



NGF-FORAF DESK REPORT
ON
THE 26TH ORDINARY SESSION OF
UCLG-AFRICA PAN AFRICAN COUNCIL

TANGIER, MOROCCO

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Contents

Executive Summary	4
Next Steps & Milestones:.....	5
Background	8
DAY 1 – 28TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	8
1. Adoption of the Minutes of the 27th Session.....	8
2. Implementation Status of 27 th Session Recommendations.....	8
3. Report of the Activities of the General Secretariat	9
4. Presentation of the 2023 Budget and Workplan	9
5. Participation in COP27	10
DAY 2 – 26TH SESSION OF THE PAN AFRICAN COUNCIL	10
1. Report on the General Assembly	10
2. Report on the founding meeting of FORAF	11
3. Presentation of the results of the UCLG congress in Daejeon and consequences for UCLG Africa.....	11
4. COP 27.....	11
5. Plan of Action 2023-2024 of UCLG Africa –	11
Feedback from Members	11
Presentations	12
1. The Berkane Experience.....	12
2. AFRIXEMBANK Presentation	12
i. Intra-African Trade Strategy: 4 Pillars.....	13
ii. Financing Instruments.....	13
3. PACJA Initiative – Pan African Climate Justice Alliance	13
ATTIA: African Territorial Trade and Investment Agency	13
E-Academy	14
SIDE MEETINGS	15
1. Pre-Event Meeting with FORAF President, NGF FORAF Desk.....	15
2. Meeting with Nigerian Ambassador to Morocco:	15
Background:	15
Next Steps:	15
3. FORAF Executive Meeting/TWG Meeting.....	15
Next Steps:	16
4. Finance Committee Meeting	16
Next steps	17
5. Meeting with UCLGA SG and FORAF Desk	17
	2

i. ATTIA:..... 17

ii. FORAF Desk:..... 17

Next Steps and Recommendations:..... 18

Follow-up Meetings 18

Executive Summary

This report seeks to provide an overview of the strategic meetings relating to the Forum of the African Regions, FORAF held during the 26th Ordinary Session of the UCLGA Pan African Council in Tangier, Morocco on the November 01st to 2nd 2022.

The Forum of the Regions of Africa (FORAF) was initiated during the eighth edition of the Africities Summit, in November 2018 in Marrakesh, Morocco. And was formally inaugurated during its first meeting held between 8th to 10th September 2022 in Saïdia, Morocco organized by the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) in collaboration with the Association of Moroccan Regions (ARM) and the Regional Council of Oriental (CRO).

Sequel to this first meeting, FORAF being a sub-entity of UCLGA, participated in the Pan African Council sessions and held several side meetings to advance the objectives of the Forum which 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.

One of the highlights to this November meeting was the strategic partnership with Afrexim bank after their successful co-hosting of the 2nd African Sub sovereign Network (AfsNET) Conference with the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) in September 2022. This resulted in the drafting of an MoU where Afrexim bank will subsume the AfsNET conferences and technical support under the UCLGA Economic and Financial pillars.

The MoU is in its final stages of review and agreement is expected to be signed in November 2022. A technical working group (TWG) which includes members from Afrexim bank, UCLGA Secretariat, NGF and AfCFTA, is concurrently developing a 3-year implementation plan to operationalize the MoU starting from Q4 2022.

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	NGF to share copies of the MoUs signed in Saiida with the Nigerian Ambassador to Morocco with the intent to aid facilitation	Delayed	NGF	11/11
2	Finalizing and signing of the UCLGA MoU with Afrexim bank (M)	Ongoing	UCLGA Afrexim	18/11
3	FORAF TWG to complete the Implementation plan design and development (M)	Ongoing	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. 	Pending	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)	Ongoing	NGF UCLGA	09/12
8	Develop a Terms of reference for the FORAF Desk to guide the discussions on the financial agreement with Afrexim bank to fund FORAF Desk in NGF as implied in the UCLGA-Afrexim bank MoU.	Ongoing	UCLGA NGF	09/12
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 some of the afore listed tasks are ongoing, there are three (3) milestones that must be completed: the signing of the 2 MoU's (UCLGA-Afrexim bank, and UCLGA-NGF) and the completion of the Implementation plan.

