future for women and girls

- To ensure equality at all levels of local governance in conformity to the commitments made by signatory countries on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform of Action

- Guarantee gender integration in city planning and budgeting processes so as to identify existing gender inequalities in cities and territories

To Ministers:

- Facilitate capacity development of human resource in cities and territories for effective service delivery to all citizens including women and girls

- Promote good governance in order to have direct universal suffrage of locally elected officials including women

- Establish legal frameworks that promote gender sensitive and participatory local governance through gender mainstreaming in local planning and budgeting processes

- Have participatory monitoring tools to measure how gender perspective is integrated in city and territorial development programmes

To Partners and International Institutions:

- To mobilise technical and financial resources for gender mainstreaming

- Facilitate the design and implementation of sustainable development programmes that promote locally women's participation in the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 11

3. Youth

In the transition to sustainable cities and territories, the issue of youth, as one of the main components of the demographic transition, is a central issue. The African population is indeed the youngest in the world. In 2050, one-third of the world's youth will live in Africa, which will have 1 billion young people under 18 and 450 million people aged 15-24, compared with 230 million in 2015. This is a huge challenge for the continent, but also for local governments and the territories, a responsibility and an opportunity.

The first challenge, of course, is employment, with 10 to 12 million young people entering the labor market each year and 60 per cent of the continent's unemployed who are now young people. This youth population growth can be a strength, with a considerable increase in the productive population. But it is also a major risk if communities and territories are not able to offer a decent job to young people. The "Decade of Youth" proclaimed by the African Union in 2009, expires in 2018 without significant progress being observed on this front of employment. It is not surprising that many young people lose hope for their future and seek better living conditions through migration, in and out of the continent, sometimes risking their lives.

The Africities 2018 sessions recalled that micro- and small enterprises, and the informal economy in general, play a central role in these job creations and in the employability of young people. However, they face multiple constraints, including the lack of resources and the difficulty in accessing funding. However, through youth, Africa is making rapid progress in the field of new technologies and is becoming a land of innovation in the field of applications of mobile technologies. **The adoption by communities and territories of a transition path towards more sustainable development offers prospects for the development of these new technologies, which can represent an important source of new jobs for young Africans.**

Capitalizing on the demographic dividend naturally requires investing heavily in youth, education and vocational training to ensure universal and inclusive access to quality education for all children, especially girls. **The issues of gender equality and of girls' rights, and of safe and secure living spaces for young people and girls, are challenges for African communities and territories in transition and for youth themselves.**

For cities and territories, the challenges and opportunities for youth growth are also cultural (with the emergence of an urban popular culture of which young people are the initiators and the bearers) and democratic. Youth growth requires indeed a new approach to the governance of territories that should give more space to young people and to their initiatives, while the presence of this segment of the population is now very weak in the local governance and administration structures. **The challenge is naturally to include young people in traditional structures of governance, but also to articulate representative democracy and innovative** participatory democracy, for example through youth councils, so that young people and their organizations have a voice on the issues of local development, education or employment. Young people must be recognized as key players in change and transition.

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following has been selected:

[before recommendations of the Youth Forum]

To Mayors And Territorial Elected Officials:

- Recognize youth as key actors of change and transition, and include them in decision-making processes.

- Bring institutional authorities closer to young people and their organizations, to ensure that young people, especially young women, participate in shaping cities, from design to implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

- Encourage the establishment of Community Centers for young people and promote youth councils in all territories.

- Create a youth forum within UCLGA.

To Ministers:

- Invest in human capital through the setting up of skills training centers on the careers of the future for the benefit of young people.

- Promote employment opportunities by implementing innovation funds and support to entrepreneurship for young people.

- Create platforms and tools for young people to help them integrate within the labor market.

To Partners and International Institutions:

- Finance, alongside national Governments, scientific and cultural exchanges between Africa and other continents, and facilitate the international mobility of young people.

