

AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM Intermediate Cities May 5-6 t 2017, Odienné, Côte d'Ivoire



**Africa's contribution to the World Forum on Intermediaries Cities
to be held in April 2018 in Chefchaouen, Morocco**

PROCEEDINGS REPORT

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REPORT OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM

1 - Introduction

The year 2015 saw the subscription of a number of major commitments by the international community, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Urban Agenda, and the Climate Agenda.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are a result of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been defined by the international community with the aim to fight poverty. The implementation of the 17 new goals, including Goal number 11 dedicated to cities, has important financial implications. This is why the Addis Ababa Conference, held in July 2015, called for a broad coalition of public, local and private actors to mobilize to finance the achievement of these goals, building on a renewed commitment of industrialized countries, in particular the European Union, to spend 0.7% of their national income on official development assistance by 2030..

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change signed in December 2015 in Paris gives an important place to cities. Indeed, climate change is a lasting transformation of the urban environment and is likely to be the source of large-scale natural disasters in the decades to come, notably through their impact on sea-level rise and the intensity of the extreme climate phenomena. Cities also have a role to play in mitigating climate change, especially with urban planning that can both reduce the impact of cities on climate change (energy efficiency, transport, housing, density, waste, mobilization of ecosystems and vegetated areas, etc.) but also to make cities less vulnerable and to foster their resilience.

The New Urban Agenda, that was adopted by the UN 2016 conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) held in Quito, aims to make cities more inclusive, safer, more resilient, and more durable. Its aim was to review the progress made and revitalize urban development policies in line with the global program for sustainable development, the Addis Ababa Action Plan on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. The New Urban Agenda is an ambitious program aiming at making cities and human settlements more inclusive. This agenda contained in the 'Quito Declaration' is part of the Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030, adopted by 193 Member States of the UN in September 2015.

Though the voice of local governments, especially that of Intermediate Cities brought by the represented by the Chairman of the working group and by regional clusters, has been taken into account in the drafting of global agendas, the issue of the implementation and of the role of local and regional governments in general and of intermediate cities in particular, remains posed.

The role of intermediate cities in the implementation of global agendas is more than crucial. Indeed, contrary to popular belief, the largest cities in the world host only between 9 and 11% of the world's population, and their annual growth is only 1.5%, a rather slow pace. The current and upcoming trend indicates that the majority of migrants to cities come to settle in small cities with less than 500,000 inhabitants.

Forecasts indicate that they will grow at a faster rate than any other city category, as they will absorb half of urban growth in the coming decades. In Africa, the different statistics show that this phenomenon is going to be more important with almost 2 new urban out of three who will settle in the intermediate cities. If we add to this the strong natural population growth (more than 3%), the weight of intermediate cities will predominate in the total urban population.. One therefore understands why Intermediate Cities are at the heart of global agendas and sustainability strategies for the planet. Whether or not the objectives are met depends on their application in the intermediate cities. It is therefore more crucial than ever to strengthen the role of Intermediate Cities as the main instrument for implementing the global agendas for sustainable development..

It is within this perspective that UCLG's Intermediate Cities Commission decided to organize the World Forum on Intermediate Cities. Designed as an instrument for monitoring and evaluating the application of global agendas in Intermediate Cities, the Forum will be held in April 2018. In preparation for this World Forum, the Intermediate Cities Commission decided

to organize continental and regional fora so as to highlight the specificities, constraints, framework conditions and the elements that are favorable at the regional level in order to speed up the contribution of intermediate cities to the achievement of global agendas. It is within this framework that the African working group, under the leadership of the Mayor of Odienné, and with the support of UCLG Africa, organizes the Africa Regional Forum to review the progress of the agendas in intermediate cities.

It is also a way for Africa, which for a long time remained on the margins of global decisions, to assert itself and to claim its place in global agendas, national policies, and international implementation strategies.

2. Goals

- To show and evaluate the policies for the implementation of the global agendas for sustainability: New Urban Agenda, Climate Agenda, and SDGs in particular.
- To effectively contribute to the development of African Intermediate Cities through the implementation strategies of global policies and agendas and the promotion of human beings.



Welcoming participants

3. Specific goals

Specifically, the goal was:

- To present the general situation of Urbanization and Development of African Cities;
- to propose effective strategies for Human Development
- to present possible solutions and alternatives
- to define appropriate policies
- to present the main challenges
- and to develop different examples.

These contributions were made by local governments, experts, and members of civil society, as well as national and continental governments.

4. Expected results

The main expected results were:

- The general situation of the challenges and opportunities that characterize the implementation of the global agendas in the intermediate African cities was addressed in preparation for the World Forum.