Also, strategic meetings need to be scheduled as detailed in items 6 and 9. The overall timeline for completing the above tasks, schedules and milestones is during the 3rd week in December 2021. However, this is dependent on confirmation from all party's calendars.

This report is compiled by the FORAF Desk at NGF which is comprised of the following member: Eghosa Omoigui, Juliet Chima, Fatima Usman Katsina and Hauwa Haliru.

Eghosa M. Omoigui
Team Lead

November 12, 2022



Background

Following the successful establishment of the Forum of Regions of Africa and the election of its governing bodies on 9th September 2022 in Saidia, Morocco, the FORAF President, Dr Kayode Fayemi was invited to participate in the 28th Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee and the 26th Pan African Council of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) which held from 1st - 2nd November 2022 in Tangier, Morocco. Both meetings were chaired by the UCLGA President, Ms. Fatimetou Abdel Malick, who is also the President of the Region of Nouakchott (Mauritania).

The 2-day event also provided the opportunity for the FORAF Presidency to hold its maiden meeting to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Afrexim Bank as well as the workplan to guide the activities of the FORAF.

Below is the report of the event's proceedings:

DAY 1 – 28TH 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 27th Session

Adoption of the Minutes of the 27th Session of the Executive Committee held on 1st and 2nd August 2022 in Nouakchott, Mauritania.
Members reviewed and adopted the report of the last meeting of the Committee.

2. Implementation Status of 27th Session Recommendations

The meeting reviewed the resolutions and actions points from the last meeting in Nouakchott. 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.
- Constituent assembly of Young Elected Leaders Organisation (YELO)
- Establishment of the Forum of Regions of Africa (FORAF)
- Presentation and validation of African candidacy at the UCLG Statutory Affairs Committee
- 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 Activities of the General Secretariat

The UCLG Africa Secretary General gave an update on the activities of the Secretariat with major highlights being (i) the finalization of the partnership with the European Union; (ii) the development of collaborative relations with the African Conference of Ministers of the Environment to accelerate the involvement of local authorities in Africa in the global climate change agenda; (iii) participation of the UCLG Africa in the World Congress in Daejeon, South Korea, (iv) preparations for COP27, (v) organization of the meeting of Network of Young Local Elected Officials of Africa (YELO) and (vi) the Constituent Assembly and organization of the maiden meeting of FORAF.

The Secretary General briefed the meeting on various activities and outputs in the three (3) fundamental pillars of the Governance, Advocacy & Decentralized Development Program for Africa (GADDEPA) 2.0 ten-year development plan which include:

- a. Advocacy for decentralization
- b. Capacity development of local authorities and their associations
- c. Improved access to funding and technical assistance for the operationalization of projects at the local level.

In addition, the Secretary General briefed members on the participation of the UCLGA Secretariat at the African Sub-sovereign Governments Network Conference (AfSNET) in Abuja on the invitation of the Nigeria Governors' Forum and Afrexim Bank. He noted that the outing resulted in the submersion of AfSNET into the economic and financial pillars of FORAF, and an MoU was underway to formalize this partnership and enable UCLGA be part of the implementation of the AfCFTA. He further thanked Afrexim Bank for agreeing to this and commended the NGF for sharing in the vision of UCLGA for a united Africa.

4. Presentation of the 2023 Budget and Workplan

The Secretary General presented the workplan for 2023 which will focus on advancing the three fundamental pillars of UCLG Africa listed above. He highlighted some expectations for 2023 including:

- a. It will mark the 3rd year of the implementation of the GADDEPA 2.0 plan
- b. Operationalization of sub-entities such as FORAF, YELO and the African Smart Intermediary Cities Network
- c. Celebration of Rabat as African Capital of Culture
- d. Acceleration of the involvement of local authorities in the climate agenda especially with the implementation of the Green Africa Fund
- e. Advancement in the establishment of the Africa Territorial Trade and Investment Agency (ATTIA). He proposed that Afrexim bank takes over the technicalities of managing the instrument
- f. Launch of institutional fairs and exhibitions relating to the mandates of local authorities that will allow them to meet on a regular basis to exchange ideas.
- g. Strengthening the capacity of UCLGA Secretariat to manage increased funding from donors and operationalizing the regional offices to ramp up support to local authorities through their associations.