4. Migration

The question of migration dominates the international agenda today. It has become clearly a fundamental theme of inter-African relations, a determinant of the internal political balance of most countries and of the evolution of the population of the planet. But migration is not just a phenomenon that is part of the relations between national governments, and African local authorities are at the forefront of these disruptions of migration patterns. Growing inequalities, climate change, and armed conflicts or political crises are leading to more and more displacement of people from rural areas to urban areas, from poor regions to rich regions, from the interior of the continent to urban areas to coastal areas, feeding an uninterrupted flow of migration within countries, between African countries, or to other regions of the world.

Nearly one worker out of four is a migrant and lives in conditions of profound vulnerability: exclusion, discrimination, extreme exploitation, etc. Migrations connect demographic movements related to urbanization and globalization.

The issue of migration has been present in the Africities 8 debates on the transition to sustainable cities and territories around four strategic questions: what is the relationship between the displacement of populations (suffered or intended), development and distribution of wealth between countries and between territories? How to enforce and guarantee the fundamental rights of migrants, of migrant workers, and of their families? While inter-African migration has largely contributed to the prosperity of many African countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon or South Africa, how can we today deal with political excesses based on the exacerbation of identity, the rejection of "aliens", and xenophobia? How to make migration an asset for local and subnational governments? The Africities 8 summit also discussed the position of African local and subnational governments in the debates that will take place around the adoption of a Global Compact on Migration at the United Nations Conference on Migration to be held in December 2018 in Marrakech. The Charter on Migrants that mayors and leaders of local and regional governments in Africa adopted at the Africities Summit 7 held in Johannesburg in December 2015, will be updated and completed at the end of the Africities Summit 2018.

Cities and territories in transition need to address the three migrant populations: those who leave the territorial community, those who settle there temporarily, during their migratory journey, and those who settle there for good. Fundamental rights must be at the basis of all migration policies, ensuring the complementarity between the right of all to live and work in one's territory and the right to move and settle freely. The migratory issue is therefore primarily that of reception of migrants and of inclusive cities - including for the migrants, both male and female. It will be proposed to the assembly of mayors of Africities the establishment of an "African Network of Local Authorities, signatories of the Charter on Migrants, open to the reception of migrants."

For the cities and territories in transition, the migration issue also includes **the necessary mobilization of migrants and** of **the African Diaspora for the sustainable development of local and subnational governments.** With a Diaspora of nearly 350 million members worldwide, this potential is huge. It naturally concerns remittances, which now exceed the amount of official development assistance (ODA) and productive investment, but also the potential for innovation, transfer of skills and technology for a successful transition.

Finally, because they are directly confronted with issues of migration, **cities and territories in transition and their elected officials are expected to play a role in international negotiations between African States and the international community on migration.**

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following has been selected:

To Mayors and Territorial Elected Officials

- Condemn discrimination and the use of dehumanizing language in relation to migrants and refugees.
- Identify city and municipal engagement in the context of comprehensive refugee and migrant responses by expanding access to work permits, housing, healthcare, and financial services for them within their jurisdiction.
- Promote cultural diversity during the African Day on 25 May and the International Migrants Day on 18 December.
- Exchange views with the other mayors of the continent and abroad on best practices on migration.
- Adopt the African Local Governments' Charter on Migrants adopted in Johannesburg.
- Include the Diaspora in the definition and implementation of local policies and strategies.

To Ministers:

- Recognize the important role of local authorities and city networks have in protecting and assisting refugees and other displaced populations in urban areas.
- Collaborate with city leaders in developing and implementing refugee and migration-related policy.
- Allocate refugee and migration related resources and powers at local level.
- Promote the freedom of movement.
- Support the proposal discussed in the Africa Union on free movement.

To Partners and International Institutions

- -Support and funding for migration programs within local governments.
- Recognize the role of Local authorities on implementing.

To UCLG Africa:

- Support local government in the implementation of the Local Government Charter on migration.
- Help local government to develop local policies related to migration.
- Engage the advocacy campaign on "*No visa for (in) Africa*".

To all

- Involve migrants, Diaspora and their organizations in all spaces of discussion, exchange and action of local authorities on migration and development issues.

5. Ecological transition and climate change

The ecological transition has imposed in the debate in the debate on the transition to sustainable cities and territories with the realization that, for the first time in the history of Humanity, the organization of the system of production and dominant consumption has come into conflict with the global ecosystem. This awareness has the effect of calling into question more and more certainties about growth, productivism, extractivism, and the dominant development model.