- The approaches and outlines for Human being promotion in intermediate cities were defined;

5. Methodology

This one-and-a-half-day Forum brought together participants from about twenty African countries from different backgrounds: local governments, experts, members of civil society, as well as national and continental governments.

The Forum focused on the following themes:

1. The situation of Urbanization & Human Development of African Intermediate Cities;
2. Vertical Dialogue in Governance for Intermediate Cities;
3. the criteria to be used in assessing the implementation of global agendas; and
4. The role of African Intermediate Cities in the implementation of the global agenda.



Opening ceremony



Opening ceremony

5.1 - The situation of Urbanization & Human Development of African Intermediate Cities

Urbanization management is a particularly complex challenge, given its accelerated pace and magnitude, but particularly for African countries with a strategy deficit and a weak mobilization of public resources in favor of the induced huge investments.

This first session presented statistics about urbanization in Africa, particularly from the point of view of intermediate cities.

5.2- Vertical Dialogue in Governance for Intermediate Cities

Intermediate cities operate within an institutional framework that defines the room for maneuver offered by national governments, in particular for managing urbanization and providing basic public services to populations.

This second session was organized around the contents of the vertical dialogue to be developed between the national government on the one hand, and, on the other, the local authorities in general, and intermediate cities in particular.

5.3- Criteria to be set up for the evaluation of the implementation of global agendas

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and of the recommendations of the Habitat II and Habitat III conferences will be largely based in intermediate cities, hence the importance of defining a suitable framework for monitoring and evaluation tools, indicators of development conditions for the evaluation of the implementation of global agendas, the constraints faced, as well as the involvement of universities, of the private sector and of the NGOs sector.

5.4- Which place for African Intermediate Cities in the implementation of global agendas?

This concluding session took stock of all the major ideas emerging from the different sessions, in order to clarify them, to order them and to make a case for them before bringing them to the World Forum to be held in April 2018 in Chefchaouen, Morocco.

For each of the themes, an introductory presentation is made to set the framework for the issue, then the members of the round table are invited to react, and finally a debate with all the participants is started. At the end of the meetings, a series of recommendations was developed.

6. First session : The Situation of Urbanization & Human Development in African Intermediate Cities

Friday, May 05, 2017: 15 :00 – 16:30

President: **Mr. Mohamed SEFIANI**, Chairman of I-Cities,

Moderator: **Mr. Ousmane SY**, Lawyer, President of ARGA, Mali

Rapporteurs: **Mr. Augustin SINARÉ**, Expert, AMBF, Burkina Faso ;

Introduction: **Professor Henri MOTCHO**, University of Niamey, Niger

Roundtable: **Mr. Yaya DOUKOURÉ**, Director of Decentralized Cooperation at the General Directorates for Decentralization and Local Development, DGDDL, Côte d'Ivoire, **Prof. Kodjo Mawuena TCHINI**, African School of Architecture and Town Planning Professions; **Mr. Daby DIAGNE**, Special Adviser, UCLG Africa, **Mr. Eddie Zubah MURPHY**, Mayor of Kataka, Liberia ; **Mr. Soulé ALAGBE**, former mayor and former President of ANCB, Benin ;

Mr. Brahim BOUAKHADN, Mayor of Tiznit, Morocco.

In launching the proceedings of the session, the President of the Intermediate Cities Committee recalled the importance of intermediate cities in the global and global urban population, but also the importance of the dynamics of demography and urbanization in Africa and the fact that it is no longer the megacities that will host these new urban populations, but mainly the intermediate cities. These new populations must have housing, health centers, and schools, while respecting international commitments.

Mr. Ousmane SY, the moderator of the session, thanked the President and the panelists who were present and quickly introduced Professor Motcho's introductory presentation on the situation of urbanization and human development.

Starting his presentation, Professor Motcho first clarified the definition of intermediate cities as cities whose population ranges between 50,000 and 500,000 inhabitants. He then quoted the sources of the data used that come from the World Urbanization

Prospects Revision 2014, the State of African Cities 2014, the African Ministers Council on Water. Then the speaker took stock of the situation of intermediate cities in Central Africa, indicating that 50% of cities are intermediate cities in 2017, 49% in North Africa, 43% in East Africa, 42% in West Africa 42% and 40% in Southern Africa. In terms of urban population, intermediate cities account for 64% of the urban population in East Africa, 56% in West Africa, 55% in North Africa, 43% in Southern Africa, and 40 % in Eastern Africa. The presentation shows that this trend will continue according to all the projections in the different regions of Africa, the intermediate cities constituting the majority of the cities, in numerical terms, while covering a part of the urban population. However, it should be noted that the level of human development is low in terms of the access of the population, including the poorest, to different local basic public services.