Further to the presentation of the workplan, the Financial Management Committee gave an overview of funding status by members and presented the budget for 2023. Feedback from members showed the need:

- to follow through with grant commitments
- for clarity on individual or association membership as in the case of Nigeria where ALGON and individual local governments are ‘registered’ as members. The ALGON President demanded a review of the outstanding dues reported as ALGON is the only body representing the Local Governments in UCLGA.
- for members who can afford the seed capital for ATTIA to do so to complement the effort of the UN in ensuring the institutionalization of cooperative society.
- to adopt a more structured strategy in the promotion of the ATTIA.
- for members to encourage their regional governments to subscribe to ATTIA.

This session was wrapped up with a commendation to the UCLGA Secretariat by the FORAF President, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, for all the great work. He further admonished the UCLGA Secretariat to be weary of overstretching itself in servicing the various sub-entities. In response, the Secretary General assured members that the Secretariat will continue to function effectively as it is a structured system that execute responsibilities through its members or associations.

5. Participation in COP27

The Secretary General gave an update on the preparation for COP27 noting that the outing will provide UCLGA with opportunities to present its work on climate change as a way of convincing strategic stakeholders that UCLGA is serious about intervening in climate adaptation issues. UCLGA will have a pavilion to showcase its products and resources and has been given privileged inclusion in important panel sessions and side events.

DAY 2 – 26TH SESSION OF THE PAN AFRICAN COUNCIL

The UCLGA Pan African Council is the main organ for monitoring the implementation of UCLG-Africa’s policies and is responsible for ensuring compliance with policies approved by the General Assembly and translation into UCLG-Africa’s intervention strategies and programs.

The opening of the Pan African Council was marked by the speeches of Mr. Mounir Lymouri, President of the Municipal Council of Tangiers and President of the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Municipal Councils (AMPCC) and Mrs. Fatimetou Abdel Malick, President of the Region of Nouakchott (Mauritania) and President of UCLG Africa.

The Council deliberated on the following items on the agenda:

1. Report on the General Assembly

The report on the General Assembly of May 19, 2022, in Kisumu and the implementation of its recommendations. The Council reviewed and adopted the above report

2. Report on the founding meeting of FORAF

The Secretary General briefed the Council on the establishment of the Forum of Regions of Africa (FORAF) at the Saidia Conference from 8th -9th September 2023. The FORAF is expected to strengthen advocacy for decentralization as a credible tool for local development.

The FORAF President, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, in his remarks thanked the UCLGA for organizing the event that gave rise to FORAF, and for the invitation to participate in the Tangier meeting. He further restated the commitment of FORAF to complement the efforts of UCLGA and other sub-entities in achieving the much-desired local development through decentralization.

3. Presentation of the results of the UCLG congress in Daejeon and consequences for UCLG Africa.

The Secretary General gave an update on the participation of the African delegation in the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon, South Korea. The high points of this outing were the signing of MoUs between UCLGA and five institutions as well as the election of some members into the leadership of UCLG including positions such as Co-President, Treasurer, Special Envoy and President of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality.

4. COP 27

Participation of UCLG Africa members in the COP27 in November 2022 in Sharm-Al-Sheikh, Egypt. Like the update presented to the Executive Committee, the Pan African Council also received update on the status of preparation for the COP27 in Egypt. The Secretary General in his briefing noted that as part of its Pavilion, UCLG Africa will organize four (4) workshops on: (i) Resilience and water security; (ii) Waste management in the perspective of the circular economy; (iii) Implementation of the Kenya-led Urban Poor Resilience Program (BCRUP); (iv) Access of local authorities to renewable energies; (v) Egypt's "Hayat Kirima" initiative. UCLG Africa will also participate in high-level side events and will have many bilateral political meetings.

5. Plan of Action 2023-2024 of UCLG Africa –

The same report on the activities of the General Secretariat was also presented to the Council for endorsement.

Feedback from Members

Following the proceedings was opportunity for feedback from members as detailed below.

