

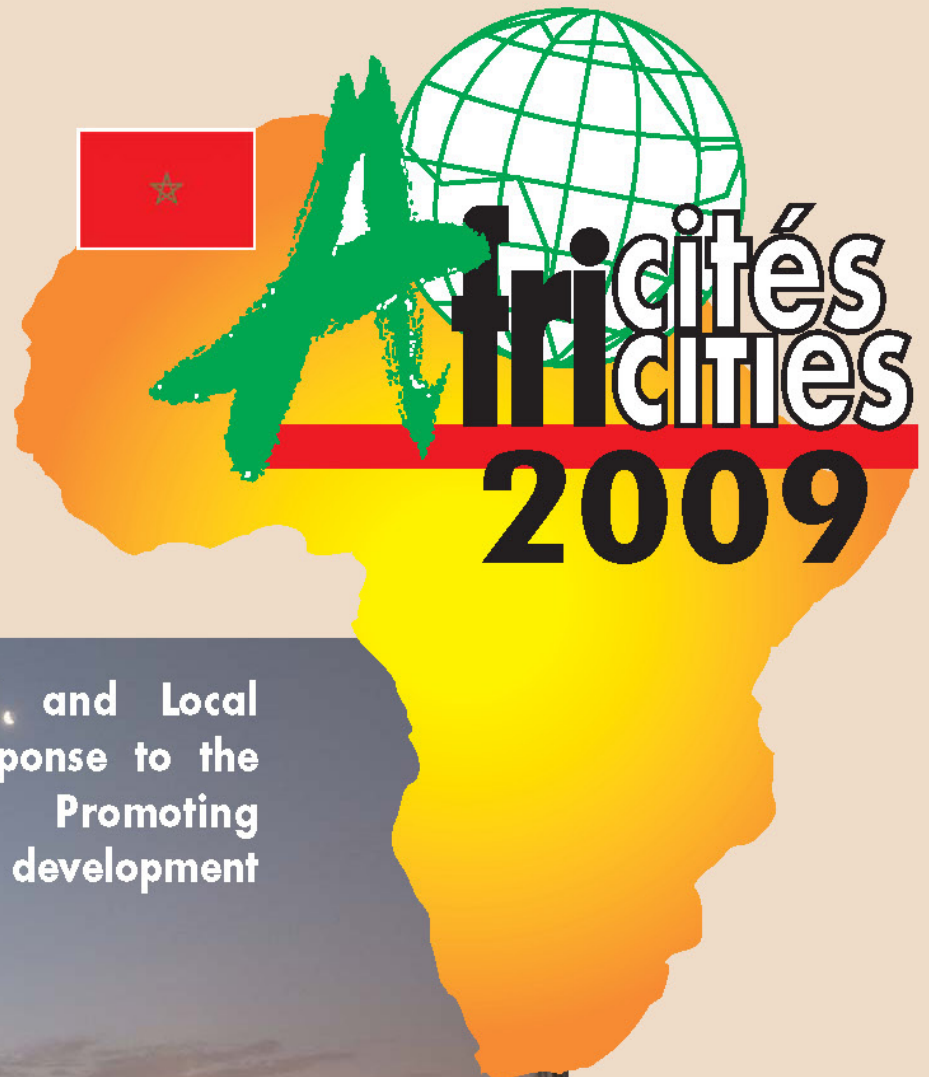
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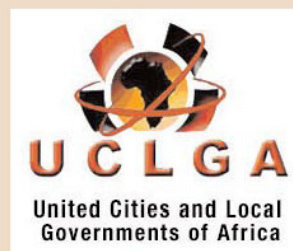
African Summit of Local Governments

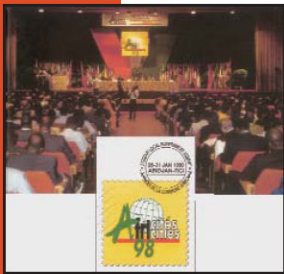
Marrakesh – Morocco

From 16 to 20 December 2009



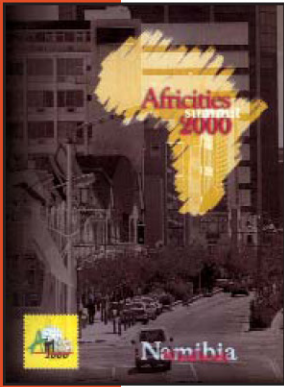
African Regional and Local Governments' response to the global crisis : Promoting sustainable local development and employment





Africities 1 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in 1998, marked the emergence of African local governments on the regional and international scene.

For the first time, the participants from across the continent decided to supersede the barriers of official languages inherited from the colonial era, in order to promote an African Voice on the challenges of decentralization, local development, regional integration and cooperation in Africa.



Africities 2 in Windhoek, Namibia, in 2000, marked the beginning of the structuring on the one hand of the Pan-African Dialogue on decentralization and sustainable local development, and on the other, of the African municipal movement.

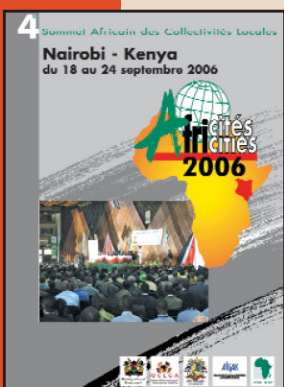
The two thousand two hundred participants, including forty ministers and six hundred mayors and local elected officials, decided to set up a coordination mechanism of their action planned to lead to the establishment of an All Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralization and Local Development (AMCOD), an intergovernmental institution of ministers in charge of the administrative, financial and technical supervision of local governments, with the aim of including decentralization in the African political agenda; and the Council of Cities and Regions of Africa (CCRA), with a view to building and representing the unified voice of African local governments.