This is due to the fact that, inter alia, intermediate cities are not given special attention, unlike what is the case for national and / or regional capital cities. In terms of access to water and sanitation for example, North Africa and Southern Africa are better off in terms of human development while West and Central Africa are lagging behind. In conclusion, intermediate cities face the challenges of increasingly growing youth to be trained and to be occupied with jobs; cities face significant environmental and governance constraints.



M. Ousmane Sy, session moderator

The interventions of the panelists as well as the interaction with the audience, brought out the following points. First of all, the participants agreed that intermediate cities occupy an important place in the urban framework of our countries, regardless of the region of Africa that is considered. While intermediate cities account for about 30 per cent of the population of the countries, they nevertheless receive very little attention from the public authorities, even though they are subject to the most important demographic pressures.

This situation is paradoxical because intermediate cities are relays which play a major role in the development of countries, in particular by ensuring the essential economic relays with the hinterland on the one hand, and on the other hand with regional and national metropolises. One of the challenges is to equip these cities with planning tools to anticipate their spatial development, strengthen the provision of basic public services, and improve urban management. Participants also noted, through a pooling of technical, human and financial resources, the opportunities offered by intercommunality for the provision of some basic social services.

The same is true of the calling of intermediate cities which must be asserted and accompanied by public policies. Public policies must particularly focus on the virtuous relationship to be established between intermediate cities and large metropolises and within the more general framework of an urban framework whose calling must be specified in relation to national development. Overall, for all participants, developed cities mean a developed country as a whole. Development strategies should not have barriers between the local and the central dimensions...

Regarding the constraints, the debates between panelists and participants highlighted the constraints that relate to the following issues. All participants agreed that intermediate cities including lack financial resources to realize transformational projects and cater to the increasingly important needs of the urban populations. The level of financial decentralization in most African countries is low, particularly with regard to intermediate cities. Large cities tend to receive the bulk of public spending at the expense of secondary centers that struggle to fit within public policies.



The urban strategy deficit in the overwhelming majority of African countries means that intermediate cities lack clear calling for the future (tourism, culture, economic calling) and therefore have difficulties to be involved in the development strategy at the national level.

Participants also pointed to the territorial inequalities in terms of development within the intermediate cities that threaten social cohesion and which are largely due to the chronic under-investment that these cities have been experiencing for decades. Participants also highlighted the blatant imbalance in public policies between the contribution of intermediate cities to the production of national wealth (GDP, mining and natural resources, etc.) on the one hand and their budgets on the other. While cities often represent two-thirds of the wealth production at the national level, they account for less than 5% of public budgets.

Furthermore, all participants agreed that the intermediate cities are lacking management patterns and tools: master development documents, and plans that must set the way to develop and urbanize cities and set the territorial boundaries). In some countries it is scourges such as war or mining activities that brutally modify the framework of intermediate cities, and lead to wild urbanization with as a consequence, the lack of basic social services. As a result, intermediate cities are facing problems of sustainable human development (lack of basic social services).. As a result, intermediate cities face problems of sustainable human development (lack of basic social services). It is therefore important to ensure that urban planners precede urbanization, which should make it possible to ensure that basic services are available, even though the problems of financial resources needed to offer the basic services are recurrent ones.

Finally, participants agree to the lack of public resources that guides the intermediate cities increasingly to private resources and multilateral institutions.

At the end of the session, participants outlined recommendations for a better consideration of intermediate cities.

1. Need to solve the problems of youth, environment, governance, urbanization, and provision of basic social services (drinking water, sanitation, electricity, housing, mobility);
2. Need to establish dialogue between the national government, civil society and local elected officials;
3. Need to review the cities' agenda in terms of powers by not limiting cities to household waste and civil status management;
4. Need to define new powers for cities (the role of cities in the face of emigration, rural exodus, bad civic behavior, and tax responsibility);
5. Need to revisit strategies on contracts between cities and the private sector and to decentralize public spending;
6. Need to take into account the relationship between intermediate cities and metropolitan cities. They are communicating vessels that must hold hands so that the right balance can be found for the well-being of the populations and enable them to participate in development;
7. Need to give a calling to cities in order to generate wealth and create jobs;
8. Need to promote decentralized South-South cooperation with intermediate cities to share experiences and practices;
9. Need to promote local economies through structuring investments;
10. and Need to strengthen the institutional capacities of intermediate cities for better management of urbanization.



