

**Programmes UCLG Africa**  
**Special session on Participatory Budgeting**  
**Wednesday December 5th 2012 (2.30pm-5.30pm) (room B 01), Dakar, Sénégal**

**Outline and Presentation of the session**

---

**1. Context and rationale**

This session is one of a series of 13 sessions focusing on UCLG Africa's programmes which are part of its three-year priority programme (2010-2012), adopted by its executive committee in July 2010 and for which the Secretary General of UCLGA has been in charge of preparing feasibility studies.

The session also marks the tenth anniversary of the commitment of African local actors to Participatory Budgeting (PB). Ten years have passed since the signature of the letter of intent on Participatory Budgeting which marked the beginning of the scaling up of this innovative participatory financial management tool. This letter of intent was signed during the Africities Summit in Cameroon in 2003, *"in presence of the Mayor of Guediawaye (Senegal), the representative of the International Alliance of Inhabitants for Africa, and the executive director of UN-Habitat Africa. It is the result of a series of discussions and consultations amongst five local authorities in Cameroon, the Brazilian Municipalities Cooperation Agency represented by the municipality of Caxias do Sul, the municipality of Montevideo, the Coordination for Latin America and the Caribbean within the Urban Management Programme, UN-Habitat, the Municipal Development Partnership, ASSOAL for Local Development, and the National Network of Inhabitants in Cameroon"*.

From then onwards, significant progress has been made. According to the 2011 inventory carried out as part of a feasibility study launched by UCLG Africa, 162 participatory budgeting experiences have been implemented in urban and rural municipalities in 23 African countries. Moreover, of the 162 municipalities, those for which reliable population data is available represent approximately 35 million inhabitants. This shows the importance of PB processes in Africa – although one needs to differentiate this figure from the number of people having effectively participated, as well as from the number of people having benefitted from the projects implemented. The dissemination of PB experiences has furthermore been possible thanks to the work of the institutions involved in this special session on participatory budgeting, with a focus on organisations providing technical support such as ENDA Tiers-Monde and ASSOAL.

Each of the participatory budgeting processes that are underway, whether in early stages or consolidation stages, are deeply rooted in local realities and practices. This explains their diversity, as well as their adaptability to local conditions and challenges. They build on citizen participation, on various forms of local planning, on the aspirations of the population to democracy in the context of decentralisation processes. They represent African local authorities' political, social and economic response to the global crisis affecting the continent.

Additional activities on Participatory Budgeting are also planned during Africités, such as:

- The launch of the Participatory Budgeting Award.
- The designation of an African good practice in the field of participatory budgeting by a committee of experts.
- Part of the session on Decentralised Cooperation in Latin America and Africa will be focusing on perspectives for cooperation with regards to participatory budgeting. This will culminate with the signature of the first cooperation agreement between an African town and a Brazilian town.

## 2. Aims of the session

- Share the depth and diversity of participatory budgeting processes in Africa, as well as the challenges that they are facing. This should provide municipalities and actors interested in PB, and who have not implemented PB yet, with relevant information and answers.
- Promote the exchange of knowledge and know-how amongst actors from various towns and local authorities implementing PB processes, focusing on the key areas on which PB impacts positively such as: the deepening of decentralisation and the improvement of territorial planning, the strengthening of democracy and citizen participation, the improvement of living conditions for the poorest, as well as resource mobilisation for local development.
- Introduce and discuss UCLGA's preliminary "Participatory Budgeting in Africa" programme. African local authorities who wish to do so will also be given the opportunity to formally express their interest (see the annex "Call for expressions of interest").

## 3. Programme (the list of speakers remains provisional)

The special session on participatory budgeting will last three hours, and will follow a similar structure to the other sessions focusing on UCLG Africa's programmes.

