

AFRICITES 8, MARRAKESH

THE TRANSITION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND TERRITORIES: THE ROLE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN AFRICA

Africités Migration Day

Human mobility and migration: challenges and opportunities for local and regional authorities in Africa

Wednesday, 21 November 2018

Background

Africa's urbanisation is consistent with the development of settlements on this planet. It is characterised by significant population shifts from rural to urban areas and, within these urban areas, shifts between small, medium-sized and large cities. The issue of migration connects population movements associated with urbanisation to those associated with globalisation. This will be a key strategic issue in the years to come and encompasses economic migration, environmental migration, political migration and refugees. Natural disasters, armed conflict, social unrest and economic and political crises have all led to rising numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons.

Migration and Africa

Africa suffers from two injustices with respect to migration. The first relates to the media, which conveys images of African migrants walking towards the European continent, whereas the reality is that Africa absorbs most of its own migrants. Indeed, in 2015, 52% of African migration was intracontinental, 27% of migrants went to Europe, 12% to Asia, 7% to North America and 2% to Oceania. In absolute terms, the number of African migrants in Europe in 2015 (9 million) was comparable to the number of European migrants in Asia (8 million).

Notwithstanding the consequences of the crisis in Syria and dinghies in the Mediterranean carrying migrants and displaced persons to Europe, general trends indicate that the new destinations for migrants tend to be low- and middle-income countries, undermining the binary "South-North" model.

African cities and territories are the points of departure and arrival for most migratory flows involving African people. Of the 32 million African migrants recorded worldwide, more than 50% are in Africa, mainly in three countries: South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria. African cities have welcomed these migrants without necessarily having legal responsibility for them and often without any state help. Mobility (whether voluntary or imposed) tends to be primarily an urban phenomenon as people generally move to cities and urban centres where there is

wealth and opportunities to improve their living conditions and security, giving themselves the chance for a better future.

The second injustice is the loss of an active workforce, the most visible aspect being the brain drain and loss of trained staff, mainly to Europe and America. These migrants take their skills and services to countries that have not participated in their training. However, despite their invaluable contribution to the country, they themselves suffer all manner of discrimination. The relationships they maintain with their places of origin via remittances are the target of disparaging remarks and often fuel xenophobic feelings and discourse in the host communities and countries where these African migrants or the diaspora are based. Yet, migrant remittances provide more revenue than the official development assistance granted by the host countries to these migrants' countries of origin. Host countries promote concepts such as selective migration to facilitate the reception and settlement of qualified Africans, preferably those at management level. Contrary to the preconceived idea of African migration prompted by poverty, violence and underdevelopment, migration flows to developed countries will increasingly be driven by the elite, who will be more able to travel and will be offered better reception and settlement opportunities to address a shrinking population and a shortage of trained staff in some developed countries.

The Global Compact

The Global Compact will begin a new era of partnership in migration governance by including all relevant players; not only countries, but also local and regional governments, the international community, the private sector and civil society. Today, local and regional governments are involved in managing migration issues. Solidarity and a concern for equity and integration require that they provide services (education, health, housing, etc.) to migrants who settle in their territories.

Some say that the presence of migrants exacerbates problems in the host communities. However, it can be argued that they are also part of the solution by contributing to economic and cultural wealth creation and to developing new links with their countries of origin, helping to strengthen relations between people and establishing a basis for a friendlier and fairer world.

The contribution of Africities 8

The Africities Summit is expected to be a key moment in the debate on migration governance at local level and will enable representative organisations of local and regional governments, such as UCLG and UCLG Africa, to provide an interface with the international community, stakeholders and partners in implementing the Global Compact.

The aim of the **Africities Migration Day** is to prepare Africa's local and regional authorities for their contribution to "Migration Week", scheduled to take place in Marrakech from 5 to 11 December 2018. The day will provide an opportunity to address the various challenges facing Africa and its local and regional authorities in managing migration flows and their consequences and to identify strategies, a basis for action and priorities for African local and regional authorities to make a decisive contribution to the implementation and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The **Africities Migration Day** includes:

- Morning: **Political Forum** comprising three one-hour sessions
- Afternoon: workshops on **Dialogue and Cooperation**, drawing on experiences and practices in managing migration in the cities and territories

Political Forum

- 9:00-10:00 Session 1: **Migration in Africa and in the World – Challenges and Perspectives**

Migration is one of the main demographic challenges presented by accelerated population flows within a country, between countries in the same region and between the various regions of the world. In fact, migration is an inherent part of the history of humanity. The population displacement that characterises it is often accompanied by multifaceted tragedies, but also by unquestionable success stories. Public attention often focuses on the tragedies of migration, less so on the successes. The aim of the Forum is to inform participants of the challenges and opportunities of migration, and to address the increasingly important role that local and regional authorities play in managing migration. The Forum will deal more specifically with the role of the African local and regional authorities in the implementation and follow up of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to be adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference on 10 and 11 December 2018, in Marrakech, Morocco,.

The Forum will begin with an inaugural conference setting out the migration situation in Africa and the world and highlighting the challenges of managing migration for African local and regional authorities.

