

African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum

The Tshwane Declaration of 2019

Gathered here at the City of Tshwane, the Capital City of South Africa, from 24 to 25 June 2019, we the Mayors and/or representatives of African Capital Cities, today represented by:

*Bamako City Council
Bangui City Council
Banjul City Council
City of Cape Town
City of Tshwane
Dodoma City Council
Freetown City Council
Gaborone City Council
Gitega City Council
Harare City Council
Juba City Council
Khartoum State Government
Lilongwe City Council
Luanda Administrative Commission
Lusaka City Council
Maputo City Council
Maseru City Council
Mbabane City Council
Moroni City Government
Niamey City
Nouakchott Council
Ouagadougou Municipal Council
Porto Novo Municipality
Rabat Local Government
Tifariti Local Government
Victoria Town Council
Windhoek City Council*

do hereby note:

- the compounding issues and scientific evidence recorded in reports such as [United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report 2017 on Rapid Urbanisation: Opportunities and Challenges to improve the well-being of society](#), [UN Habitat The state of African Cities Report 2018 - The Geography of African Investment](#), the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C](#), 2018, [The UNEP International Resource Panel Report on the Weight of Cities](#), and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) [Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#), 2019, which demonstrate the urgency for all actors, including those at the local level, to take hands in addressing the numerous challenges around social inclusivity, climate and nature, both in and around our cities, for the survival and well-being of our urban communities;
- the growing role of cities and the unique and diverse role of national capitals;
- the important role of cities in contributing to national adaptation plans;
- the centrality of Sustainable Development in our continent's future stability and prosperity; and
- the importance of coming together as Capital Cities in shared spaces, for the purposes of support through solidarity, partnership and collaboration, and exercising our collective voice;

In this context, we acknowledge:

- the **compounding social and environmental pressures on cities**, both global and local, which include climate change, food- energy- and water-security, sanitation, waste and pollution, global economic slowdown, depleting human resources and ageing population, community safety and immigration, rising unemployment and social inequities, land degradation and biodiversity loss, amongst others;
- the **potential** embodied by our growing youthful populations, and by the fourth industrial revolution with its associated information, connectivity, technology and productivity;
- the importance of multi-level governance, and the need for an **increasing role for cities to contribute to the realization of Agenda 2063**, through working with and within the structures of the African Union;
- the need for **good governance**, to provide a future for all citizens, to create jobs, to ensure a role for displaced persons, and to build thriving communities;
- the significance of developing **African visions for cities**, current and future; and
- the value of **partnerships and collaborative efforts** in the implementation of sustainability programmes.

We further recognize:

- the value of endorsing a **community of practice** that aims to up and out-scale urban climate resilience processes and principles. Working at multiple scales, this community of practice will harness existing structures and networks, ensuring linkages of the right stakeholders on the right issues for inspiration;
- the African Union's (AU) efforts on **gender equality and development** and promoting women's empowerment by ensuring that African cities comply with the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa; and
- the growing youth population and the need for **purposeful youth empowerment and involvement** in public processes
- that **migration** is inherent to our continent and others, and will continue to exist. Therefore we look forward to working together in this Forum, in the spirit of the United Nations Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, to find just and fair solutions for a growing migrant community on the continent, and to stand together with migrants and displaced persons.

It is upon this foundation that **we, the leaders and representatives of capital cities of Africa**, hereby commit to:

- taking hands as a family of capital cities, committing not only to **inspire and learn from each other** but also to **take these messages home** to our citizens, and to all other subnational authorities of our respective countries;
- creating cities that are **inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**, and to uphold the central pledge of Agenda 2030 to “leave no one behind”;
- reaching out in an inclusive manner to **other subnational governments** such as intermediate and fast-growing municipalities, but also to smaller and rural communities, which are all an important part of our continent’s cultural fabric and society;
- accepting that, as Capital Cities, **we have a special responsibility** for reaching out to and encouraging fellow cities, and for working together as capital cities to strengthen, empower and inspire each other and the subnational authorities of our continent, to take collective local action for global impact in achieving sustainable development; and
- **encouraging fellow ACCSF Cities that they propose to their own City Councils that this Forum is recognized and supported through Council resolution.**

We therefore affirm our belief in shared solutions, by cities and for cities, to build a sustainable urban future for the people of Africa's cities, and we reiterate and endorse our previous statement presented in the 2018 Declaration of the African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum.

We the Mayors commend and support ICLEI Africa's newly launched Fortitude Initiative, which aims to mobilise existing and new resources to provide tangible and long-term support to the cities and towns most affected by cyclones Idai and Kenneth. At the core of this initiative is the ethos to build back better and implement innovative solutions to natural disasters in the future.

We further commit to expand, strengthen and raise our ambitions through:

- existing projects and initiatives such as FRACTAL, INTERACT-Bio, Urban-LEDs, UNA Rivers, CitiesWithNature and CITYFOOD Network, and welcome other cities to join in supporting and partnering on these with us;
- encouraging each other, and welcoming twinning and exchange arrangements between each other, and ask the Secretariat to further look at enhancing and strengthening the existing and new twinning and exchange arrangements between the ACCSF cities.

We salute the City of Tshwane for convening the first African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum, and for demonstrating consistent growth and exceptional quality of the four events thereafter.

We thank our gracious Hosts, the City of Tshwane and ICLEI Africa, who, together, have enabled our African Capital Cities to convene for the Fifth African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum in Tshwane, from 24 to 25 June 2019, to build a formal African leadership platform that advances locally driven, globally impactful sustainable development.

We acknowledge that it is time to pass the baton of ACCSF, and appreciate the clarion call from Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane to this effect. This accords with the norms and procedures of the international community and its rules of diplomatic engagement. We applaud the ACCSF as an African event, and hereby formally state that the ACCSF will rotate between Capital Cities. This will ensure that the African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum is shared by its leaders and stakeholders, and remains sustainable in the long term.

We welcome ICLEI Africa taking on the Secretariat role, to support the continuity of the ACCSF as it rotates. As requested by ACCSF Mayors over the previous two years, the ACCSF Secretariat will provide ACCSF cities with ongoing administrative and technical support throughout the year. The Secretariat will provide technical and administrative support to host cities, in partnership with the city's technical staff, to convene the ACCSF each year.

We welcome the 2020 African Capital Cities Sustainability forum for continued impact for our African urban citizens.

This, the Tshwane Declaration of 2019, formally establishes the ACCSF Secretariat, to be held in stewardship by ICLEI Africa.