The debate on ecological transition and climate change has recently intensified. It focuses as much on the need for industrialization as on the nature and forms of this industrialization. This debate will have profound consequences on public policies as well as on the behavior of citizens with regard to modes of production and consumption. The choices that will be made in this area will have a major impact on the organization and functioning of cities and territories, including Africa.

UCLGA, in collaboration with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), has been at the forefront of working with African local governments to realize the global commitment to limit the rise in global warming to a maximum 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2100. At COP22, held in Marrakech in 2016, UCLGA urged leaders of African cities to join the *Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy*, where they are committed to adopting "climate plans" for their territories.

These issues occupied a place of choice in the Africities 2018 Summit. The discussions focused on the different strategies for promoting ecological transition and the fight against climate change, as well as its consequences and the different implications of ecological transition for cities and territories: sustainable food and agriculture, access to water and energy production, waste management, mobility and transport, natural resource management, health and population, climate finance, planning of cities and the use of soils, commercial systems and their more or less inclusive nature, the management of urban green spaces, and other issues.
Concerning these different subjects, the choices made by African cities and territories will be of crucial importance for the future of Africa and of the world.

Cities and territories in transition have no choice but to take the path of ecological transition. This trajectory is all the more necessary as Africa needs to learn from the experiences of industrialized and emerging countries in terms of unsustainable growth in ecological and social terms.

For cities and territories, the need to **incorporate their actions into ecological transition strategies implies a re-examination of the priorities of local development policies and their redefinition in the light of the principles and practices of climate change mitigation.**

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following has been selected:

To Mayors And Territorial Elected Officials:

- Promoting efficient waste management (solid and liquid) and better environmental health for inhabitants through integration of natural environmental and climate issues into the planning of cities, towns and villages.
- Protecting the biodiversity surrounding cities in order to avoid damage and irreversible collapse of natural systems.
- Ensuring efficient, safe and sustainable transport less polluting in African territories:Building consensus among stakeholders on the needs of the transport sector to achieve the goals of Paris Climate Change Agreement
- Promoting environmental health in African metropolises through pollution control, developing pollution observation systems and applying a regulatory regime to manage pollution or air quality.
- Promote soil preservation, sustainable agriculture and food security
- Setting up early warning system to respond to climate change issues.
- Improving the dissemination of climate finance information available to non-state actors Improve the partnership framework between state actors and non-state actors (legal, financial, etc.) recommending urgent action by all

To Ministers:

- Promoting better access for local governments in Africa to renewable energy and climate issues through raising awareness, and giving the territories the pivotal role of strategic planning, implementation, monitoring thinking on climate issues, as a place for collective awareness, mobilization and creative action
- Adoption of Policy on Carbon Pricing and air pollution.
- Establishing financing mechanisms for the ecological transition in Africa.
- Preserving forest and biodiversity in the face of urban sprawl in Africa.
- Adopt national regulations on waste management.

To Partners and International Institutions:

- Promoting South / South cooperation in the management of ecological transition and climate change issues through exchanges of experts and good practices.
- Capacity building for city agents in the fields of transport, waste management, climate change.
- Improving the dissemination of climate finance information available to non-state actors Improve the partnership framework between state actors and non-state actors (legal, financial, etc.) recommending urgent action by all
- Mapping areas at risk of flooding

6. Political and democratic transition

In the transition to sustainable cities and territories, the democratic and political transition is at the crossroads of all transitions. It is part of a context of weakening central governments, increasing conflicts of cultural, political and military domination, and a form of exhaustion of representative democracy. Promoting political unity and sovereignty in the context of the construction of the nation-state, while respecting the diversity of local contexts, also questions the forms and levels of regulation and representation. Demands are being expressed in an increasingly pressing manner for the establishment of political systems that guarantee individual and collective freedoms and respect for fundamental rights, while respecting the diversity of societies. On the other hand, the hope that local and regional governments will contribute to the renewal of African political elites does not come true.

