

Kampala Declaration on Building Inclusive Growth and Liveability in African Cities

We, the Ministers, Governors, Mayors City Managers and Administrators of Eastern, Central and Southern African cities have gathered here in Kampala, Uganda from the 24th - 26th May 2016 for the inaugural of East and Central African Cities Development Forum (ECAC-DeF) and to spearhead the development of a regional action framework for the key priorities for the cities in our region.

The Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Cities include cities in the following Countries; Burundi, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda

In this context we adopt the following Kampala Declaration on *Building Inclusive Growth and Liveability in African Cities*:

Welcoming the fact that we live in an era of unprecedented rapid urbanisation, with more than 50 per cent of people in the world living in urban areas and in particular Africa reaching a 50 per cent share of the urban population by 2050;

Appreciating that over 80 per cent of global GDP is generated by cities and thus urbanisation is not only an outcome but also a driver for economic growth and development;

Acknowledging that urban growth occurs because of the economic advantages of cities in terms of scale and density, but that reaping these benefits requires investments from the public and the private sector as well as an enabling policy environment;

Further acknowledging that urbanisation come with challenges, such as crime, contagion and congestion, as well as climate change impacts, and as such these challenges need to be closely managed;

Acknowledging that the forum upholds the Treaty establishing the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, COMESA,

signed on 5th November 1993 in Kampala, Uganda and ratified in Lilongwe, Malawi on 8th December 1994

Guided by the AU Agenda 2063, as a strategic framework to deliver the aspirations of the continent towards a prosperous Africa based on inclusive socio-economic transformation of productive and livable spaces;

Further guided by the Sustainable Development Goals specifically goals 11 and 17 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Management (2015-2030) and the COP21 Declaration on Climate Change;

Taking into account the Abuja Habitat III Africa declarations on Sustainable Urban Development with a focus on regional urbanization agendas to strengthen transitions and improve existing conditions, the Pretoria Habitat III Declarations on Informal Settlements that focused specifically on combating the spatial, socio and economic exclusion in informal settlements;

Building on the success of various other global and regional frameworks including the World Urban Forum and the Africities Conference as arenas for interactions among policymakers, local governments, non-government stakeholders and academia;

Affirming the following main principles for urbanisation in the Eastern and Central African region:

- 1. Urbanisation as an engine for economic development and growth:** Recognizing that urbanisation is both an unprecedented but also positive transformation for the Eastern and Central African region and that many of the countries in the area still at the early stages of urbanisation;
- 2. Urbanisation as a means to foster productive and liveable places:** Harnessing the advantages of cities to generate productive and liveable areas that foster social cohesion, stimulate innovation and employment but at the same time support environmental sustainability;
- 3. Urbanisation as potential for upward mobility:** Acknowledging the relationship between urbanisation and

increased income and thus the capacity for urbanisation to support poverty reduction and foster greater equality by delivering higher earnings, better quality of life and thus prosperity to its inhabitants;

4. **Urbanisation as positive, rapid and transformative process:** Underlining that managing effective urbanisation requires an integrated, multi-stakeholder approach and stressing the need to plan now for the present and the future;
5. **Urbanisation as a foundation for innovation and entrepreneurship:** Affirming that well-structured cities can generate higher productivity and clusters of firms that can foster innovation and entrepreneurship and thus encourage increased employment;
6. **Urbanisation as an opportunity to deliver climate smart cities:** Acknowledging the negative impacts of urbanisation on climate change and thus the current opportunities that exists to support the evolution of climate smart cities to mitigate these effects.

