



AFRICITIES SUMMIT

NAIROBI - KENYA, 18 – 22 September 2006

« Building local coalitions for effective implementation of the Millennium Goals in African Local Governments »

DECLARATION OF NAIROBI

Preamble

As a follow up to the decisions taken in Yaoundé on matters of resolutions and future action, and to the resolutions emerging from the thematic and general resolutions at the Nairobi Summit we the participants make this declaration. In making the declaration we recognise situational differences in the mandates of the stakeholders.

The participants at Africities Summit 2006 of Nairobi consider that no one should ignore any longer the fact that in ten years time, majority of Africans will be living in the cities, that 70% of the city dwellers currently live in the slums and that the experts reckon that, at the current speed of the implementation of the MDGs in Africa, it will take 110 years to achieve the targets fixed for 2015.

The participants are conscious of the drastic steps required for changes, their importance and urgency for the effective implementation of the MDGs and affirm that the time for action has come.

Declaration

- 1. The participants consider that in accordance with Millenium Development and 2005 Summit the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) should serve as the bases for national and local action for the fight against poverty and for the promotion of sustainable development. They stress that the implementation of the MDGs is within the context of the access of all to fundamental rights**
- 2. The participants further urge that the implementation of the MDGs by local governments take its bearing on the principles defined in Africities Summit 2003 at Younde, for access of all the people to basic services and on the public responsibility that it implies.**
- 3. The participants consider that the mobilisation of all the stakeholders is now required to be able to urgently tackle the challenges and hope to achieve the targets by 2015. They own the campaign launched by the world organisation of United Cities and Local Governments around the theme : « 2015, no excuses ». In this regard, they call upon stakeholders to build sustainable coalitions in the spirit of democracy and responsible dialogue.**
- 4. The participants, following the resolutions of this Africities Summit, call upon the local governments to play the strategic role in the coalitions, to develop their own governance tools to strengthen their political legitimacy, to build partnerships and to implement the collective choices established within this framework.**

5. The participants, in this perspective, call upon the local governments to elaborate local development plans and budgets articulated around the MDGs, known and owned by the citizens and local development actors. These local development plans must become the management and assessment tools, as well as the tool for structuring relations with all the stakeholders.
6. The participants urge the development partners to recognise the crucial role of local governments in all their dialogue on the PRSP (Poverty Reduction Programme) and provision of resources to governments on this.
7. The participants welcome the creation of AMCOD (All Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralization and Local Development) and support its recognition as a specialized Technical Committee of the African Union.
8. The participants call on the African Union and NEPAD to develop in depth relations with the local governments through their continental organization, UCLGA (United Cities and Local Governments of Africa). They reiterate their demand for a High Council of Local Governments within the African Union. They urge that NEPAD territorializes its objectives and its programs, taking into account the MDGs and the commitment of local governments.
9. The participants suggest that, within the framework of the African Union, the local governments be part of all early warning mechanisms on conflicts and post-conflict management situations.
10. The participants recommend to the African governments to support the decentralization guidelines whose discussion is scheduled to take place during the UN-Habitat Council meeting in April 2007.
11. The participants urge that it be made mandatory for all local governments in each country to join their national association, as it should be for these national associations and the qualified cities to join UCGLA.
12. The participants, in the context of globalization, call for the strengthening of the world organization of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the relations between UCLG and UCLGA. Furthermore, they demand the UCLGA to develop relations in partnership with all the organizations and associations of local governments, in the continent and in the other continents. They welcome the numerous initiatives of the international community, as that of the Cities Alliance Initiative, for the strengthening of the presence of local governments in the international system.

In conclusion, the participants urge that a permanent evaluation system of the recommendations and resolutions of the Africities 2006 be set up under the aegis of UCLGA.

The participants thank most especially the President of the Republic of Kenya for having hosted personally the Summit and contributed extensively to its success. They also express their sincere thanks to the Government of Kenya, the Municipal Development Partnership, the Association of Local Governments Authorities of Kenya (ALGAK), and the City of Nairobi for the efforts made in the organization and the quality of the Africities 4 Summit.

Done in Nairobi, on 22 September 2006

The Participants