For local and regional authorities in Africa, the democratic challenge is considerable: elected officials and local representation systems are not immune from the mistrust and rejection that is spreading towards politicians. This mistrust is based on the rejection of corruption and on the inadequacy of representativiteness to finally challenge the system of representative democracy as a whole.

The Africities 2018 sessions have therefore analyzed the causes of this democratic crisis and representativeness. They have been interested in the many innovative experiences that try to respond to the crisis by paying greater attention to the expectations, needs and equal rights of the population and through greater participation of citizens, young people and women in decision-making and in the implementation of local policies.

For the cities and territories in transition, the first challenge of the political and democratic transition is therefore that of the **mobilization and engagement of citizens in local life, through a new articulation between representative democracy and innovative participatory democracy**. The aim here is to promote dialogue and the involvement of citizens and local actors (residents' organizations, civil society, professional organizations, the media, traditional authorities, etc.) in the management of public affairs, but also to set up mechanisms for monitoring and controlling the actions of elected officials and of the administration. The example of the participatory budget, adopted by many African communities, is a promising innovation in this field.

For cities and territories, the challenges related to political and democratic transitions are also those of **the place of young people and women in local governance and the nexus between renewal of institutions and renewal of elites.**

For cities and territories, the political and democratic transition also implies promoting **systems that condemn corruption in all its forms and restore ethics and individual and collective effort** as a means of access to social respectability. Finally, it is a matter of institutional strengthening, human resources and efficiency, with local governance that must be based on a responsible, committed, competent, ethical, professional and professional public administration.

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following have been selected:

To Mayors and elected territorial officials:

- To involve citizens and all stakeholders in decisions, to build public policies based on their concerns and expectations, and to recognize citizens' expertise to lead more effective policies.

- To work through listening, dialogue and co-construction, to build trust with citizens and local actors.

- To be transparent and focus on communicating policies and accepting the principle of accountability.

- To build innovative and inclusive participatory democratic processes for women, youth, poor people, and people with disabilities.

- Putting in place participatory budgeting.

To Ministers:

- To move from administrative decentralization to political and financial decentralization.

- Take into account the link intimate between security and development, for example with the cross-border planning schemes integrated in connection with local authorities, and technical and financial partners.

- To strengthen the principle of subsidiarity in the various national laws.

7. Economic and social transition

In the transition to sustainable cities and territories, the issue of economic and social transition is also paramount. In a world where the dominant regulation remains that of the financial markets, the consequences of the crisis of 2008 raise the question of the possible exhaustion of the dominant economic model. Social inequalities, which overdetermine the issues of poverty, precariousness, discrimination and underlie urban segregation, are exploding in every society and around the world. The sequence of falling prices of raw materials, which puts some African economies in hardship, recalls that these economies often remain rentier-based (profit-based) and not diversified. At the same time, African entrepreneurs are showing great dynamism and the rise of the digital and biotechnology economy is disrupting the productive systems and the distribution of goods and services.

The very rapid urban transition in Africa is the first challenge of this economic and social transition. Africa is the least urbanized continent but also the one that is urbanizing the fastest. This is a challenge and a decisive opportunity as empirical studies show that urban expansion has the potential to promote growth and reduce poverty. At the same time, rising social demands for access to jobs and incomes are leading communities to look at how to promote and strengthen the economic fabric of their territory, labor markets, and job opportunities for young people. In this transition from rural economic structures to urban economies, local and regional authorities in Africa are destined to become key players in the economic and social transition.

The 2018 Africities sessions questioned, through the sharing of experiences and knowledge, how African local and subnational governments can engage in the ongoing transitions to create investment opportunities, productive and productive jobs, as well as sustainable and inclusive development. The participants in the sessions questioned the vulnerability of the natural, social and economic systems of their territory to climate change.

For cities and territories in transition, the **question of the financial resources needed to fulfill their responsibilities remains a concern with regard to the needs of local populations and with regard to the responsibilities of local governments in terms of local development**. This question comes in terms of the direct transfer of resources from the central government, of specific mechanisms and institutions for community financing, and of mobilization of local resources.

For cities and territories, the challenges of economic and social transition are also related to the financialization of the city and to the need to **regulate land and property markets for a better allocation of financial resources for sustainable development**, with taxation measures to increase the efficiency of urban production which is more intense, less expensive and more inclusive.

