

# THE COUNCIL



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

# MONTHLY

MAY 2022

## TALKS ON SUSTAINABLE, CLIMATE - RESILIENT URBAN CENTRES DOMINATE 9<sup>TH</sup> AFRICITIES SUMMIT 2022 HOSTED BY KISUMU COUNTY

President Uhuru Kenyatta officially opened the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Africities summit held in Kisumu city, Kisumu County from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022. The Conference, themed “The role of intermediary cities in Africa in the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and of the African Union’s Agenda 2063” was held in an intermediary city for the first time giving the lakeside city an opportunity to market itself as a tourist destination. The summit brought together high-level dignitaries from across the African continent, sub-national Governments, development partners, private and public sector players and the local community.

Among those in attendance was the President of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA), Ms. Christine Mba Ndutume, President of the African Union Commission, UN Habitat Executive Director, former Seychelles head of state His Excellency Danny Faure, ministers and delegations of local authorities from various African countries and a host of Kenyan leaders including Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, Devolution CS Eugene Wamalwa, Environment CS Keriako Tobiko, Education CS George Magoha, Governors and Members of Parliament.

Speaking during the official opening ceremony, President Uhuru Kenyatta termed intermediary cities as the next frontiers of African urbanization and development and called for tangible, practical, and sustainable solutions to challenges facing urban areas to harness the full potential of intermediary cities.

“There is need for proper planning to create smart cities that meet future urbanization challenges, plans that address the emerging needs related to food security, shelter, environmental conservation, health as well as infrastructure,” said President Kenyatta.

Despite the infrastructural development witnessed in Central business districts in Kenya’s cities, rapid population growth coupled with mushrooming informal settlements pose a major threat as big families are crammed into small spaces resulting in slums, inadequate social services, poor physical planning, zoning and social decadence.

United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) Secretary General Jean – Pierre Elong Mbassi challenged African leaders to empower intermediary cities and position them as the focal points of governance and socio-economic development.

“The reality of our continent is reflected in the way we treat our intermediary cities. Intermediary cities are your key target of governance. Treat them well and they will treat African citizens well, treat them bad and we will fail in our progress, said Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi.

Rich and interactive discussions on the development of robust, sustain-

able, and climate-resilient urban areas, especially intermediary cities, and development of an African blueprint to guide growth in urban cities dominated the 9th Africities summit.

Further, there were plenary sessions addressing various key thematic areas, workshops, exhibitions by private and public stakeholders, colourful traditional dances and musical delights from the Kenya Police Band.



## NEWS INSIDE

- TALKS ON SUSTAINABLE, CLIMATE - RESILIENT URBAN CENTRES DOMINATE 9<sup>TH</sup> AFRICITIES SUMMIT 2022 HOSTED BY KISUMU COUNTY
- COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS, UNDP AND USAID TO DEEPEN PARTNERSHIP
- CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH PARTNERS TO DISCUSS AREAS OF PARTNERSHIP IN THE BLUE ECONOMY SECTOR
- LESSONS FROM INDIA: LEGISLATION KEY IN IMPROVING KENYA'S DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
- KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH

# TALKS ON SUSTAINABLE, CLIMATE - RESILIENT URBAN CENTRES DOMINATE 9<sup>TH</sup> AFRICITIES SUMMIT 2022 HOSTED BY KISUMU COUNTY

Speaking during the summit, the host Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o said that intermediary cities in Africa face a myriad of challenges in combating climate change - from leadership, inadequate technical capacity, lack of innovation, financing, and political will. These challenges are an impediment to the realization of SDG 13 which urges leaders globally to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

“Many cities struggle with ways of tackling climate change. Not only because of the expected change itself but because of the perceived lack of capacity of Africans and their governments to adapt to them. Mitigating the effects of climate change requires mobilization of resources. This requires the involvement of a multitude of actors and stakeholders from the public and private sectors to facilitate low carbon, climate resilient development,” said Governor Nyong'o.

Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga highlighted the need for African nations to set up a dedicated development fund to support development of infrastructure.

“Africa faces a deficit of \$110 million. We need to look for ways of bridging the gap”, he added.

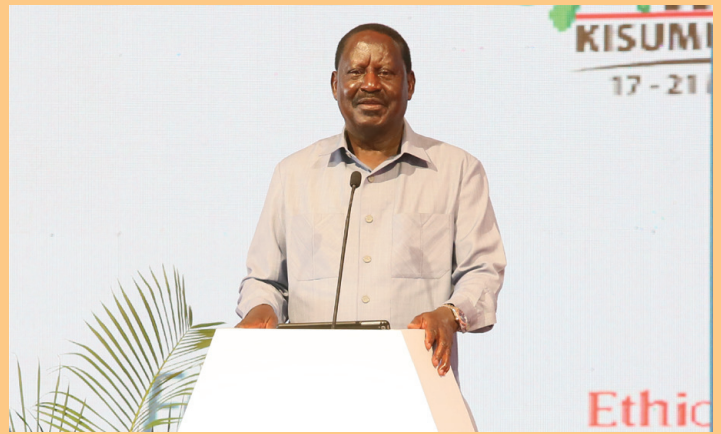
Devolution CS Eugene Wamalwa and CoG Vice Chairman H.E James Ongwae further noted that African cities must be alive to the problems facing them and the importance of infrastructure in developing intermediary cities.

