



AFRICITIES SUMMIT

NAIROBI - KENYA, 18 – 22 September 2006

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

ACADEMICS AND RESEARCHERS

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Preamble

Taking cognizance of skills requirement, the necessity for information collection and analysis to guide policy formulation and decision making and situation analysis of projects and activities-all for ensuring the MDGs, the role of academics and researchers cannot be over emphasized. Therefore to achieve these, it is recommended that :

- **TO THE MINISTERS**
 1. Central governments must formulate national policies that recognise the important roles of academics and researchers in the implementation of the MDGs.
 2. Create enabling environment in terms of infrastructure and other facilities to aid the academics and researchers in the pursuit of the objectives of the MDGs
 3. Ensure the maintenance and sustainability of high quality performance in professional practice among academics and researchers.
 4. Provide the necessary and sufficient funding to facilitate the performance of academics and researchers in the search for ways of implementing the MDGs.
 5. Open up new areas of training at the universities in Africa e.g. environmental planning and management, as a substitute to similar courses offered in the western universities.
 6. Encourage universities and academicians to go beyond research and transform research output in the continent into innovations.
 7. Establish continent-wide network of universities and academicians to foster information exchange sharing.

8. Develop environmentally sustainable curriculum at both primary, secondary and tertiary level; and enhance urban planning and governance in the curriculum of African universities.
 9. Encourage North-South collaboration in research among academicians/researchers at the universities on the continent; and foster collaborative partnerships.
 10. Promote integration of local universities into the management of African cities and explore ways and means of utilising local university experts instead of hiring of foreign experts.
 11. Strengthen the alliance of African universities and encourage inter-country research projects with full involvement of students in the countries involved.
 12. Address the issue of financing research in the African universities and encourage local authorities to set up training levies as a source of funds for meeting tuition fees of their own staff for sponsorship to various courses in the universities to enhance skills and continuous professional development of local government personnel.
 13. Collaborate with international partners to increase research funds available to African academicians and researchers.
 14. Promote the involvement of researchers and academicians in the evaluation and monitoring of donor funded projects in African cities.
- TO THE MAYORS
 1. Local Government Authorities must establish valued and lasting partnerships with academic and research institutions in the quest to:
 - a. Create purposive dialogue on professional needs
 - b. Ensure skills training on local authorities tasks and responsibilities, and
 - c. Facilitate continuous provision of fresher courses in the face of incremental administrative challenges.;
 2. Create space and land for academic and research facilities so as to offset pressure put on existing academic and research facilities by ever rising members of school going population and by the unending rural-urban migration;
 3. Ensure an academic and research facilitation through the establishment of easily accessible and sufficiently equipped libraries;

4. Establish an internship system that allows students to experience (in person) institutional challenges to respond to community demands by spending limited and monitored time in different local authorities as part of the students' curricula requirements;
5. Sensitise both academic and research institutions, and all communities on the imperatives of gender equality in all spheres of academic pursuit on the overall responsibilities of local authorities to community residents;
6. Guarantee full participation of the youth in propelling the implementations of local development agenda;
7. Facilitate involvement of broad-based community representation in national and international for a on issues of local development vis-à-vis social and economic planning;
8. Initiate mutually beneficial twinning with cities in the North;
9. Put in place in place an evaluation system designed to:
 - a. Measure progress in the implementation of every action-oriented decision made;
 - b. Determine the quantity and quality of the capacity building programmes, output, in particular formal and tailor-made skills training, and
 - c. Quantify the overall value of the benefits accruing to the local authorities across the body.
10. Formulate local policies that recognise the important roles of academic and researchers in the implementation of the MDGs;
11. Carry out needs assessment in terms of the MDGs for cities at the local government level;
12. Create effective partnerships between local authorities, local communities and the universities;
13. Promote technology transfer between the universities and the communities
14. Bridge the information gap and dissemination of information between the universities and the communities;
15. Outsource identified tasks to local universities especially in areas of financial management, land use planning, property management and infrastructure design and evaluation and monitoring of development projects;

16. Collaborate in demonstration of projects of research outputs especially in promotion of adoption of appropriate building materials in the African cities, and

17. Encourage the involvement of university students to conduct research in local government development projects thorough specific assignments and written research reports to university student both graduates and post graduate.

- TO THE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

1. Development Partners should assist with skills transfer, particularly in critical areas such as policy formulation and sciences;
2. Help with “donor materials” inclusive of technical equipment and books;
3. Open up institutions in their countries to accommodate interns from Africa;
4. Facilitate prioritised institutional partnership with the object to capacitate learners, researchers and academics on sabbatical, and
5. Organise fora to achieve all of the above.