The participants also decided to institutionalize the Africities Summit as the Pan-African Dialogue Platform on decentralization, and to organize this event every three years.



Africities 3 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in 2003, the three thousand five hundred participants passed two major political decisions i.e. the effective setting up of the All Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralization and Local Development (AMCOD) and the Council of Cities and Regions of Africa (CCRA) which was renamed United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA).

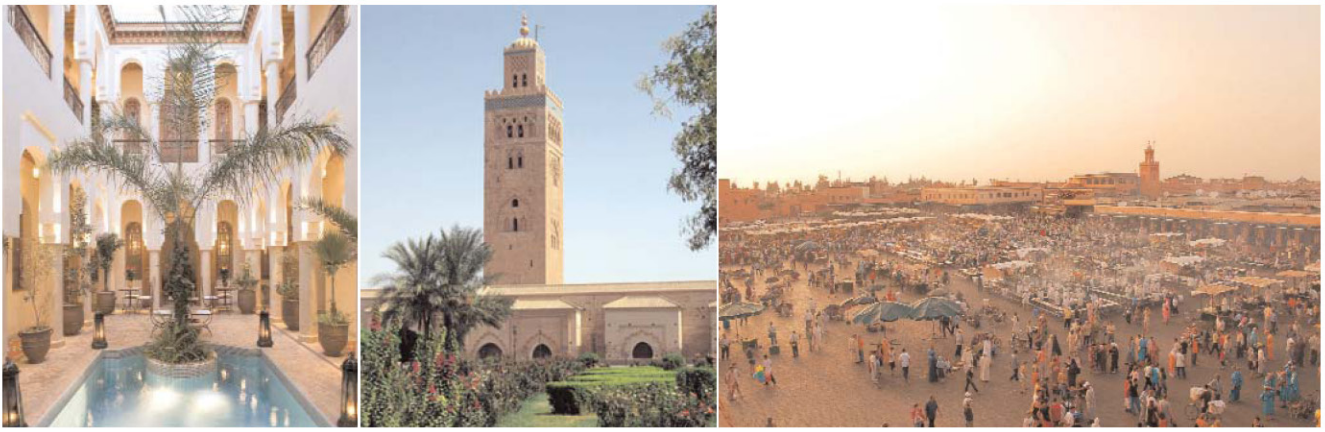
They decided to undertake the necessary steps for the recognition of these two institutions by the African Union. Besides, they placed decentralization and local government capacity building in the improvement prospects of the living conditions of the people and citizen participation, and laid down the access of the people to basic services as a key element for the credibility of local government actions.



Africities 4 in Nairobi, Kenya, in September 2006, the central theme was "Building coalitions for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in African Local Governments."

Africities 4 in Nairobi was mainly a meeting of stakeholders. It was centered on the contribution of African local governments to the effective implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Actually this Summit offered a unique opportunity to all the decentralization stakeholders (Local and Central Governments, Partners) to take stock of the implementation of decentralization policies in Africa and Millennium Development Goals in African local governments.

Africities 4 marked the end of a cycle, the one of the emergence and structuring of the African municipal movement, and opened a new stage, the one of action. Through the Millennium Development Goals, the pressing need to fight misery and poverty, and to improve the living conditions of the people is now affirmed. With the appropriation of this prospect, the African local governments have fixed their objectives and have decided to set up the means in order to attain them.



Africities 5 in Marrakesh, Marocco, the central theme is «African Regional and Local Governments' response to the global crisis : Promoting sustainable local development and employment».

The current global financial crisis brings to the fore the need to conduct a renewed reflection on the operation of the world economy and on the definition and implementation of development strategies. The idea that no region, no country and no community would succeed in overcoming this crisis all alone is gaining momentum. In this respect it is important to integrate a greater number of countries and decision makers into the consultation efforts aiming at resolving the crisis, and not only the leaders of the G8 member-countries, as it was done at the last meeting of the G-20 in London, the UK. The world is now aware that the current crisis is not limited to its financial dimension. Its economic, social, ecologic, geopolitical, moral indeed even civilization dimensions are equally important. This multidimensional nature of the world crisis is an indication that the world is going through a specific moment in its history, in which the certainties underlying the operation of development models are now called into question. Each region of the world is called upon in order to propose new prospects that can guarantee a sustainable human development for the world.

The ambition of the Marrakesh Africities Summit is to put on the table African Regional and Local Governments proposals that will contribute in overcoming the present world crisis.



During the whole week from 16 to 20 December, the International Business Exhibition of African Cities and Regions – Citexpo, will also be organized within the framework of the Africities Summit. It provides an exhibition space of a minimum of 3,000 square meters that can accommodate some 300 to 500 exhibitors.

The exhibitors come from various horizons in order to present their products, know-how and best practices. They are from both the private and public sectors. The exhibition attracts also associations, NGOs, cities and national associations of local authorities (NALAs), research and training institutions, consultancy firms, willing to share with the Summit delegates and visitors their experience in the field of decentralization and local development, or willing simply to offer to the participants the opportunity to explore their organizations or the attractions of their localities of origin.

Everyone, participant in the Summit, local visitor or exhibitor will surely draw benefits from this International Business Exhibition of African Cities and Regions over the five days of fruitful exchanges on topics touching his everyday life.