- Members agreed that the future of Africa is urbanization, thus, UCLGA should work with the African Development Bank to refocus on urbanization. Donors should be encouraged to engage directly with cities on urban development

- Dr Kayode Fayemi, FORAF President, stated that these development banks were created by Governments and are mandated to deal with regional governments who can provide bankable instruments authorized by parliament. Dr. Fayemi further suggested that a committee be set up to engage with banks and donors to advance discussions on funding for sub-nationals without necessarily going through the central governments or national governments bearing in mind the different constitutional arrangements.
- Hon. Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o of the County Government of Kisumu seconded this recommendation with focus on developing a better mechanism for strategic communication to address gaining access to subnational, local government and cities. Following this recommendation, the Secretary General approved the establishment of Finance Committee and nominated 5 members including: Nigeria, Brazzaville, Kenya, Tunisie, and NPPC Morocco) with Prof. Nyong'o nominated as the Committee Chair.
- Council further approved the adoption of the Presidents of FORAF and YELO as members of the Pan African Council

Presentations

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

1. The Berkane Experience

The Mayor of Berkane presented the Berkane Smart City Project which leverages information communication technology for effective service delivery

Key lessons from the presentation include:

- Government must play an active role in transformation and evolution of the Public and Civil Service Sector, to meet the demands of the public. Their moto is “Be at the service of citizens”.
- As a result, Morocco is operating a modern Monarchy with many democratic values and public dividends built in. The Kingdom of Morocco introduced a system of Advanced Regionalism, where a new constitution was adopted with 11 regions emerging. An Institutional Ecosystem that mirrors the governor’s system.
- Other innovative features and guiding principles in the Moroccan Public Sector include the Social Disparity Index, Project Follow-up System, Citizen Notification Platform, and others.
- Corporate Human Resource principles are being applied in Civil Service Sectors, such as open spaces and IT enable workspace, Simplification system and a “Following Management system”.

2. 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)

3. [PACJA Initiative – Pan African Climate Justice Alliance](#)

This presentation highlighted the advocacy initiatives towards climate action and impact, with a focus on the following.

- i. Policy Influence – formulation of national climate change and environmental governance policy and programs
- ii. Support local government on urban planning - Planning and organization urban mastery planning
- iii. Institution Strengthening – a cohesive, member responsive, and effective civil society platform capable of responding to a dynamic socio-political and ecological environment

[ATTIA: African Territorial Trade and Investment Agency](#)

A central theme for the meetings was the establishment of the African Territorial Trade and Investment Agency (formerly African Territorial Agency).

There are ongoing arrangements with AfDB who have agreed to fund the training course/academy for Chief Financial Officers of sub nationals on the rudiments of trade and investment. The first training was done in Abidjan in September 2022 with over 30 participants, a follow-up course in early 2023 in South Africa. The SG made an appeal that Afrexim bank also contributes to the development of ATTIA. He reiterated that members should step up to participate in the equity contribution to fund ATTIA. The strategy is for 100 subnational entities/members to contribute E100,000 with a target to raise E10m to attract a counterpart funding of E1bn from financial institutions.

He noted that 53 subnational entities have indicated they would subscribe. However, he also requested that the FORAF President mobilizes other members (including the 36 Nigerian governors, through the NGF) to subscribe to ATTIA as the deadline for raising the equity is now, because the financial instrument is expected to be launched in 2023. In

preparation for the launch, he stated that \$250,000 was provided by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to fund a credit risk assessment of African sub nationals and to ensure the lending aligns with the requirements.

The Governor of Kisumu pointed out that the assessment be conducted by a reputable 3rd party for the credibility of the outcome. To move the ATTIA forward regarding the assessment, the UCLGA SG stated that a meeting with UNCDP will happen in mid-January 2023 and will extend invitations to Afrexim bank and AfDB to participate. The Governor of Kisumu responded that the sequence of the meeting with UNCDF needs to happen before the 2nd training of CFOs in Johannesburg in January, in case the scope of engagements with AfDB changes. He also requested, that Afrexim bank should accept to be the technical administrators to the ATTIA fund and to provide fiduciary guidance.