Lastly, the challenges of **training and support to local economic players from the financial, banking and institutional standpoints, the provision of basic services and infrastructures necessary for the competitiveness of economic activities, the development of the social and solidarity-based economy, and the promotion of an enabling institutional environment.**

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following have been selected:

To Mayors and Territorial Elected Officials

- Make of programming and urban planning a tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of SDGs.

- Conduct innovative taxation and financial policies to support more intense, less expensive, and more inclusive urban programming strategies.

- Create an environment conducive to investment and innovation, and facilitate investments in innovative technologies.

- Supervise and encourage the establishment of local activities and modernization of the informal market, redistribution of taxation and income. This transition of the economic model is a strategic one.

- Ensure the participation of young people through skills training programs and access to employment.

- Establish in each municipality a civic organization intended to support, guide and listen to citizens.

- Establish municipal foundations to mobilize available land revenues and excess economic revenues to support the employment of marginalized workers and to address rising agricultural prices.

To Ministers

- Transfer of financial resources in line with the skills and capacity of the institutions specialized financing to allow local communities to meet the needs of populations within their territory and their role as initiators, catalysts and engines of local economic development;

- Ensure that clear legal frameworks allow the communities and territories to provide leadership on issues of local economic development

- Strengthen the capacity and skills of local management of resources, preparation of projects, and actors of local development.

To International institutions and Partners

- Include local and regional Governments as well as their associations in international fora and dialogue for a on economic development.

- Promote spaces of triangular cooperation and South-South cooperation to promote best practices and the sharing of experiences, in the respect of the local dynamics and realities.

8. Cultural and communicational transition

The cultural and communicational transition is, like the political and democratic transition, at the crossroads of transitions. It implies the adoption of new cultural, scientific or philosophical references and often consists in a questioning of the certainties from which the interpretation of the world is based. The evolution of the philosophical, social, moral and religious systems of thoughts does influence the individual and collective behaviors within local and subnational governments. At the same time, cities are turned upside down by the scientific and technological revolutions. These disruptions will have an effect on the choice of technical solutions which, from previously being largely centralized, could become increasingly decentralized.

In Africa, the adoption of the globalized culture model is mainly done the upper classes and middle classes of urban populations. Young people from poor neighborhoods, for whom this model remains inaccessible, are reinventing a new popular culture at the crossroads of tradition and modernism, which testifies to the innovative and creative capacity of this youth. This new popular culture forges the cultural identity of African cities through its musical, literary, visual and cinematographic arts or fashion, the dissemination of which is also based on new technologies. This cultural vibrancy comes from the capacity of the youth to absorb and regenerate the various influences to which it is subject since the colonial period and is also due to the acceleration of exchanges on the international scene. This cultural and communicational transition is also, through the use of new technologies and social networks, a citizens' revolution.

The Africities 2018 sessions tackled this cultural and communicational transition through its challenges for the governance and management of cities and territories in transition. How can this transition support a new approach to citizenship and youth engagement? What contribution do cultural resources make to social, economic and environmental development? How, in Africa, can this cultural, technological and communication revolution serve the management of local and subnational governments and the transition to sustainable cities and territories? How to make of culture and arts tools of exchange, learning, cooperation and solidarity between territories, between countries, and between continents?

Culture contributes to the attractiveness and sustainability of cities and territories in transition. Local governments, because of their cultural expertise, have **an important role to play in promoting this Africa of creation**, in its richness and diversity and in its truly pan-African dimension.

For cities and territories in transition, the issue of **access to localized socio-economic information is a challenge aiming at effectively guiding access policies to basic services**, to transport, housing, and other services. In these areas, new technologies are likely to offer innovative solutions to local decision-makers to make local governments more inclusive.

For cities and territories, the issues related to the cultural and communication transition are also those of the **mobilization of actors. Researchers and Universities can, in partnership with local communities, put scientific research, innovations and experiments at the service of territories and transition. Journalists and local media can contribute, for their part, to the emergence of new democratic and citizen practices**.