Calling upon the East and Central African Cities to build and implement a regional action framework for urbanisation in the region, under the following themes, which:

1. **Inclusive growth, slum upgrade and engendering rapid urbanisation**
 - Provides equitable access to affordable physical and social infrastructure in urban areas to support urban equity and eradication of poverty;
 - Redefines relationships with informal settlements, slums and the informal economy to harness and promote their potential for economic growth, prosperity and job creation;
 - Ensuring that cities in East and Central Africa are transformed safe, secure and child-friendly cities;
2. **Firm productivity, trade and growth of the city economy**

- Creates an enabling business environment for cities to unlock their potential to be drivers of economic growth, innovation and job creation;
- Ensures cities are well situated to provide hubs for innovation, entrepreneurship, investment and trade within and across the region;

3. Urban governance, transformational leadership and citizen accountability

- Requires strong leadership coupled with effective and appropriate policies for the efficient provision of public goods, infrastructure and services as well as to ensure that the markets can work effectively;
- Supports a conducive and vibrant platform for sustainable urban governance that recognizes the contributions of all stakeholders and institutes mechanisms of citizen accountability the provision of public services;
- Building city regional linkages to ensure that cities can learn from each other and share best practices;

4. Climate change, urban resilience and disaster risk management

- Incorporates designs for climate change mitigation into urban planning and thus transition cities to a low carbon development path;
- Develops the capacity and systems needed to mitigate, adapt to and recover from shocks as well as reducing vulnerabilities through the development and institutionalisation of disaster risk reduction and management framework;
- Provides new opportunities for green businesses and green jobs;

5. Spatial planning, infrastructure, mobility and housing

- Creates credible urban plans that encompass public investments, which provide a role of signalling and coordination expectations of the expansion of the city;

- Fosters the growth of an efficient and effective transport network to support increased connectivity within and across cities;
- Recognizes that urban land is a scarce resource and must be used efficiently to support the growth of cities;
- Undertakes residential investments to ensure the provision of affordable and adequate housing for all city residents;
- Recognises the importance of clarity of land tenure and of appropriate regulations in enabling private investment in housing

6. Water, sanitation and urban health

- Understands the complementarities between water and sanitation on health outcomes in a city and strives to incorporate improvements in their infrastructure;
- Optimizes investments in health infrastructure to improve health service delivery to those living in cities;

7. Urban data, research capacity and smart cities

- Recognizes the importance of evidenced based policy making in the urban agenda and thus supports increased and improved data collection for research to support decision-making within urbanisation;
- Harnesses the growing potential of technology and alternative data sources to underpin the urban agenda as well as encourage innovative solutions to urbanisation challenges;
- Shares best practices and lessons learned across the cities to support the regional urbanisation agenda;

8. Municipal financing, PPPs and alternative financing mechanisms

- Understands that to make cities successful, investments are required from the public and the private sectors;

- Reaffirms the central roles that resource mobilization and a sound municipal finance system have for effective urbanisation and that it is important for cities to explore alternative, viable options for city financing.

We, the Ministers, Governors, Mayors, City Managers and Administrators of Eastern, Central and Southern African cities, in line with the African Union 2063 Agenda, envision African cities that are inclusive, well-planned liveable environments, child friendly and safe to all, productive and transformative, with effective and efficient urban governance systems that can support the on-going rapid urbanisation for positive transformational change within our countries.

We, the Ministers, Governors, Mayors, City Managers and Administrators of Eastern, Central and Southern African cities, therefore commit to:

- *Implementing* the Kampala Declaration on *Building Inclusive Growth and Liveability in African Cities* and through this upholding the principles of sustainable urbanisation;
- *Hosting* the *Eastern and Southern African Cities Development Forum* every two years on a rotational basis in a different city in a different country to provide a platform for all stakeholders involved in city development as well as conference for City Managers and Administrators on an annual basis to discuss progress on the implementation on the Kampala Declaration;
 - *Developing* concrete programmes and targets during the City Managers and Administrators conference to move forward with the urban agenda in the region;
 - *Utilising* the Forum as voluntary peer review mechanisms to monitor and assess progress on towards targets in urbanisation;
- *Establishing* a Secretariat that shall be resident in Kampala to support the coordination of the Eastern and Southern African Cities Development Forum as well as the City Managers and Administrators Conference;
 - *Tracking* the implementation of agreed programmes, targets, policies and practices by a team of technical



staff, nominated by the cities undersigned to this Declaration, working closely with the Secretariat.

The Secretariat shall draft a charter to effect the decisions of this declaration.

Attached is the list of cities assenting to the Kampala Declaration as well as the observers.