View of participants

7. Second session : Vertical dialogue in Governance for Intermediate Cities

Friday, May 05, 2017 : 17:00 – 18:30

Chair: **Mr. Souhaliou SYLLA**, Mayor of the city of Tiassalé, UVICOCI, Côte d'Ivoire ;

Moderator. **Mr. Antoine SAWADOGO**, President ACE-RECIT, Burkina Faso

Rapporteurs. **Mr. François KOUAMÉ** , Mayor of Odienné ;

Introduction. **Mr. François Paul YATTA**, Programs Director, UCLG Africa

Round table. **Mr. Barro BAZOUMA**, Managing Director, Union of Cities and Communes of Côte d'Ivoire (UVICOCI) ; **Mr. Abdul Fatah ALLAM**, Mayor, Lebanon; **Ms. Randa Al SABBAGH**, UCLGA MEAWA; **Ms. Denise BELEMSAGHA**, Expert, Burkina Faso, **Mr. Ahmadou BAMBA**, Directorate General of Budget, Côte d'Ivoire, **Mr. Jean-Michel AMANKOU**, Vice-President, Africa MagNet, Côte d'Ivoire; and **Mr. Salah EL MALOUKI**, Mayor of Agadir, Morocco.

The introductory presentation was made by Mr. François Paul YATTA, Programs Director at UCLG Africa. The presentation focused on the vertical dialogue set up between the national government and the cities for better management of urbanization. The main points addressed here relate to the leeway granted to intermediate cities so that they are able to manage urbanization well.

Thus the four main dialogue items were discussed: the field of competence of local authorities ; the importance of urban strategies which makes it possible to provide both technical and financial tools to the management of urbanization ; the issue of strengthening the human and financial resources associated communities local ; and the terms of improvement of local financial management.

Discussions between panelists, presenters and participants dealt with the challenges of this vertical dialogue, which is at the very heart of decentralization. The participants addressed the issue of subsidiarity, which consists in ensuring not to treat at a higher level an issue that can be treated more effectively and more efficiently at a lower level; the discussions also dealt with the search for the appropriate scale of public actions. The debate then focused on productive efficiencies (lower-cost production of local public services), allocation efficiencies (choice of local public services in response to people's demands), and taxation efficiency (populations are more inclined to pay their taxes when they are involved in the determination of priorities for local public services).



View of participants



Session 2

Local management must therefore make it possible to produce, at a lower cost, the services that the local populations have prioritized, while at the same time strengthening its confidence in local authorities by a more significant payment of local taxes.

For many participants, it should be acknowledged that one of the expectations of the dialogue is also to strengthen confidence between local and regional governments in general and the central government, that is to say the two main national actors of decentralization. To this end, it is clear that the proper use of the resources transferred to the cities and the improvement of the quality of local public management are essential ingredients for strengthening the confidence of central administrations, particularly financial ones.

Monitoring the proper management of local public resources must be viewed more as support for its improvement, and not as a process of suspicion and sanction of the management of local elected officials. But for this purpose, it is important that the tutorship

from the Central Government over local governments should be redesigned as an administration of support and reinforcement of the development actions initiated by intermediate cities.

Finally, some participants noted that in this vertical dialogue with the Central Government, it is more than necessary to develop a dialogue with the populations. Local officials are often torn between elective democracy and participatory democracy, the proponents of elective democracy taking as starting point the fact that elected officials have the legitimacy of their elections and therefore do not need to consult the populations for the choices to be made, and proponents of participatory democracy placing the emphasis on the people's point of view for all development priorities to be implemented.

In the context of a scarcity of resources where everything is a priority, the people's point of view for the actions to be undertaken is not only conducive to credibilization of local management but reinforces the level of

satisfaction of the populations with respect to priorities, and consequently improves their living conditions. Nonetheless, in all cases, the management of intermediate cities is better with participatory democracy; it is even a sine qua non condition for the proper implementation of the global agendas.

The exchange of points of views between panelists and participants identified many constraints to the proper development of vertical dialogue between the national government and Local Governments. Some participants pointed out the various violations of the subsidiarity principle faced by the intermediate cities, in particular the absence of implementing decrees for the laws voted by the national parliaments. In some countries, laws often wait decades for implementing decrees; which in practice delays the full assumption of responsibility for the transfer of powers transferred to cities in general and to intermediate cities in particular. In some countries, as noted by several speakers, the statutory texts are enshrined in the Constitution, which obliges the executive branch of Government to implement them without delay. Often, the extreme politicization of local political life,

where national stakes take precedence over local issues, is also an indirect but major constraint to subsidiarity.

This is why some speakers called for greater openness of the local political field in the countries by allowing independent candidacies in local elections. This extreme politicization of local political life also often tends to hamper financial decentralization when the political color of local elected officials is different from that of the central government. Participants also pointed to the juxtaposition of the administrative division resulting from decentralization and the administrative division resulting from deconcentration, which translates into practice into conflicts of jurisdiction between local elected officials and deconcentrated services.