### 2.30pm-2.50pm: Brief introduction and words of welcome

- Mr Manuel Cambezo, Chair of the Session, President of the Municipal Council of Dondo, Mozambique<sup>1</sup>
- UCLG-A : Mr Elong MBassi, Secretary General
- UN-Habitat, Mr Alioune Badiane, Director of the Regional and Technical Cooperation Division
- A representative from a civil society organisation (tbc)

### 2.50pm-3:20pm: Part 1 – Introduction: the rationale behind UCLGA's participatory budgeting programme

This part of the session will focus more precisely on the challenges faced by the programme, its expectations for the coming years, and its alignment with UCLGA's long-term strategy as outlined by the Governance, Advocacy & Decentralised Development Programme for Africa. Objectives for the next five years will be clarified: (i) 300 local authorities in 40 African countries, including 200 new local authorities, will have PB processes underway; (ii) 1000 local authorities will have expressed their interest in implement PB processes; (iii) 40 "resource" cities and towns for participatory budgeting will have emerged; (iv) 30 *anchoring institutions* working on both national and local scales; (v) 1000 individuals trained, who will be able to contribute to the dissemination of PB.

#### *Presentation*

- Mr Elong MBassi, Secretary General, UCLGA
- Mr Yves Cabannes, Professor, DPU/UCL

#### *Comments and additional information :*

- Mr Bachir Kanouté (tbc), Coordinator, ENDA Tiers Monde ECOPOP.
- Mr the Mayor of a Malagasy local authority (tbc)

### 3.20pm-4pm: Part 2 – Presentation of the participatory budgeting programme

The five current components of the programme will be presented:

1. Local capacity building with regards to PB
2. Monitoring & Evaluation and knowledge production with regards to PB.

---

<sup>1</sup> Participatory budgeting in Dondo obtained the Good Governance Award during the Africites Summit in Marrakech in December 2009.

3. Recognition, dissemination and communication (knowledge management)
4. Strengthening of national and pan-African networks on participatory budgeting
5. Latin America-Africa partnerships.

Related activities, schedules and tangible results for participating local administrations and actors will be presented for each of these components.

*Presentation (20 minutes)*

- Mr Elong Mbassi, Secretary General, UCLG Africa
- Mr Yves Cabannes, Professor, DPU/UCL

*Comments (15 minutes):*

- Mr Boubacar Albé Ndoye, Mayor of Rufisque East, Sénégal
- Mrs Thmi Ntima, Mayor of Bumbu, Kinshasa, DRC

**4pm-5pm Part 3. Q&A and discussion on the participatory budgeting programme implementation**

In addition to the discussion, part of this session will be dedicated to participants' presentations of their own experiences. This will be followed by the registration of expressions of interest for local authorities and organisations looking at participating in the participatory budgeting programme.

Comments:

- Mr George Matovu (tbc), Regional Director, Municipal Development Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa
- Mrs Hellen Muchunu, Regional Coordinator, National Taxpayers' Association, Nyeri, Kenya
- Mrs Daniely Votto Fontoura, representative of the Porto Alegre municipality, Brazil

**5pm-5.30pm Part 4. Conclusions and recommendations**

A draft resolution will be presented, discussed, complemented by participants' inputs, as well as adopted during the session. The recommendations adopted will be forwarded to the political sessions with Mayors and local authorities, for them to be discussed further.

*Rapporteur :*

Mr Jules Dumas Nguebou, Executive Secretary, National Network of Inhabitants (Cameroon), and Coordinator, ASSOAL.

**4. Partner organisations (provisional list)**

**Institutions, associations, programmes and African networks:**

ASSOAL, Cameroon; ENDA Tiers Monde / ECOPOP, Dakar; National Network of Inhabitants, Cameroon; Cameroonian Alliance for Participatory Budgeting and Local Finance, Cameroon; Municipal Development Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa, Zimbabwe; National Taxpayers' Association, Kenya; Programme for the Support of Civil Society, Cameroon.

**International organisations (technical cooperation, academia, municipal organisations)**

Africa Research Institute, United Kingdom; Building and Social Housing Foundation, United Kingdom; Centre for Social Studies at the University of Coimbra, Portugal; European Union delegation (TIC-GOUV programme) in Cameroon; Department for International Development, United Kingdom; Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy commission within UCLGA; World Bank Institute; GIZ; UN-Habitat.