



Projet Financé par
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COTONOU DECLARATION

**Forum of Municipal Elected Officials and Presidents
of Local Governments Associations**

**Associations of Local Governments, Cities and Territories,
key players in the implementation of the International
Climate Agenda**

Cotonou, Benin, February 27-28, 2020



We, Presidents of National Associations of Local and Subnational Governments of Africa gathered on February 27 and 28, 2020 in Cotonou with a view to structuring cooperation between communities within the framework of the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

- Conscious of the urgency of climate action at the local, national and global levels given the disastrous effects of extreme weather events on our cities and territories,
- Convinced of the need to make Climate Action everyone's business, requiring in particular the awareness, involvement and contribution of all local actors mobilized around local and subnational elected officials ;
- Alerted by the conclusions of the recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel of Experts on Climate Change (IPCC), who consider that the effective implementation of all the Contributions Determined at the National level by the States parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will nevertheless lead to an increase in the temperature of the planet of the order of 3 degrees Celsius compared to the pre-industrial era if the current trend is maintained;
- Taking into account that 2020 is the year of the start of the process of revision the Nationally Determined Contributions proposed by the States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in preparation for COP 26 in Glasgow ; .

Adopt the following Declaration:

1. We are determined to mobilize in favor of climate action, in particular by massively adhering to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, so that the contribution of cities and territories is better integrated into the climate action of States, and contributes to increasing the ambition of the Paris Agreement to keep the temperature rise of the planet around 1.5 degrees Celsius ;
2. We understand that climate action brings a new perspective in the design of our development and poverty reduction models, which involves aligning all planning and budgeting instruments and procedures at all levels of governance ;
3. We undertake to place our actions in coherence within the priorities of the national programs and the Nationally Determined Contributions.
4. We recommend taking advantage of the ongoing revision of the NDCs to adopt a bottom-up approach leading to the territorialization of the NDCs, including on the basis of Nationally Determined Contributions.
5. To this end, we ask that the institutional framework for decentralization be reviewed to make it effective and in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations.
6. We support the establishment of a Readiness Africa program targeting local and regional governments to begin the transition to sustainable and resilient local development.

7. We ask the Green Climate Fund to accredit UCLG Africa as a regional implementing partner who will be responsible in particular for the implementation of the Readiness Africa program.
8. We welcome the commitment of the President of BOAD to support the implementation of the Readiness Africa program in the WAEMU region on a pilot basis.
9. We encourage our members to work with the private sector, the research community, and civil society to explore innovative solutions and participate in the collection of data necessary to do the monitoring, reporting, and verification of the implementation of the climate agenda of our territories;
10. We thank the partners who support climate action and we encourage them to continue supporting our efforts to make climate action everyone's business.
11. We congratulate UCLG Africa for this welcome initiative and for its leadership, and ask this organization to promote exchanges between local and subnational governments at the sub-regional and continental levels.
12. We express our sincere gratitude to the ANCB and the Government of Benin for their hospitality and for the constant care and concern shown to us during our stay..

Done in Cotonou, on February 28, 2020

The Forum