For most speakers, the parallel coexistence of the deconcentrated services of the national government and of the services of the local governments in the same territories is a source of conflicts, especially when new rules of the game are not enacted. The mostly francophone participants drew attention



View of participants

to a particular aspect of local finance management, including the role of public accountants, which in practice is more akin to oversight than to management control.

Participants questioned the control of local financial management, some assimilating such control to a constraint, while others assimilated such control to a prerequisite for the success of decentralization. The fact is that the demand for a strengthening of the financial transfers from the national government requires strict control of local financial management. The participants agreed in the end that the requirement of good management of local finances is not contradictory with the management autonomy of cities.

Finally, the participants exchanged views on the institutionalization of this dialogue, based on the examples of Rwanda and Madagascar among others. Local elected officials in general and those in charge of intermediate cities in particular must have a framework for dialogue and exchange of ideas with the highest officials of their countries, in particular the President of the Republic. This framework for dialogue should provide an opportunity to assess the implementation of decentralization policies and to decide on corrective measures to make such dialogue more effective.

At the end of the session, participants outlined recommendations for better consideration of intermediate cities.

1. Need to dedicate a full-fledged ministry to the management of decentralization and to local and regional governments;
2. Need to institutionalize a framework for permanent dialogue between the President of the Republic and local and regional elected officials;
3. Need to establish a taxation field that is specific to local authorities, the proceeds of which are entirely devoted to cities;
4. Need to provide more room for maneuver to cities by defining the powers adapted to the proper management of urbanization;
5. Need to develop the participation of local people in local management by defining the terms of application of such participation;
6. Need to improve the mechanisms for transparent financial management of intermediate cities while ensuring their positive impact on the implementation of local public expenditure;
7. Need to establish an equitable, predictable, stable and unconditional system of financial transfers from the central governments to intermediate cities;
8. Need to strengthen local democracy by encouraging the emergence of more legitimate and competent local elected officials to meet the challenges faced up by intermediate cities;
9. Need to sensitize African countries to the development of relevant urban strategies that take into account the calling and strengthening of the urban fabric.

8. Third session: Criteria to be put in place for the evaluation of the implementation of global agendas.

Saturday, May 06, 2017: 09:00 - 10:30

Chair: **Mr. Souleymane KONÉ**, President of the Kabadougou Region, ARDCI, Côte d'Ivoire;

Moderator: **Mr. Abdoulaye SÈNE**, Expert, GLF, Senegal

Rapporteurs: **Mr. Tchini KODJO**, Expert, Benin

Introductory presentation: **Mr. Mohamed SEFIANI**, Chairman, I-Cities Commission

Case study: "Parakou, a sustainable city? ": **Mr. Judicael HOUNDIN**, Deputy Mayor of Parakou.

Round table: **Mr. Ahmed EL MOURABIT SOUISSI**, Mayor of Mdiq, Morocco, **Mr. Bourahima SANOU**, Mayor, Burkina Faso; **Mr. Boubacar BAH**, Mayor, Mali; **Mr. Henri MOTCHO**, University of Niamey, Niger, **Mr. Fidèle Sanni SINAGOURIGUI**, city of Parakou, Benin, **Mr. Edi Abdel KOUADIO**, Chief Executive Officer of the Tienko Commune, Côte d'Ivoire, **Mr. Ahmed BOUZHAY**, Mayor of Fam El Hisn, Morocco; **Ms. Tenin TOURÉ DIABATÉ**, Professor at the University of Cocody, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

After the introduction of President Souleymane KONÉ and the presentation of the session made by moderator Abdoulaye SÈNE, the introductory presentation was made by Mr. Mohamed SEFIANI, Mayor of Chefchaouen and President of I-Cities; the presentation was devoted to indicators aimed at assessing the implementation of global agendas in intermediate cities (1/3 of the world's population and 1.4 billion inhabitants). The development of the economy and of local entrepreneurship in the intermediate cities and the social mix that characterizes them are more than an asset for national development.

However, natural and climate disasters are increasingly recurrent, which weakens intermediate cities all the more because they already have scarce resources. The implementation of the global agendas in these cities is reflected in strategies that are measured by indicators that we strived to determine at the end of the World Forum. The aim was not to review the multitude of indicators, but to present measures to increase the resilience of intermediate cities, and enhance sustainability by focusing on access to services.

For Mister Sefiani, one should not forget that it is by building the local agenda that one builds the global agenda. Though quantitative indicators are important, one should not forget qualitative indicators that are equally important in satisfying populations. Hence the issue of institutionalizing the development of local statistics since it is at the heart of the evaluation of the implementation of global agendas.