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following have been selected:

To Mayors and Territorial Elected Officials:

- Create an internal program devoted to "culture within sustainable development".

- Work with national authorities, UCLG and other stakeholders to develop appropriate work frameworks on the topic of "culture in sustainable cities."

To Ministers:

- Make of the cultural dimension of local development a national priority and integrate it in national strategies for the implementation of the SDGS by involving all the key players in its design and implementation.

- The interaction between cultural development and the other dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic), by putting in place appropriate governance mechanisms within local governments and the necessary resources (transfer of funds, human resources and technical capabilities) in the cultural domain of sustainable development.

- Sign the Agenda 21 for culture.

- Capacity building and learning between peers in the field of culture and sustainable development.

To the African Union:

- Create a pan-African commission in charge of a to better integration of culture into Agenda 2063, particularly in its plan of action, and ensure that the proposed revisions will be presented to the African Union for ratification.

- Encourage the transfer of knowledge and mutual learning between Member States, local authorities and civil society organizations working in the field of culture and sustainable development in Africa.

To UCLGA:

- Work with associations of local governments, civil society networks and UCLG to put in place a peer learning program on 'culture in sustainable cities' in Africa and facilitate the transfer of knowledge and mutual learning between local governments and civil society associations.

- Pay attention to cultural aspects in all of advocacy, monitoring and training activities related to the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063, and other sustainable development initiatives.

9. Local strategies and policies

African local and regional authorities will play a vital role in the transition to sustainable cities and territories. The definition and implementation of local strategies and policies is the primary issue facing African local authorities in their participation in Africities. These strategies and local policies must be defined by taking into account the upheavals induced by the transition to sustainable cities and territories. At their level, local authorities must articulate responses to the emergency and long-term actions, included in an alternative project of social and urban transformation. The challenge for African communities is therefore to design policies that incorporate emergency responses into an alternative strategy for managing and planning human resources, financial resources, natural and ecological resources, land management, public utilities, and other issues. To arrive at a sustainable development trajectory, their approach must integrate the exploration of innovative practices.

All sessions of Africities 8 have, in one way or another, addressed the issue of strategies and local policies. A number of them have worked more directly on alternative and innovative territorial policies that must be explored around the five major projects that must be tackled by local and subnational governments: **1) Feeding the city (or the territories):** what local strategies for sustainable food and agriculture? **2) Building the city:** what urban planning and programming strategies for transition at the local level, what strategies for localization and territorialization of the Sustainable Development Goals? **3) Providing basic services for all:** what local strategies for access to water and sanitation, what strategies for access to waste management services, what strategies for access to water and sanitation? mobility and transport? **4) Maintaining the city, to ensure its proper functioning. 5) Administering and managing the city:** what land management strategies and public spaces to promote equitable economic growth in cities, what strategies for mobilizing citizens to implement the transition, what strategies for gender equality and of inclusion?

These alternative territorial policies must provide answers to the strategic questions of land segregation, access for all to services, development and local employment, respect for local ecosystems and for the rights of future generations, of social housing, the right to housing and the right to the city, solidarity between communities within the same city, between cities and territories within the same country, local taxation, particularly land, and other issues.

Throughout the summit, **African local governments reaffirmed the importance of urban and territorial planning.**

For cities and territories in transition, the success of transition strategies requires **a multi-stakeholder and multi-level governance approach, respecting the principle of active subsidiarity**. In order for these policies to have a lasting impact, local authorities must promote **partnership between all actors.** Above all, **the strategy adopted must provide concrete solutions to citizens' problems while creating the conditions for setting up a long-term development momentum.** To do this, the best way is still to involve the populations concerned.

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following recommendations are selected:

To the Mayors and territorial elected representatives

- Taking stock of urban food security and agriculture policies, legal frameworks and programmes that cities and developing decision-making and planning tools (guidelines, criteria and indicators) for policy makers dealing with urban development in relation to agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, land use planning and forestry, as well as urban food system planning and development; and Sign the ROPPA statement.
- Systematically formulate urbanization policy from a sustainable development perspective and adopt a development based on facts supported by maintaining an up-to-date database, archives/registries and maps covering themes to provide a basis for the preparation and updating of space strategies and programs.
- Providing basic services, share innovative practices and strategies tried in cities and territories for community-based governance, better inclusion, citizen participation and citizen engagement in the governance of cities and territories.
- Establishing a culture of maintenance to ensure that sufficient funds are made available to support O&M and acknowledging that the private sector has the necessary expertise and resources available to support them in performing their O&M obligations.
- Signing of the pact between the REFELA (network of African Local elected women) and CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and regions) to establish a privileged partnership for gender equality at local level.

