

THE COVENANT OF MAYORS FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY in Sub-Saharan Africa,

a Regional Covenant within the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy¹

We, the Mayors signing this Covenant, share a vision for a sustainable future - whatever the size and location of our municipality. This common vision drives our action to tackle interconnected challenges: climate change mitigation adaptation and access to sustainable energy. We are also aware that low emissions development is a challenge in this context in order to contribute to sustainable growth. We stand ready together to deliver concrete, long term measures that provide an environmentally, socially and economically stable environment for present and future generations. It is our collective responsibility to transition to a more sustainable, attractive, liveable, resilient and energy efficient communities.

WE, THE MAYORS, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT:

Climate change is already happening and is one of the greatest global and local challenges of our time, calling for immediate action and cooperation on adaptation, resilience, mitigation, low emissions development and access to sustainable energy between local, regional and national authorities from all over the world.

Local and regional authorities are key drivers in the fight against climate change. Local and regional authorities in all socio-economic situations and geographical locations stand at the frontline of reducing the vulnerability of their territory to the various impacts of climate change.

Local and regional authorities are willing to engage with national governments, financial institutions and private sector to encourage investment in the low- emission sustainable energy transition, hence ensuring universal access to sustainable and affordable energy services.

¹ The [Global Covenant of Mayors](#) is the largest coalition of cities acting on climate. It is the result of merging in 2016 the [Covenant of Mayors](#) with the [Compact of Mayors](#). It currently gathers over 7400 cities.

Actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy services can bring multiple benefits to the environment, society and the local economy. Tackled together, they open up new opportunities to promote sustainable local development and poverty alleviation. This includes building inclusive, climate-resilient, energy efficient communities; enhancing the quality of life; stimulating investment and innovation; boosting the local economy and creating jobs; reinforcing stakeholder engagement and cooperation.

WE, THE MAYORS, EXPRESS OUR WILLINGNESS TO JOIN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF THE COVENANT OF MAYORS AND SHARE ITS COMMON 2050 VISION TOWARDS THREE PILLARS:

- Universal access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy services for all, thus enhancing quality of life and improving energy security;
- Strengthening local resilience and adaptation to climate change, thus preparing for the inevitable impacts of climate change;
- Climate change mitigation, thus contributing to keeping a global temperature rise well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, in line with the international climate agreement reached at COP 21 in Paris in December 2015.

TO ACHIEVE THIS COMMON VISION WE, THE MAYORS, COMMIT TO:

- Working towards setting ambitious targets for mitigation, designing adaptation plans and addressing access to energy in line with our relevant national commitment(s)²;
- Developing policies and taking action to address the situation in our cities and communities through strategy development, implementation and monitoring;
- Sharing our vision, results, experience and know-how with fellow local and regional authorities through direct cooperation and peer-to-peer exchange, namely in the context of the Global Covenant of Mayors.

² Including relevant national commitments in the context of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risks Reduction 2015-2030, the New Urban Agenda and national goals for development, climate and energy.

In order to translate our above mentioned local authorities' commitments into action, we engage in developing and following the Covenant step by step roadmap, which includes the development of a Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAP) as well as regular monitoring and reporting of progress on the basis of an initial inventory.

WE, THE MAYORS, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR COMMITMENT REQUIRES:

- Strong political leadership and partnership between all levels of government to strengthen coordination, implementation and communication;
- The establishment of ambitious long-term objectives going beyond political mandates;
- Integration of policies that requires a coordinated (inter)action among the three pillars in a cross-sector and holistic local approach through the mobilisation of all relevant municipal departments involved and undertaking immediate action and flexible measures that are locally appropriate and context specific;
- A sustainable and poverty alleviating development strategy;
- The allocation of appropriate human, technical and financial resources based on local knowledge and needs;
- The inclusive engagement of all relevant stakeholders within our respective geographical areas;
- The empowerment of citizens and specific support to those communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change;
- Regular adjustments of our actions according to monitoring and evaluation findings;
- A combined horizontal and vertical cooperation between local authorities and with all other levels of government.

WE, THE MAYORS, WELCOME:

- The engagement taken by all nations at the COP 21 in Paris and national governments that support and integrate measures enabling local authorities to

develop, implement and finance the three pillars of actions in the Covenant which will contribute to boosting Sub-Saharan Africa cities in becoming more sustainable;

- The Covenant of Mayors initiative of the European Commission which supports cities in Sub-Saharan Africa to build their capacities to address climate change and sustainable energy for all;
- The strengthening of policies that address inequality and poverty eradication and economic development in Africa;
- The cooperation among international and national institutions, regions, provinces, mentor cities and other institutional structures from all over the world comply with their commitments under the Global Covenant of Mayors;
- The inclusion of existing planning methodologies to strengthen and support the individual targets, reporting, actions and plans of each individual city respecting the local policies in place.

WE, THE MAYORS, INVITE:

– SUB-NATIONAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITIES TO:

- Join us in the Covenant of Mayors' community;
- Share knowledge and engage in capacity-building activities under the Covenant of Mayors;
- Provide us with strategic guidance, policy, technical and financial support in the development, implementation and monitoring of our action plan(s) and related measures;
- Help us foster cooperation and joint approaches for more efficient and integrated action.

– NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO:

- Shoulder their responsibility in tackling climate change and provide an enabling environment, appropriate policy, technical and financial support for the preparation and implementation of our local mitigation, adaptation and access to sustainable energy strategies;

- Involve us in the preparation and implementation of the national mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- Ensure appropriate access to financing mechanisms to support local climate and sustainable energy action;
- Recognise the impact of our local efforts, take account of our needs and reflect our views in the African and international climate processes.

– **THE UNITED NATIONS TO:**

- Pursue efforts to acknowledge and facilitate the specific role of the local authorities and partners in the related field of sustainable energy access, climate change and development.

– **AFRICAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS TO:**

- Provide us with the appropriate operational, technical and promotional assistance;
- Acknowledge our role and efforts in climate change mitigation and adaptation and access to sustainable energy and share our achievements with the international community.

– **OTHER STAKEHOLDERS³ TO:**

- Mobilise and share expertise, know-how, technology and financial resources that complement and strengthen our local efforts, scale up capacity-building, foster innovation and boost investment;
- Become active players in the clean energy transition and support us by getting involved in community action.

³ E.g. private sector, local support organisations, financial institutions, civil society, scientific community and academia.

ANNEX I

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The Covenant of Mayors signatories commit to the movement in full awareness of the following considerations:

- The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has re-affirmed in its [Fifth Assessment Report](#) that climate change is a reality and that human activities are continuing to affect the Earth's climate;
- According to findings from the IPCC, mitigation and adaptation are complementary approaches for reducing risks of climate change impacts over different time scales;
- National governments agreed within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on a collective goal of keeping global average warming well below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels;
- The [Paris Agreement](#) welcomes the efforts of non-Party stakeholders, including cities and subnational governments and invites them to scale up their efforts and support actions to reduce emissions and/or to build resilience and decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change;
- National governments agreed in the context of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on a set of [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs); among which the SDG7 requires the international community to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”; the SDG11 requires to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” and the SDG13 requires to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”;
- The [Sustainable Energy for All](#) initiative, launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2011, focuses on achieving the following three interlinked objectives by 2030: “ensuring universal access to modern energy services”, “doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency” and “doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix”;
- The [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015- 2030](#) was adopted at the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan, (March 2015). Emphasising the increasing need for disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction.

- The [New Urban Agenda](#) - the outcome document of the Habitat III conference (October 2016) - will set global standards of achievement in sustainable urban development, rethinking the way we build, manage, and live in cities through drawing together cooperation with committed partners, relevant stakeholders, and urban actors at all levels of government as well as the private sector.
- The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) incorporates the follow up from the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development and addresses both poverty eradication and the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced and integrated manner.
- The European Commission promotes international cooperation and partnerships on energy, in line with the European Council Conclusion on Energy and Development, the [European Consensus on Development](#) and the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement;
- The European Commission (EC) launched the Covenant of Mayors in 2008 and, as a key action of the [EU strategy on adaptation to climate change](#) (EC, 2013), the Mayors Adapt initiative in 2014 to engage and support local authorities in taking action to respectively mitigate and adapt to climate change;
- The [Global Covenant of Mayors for climate and energy](#) launched in June 2016, following the merger of the Compact of Mayors and the Covenant Community.

ANNEX II GLOSSARY

- **Adaptation:** actions undertaken to anticipate the adverse effects of climate change, prevent or minimise the damage they can cause, or take advantage of opportunities that may arise.
- **Climate change:** any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.
- **Emissions inventory:** quantification of the amount of greenhouse gases (CO₂ or CO₂ equivalent) emitted due to energy consumption in the territory of a Covenant of Mayors signatory during a specific year – it allows identifying the principal sources of emissions and their respective reduction potentials.
- **Low emission development:** forward-looking national economic development that encompass low-emission and/or climate resilience economic growth.
- **Mitigation:** actions undertaken to reduce concentrations of greenhouse gases released in the atmosphere.
- **Monitoring Report:** document that Covenant of Mayors signatories commit to submitting every two years after the submission of their SECAP, which outlines the interim results of its implementation – the aim of this report is to track the achievements of the foreseen objectives.
- **Prosumers:** Proactive consumers, consumers who in addition to consuming energy also assume the responsibility for producing it.
- **Resilience:** Ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic ways of functioning, and a capacity to adapt to stress and (climate) change.
- **Risk and Vulnerability Assessment:** an analysis that determines the nature and extent of risk by analysing potential hazards and assessing vulnerability that could pose a potential threat or harm to people, property, livelihoods and the environment on which they depend – it allows the identification of areas of critical concern and therefore provides information for decision-making. The assessment could address risks related to floods, extreme temperatures and heat waves, droughts and water scarcity, storms and other extreme weather events, increased forest fires, sea level rise and coastal erosion (if applicable).
- **Risk:** probability of harmful consequences or losses in social, economic or environmental terms (e.g. lives, health status, livelihoods, assets and services)

which could occur to a particular community or a society affected by vulnerable conditions over some specified future time period.

- **Sustainable Energy, Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAP):** key document in which a Covenant of Mayors signatory outlines how it intends to reach its commitments. It defines mitigation, adaptation and access to sustainable and affordable energy actions to achieve the targets, together with time frames and assigned responsibilities.
- **Vulnerability:** degree to which a system is susceptible to, and unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes (the opposite of resilience).
- **Sustainable energy services:** Services providing access to energy without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.