The case study presented by the city of Parakou which has a population of about 400,000 inhabitants in 2017 is entitled "Parakou, a Sustainable City?".



M. Abdoulaye Sène, session moderator

This case study made it possible to present important actions within the framework of the SDGs and within the implementation of some indicators (water, sanitation, infrastructure, environment). The diagnosis drawn up concerning Parakou brought together local elected officials, members of the Diaspora, technicians, members of the civil society, and NGOs.

The subjects were focused on sanitation (rainwater, wastewater and waste) and urban mobility, and some sustainable development goals were defined. The work was organized in four main stages: the status of the current situation, the diagnostic analysis, the proposals, and the priority actions. When translated into operational actions, the subjects involved the development of 7 green spaces, the construction of 11 secure intermediate landfills (4 of which were landfilled), the construction of a waste treatment center, the construction of 11 km of paved roads and 8 kilometers of collectors, the development of 3 rainwater watersheds, the development of an urban traffic plan (outer suburbs, bypass, crossing, etc.), the construction of 15 crossing

structures and the development of a green park as breathing spaces for city dwellers.

An Implementation Committee has been established. In this context, one should note the presence of problems related to the relevance of indicators and standards, the evolution of indicators per district, the disaggregated data; etc.

Discussions between panelists, participants and presenters raised questions about the quality of the indicators to be controlled, as each local community tries to develop its own indicators by first identifying all the elements (water, sanitation, mobility, environment, etc.), involving, where possible, universities and great engineering schools. The relevance of the indicators is posed for the intermediate cities because it is not sure that they can be measured within the country.

On the one hand, these universities and engineering schools must initially contribute to developing local indicators instead of national indicators that are not attached to any territory; on the other hand, these universities and engineering



View of participants

schools must support elected officials and local players in assessing the impact of local public policies. This necessary partnership with the universities will also represent in terms of horizons covered by the agendas 15 years for the SDGs, 20 years for the New Urban Agenda, etc.

Some participants argued in favor for different indicators in Asia, Africa and Europe so as to take account of regional specificities; which will ultimately lead to the question of comparability on a global scale.

On another level, the question of indicators is made more difficult by the legitimate concern to avoid spatial disparities within cities; which leads to the development of infra-urban indicators, often based on the administrative division: neighborhoods, district, etc. Participants agreed that the issue addressed has highlighted the fact that while some elements have been reviewed, there are still other issues to be addressed: details of the agendas' implementation; Outcome indicators; and elements for the monitoring of indicators. Intermediate cities must come together to reflect on the different criteria to be put in place and on the determination of agendas.

To do this, these cities must be at the beginning of the development of these agendas and not run after results by trying to integrate all the elements as soon as the Local Development Plans (LDPs) are drawn up with the participation of the populations. Participants then highlighted the importance of effective solutions, avoiding, for example, storm water collectors being used for wastewater, which poses even greater problems of resilience.

The issue of prioritization in an African context characterized by a scarcity of resources is

crucial in order to avoid the introduction of unsustainable solutions. This requires a strong involvement of the populations in a process that leads to sustainable and priority solutions. The populations must be strongly involved to ensure sustainability of infrastructures through their maintenance. In a context where everything is a priority and resources are never commensurate with needs, we must avoid the risk of ghettoisation of some neighborhoods in the intermediate cities.

Participants also discussed the importance of planning in the implementation of global agendas at the local level. Planning is indeed the indispensable ingredient to ensure effective and efficient implementation of actions. In this planning activity, the role of populations is central to achieving Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals. This role is all the more crucial since natural disasters (floods, fires, landslides, etc.) can only be tackled at the local level if local coalitions are formed with local players. Participants then challenged the dialogue of scales that makes it possible to better link together the interventions of different spheres of power in the implementation of global agendas.

They also noted that better spatial planning, particularly through an analysis of the network of cities and of its territorial footprint, will contribute to the efficient implementation of the global agendas.

At the end of the session, the participants outlined recommendations for a better taking into consideration of intermediate cities.