To ministers

- Setting up multi-stakeholder platforms (international organizations, national and regional representatives and related sectoral expertise) for dialogue, action planning and policy formulation on good governance on food, agriculture and cities.
- Articulating a sustainable spatial development vision at a national level. Sustainable sub-national development demands national government leadership and recognize the specific differences and needs of territories and cities.
- Strengthening the awareness of the need and importance of strategic planning and programming as a tool for achieving sustainable development goals on a local, regional, national, continental and global scale.
- Defining national regulations on the provision of basic services (waste management, access to water for all etc.). Harmonizing these regulatory frameworks at the regional and local levels and adapting new technologies in the field of the provision of basic services.
- Encouraging local planning, programming and capacity-building of local authorities by establishing a system of learning and capacity-strengthening at the level of local governments, national, all in close collaboration with professional associations.

To development partners

- Tackling the challenges of sustainable urban development using coalitions between government, the private sector and civil society, and involving stakeholders in the development and implementation process and organizing funding for sustainable urban development in a different way.
- Ensuring public awareness of these issues as citizens' collaboration on the provision of basic services is critical, combine the various solutions implemented at different scales: both nationally and locally and Involving the private sector through public private partnerships.

10. Local actors and local coalitions

There is no real transformation unless it is supported by local actors. The construction of local coalitions is therefore a key element of the communities' strategy. In the same way, there is a real experience of development only when such development is observed in the daily life of the populations, in the place where they live. The strategy to be defined for the adoption of a trajectory towards sustainable cities and territories must therefore never lose sight of the need to provide concrete solutions to improve the daily life of citizens, while at the same time preparing the conditions for the establishment of a momentum in terms of structural transformation and long-term sustainable development. The best way to provide these concrete answers while defining such a strategy is to involve the populations and the actors concerned, in their diversity. Any transition strategy must therefore adopt, in order to have some chance of success, a multi-stakeholder approach because it is through the partnership between all the actors and the synergy between the actions of the different levels of governance that local action has chances of having a lasting impact.

Local stakeholders, in their diversity, intervene in all areas of sustainable development and on the different issues of transition. The Africities 8 sessions explored the possibilities of alliances for local transformation between communities and each family of stakeholders.

For instance, farmers' organizations support proposals in the field of food security, urban-rural relations or the fight against peasant poverty; women's movements call for local governance that pays greater attention to equal rights and gender issues in all dimensions of local development; in the same way, for the transition to be inclusive, local governance must incorporate the disability dimension taken care of by NGOs'. In cities characterized by the informal sector and by inequalities, the basic communities of slums and the organizations of inhabitants are the essential actors of an inclusive urban development; young people are the bearers of innovations and their organizations aspire to be recognized as essential actors of change; trade unions and social partners can also contribute to making of decent employment and of the extension of social protection pillars of local sustainable development policies; while "social media" are disrupting the relationship with information, journalists and local media remain key players in local information and citizens' control over public action. For their part, the traditional authorities aspire to the experimentation of new types of relations and collaborations with the public administrations and the local authorities; if they are mobilized by local and subnational governments, researchers and universities can put scientific research, innovations and experiments at the service of territories and transition; Microfinance institutions are major players in financial inclusion for women, youth and small and medium-sized enterprises, which are the breeding ground for local economic development.

For the cities and territories in transition, **all these energies, all these networks, all these citizens' organizations can play a role, alongside the local and subnational governments. If relationships of trust are established with these different actors, real alliances can be built and give rise to "local coalitions" for the sustainable transition of cities and territories.**

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following recommendations are selected:

To Mayors and Territorial Elected Representatives:

- To establish, with local actors (civil society, professional and institutional actors, economic actors) "territorial alliances" in order to promote the exchange of practices, to develop joint actions, and to bring together proposals to governments as well as to development partners and institutions.