ATTIA will follow-through on the 3 pillars driving UCLGA. For Pillar 1, it will territorialize development in strategic sector areas (i.e., Health, Energy, Transportation) and map these projects across the regions. Pillar 2 will be to setup an e-academy, which will be an expansion of the Knowledge hub in Rabat to promote knowledge management across the territories (i.e., courses on Leadership, Budgeting). He concluded that there is need to develop a framework to support members compliance. FORAF President noted that the future of Africa is urbanization and that international donors prefer to deal with sub-sovereigns because of accountability and committed to work with the SG to engage AfDB President (Mr Adesina) to develop this framework. This position was seconded by Governor of Kisumu to engage development donors (Afrexim/AfDB/WB) to explore the possibilities of funding sub nationals with/without recourse to the National sovereigns. A committee was subsequently constituted from the 5 regions with the following representation:

1. West Africa- FORAF President, Dr. Fayemi
2. East Africa- Governor Kisumu, Prof. Peter Nyongo (Chair)
3. Brazzaville
4. Tunisie
5. NPPC Morocco

Other presentations were made by Afrexim bank, where they show-cased the financial instruments to facilitate trade and investment. These include: Intra African Investment Finance, Intra African Investment Guarantee, Contracting Related Guarantees, and Export contract Availability Guarantee, to mention a few.

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. Pre-Event Meeting with FORAF President, NGF FORAF Desk

This meeting was to harmonize the team's mission with the expectations and priority areas of the FORAF President. Areas discussed include:

- the FORAF Desk linkage with the UCLGA secretariat.
- The criteria for membership into FORAF and relationship with other bodies. Is membership by individual States or institutions/associations? Like NGF, Kenya Council of Governors etc.
- Focus on promoting Digital transformation among the regions and Peer review.

2. Meeting with Nigerian Ambassador to Morocco:

The meeting had the following in attendance: FORAF President, Ambassador, Deputy Commissioner, NGF-FORAF Desk.

Background:

The meeting was premised on the September 2022 inaugural FORAF meeting in Saida, where a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the governors who attended and some key Moroccan regional governments. These agreements were for collaboration with the regions of Casablanca and Nasarawa, Edo and Ekiti states. And specifically in areas that include renewable energy, agriculture, fertilizer production and training.

The Ambassador sought to follow-up on these agreements using the embassy to facilitate their implementation and bolster foreign policy, playing a diplomatic role to project Nigeria as leaders and drivers in the continental discussion. He requested the NGF share copies of these agreements via email.

He also noted the good relationship Mr President has with the King of Morocco, which can be leveraged as the respect for Nigeria is high. And highlighted the MoU on a gas pipeline project linking Nigeria to Morocco, which will also supply West Africa and Europe, signed by Mr President in September 2022. FORAF President suggested that similar agreements will need to be signed with countries along the pipeline route such as Niger Republic. He concluded by informing the FORAF President of the scheduled visit to Nigeria by the King of Morocco, and his participation in the delegation.

Next Steps:

- NGF to share copies of the MoU with the Ambassador with the intent to aid facilitation.

3. FORAF Executive Meeting/TWG Meeting

The UCLGA SG highlighted the African contribution to the agenda at the UCLG meeting in South Korea and how Africa is trying to optimize the opportunities on the World stage (UN, AfDB etc.) to promote the African Agenda. The focus of the meeting was on the

accountability and responsibility of members, which needs to be cascaded to lower levels of governance as the “grassroots” is where the development work and intervention points are clearly required.

The SG reiterated that there are several networks that make up subsidiaries of UCLGA, with a full spectrum of solutions designed to address the requirement needs of subnational governments. The objective is to strengthen “local Africa” as UCLGA has the convening power.

With regards to FORAF, the President said it is imperative that membership and classification is defined for clarity of financial commitments and responsibilities. He suggested further that for ease of administration, membership should be by associations/institutions rather than individual members.

The meeting proceeded with ongoing discussions with Afrexim bank, where their AfSNET will be subsumed within FORAF under the economic and financial pillars. The SG acknowledged the input of both parties (Afrexim bank and FORAF/UCLGA) in the review of the draft MoU which would facilitate the implementation of AfCFTA between African countries, with impact on cities, regions and localities.

The MoU as revised, was presented by the Afrexim bank representative and the feedback was that further revisions will be shared with Afrexim bank before the sign-off. The SG also requested that the mandate for Afrexim bank contract be expanded to explore support and develop road map for the remaining pillars and suggested that the FORAF Desk at NGF (together with the Governor of Kisumu) work with the Afrexim bank consultant to develop the ToR.