1. Need to ask the right questions (what to do, with whom, with what, when) to have

good visions and good inclusive sustainable development plans, and to have ideas for innovation;

2. Need to establish appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems to better support the implementation of sustainable development agendas;

3. Need to develop local data collection systems to better support specific and effective territorial strategies and planning, with dashboards with relevant indicators, for the monitoring and evaluation of policies and public actions;

4. Need to strengthen the capacity of intermediate cities to control the land system in order to reduce their sprawl;

5. Need to enable cities to access financing, notably “green funds” in order to boost their development;

6. Need to develop a local communication plan to inform the populations, stakeholders and partners on the different projects and to do the appropriate lobbying, advocacy and territorial marketing;

7. Need to develop cities in a different way, by taking into account their calling, the cultures that are present within a given environment, and by highlighting resilience;

8. Need to communicate around the global agendas and to develop specific local agendas, with a view to exchanging views on issues, experiences and establishing a territorial dialogue between the various players, both vertically and horizontally;

9. Need to raise the level of civic responsibility of the people who must consider themselves as real citizens by involving, in particular, social and religious leaders in actions to be taken in the cities; and need to promote dialogue among cultures and religions.

10. Need to provide new centrality clusters that must bring services closer to citizens



View of participants

**9. Fourth Session: Concluding Session:
What are the conditions for strengthening
the role of African Intermediate Cities?**

Saturday, May 06, 2017: 11: 00-12: 30

Chair: **Mr. Mohamed SEFIANI**, Chairman of
the I-Cities Group, Morocco

Moderator: **Mr. François Paul YATTA**,
Program Director of UCLG Africa

Round table: **Mr. Souhaliou SYLLA**,
Mayor of Tiassalé, UVICOCI, Côte d'Ivoire;
Mr. Souleymane KONÉ, President of the
Kabadougou region, ARDCI, Côte d'Ivoire;
Mr. Luc ATROKPO, President of ANCB, Benin;
Mr. Daby DIAGNE, Special Advisor to UCLGA;
Mr. Augustin SINARÉ, Expert, AMBF, Burkina
Faso ; **Mr. Albert N'CHO ACHO**, Mayor of
Agboville, Côte d'Ivoire.

The concluding session, under the theme of
*"What conditions for strengthening the role
of intermediate cities"*, discussed the main
central ideas emerging from the different
sessions of the Forum. In introducing this
session, the President of the I-Cities Group,
Mayor of Chefchaouen, Mr. Mohamed
SEFIANI, highlighted the positioning of
intermediate cities at the national and



M. Mohamed Sefiani, Président du Groupe I-Cities, Maroc

international level and particularly their place
in the national development process and in
the implementation of global agendas.

The panelists then identified the endogenous
and exogenous conditions for strengthening
the role of intermediate cities in the
implementation of global agendas. Under
the endogenous conditions, it is important
that the laws and regulations be finalized
to give to intermediate cities free rein to
implement the different powers.

It is also important for cities to know their
past and current reality in order to better
anticipate the issues, hence the importance
of territorial data. The vision and activism
of local elected officials is one of the
endogenous conditions, as committed



M. François Paul Yatta, Director of UCLG Africa Programs

mayors determined to change the daily lives of their populations are a determining factor in the implementation of global agendas, hence the importance of performance measurement indicators at the local level to create the necessary emulation for efficiency in the implementation of global agendas.

On the other hand, elected officials and local officials must make their strategies and proposals more credible, which implies a greater articulation with their technicians: Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of municipalities, Chief technical Officers (CTOs), and Chief Financial Officers (CFOs).

Focusing first on the necessary management of demography and urbanization and its implications for the demand for infrastructures, the panelists emphasized grassroots democracy and dialogue with citizens as a vehicle for better allocation of local public expenditures and hence vehicle for a supply of local public services that are better adapted to the demand of the populations. The panelists recalled however that though citizens have rights, they also have duties such as the payment of taxes and civic responsibility vis-à-vis the municipal heritage. They also stressed the importance of controlling the use of local public resources both through a control made by citizens' control and supervision from the supervisory authority. In this respect, the structures for controlling the financial management of local authorities must be rehabilitated and strengthened.

Under the exogenous conditions, for many panelists, the achievement of global agendas requires the implementation of new modalities, such as intermunicipal co-operation and also alliances with the

surrounding rural areas. Much of the wealth created in the intermediate cities is due to the production coming from the surrounding rural areas. It is crucial to build alliances between urban and rural stakeholders within a mutually beneficial dialogue.

Given the weight of intermediate cities on the national scene, such as is the case in Côte d'Ivoire where intermediate cities account for 75% of Ivorian municipalities, the panelists launched the idea of a national strategic program within the framework of an institutionalized vertical dialogue bringing together the President of the Republic and Local Authorities, but also between local authorities and the populations in order to ensure efficient application of the global agendas.

To this end, national decision-makers must integrate intermediate cities into public policies in order to make them more efficient and effective.

Some participants advocated for a new reading of national development plans in the light of the localization of global agendas. For the panelists, a clear and specific commitment must be obtained



Moroccan participants

from the national governments and from the International Cooperation concerning the financing of the global agendas as a confirmation of the commitments made during the Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa. The level of financial allocations at the local level and the new instruments used are all indicators of progress against which the commitment of national governments and of the international community must be assessed.

