



16 - 20 Décembre 2009

22, rue Essaadyine, Hassan – Rabat, Royaume du Maroc
Telephone: +212 537 260062 / +212 537 260063
Site web: www.africities.org

Special session on participatory budgeting
Africities, Friday, December 18, 2009, Marrakech, Morocco
Version 2, October 31st

Context and challenges

Over the past twenty years, participatory budgeting, which originated in Brazil, has expanded rapidly, while the practice has also become much more diverse. In 2009, more than 1200 municipalities around the world applied this *“mechanism (or process) through which populations decide on the allocation of all or part of the public resources available, or are involved in decision-making related to this allocation.”*

In 2003, during the *Africities Summit* in Cameroon, a letter of intention for Participatory Budgeting was signed *“in the presence of the Mayor of the municipality of Guediawaye in Senegal, the representative of the International Alliance of Inhabitants - Africa and the Director of UN-Habitat for Africa. This is the result of a series of discussions and agreements among 5 municipalities of Cameroon, the Cooperation Agency of Brazilian Municipalities, represented by the Municipality of Caxias do Sul, the Municipality of Montevideo, the Coordinator of the Urban Management Program for Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Habitat, the Municipal Development Partnership –PDM -, ASSOAL and the National Network of Inhabitants of Cameroon.”*

From that date on, dozens of PB experiences have taken place in rural and urban towns in Africa: national capitals (Maputo, in Mozambique or Kampala in Uganda, and more recently Dakar, capital of Senegal and Kinshasa, DRC), the municipalities of large African cities (several districts in Yaoundé, Cameroon or Antananarivo, capital of Madagascar), medium-sized cities and regional capitals (Matam, Diourbel, Ziguinchor, Sedhiou in Senegal, Dondo and Montepuez, in Mozambique, Debre Berhan in Ethiopia); small towns (Santa Cruz, Sao Miguel, Paul and Mosteiros, in Cape Verde, or Bignona in the Casamance Region of Senegal, for example), but also in rural settlements and villages (as is the case in Batcham or Edzendouan, in Cameroon, Fissel in Senegal and Alakamisy Feroarivo in Madagascar.) PB is making progress is positively contributing to the management of mining resources in the city of Fort Dauphin, and the rural communes of Soanierana, Mandromondromotra and Ampasy Nahampoana in Madagascar. Additionally, PBs benefit from the increasing interest this process has generated. Several initiatives are being implemented and should be materialized during the months to come. This is the case of Manica, Nacala, and Chibuto in Mozambique and various districts in Egypt.

Each one of these experiences, often in phases of experimentation and consolidation, are rooted in local realities and practices, which explains their diversity and the way they are adapted to local conditions and challenges. They are fueled by community participation practices, various forms of local planning, and the desire for democracy on the part of the people, within the context of decentralization. They can represent a truly legitimate political, social, and economic response of local collectivities in Africa to the global crisis affecting the

continent.

Session objectives

The first objective is **promoting exchanges of knowledge and know-how** among different stakeholders in African towns and villages, around various key issues to which PBs can provide positive elements of response: (a) linkages to decentralization and land settlement; (b) the mobilization of local, monetary, fiscal, and non-monetary resources to spur local development; (c) Opening and formalizing channels for citizen participation that contribute to local democracy; and (d) PBs have also opened channels of participation towards migrants living in European cities, thus contributing to new expressions of citizenship.

The second objective is to allow local authorities and different participants in *Africities* summit interested in the subject to **learn about how PBs are being implemented in Africa**, and also the potential and shortfalls of these experiences, with all of their diversity.

The third and more modest objective, is **to put these different experiences in contact with each other**, and search for synergies.

Responsibilities

- Operators: UCLG-A and Development Planning Unit / University College London (UCL/DPU)
- Promoters (provisional list in process of consolidation): ASSOAL, ENDA Tiers Monde, MDP-ESA, National Network of Inhabitants of Cameroon, PASOC.
UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy, UN-Habitat, *Frente Nacional dos Prefeitos Brasileiros* (National Front of Brazilian Mayors), *Rede Brasileira dos Orçamentos Participativos* (Brazilian Participatory Budgeting Network), *Rede Nordestina de Orçamento e Participação* (North-East Brazilian network of PB and Participation), CIGU (International Center of Urban Management, Quito), CES (Centre for Social Studies, Coimbra), CORDAID.
- President of the Session: Mr. Comiche, Former Mayor of Maputo, first African capital to implement a PB
- Speakers:
 - Mayoress of Bambey, Senegal
 - Mayor of Antananarivo, Madagascar
 - Brazilian Mayor, representing the National Front of Brazilian Mayors
 - M. Jules Dumas Ngebou, National Network of Inhabitants of Cameroon.
- Rapporteurs: Bachir Kanouté and George Matovu

Session sequence (provisional)

The session will last for 3 hours, following a pattern similar to other special sessions.

10:00 - 10:20 *Brief introduction and welcome*

- President of the Session: Mr. Comiche, Former Mayor of Maputo, first African capital to implement a PB
- CGLU-A: Mr. Elong M'Bassi, General Secretary
- DPU/UCL: Mr. Y. Cabannes, Chair of Development Planning

10:20 - 11:20 *Presentations*

- Mayor of Bambey, Sénégal
- Vice-President of Antananarivo, Madagascar
- Mayor of Varzea Paulista, Representative of the National Front of Brazilian Mayors
- Mr. Jules Ngema Guebou, Assoal, Réseau National des Habitants du Cameroun

11:20 - 11:40 *Coffee Break*

11:40 - 12:40 *Public debate and discussion on the recommendations*

12:40 - 13:00 *Conclusion, remarks of the rapporteurs and closing remarks*
Mr. Bachir Kanouté and Mr. George Matovu
President of the session

Notes

- A brief introduction to the debates and a proposed recommendation (1 page) for strengthening PB in Africa will be handed over to the participants at the beginning of the session. It will be sent to those participants registered as of December 1.
- A special event will complete this session during the course of Africities: the launch of the Arabic version and adaption of the booklet entitled “*72 Frequently Asked Questions about Participatory Budgeting*” published by UN-Habitat in coordination with the Egyptian Government. On this occasion, other organizations who have published the book in Italian (Rome, Regione Lazzio), Chinese (Centre for Social Invention, Beijing), and Portuguese (Association In Loco, CES, University de Coimbra, Municipality of Lisbon), will be attending this event. These different adaptations of the manual have been launched on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Participatory Budget in Porto Alegre, which will be represented at this event.