At Africités 7, the mayors who were present adopted the “Charter of Principles for Adapted Migration Governance in African Cities”. The Charter highlights the realities of African migration (primarily inter-regional), the social, political and economic causes of migration but, above all, the need for inclusive and rights-based migration governance. This form of mobility allows the skills of migrant workers to contribute to Africa's economic growth and development and thus to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Africa, and the vision of a peaceful, united and prosperous continent outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063. The Charter reminds us that migration is indeed a cross-cutting issue that must be addressed with all the stakeholders, including the local authorities, civil society, the countries and the migrants themselves.

- How to implement the commitments of the Charter in line with national migration policies and regional and international agreements?
- What role do African local and regional authorities play in welcoming and providing services to migrants?
- What dialogue, coordination and support is there with the central states?
- What concrete measures can be taken to ensure consistency and good governance in migration policies?

- Chair of the Session: **Mpho Parks Tau**, President of UCLG
- Keynote speaker: **Boubacar Bah**, President of the Association of Municipalities of Mali
- Participants:
 - **Mohamed Boudra**, Mayor of Al-Hoceima and President of the AMPCC (Moroccan Association of President of Municipal Councils)
 - **Souad Abderrahim**, Mayor of Tunis
 - **Cheikh Gueye**, Mayor of Dieuppeul - Derklé, Councilor at the municipality of Dakar
 - **Hassan Hmani**, Deputy mayor of Nanterre, Communication, participative city and global city
- 10:30–11:30 – Session 2 **The contribution of migration to development: myths and realities**

In recent years, migration has become a major focus of the Africa-Europe relationship and dialogue. Issues related to brain drain, border controls, the role of the diaspora and their return are regularly discussed. The declaration of the Africa-Europe Local and Regional Government Forum, adopted in Abidjan in November 2017, the Forum (initiated by the members of UCLG Africa, CEMR and Platforma), recognises that migration must be seen as a means of bringing Africa and Europe closer together, promoting a meeting of cultures while abiding by the principles of equality and dignity, sharing and disseminating knowledge and renewing co-development between the two regions by involving migrants and the diaspora.

To bring this approach to fruition, there needs to be a change in the narrative on migration in its various forms, highlighting the contribution made by migration and the opportunities it offers both for the host regions and the countries of origin. This stance must be reflected in the discourse but also in the practice, building more alliances between the parties involved, with the regional authorities at the forefront.

- How do the regional authorities help to implement regional agreements?
- What roles do decentralised cooperation and the diaspora play in changing the narrative on migration?
- What support should States and regional and international organisations provide to decentralised cooperation in managing migration?

- Keynote speaker: Myths and realities of Africa-Europe migration:
Leila Beratto, RFI Correspondent in Alger Winner of the "Migration Media Award 2018"
- Participants:
 - **David Makhura**, Premier of Gauteng
 - **Omar Hjira**, Mayor of Oujda
 - **Didier Accouetey**, Director of Africa Search
 - **Khady Sakho Niang**, President of Africa Europe Diaspora Development Platform
 - **Mohammed El Arbi El Matni**, President of Tetouan Provincial Council
- 12:00-13:00 – Session 3: **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: how are Africa's local and regional authorities involved?**

The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) will be the first agreement negotiated between governments, under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all aspects of international migration comprehensively.

Shortly after the Africités meeting, Morocco will host the Migration Week in Marrakech from 5 to 11 December, including the Global Forum for Migration scheduled from 5 to 7 December and the United Nations Conference on Migration on 10 and 11 December, which should lead to the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). It is important to highlight the work carried out every day by African cities and territories to support migrant populations and to be duly recognised for the contribution in setting out the content and methods of implementing, monitoring and evaluating the impact of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). Any initiative of this scale (GCM) requires the efforts of all partners to ensure migration-related policies are consistent and implemented effectively on the ground.

- What contributions are African local and regional authorities making to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration?
 - How are these communities involved in the mechanisms for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the impact of the Global Compact on the ground?
 - What can be done to support Africa's local and regional authorities' involvement in migration management and governance?
- Keynote speaker: **Mpho Moruakgomo**, President de BALA

- Participants:
 - **Mohcine Jazuli**, Delegate Minister in charge of African Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
 - **Mohamed Anacko** President of Agadez Regional Council
 - **Emilia Saiz**, Secretary General UCLG
 - **Cécile Riallant**, Head of Unit Migration and Sustainable Development, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Moderator: **Jean Pierre** Elong Mbassi, Secretary General UCLG Africa

Workshops

- 14:30-16:30 Workshops to discuss and share experiences on migration management and cooperation in local and regional authorities (2 workshops held simultaneously)

Three parallel workshops will be organised. Each workshop will start with a presentation followed by a discussion panel.

Workshop 1 Migration governance in the Mediterranean region: case studies and recommendations for the inclusion of migrants and local migration governance (MC2CM project)

Workshop 2: Towards a network of African cities and territories subscribing to the African Charter on Migration Governance

- 16:30-17:00 Break

- 17:00- 17:30 Pooling Session conclusions of workshops discussions