To achieve this, the demand of intermediate cities must be clearly expressed at the highest level and this is why the Global Forum of Intermediate Cities is crucial. The I-Cities Commission should reflect on language for intermediate cities to be audible to the International Cooperation.

In conclusion, the session summarized the major structural issues that will be brought to the World Forum, including: (1) the recognition of urbanization that should not be denied anymore, but recognized and supported. If it is anticipated and planned, urbanization is an opportunity for development, (2) The completion of the decentralization process with the aim to deepen the leeway of cities in general and of intermediate cities in particular; (3) the integration of intermediate cities into development strategies, in particular by making a spatial distribution of the main macroeconomic tools, (4) enhancing dialogue and participation with populations in order to make service delivery solutions more sustainable; (5) increasing the access of intermediate cities to international funds, including green funds; (6) raising awareness and educating political parties to the challenges of decentralization and

local development; (7) and capacity building for national associations of local authorities to develop an informed dialogue with the government on decentralization.

Following the debates of the Africa Regional Forum on Intermediate Cities held on May 5-6, 2017, the participants developed five (5) main recommendations, namely:

1. Need to recognize urbanization as part of a country's development process. The aim will be to develop urban strategies and provide them with the necessary technical and financial resources to integrate cities into national development strategies
2. Need to raise the level of human development in the intermediate cities. This will involve improving both planning and funding for access by the population, including the poorest, to different local grassroots public services.
3. Need to develop a vertical dialogue between the national government and intermediate cities for better management of urbanization. The main topics will be related to the leeway given to intermediate cities for effective management of urbanization
4. Need to strengthen monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of global agendas in intermediate cities. The aim will be to develop local and regional statistics in order to allow better monitoring and evaluation of the application of global agendas at the local level
5. Need to anchor decentralization as part of a comprehensive reform of public actions. It will be necessary to define subsidiarity within the public sphere, in particular by strengthening the weight of intermediate cities in public spending.

In terms of prospects, **Mr. Mohamed SEFIANI**, President of I-Cities Commission, and **Mrs. Diane Nassenaba TOURÉ**, Vice President for Africa, agreed to the establishment of a group of African experts to support the work of reflection and proposal on intermediate cities. The nucleus is already constituted, and it will be necessary to add to it some anglophone and lusophone experts.

For UCLG Africa, the I-Cities Commission has expressed the hope for more structural support throughout the other regional fora as well as through the global forum. Already UCLG Africa will work to develop a publication based on inputs from the forum.

10. Appendix: the Opening Ceremony Program

- A word from the Mayor of the City of Odienné, Pilot city for the Africa Region, **Ms. Diane Nassénaba TOURÉ.**

- A word from the Representative of the President of the Union of Towns and Communes of Côte d'Ivoire (UVICOCI), **Mr. Souhaliou SYLLA**, Mayor of Tiassalé;

A word from the Representative of the President of the Association of Regions of Côte d'Ivoire (ARDCI), **Mr. Souleymane KONÉ**, President of the Regional Council of Kabadougou.

- a word from the Representative of the President of the Council of Local Authorities (CCT), **Mr. Sindou CISSÉ**, President of the Regional Council of Folon; Côte d'Ivoire.

- a word from the Representative of the President of UCLG Africa, **Mr. Boubacar BAH.**



Mme Nassénaba Touré DIANE, Forum organizer

- a word from the Representative of H.E. the Minister, Governor of the Autonomous District of Abidjan, **Mr. Michel Benoit KOFFI**, Secretary General of the Autonomous District of Abidjan;

- Message from the Chairman of the I-Cities Working Group, **Mr. Mohamed SEFIANI.**

- A word from the Representative of the Minister of State, Minister of Interior and Security, **Mr. Lazare DJAHI**, Director General for Decentralization and Local Development, DGDDL

- Opening Speech by **Mr. Amadou KONÉ**, Transport Minister, representing the Prime Minister.



Opening ceremony

11. Appendix: the Closing Ceremony Program

- Trophy Awards Ceremony ;
- Signing ceremony of twinning agreement between intermediate cities ;
- Reading of the Forum Recommendations ;
- Address by **Mrs. Nassénéba TOURÉ**, Mayor of the City of Odienné, and Pilot city of the Africa Region;
- Speech of the Chairman of the I-Cities Working Group : **Mr. Mohamed SEFIANI** ;
- Closing speech by **Mr. Amadou KONÉ**: Transport Minister representing the Prime Minister.



closing ceremony