“We need to explore traditional financial opportunities for cities and urban areas in the wake of dwindling donor support and funding from County Governments,” underscored Governor Ongwae.

UN Habitat Executive Director Maimuna Sharif commended Kenya's efforts in entrenching devolution and improving intermediary cities, the challenges notwithstanding, and urged other countries to follow suit.

“More than 64% of people in Africa live in informal settlements while majority of them cannot buy a home. There is an urgent need to work on infrastructure development, physical planning, and waste management as part of the efforts to handle increasing population,” she said.

All African nations and devolution stakeholders should collaborate and harness the actions agreed upon during the 9th Africities summit to reap the full benefits of sustainable urbanization.



## COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS, UNDP AND USAID TO DEEPEN PARTNERSHIP

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and USAID remain one of the key partners to Council of Governors (CoG) and County Governments. Since the inception of devolution in 2013, the two institutions have supported devolution in Kenya through capacity building and technical assistance and financing of development programs at the County level.

The Council of Governors on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2022, hosted a farewell dinner for USAID outgoing Mission Director, East Africa region Mr. Mark Meassick and UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Walid Badawi as an appreciation for the great partnership between the UNDP, USAID and CoG.

Council of Governors Chairman H.E Martin Wambora spoke highly of the partnership with the two organizations over the last 9 years of devolution noting that UNDP and USAID have been instrumental in supporting County Governments implement development projects and enhance service delivery to the common mwananchi.

Devolution, a key principle of the Constitution of Kenya, continues to receive immense support owing to consultation and collaboration between the National Government, County Governments, and development partners including the UNDP and USAID. While County Governments have made tremendous progress in improving delivery of devolved functions with available resources from the Exchequer and support of stakeholders in the devolution space, Counties still require a lot of support.

Speaking during the meeting, Mr. Mark Meassick recognized the great journey and partnership between the USAID, Development partners and the CoG. The relationship has remained consistent and fruitful despite the changes in leadership at the CoG.

“It has been a great privilege to serve in Kenya for the past 4 years. A special thank you the CoG Chairman and the CEO who work very hard to ensure that they build and maintain harmonious relationships with other institutions,” said Mr. Meassick.

Mr. Walid Badawi on his part reiterated his commitment and that of the UNDP to support devolution in Kenya due to the significant strides that have been witnessed in the devolved sectors.

“What Kenya has managed to achieve in the 9 years under devolution is remarkable, we are happy we have walked this journey together over that period. We hope to further this partnership going forward,” said Mr. Badawi.

County Governments are the drivers of service delivery in Kenya. More than ever, there is need for County Governments to embrace targeted development programming.

Mr. Walid Badawi proceeds to New York City on promotion as the Deputy Assistant administrator of the UNDP while Mr. Mark Meassick heads to Washington DC as the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the USAID.

The two leaders said that their departure does not herald the end of the relationship between the two organizations, Council of Governors and County Governments. It is the hope of the CoG that this will be the beginning of greater partnership and rejuvenated engagements to ensure devolution works in Kenya.



## CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH PARTNERS TO DISCUSS AREAS OF PARTNERSHIP IN THE BLUE ECONOMY SECTOR

“Kenya has prioritized the sustainable utilization of its ocean and blue economy resources as an enabler of the Vision 2030 economic blueprint. It is clear that the ocean economy is a smart investment that can deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits to our people,” said President Uhuru Kenyatta during a media address in 2020 when he presided over the national launch of the New Ocean Action Agenda at State house, Nairobi.

Following this, the Council of Governors Blue Economy Committee and Development Partners on 9th May, 2022 held a consultative meeting at the Delta Offices in Nairobi to deliberate on possible areas of partnership in the Sector.

In his opening remarks, Chairperson, Council of Governors Blue Economy Committee H.E Fahim Twaha, said that the country is making steady progress towards reaping the immense benefits in the blue economy sector and called for investment of more resources to enable the sector to thrive.

“Kenya is making headway in ensuring that the Blue Economy sector plays its part in addressing the SDGs on poverty alleviation, food security, affordable and clean energy, and climate action. Furthermore, its role has been boosted since being recognized by the Government of Kenya as a key sub sector in the country’s growth strategy”, said H.E Twaha.

According to Council of Governors CEO Ms. Mary Mwiti, the Blue Economy Sector has played a critical role in the country’s food security agenda, gender equality, boosting of employment opportunities and fulfillment of SDGs, all of which are key to County Governments.

