



NGF-FORAF DESK REPORT
ON
THE 29TH ORDINARY SESSION OF
UCLG-AFRICA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
KISUMU, KENYA

JUNE 2023



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Executive Summary

This report seeks to provide an overview of the UCLG Africa executive committee meetings held in Kisumu County, Kenya between June 01st and 3rd 2023. This statutory meeting represents the entire sub-entities that comprise UCLG Africa including the network of women local elected officials (REFELLA), the Network of young local elected officials of Africa (YELO) and the Forum of the African Regions (FORAF). This meeting is the 29th Ordinary Session of the UCLGA Pan African Council.

Due to a sudden conflict of schedule, the FORAF President was represented by the vice president North Africa. The NGF-FORAF desk was in attendance and announced the apologies from the President. The NGF was also recognized for the success of the recent Induction program for newly elected and returning governors, which attracted leaders of national and subnational governments from the continent and the world, as well as industry leaders from the global community. The Secretary General referenced the MoU signed between the NGF and UCLG Africa on October 10, 2023, and acknowledged the role of the NGF as a mature organization and believes other regional association members of UCLG Africa that are in maturing stage or lucent stage can learn from the experience. He also referred to the announcement of a new chairman of NGF, and that the UCLG Africa Executive committee would require a formal letter from the NGF reaffirming the nomination of Dr Fayemi to represent the NGF as FORAF President.

A status of implementation of the recommendations of the 28th session of the Executive Committee was also presented as well as an update on the activities of the General Secretariat of UCLG Africa during the first semester of 2023 and activities for the Q3 and Q4 of 2023.

The objectives of the Forum include to

- Promote collaboration between the different levels of governance in each country as well as at the pan-African level.
- Make it possible to publicize the wealth of experiences conducted by the various regional governments within the continent and internationally.
- Ensure the territorialization of national public policies and global and African agendas, as well as the corresponding means of implementation.
- Work to create a climate of good neighbourliness, peace and harmony between African communities and societies through the implementation of decentralized cooperation programs between regional and local governments within the different Regional Economic Communities.

In conclusion, issues surrounding the delay of financial commitments from Afrexim bank to the MoU signed with the bank in February were discussed on the side-lines. The implication on the 3-year workplan and the possibility of reviewing the MoU in its entirety is being considered.

Next Steps & Milestones:

This report also highlights next step actions and decision making to be undertaken for the interim and medium terms resulting from the outcome of some of the strategic meetings held. These are detailed below with their status, ownership, and due dates.

	Task	Status	Responsibility	Due Date
1	Finalizing and signing of the UCLGA MoU with Afrexim bank (M)	Completed	UCLGA Afrexim	18/11
3	FORAF TWG to complete the Implementation plan design and development (M)	Completed	UCLGA Afrexim NGF	18/11
4	Explore the possibility of expanding Afrexim bank's role to support remaining FORAF pillars	Pending	UCLGA Afrexim	18/11
5	ATTIA, Executive Director (Mr Yatta) to share the ATTIA Strategic document	Completed	UCLGA	11/11
6	Schedule a meeting with UCLGA SG, the NGF Chairman, FORAF President and NGF DG to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. discuss ATTIA hosting in Nigeria and creation of FORAF Desk in NGF b. leverage the good leadership to work out the relationship with ALGON to strengthen decentralization. 	Ongoing	UCLGA FORAF NGF	TBD
7	Draft an NGF-UCLGA MoU to govern the funding and operations of the NGF focal person liaising with UCLGA to support the FORAF Desk (M)	Completed	NGF UCLGA	09/12
8	NGF to transmit letter reaffirming the nomination of Dr Fayemi to represent the forum as FORAF President	Pending	NGF	TBD
9	Schedule a follow-up meeting with UCLGA SG, FORAF President and Afrexim bank President after the MoU signing to discuss financing of the Implementation plan	Pending	UCLGA Afrexim NGF	TBD

While most of the afore-listed tasks are completed, there are key decisions that need to be made, specifically for milestone 9, that must be completed, as this has huge implications on the entire workplan contained in the signed MoU between UCLGA-Afrexim bank.

Eghosa M. Omoigui
Team Lead

June 09, 2023



Agenda

Below is the agenda that governed the meeting.