Next Steps:

- Finalize MoU with Afrexim bank
- TWG to develop the Implementation plan
- Explore the expansion of Afrexim bank role to support remaining FORAF pillars

4. Finance Committee Meeting

FORAF President and Gov Kisumu, as members of the Finance committee met to discuss the equity contributions of members to fund ATTIA and the risk assessment to be undertaken by UNCDF. With regards to the contributions, it was agreed that associations/institutions be responsible for the financial commitments given that they are not distracted by political activities. FORAF President opined that the scope of the risk assessment be expanded before the engagement of Afrexim bank as technical administrators, to include capacity development of officers and knowledge sharing on financial instruments to address the issue of sustainability.

One of the indicators the assessment will check is the risk of loans extending beyond the political cycle of the chief executive of the subnational. As current practice is not able to sustain long term investments/projects, the FORAF President suggested that a way out is to get the parliament to co-sign with the executives.

Next steps

- The ATTIA, Executive Director Mr Yatta promised to share the ATTIA Strategic document for further clarification on these issues.

5. Meeting with UCLGA SG and FORAF Desk

There were 2 major reference point to this meeting. (i) ATTIA and (ii) FORAF Desk

i. ATTIA:

The SG proposed that ATTIA be hosted in Nigeria for decentralization of UCLGA operations across Africa, in partnership with Afrexim bank, and that the NGF should lead the initiative for its governance (and not the bank) given that it is a territorial concern.

He also asked that NGF should identify and articulate the risks that could impede successful implementation of ATTIA if it is positioned in NGF. And that it is an opportunity for Nigeria to lead riding on the momentum of Nigeria's role on the international stage.

ii. FORAF Desk:

The SG emphasized that the Secretariat of FORAF is UCLGA and following the earlier discussion with the Director General of the NGF regarding the funding of the FORAF Desk in NGF, the SG suggested that an MoU between the NGF and UCLGA be drawn up to address funding the FORAF Desk operations. He suggested that a Focal point for FORAF in NGF is in order and that the desk be saddled with two (2) missions:

1. Supporting the President of FORAF (As long as the President is Chairman of NGF) with a mandate of 3 years, renewable once (Maximum term of 6 years).
2. And act as a liaison desk with UCLGA.

With regards to financial support from UCLGA, he said that UCLGA will relate with a Focal person at the FORAF Desk, who will be funded with salary from UCLGA, but the premises of work will be provided by NGF. This Focal person will also cover the UCLGA regional office in Accra. For the wider FORAF desk at NGF, he suggested that the MoU with Afrexim bank (for support on the economic and financial pillars of FORAF), be expanded to include funding the FORAF Desk operations.

He also shared a risk concern about the influence of the FORAF President after the political/election cycle as it relates with ATTIA. He said there is urgent need to identify the hurdles and accelerate the decisions to strengthen the institution and shield it from political interference, as by April 2023, the FORAF President's political power might wane. He went on to say, signing the MoU with Afrexim bank is very important and will strengthen the ATTIA. He also noted that establishing an MoU with UCLGA and NGF should be part of the next conversations with FORAF President Fayemi and the NGF. He again reiterated the conversation at this meeting should include: ATTIA being hosted in Nigeria and establishing the FORAF Desk in NGF with a focus on the African agenda, and that signing an agreement with the secretariat of UCLGA will protect this institution from Nigerian politics.

Next Steps and Recommendations:

1. Schedule a meeting with UCLGA SG, the NGF Chairman, FORAF President (Dr. Fayemi) and NGF DG to:
 - 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.
2. Draft an NGF-UCLGA MoU to govern the funding and operations of the focal person supporting the FORAF Desk
3. Develop a ToR for the FORAF Desk to guide the discussions on the financial agreement with Afrexim bank to fund FORAF Desk in NGF as implied in the UCLGA-Afrexim bank MoU.
4. Schedule a follow-up meeting with UCLGA SG, FORAF President and Afrexim bank after the MoU signing to discuss the financing of the Implementation plan

The timeline for these meetings is tentatively for 1st week in December. However, this is dependent on confirmation from all party's calendars.

Follow-up Meetings

The next Executive Council meeting is scheduled for May 2023 in Kisumu, while the PAC will be in November 2023 in Lagos.