- Beyond the traditional spaces of participation, to multiply the sustainable institutional partnerships with local actors, in their diversities, in order to create real spaces for solving problems.

- To develop inclusive policies for urban housing, access to land, to employment, and to public spaces.

To Ministers:

- to build public policies to support decentralization and support actions for economic development and social cohesion, led by local and subnational governments and local actors.

- to defend trade regimes allowing urban and rural economies to fully express their development potential.

To Partners and International Institutions:

- to give priority to the development of territories and to the decentralization of co-operation activities, by catering both to the needs of urban and rural areas, such actions being conducted by local authorities and local actors.

- to promote international regulations favorable to a balance between international trade, national development, and territorial development.

- to provide resources, including political support, to promote dialogue between local actors and local authorities, and to ensure the involvement of these local actors in the implementation of projects.

11. Innovative practices

In the transition to sustainable cities and territories, the implementation of innovative practices and policies is a decisive leverage point. It is all the more important because the significant reductions in the financing of local authorities reduce the range of political choices. In this context, innovation is no longer a luxury but a necessity to respond to emergencies, which constitute the daily life of local authorities, while positioning local public action within long-term transition strategies. The interest of these practices is nonetheless not only economic. These practices arise from the transitions and disruptions in progress and contribute to the emergence of new solutions.

The "open sessions" of Africities 8 proposed by African local authorities, national, African and international institutions working with local and subnational governments, associations or economic actors are part of the general theme of the summit, the transition to cities and sustainable territories. They most often correspond to innovative interventions. They bring a wide variety of approaches, research and practice to understanding the transition and developing alternative public policies. From this point of view, the Marrakech summit is part of the continuity of previous Africities which, since their inception, have contributed to the debate, dissemination and adoption of these innovations.

Africities 8 has thus enabled African local elected officials to learn, debate and develop innovative strategies in fields as diverse as local strategies for mobilizing citizens, microcredit, participatory budgeting, management and protection, urban green spaces, Many of these innovative practices do not involve significant expenditures and can be implemented with ingenuity. The main challenges for local decision makers are then to identify opportunities, prioritize them and create an environment conducive to innovation.

For cities and territories in transition, **these innovative practices are likely to enrich all local strategies for sustainable development**, from human resource management to the mobilization of financial resources, such as the protection of natural resources, the management of land, public services or local governance. UCLGA will put in place a specific program to support, disseminate and evaluate these innovative practices.

Among the recommendations of the sessions, the following recommendations are selected:

To Mayors and Territorial Elected Representatives:

- Launch an "African Know Your City" (KYC) campaign to popularize and generalize the concept and practice of the program.
- Promote exchanges of views and experience between peers, between political leaders and between active city techniques, in order to improve their capacity for learning and implementation.
- Mobilize and engage citizens in supporting and implementing the transition by encouraging political and social dialogue, inclusion of citizens in planning and strengthening monitoring and evaluation of local participatory budget projects.

To Ministers

- Improve internal capacities in social, cultural and technological innovation oriented towards the transition and development of sustainable cities and territories, by consolidating the technical structures of local governments that accompany local political strategies for local economic and social development.
- Promote cultural, historical, organizational and community diversity by avoiding the blind importation of development models.
- Participate in international fora for exchange and cooperation on innovative best practices and disseminate these experiences to local community actors, civil society, the private sector, and knowledge actors (universities, research centers, etc.)
- Encourage innovative practices in the decentralization process and require clear skills in promoting local development in their territories.

To the actors of the civil society

- Involve civil society in the management of cities, with a view to strengthening a governance system capable of supporting the transition to sustainable cities and territories, and by raising awareness among citizens about the importance of participating in the process of designation of their leaders.
- Establish independent bodies for the organization of elections, (Community Based Organizations) to participate in public life.

To UCLGA

- Identify innovative policies and legal and institutional mechanisms that can assist local governments as well as local communities in the transition to sustainable cities and territories.
- Support local communities in the implementation of innovative policies.