1. Adoption of the minutes of the 28th session of the Executive Committee held on November 02, 2022, in Tangiers
2. Status of implementation of the recommendations of the 28th session of the Executive Committee
3. Update on the activities of the General Secretariat of UCLG Africa during the first semester of 2023
4. Update about the Regional Offices
5. Update on the execution of the budget for the 2023 financial year
6. Upcoming activities involving UCLG Africa members.
7. Presentation of the AfCFTA Initiative and the partnership between AFRIXEMBANK and UCLG Africa
8. AOB

Below is the report of the event's proceedings:

29TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is the highest decision-making body of UCLG Africa. Membership of the Committee is made up of 15 members (3 from each of the 5 African sub-regions). The Committee deliberated on the following items on the agenda:

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the 28th Session

The Minutes of the 28th session of the Executive Committee of November 02, 2022 were reviewed and unanimously adopted.

2. Implementation Status of 28th Session Recommendations

The meeting reviewed the resolutions and actions points from the last meeting in Tangier. The deliberations focused on the implementations of the decisions that were achieved in the intervening period as well as those pending. They include:

- Signing of partnership agreement with each national association. This is sequel to the exco meeting in 2019 where it was unanimously agreed that an MoU between UCLG Africa and each association will strengthen commitment to funding obligations and implementation of UCLG Africa activities. 14 associations have signed so far.
- Establishment of a working group to support FORAF.
- Signing of Framework Partnership Agreement with the EU.
- Disbursement of grants from the governments of Egypt, Gabon and South Africa – This was the only action point that was pending.

3. Report of the H1 2023 Activities of the General Secretariat

During this period, the Secretariat was mainly mobilized around (i) the Climate Agenda, (ii) the Biodiversity Agenda, (iii) the Agenda for access of local authorities to the capital market, and (iv) around the Agenda for Culture, in particular the implementation of activities relating to the celebration of Rabat, African Capital of Culture.

Regarding the Climate Agenda, the Secretariat worked on the preparation and organization of UCLG Africa's presence at COP27, and the management of its follow-up. During COP27, two partnership agreements were signed. On one hand the signing of the Global Center for Adaptation (GCA), and on the other hand, the one with the International Center for Renewable Energies (IRENA)

Regarding the Biodiversity Agenda, the UCLG Africa Secretariat took part in the Biodiversity COP15 from December 13 to 19, 2022 in Montreal. This participation made it possible, for the very first time, to make the voice and position of local and regional authorities in Africa heard by the bodies and key players in charge of the process of implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, integrating the Nagoya protocol on access and sharing of genetic resources and the means of implementation. At the convergence of the climate and biodiversity agendas, UCLG Africa participated from March 22 to March 24, 2023 in the United Nations Water Conference in New York, United States. The adoption of the Declaration on Water by Local Authorities at the United Nations Conference illustrates the will of local governments to take up the challenge of adaptation, which remains largely a territorial issue.

Concerning the issue of climate finance, during the period in review, the Secretariat prepared and submitted a dossier to become an accredited entity of the Adaptation Fund. It should be recalled that since October 2022, UCLG Africa has been granted the status of *Delivery and Implementing Partner* of the Green Climate Fund, which now gives it the ability to present projects, and it should be recalled also that since September 2022, UCLG Africa has represented local authorities on the platform for the implementation of the decisions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

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Concerning the issue of the Agenda for Culture, the Secretariat worked on the implementation of activities relating to the celebration of Rabat, African Capital of

Culture, organized under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI. The activities of the celebration are implemented within the framework of a collaboration between the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication of Morocco, the City of Rabat, and UCLG Africa.

4. Update on Regional Offices and UCLG Africa Networks

Regional Offices

The General Secretariat reiterated the imperative to maintain fully functional regional offices as a measure to strengthen, coordinate, and bring closer the activities and programs of UCLG Africa with its constituent members. Headquarter agreements have been signed with the Government of Ghana for the Regional Office of the West Africa (WARO); with the Government of Gabon, for the Central Africa Regional Office (CARO); with the Government of Kenya for the East Africa Regional Office (EARO); and with the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the Southern Africa Regional Office (SARO). However, the agreements with these respective governments for the hosting of regional offices is still not effective, despite the commitments made in this regard.

Networks of elected officials

i. REFELA

In February 2023, Ms. Rohey Malick Lowe, Mayor of Banjul, President of REFELA, led the installation of the Benin chapter of REFELA.

