

African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum 2017 Tshwane Declaration

We, Mayors of African Capital Cities, gathered at the City of Tshwane, the Capital City of South Africa from 13 to 15 June 2017 hereby declare that collective commitment to advance sustainability within the African continent through ground-breaking initiatives is essential, and

Noting the current global challenges that threaten growth and development in our cities, including but not limited to climate changes, energy and water access and stresses, sanitation, global economic slowdown, rising unemployment and social inequities, trade facilitation, connectivity, land and biodiversity degradation, amongst others;

Realising the unique role of capital cities in providing leadership for other local authorities within country borders;

Recognising the importance of partnerships and collaborative efforts in the implementation of sustainability programmes;

Recognising the importance and necessity of collaboration between the national, local and other levels of government to align and better address sustainable development challenges;

Acknowledging the existing African regional processes and commitments towards development including Agenda 2063;

Commending recent global commitments and progress made towards sustainable development, particularly through the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 11, the New Urban Agenda as the main Habitat III Outcome; the Paris Climate Agreement (2015); the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030); the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) and the outcomes of the UNFCCC COP22 held in Marrakesh in November 2016;

Recognising that while we look towards international development frameworks and national legislative prescripts for policy directives, local governments have a special role and unique opportunity to contribute to the achievement of international and national sustainability agreements and commitments, and

Acknowledging the increasing rate of urbanization - especially in African Cities - and the need to design and implement sustainable urban development solutions to address this trend,

We therefore commit to lead in advancing the following:

- 1. Locally appropriate and ambitious actions in each of our Capital Cities in accordance with international, regional and national development frameworks and our local development priorities, strategies and plans;*
- 2. Strengthened collaboration and partnerships with each other and with our other levels of government, entities and institutions to advance the goals of sustainable development in our cities;*

3. *Enhanced and cohesive advocacy and participation in national, regional and international fora, platforms and processes in recognition of the pivotal contribution of cities towards sustainable development*
4. *The enhancement of infrastructure in our capitals to allow for connectivity and ease of doing business within the African continent;*
5. *Full utilisation and investment in our most precious resource - our people in implementing sustainability projects;*
6. *Focus on the Food-Water-Energy nexus and climate resilience to effectively address the developmental challenges posed by this nexus;*
7. *Investment and focus on sustainable transport and connectivity to allow for freedom of movement within urban and rural spaces, especially to centres of economic activity;*
8. *Joint leverage on mechanisms for sustainability financing to ensure that investments in urban infrastructure secures sustainable economic growth within the carrying capacity of the planet's systems and resources;*
9. *Prioritisation of reduction of informal settlements which are a visible sign of urban poverty by improving access to basic services like clean water, electricity, health services, sanitation and urban food production programmes;*
10. *Transition our cities towards a green economy that will ensure the provision of basic services, secure local economic development while preserving natural resources, stimulating employment creation and industrial activity;*
11. *Increased focus on waste management programmes through reduction, reuse, recovery, recycling and waste-to-energy solutions.*
12. *The horizontal integration and vertical alignment - coupled with increased accessing to finance and other required resources - to enable the accelerated contribution of our cities towards sustainable development.*

We further agree to explore the establishment of a formalized forum for all Capital Cities of Africa evolving from the current ACCSF platform, properly constitutionalized and governed by these cities and supported by a dedicated, permanent Secretariat. We endeavour to meet annually and commit to regularly assess and share our individual and collective progress towards urban sustainability in between our meetings.

Finally, we acknowledge and accept the offer from the City of Tshwane to facilitate and host the ACCSF Secretariat for a first term with support of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and others, and further congratulate the City for successfully hosting the African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum for a third consecutive year in June 2017.

We, the Mayors and City leaders from the African Capital Cities listed below, hereby state that we participated in the formulation of this Declaration and adopted it on the occasion of the African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum hosted in Tshwane held on 13 to 15 June 2017:

Country	Capital
Botswana	Gaborone
Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou
Burundi	Bujumbura
Central African Republic	Bangui
Chad	N'Djamena
Comoros	Moroni
Gabon	Akanda
Gabon	Libreville
Gambia	Banjul
Ghana	Accra
Guinea-Bissau	Bissau
Kenya	Nairobi
Liberia	Monrovia
Madagascar	Antananarivo
Malawi	Lilongwe
Mauritania	Nouakchott
Morocco	Rabat
Namibia	Windhoek
Niger	Niamey
Nigeria	Abuja
Sahwari	Bir Lahlou
São Tomé & Príncipe	São Tomé
Senegal	Dakar
Seychelles	Victoria
South Africa	Tshwane
South Sudan	Juba
Swaziland	Mbabane
Togo	Lomé
Uganda	Kampala