“As a Council we are aware that a lot of focus has been channeled at National level forgetting that Counties have a major role to play in achieving the National Blue Economy agenda” said Ms. Mwiti.

Speaking of behalf of the Development Partners, Mr. Erick Ogallo from the Royal Danish Embassy, reiterated that there should be cooperation, collaboration and smooth communication amongst all institutions involved to avoid duplication of projects and programmes.

The CoG Blue Economy Committee technical lead, Ms. Barbara Awuor, noted that the Blue Economy Committee had made significant strides since its establishment in the Council. This includes capacity Building for County Directors of Fisheries, participation in the development of the Kenya Blue Economy Strategy, participation in the development of policies and regulations in the sector, active participation in the preparations of the upcoming UN Ocean Conference and development of an assessment tool for Blue Economy Opportunities for four pilot Counties (Turkana, Homabay, Nakuru and Kwale).

It was resolved that all stakeholders in the blue economy sector work together to ensure increased budgetary allocations in the blue economy sector, entrenchment of blue economy in the 3rd generation of the County Integrated Development Plans and domestication of policies to govern the blue economy sector.



# LESSONS FROM INDIA: LEGISLATION KEY IN IMPROVING KENYA'S DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Over the years, Kenya like many other countries in Africa and elsewhere in the world has experienced an increase in the diversity, intensity, and frequency of occurrence of disasters over the past two decades. Disasters such as perennial droughts, fire, floods, terrorism, technological accidents, diseases and epidemics have resulted in huge economic losses, disruption of people's livelihoods, destruction of infrastructure and hampered the effective implementation of development projects across the country. In view of this, a delegation of Government officials from Kenya visited the Republic of India from 7th to 13th May 2022 to benchmark on disaster management. The team included officers from The National Treasury, Council of Governors, Ministry of Interior, Kenya Law Reform Commission, Office of the Attorney General and the State Department of Social Protection.

While Kenya does have a national policy for disaster management, the current institutional arrangement for disaster management in Kenya is discordant. Therefore, there is need to consult and learn from other countries that have a coherent legislative framework on disaster management.

The Republic of India is a vast country covering 3.3 million km<sup>2</sup> with an estimated population of 1.4 billion. The country has two levels of government: the Central Government and State Governments. There are 28 states divided into administrative units and 8 union territories governed in part or wholly by the Central Government.

India is vulnerable to approximately 30 different types of disasters including earthquakes, floods, droughts, heatwaves, cyclones, chemical disasters and landslides. The country's National Disaster Management Act lays down the institutional and coordination framework for effective disaster management at the national, state, district and local levels including financing of disaster relief. It includes a multi-tiered system consisting of the National Disaster Management Authority headed by the Prime Minister, the State Disaster Management Authority headed by the respective chief executives of the State (Chief Minister) and the District Disaster Management Authority headed by the respective district heads.

India's disaster management system depicts a departure from the relief-centric approach to a more proactive, holistic, and integrated approach of strengthening prevention, preparedness, mitigation, emergency and reconstruction response. The Country has a comprehensive National Policy on Disaster Management and a National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) envisaged to make India disaster resilient across all sectors, achieve substantial and inclusive disaster risk reduction and enhance the country's ability to cope with disasters at all levels. In recognition of the changing dynamics of the world today and emerging disasters, the NDMP is periodically improved in accordance with global best practices in disaster management.

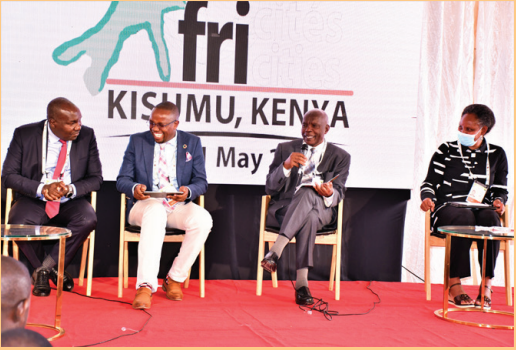
Indeed, Kenya has undertaken considerable efforts towards disaster mitigation, management and response to cushion communities against the vulnerabilities associated with these risks. However, disaster risk reduction should be mainstreamed in the development process at both the National and sub-national level. Further, the disaster management function should be devolved to the County Governments to enable them effectively prepare for and execute disaster management strategies. Through the combined efforts of all actors in the public and private sector, Kenya will strengthen the resilience of vulnerable

communities to cope with potential disasters and contribute immensely to poverty reduction and sustainable development in the country.

The Kenyan delegation in India also paid a courtesy call to the Kenya High Commissioner to India and held insightful discussions with the National Disaster Management Authority in New Delhi, the New Delhi District Disaster Management Authority, the Gujarati State Disaster Management Authority and the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority.



# KEY EVENTS OF THE MONTH



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

## 48 GOVERNMENTS, 1 NATION



[www.cog.go.ke](http://www.cog.go.ke)



@kenyagovernors



Council of Governors- Kenya