The Secretariat (Gender Unit of the Gender and Youth Department) prepared, organized, and ensured the presence of members at the Global Social and Solidarity Economy Forum (GSEF, Global Social Economy Forum) from May 02 to May 06, at the invitation of the City of Dakar and of the GSEF Secretariat. The Secretariat organized the Women's Pre-Forum during which panel discussions were held on women's economic empowerment. The Secretariat also hosted a booth which enabled women grouped into cooperatives to exhibit local products resulting from the processing of products by women.

ii. YELO

Following the constituent assembly of YELO, the Secretariat (Youth Unit of the Gender and Youth Department) initiated the preparation of a guide for the establishment of YELO country chapters, based on the model of what was done for the REFELA. This work has started in Benin, Congo, and Gabon.

The Secretariat also prepared and organized the Youth Pre-Forum within the framework of the Global Forum on Social and Solidarity Economy held from May 02 to May 06 May 2023 in Dakar, Senegal. During this Pre-Forum, a workshop on local youth entrepreneurship was organized. This workshop aimed to initiate national dialogues about the role of young people in the development of territories.

iii. FORAF

The Secretariat worked on setting up a working group to propose a FORAF roadmap to be adopted by the Executive Council. This working group includes, in addition to UCLG Africa, representatives of Kisumu County of Kenya, executives of the Nigeria

Governors' Forum (NGF), and representatives of the Afreximbank. The discussions carried out within the framework of the working group made it possible to propose two MoUs, the first one established and signed between Afreximbank and UCLG Africa, and the second one negotiated and signed between NGF and UCLG Africa.

Over the last months, UCLG Africa entered into a series of partnership agreements with:

- The Afreximbank, for supporting the implementation of the FORAF action plan.
- The Nigeria Governors' Forum for their role in supporting the Presidency of FORAF.
- The 01 Talent company, for the creation of training centers in digital coding and support for the digital transformation of local authorities in Africa.
- Public Service International (PSI) on the implementation of a pilot program of dialogue between local public authorities and local government administration staff.
- WDO (World Design Organization) for the establishment of an African chapter of the organization as part of a partnership agreement with the World Design Organization.

Capacity Development

In line with pillar 2 of GADDEPA 2.0, to better meet the capacity building needs of members, the UCLG Africa Secretariat launched a call for expressions of interest from national associations of local authorities in Africa interested in receiving support for the definition of their capacity building strategy, including the capacity building of their members. It is expected that 10 national associations of local authorities will be supported (2 for each of the 5 regions of Africa) during the 2023 period.

The development of the e-Academy is also continuing with the launch of the digitization of new training courses on climate finance; decentralized cooperation and international action by local authorities; and energy efficiency.

5. Financial Report

The Financial Report and the Audit Report of the accounts for the 2022 financial year were unanimously approved and Granting discharge to the Secretary General for the management of the 2022 financial year. Also acknowledging the execution of the 2023 Budget during the first quarter of 2023.

6. Upcoming Activities Involving UCLG Africa Members

The below table highlights the activities for the H2 2023

		Description	Location	Date
UCLG	1	Meeting of the Executive Bureau and Congress of METROPOLIS	Brussels, Belgium	June 15, 2023
	2	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Summit	New York, USA	September 2023
	3	UN-HABITAT General Assembly	Nairobi, Kenya	05-09 June 2023

UCLG Africa	4	Meeting of Culture Professionals	Rabat, Morocco	18-24 June 2023
	5	Official launch of the preparation of the Africities Summit	Cairo, Egypt	September 2023
	6	Moroccan weeks	Nouakchott, Lagos , Libreville, Kigali, and Maputo	September-October 2023
	7	TRANSLOG Africa exhibition	Tangiers, Morocco	October 2023
	8	Executive Committee and Pan-African Council meetings of UCLG Africa, FORAF et al	Lagos, Nigeria	November 2023
	9	COP28	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	November 2023

Presentations

The session also featured various presentations from members and institutions present.

1. AFRIXEMBANK Presentation

The focus was on key Financing Interventions in support of Intra-African Trade & Investments to stimulate a consistent expansion and diversification of African trade to rapidly increase Africa's share of global trade.

The bank operates as a first-class profit oriented, socially responsible financial institution and center of excellence in African trade matters.

The presenter expatiated on the banks trade strategy and financial instruments to implement them.

i. Intra-African Trade Strategy: 4 Pillars

1. Create – Facilitate capacity for expansion of production and processing capabilities.
2. Connect – Identify key institutions and agents to “connect the dots” in the intra-trade value chain.
3. Deliver – Deliver efficient and cost-effective distribution channels within the continent.
4. The Ancillary Pillar (Measure) – introduces monitoring and measurement mechanisms.

ii. Financing Instruments

Global Facility, Intra-African Investment Finance, Intra-African Investment Guarantee, Contracting Related Guarantees, Export Contract Availability Guarantee, Guarantee in Support of Government Commitments to Project Promoters, Merchant Marine Facility, Fleet Financing, Afrexim bank Project Preparation Facility (APPF)

ATTIA: African Territorial Trade and Investment Agency

Updates on ATTIA were presented by the Secretary General who gave an overview of ATIA. ATIA comprises two compartments:

- a cooperative society of local authorities comprising voluntary members to pay €100,000 each, with the goal of reaching a minimum of 100 members so that the cooperative society represents at least 50.1% of ATIA's capital, estimated at the start at €20 million.
- and a bank branch housed in a development bank with a mandate to operate in all the countries of the African continent, which would be ATIA's reference investor at the same time as the bank branch operator.

To date, around sixty local authorities have confirmed their membership of the ATIA cooperative society, the goal being to reach a minimum of 100 members by the end of December 2023 and to have received all member payments by this date. Consultations are underway to identify which development bank is best suited to be the institutional investor and operator of ATIA's bank branch. The risk study is also underway, which is the last phase of ATIA's feasibility study. This study is conducted by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) with funding from the UN General Secretariat.

E-Academy

Training & Skills Development can enhance the professional life of many members in the pursuit of good governance and the delivery of basic services to local communities. UCLG Africa's main programs are embedded with training and capacity building components in the program design. These are carried out by the African Local Government Academy and Territorial Coaching.

Recommendation from members included an expansion of languages of instruction provided to include Arabic and Swahili Languages

SIDE MEETINGS

1. Post-Event Meeting with SG UCLG Africa and NGF FORAF Desk

This meeting was to harmonize the team's mission and operations with the expectations and priority areas of the FORAF President and further collaboration with the UCLG Africa secretariat. Areas discussed include:

- The MoU signed with NGF which links the FORAF Desk to the UCLGA secretariat is for collaboration beyond the FORAF desk.
- The NGF is seen as a mature association and UCLG Africa believes that through peer review/learning events, can share experiences with other association members.
- He also opined that the implication of regional horizontal cooperation should be discussed at NGF meetings.

- The status of membership of UCLG Africa via the MoU is as an association, however the benefits are for the subnational members. There is need to intimate the NGF of these benefits which includes access to funding for projects (also the Global Climate Fund valued at \$1bn), horizontal relationship with subnational governments in member countries and leveraging the UCLG Africa as a development partner.
- With the MoU, the UCLG Africa can assist in accrediting NGF to the Green Climate Fund, this will help subnational development in tackling the challenges of climate impact where affected. This process will take 3 years to complete, elevating NGF to a continental status.
- The request for NGF as a member to make contributions of E100,000 towards ATTIA share capital.
- He also referred to the announcement of a new chairman of NGF, and that the UCLG Africa Executive committee would require a formal letter from the NGF reaffirming the nomination of Dr Fayemi to represent the NGF as FORAF President.

Next Steps and Recommendations:

1. Schedule a meeting with UCLGA SG, FORAF President (Dr. Fayemi) and President Afrexim bank to:
 - a. Discuss the delay of financial commitments from Afrexim bank to the MoU signed with the bank in February 2023 and the implication on the 3-year workplan.
2. Transmit a formal letter from the NGF reaffirming the nomination of Dr Fayemi to represent the NGF as FORAF President
3. Schedule a planning meeting with ALGON President towards the hosting of the next Executive Council and PAC meeting is scheduled for November 2023 in Lagos.

The timeline for these meetings (1 and 3) is yet to be determined as they are dependent on confirmation from all parties' calendars. However, for (2) this should be completed by end of June 2023.

Follow-up Meetings

The next Executive Council and PAC meeting is scheduled for November 2023 in Lagos. The planning of this event will be in collaboration with ALGON.