



OPEN SESSION SOU-10

**"Decent Work and Equitable Access to Quality Local and Regional Public Services in African Cities:
The Transformative Power of Constructive Social Dialogue."**

OPERATORS ORGANIZING THE SESSION
Public Services International (PSI), Africa Section
In Partnership with
The African Local Governments Academy (ALGA)
of UCLG Africa (ALGA)

Wednesday, May 18th, 2022, from 2:30pm to 6:00pm
ROOM 18

"Together for an Effective Local Africa"

CONTEXT

The experience shows that there is no predefined and centralized plan for putting sustainable development into practice. Both its content and its implementation imply negotiation or planning through dialogue or collective discussion, which in turn must be integrated into governance systems¹⁹.

Participatory Governance, of which social dialogue is a key example, is crucial to the definition of sustainable development²⁰. Public Services International (PSI) and its affiliates have a mandate to defend trade union rights, promote quality public services, fight privatization and influence global institutions whose decisions affect their members. The theme chosen for the implementation of the PSI Congress mandate for the period 2018-2022 is: "Putting people above profit".

Social dialogue, as defined by the ILO, includes "all types of negotiation, consultation or simply exchange of information between representatives of governments, employers and workers in a variety of modalities, on economic and social policy issues of common concern (ILO, 2013a:39). Therefore, social dialogue, based on respect for freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, has a crucial role to play in the development of policies to promote social justice and is an essential condition due to the achievement of decent work.

PSI Africa and Arab Countries Section, Strategic Partner of UCLG Africa, has been invited to Africities 9 on the basis of the continuous Dialogue that has been established between the two Institutions. In fact, in 2021, UCLG Africa and PSI Africa and Arab Countries Section signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a structured dialogue and cooperation between their respective Networks.

PSI Africa and Arab Countries Chapter, which is a Section of PSI Global Union, is composed of 157 affiliated trade union organizations in 45 countries representing a combined membership of approximately 1.5 million women and men working at all levels of governments, including Local and Regional Governments (LRG), to deliver quality public services to communities and territories. PSI's sub-regional offices in Africa and the Arab States are located in:

- Lome, Togo (French-speaking Africa);
- Beirut, Lebanon (Arab countries);
- Nairobi, Kenya (English-speaking Africa);
- Johannesburg, South Africa (Southern Africa).

PSI also has project-based capacity in Dakar, Senegal; Niamey, Niger; Accra, Ghana; Kampala, Uganda; Abuja and Lagos, Nigeria; Gaborone, Botswana; and Cape Town, South Africa. PSI Africa and Arab Countries is a Regional Section of Public Services International (PSI), a Global Union Federation of over 700 unions representing 30 million workers in 154 countries.

¹⁹ From the Brundtland Report (Our common future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, 1988, p.20) to the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, a clear and unchanging definition of sustainable development remains illusory (Kates, Parris and Leiserowitz, 2005).

²⁰ https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/tudcn_issue_paper_-_social_dialogue_development_fr.pdf

PSI brings the voice of public service workers to the UN, ILO, WHO and other regional and global organizations, defends trade union and worker rights and fights for universal access to quality public services Website: <https://servicespublics.international/> ; Twitter: @PSIglobalunion). PSI - Africa and Arab Countries Chapter and UCLG Africa are the representative organizations of the members most concerned in this context, namely the managers and workers of Local and Regional Government (LRG) administrations/services throughout the African Continent. Both organizations share strategic priorities and are committed to supporting and improving access to Quality Public Services (QPS) for the citizens, inhabitants and communities of the African Continent and Arab Countries, while ensuring decent working conditions in the workplaces of the LGUs in the spirit of and in accordance with the commitments made in SDG 8 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The two Organizations have agreed to organize a Session during the Africities Summit on:

" Decent Work and Equitable Access to Quality Local and Regional Public Services in African Cities: The Transformative Power of Constructive Social Dialogue."

On May 18th, 2022 within the framework of the 9th edition of the Africities Summit, in Kisumu, Kenya from May 17th to 21st, 2022.

MAIN OBJECTIVE

To highlight the critical challenges faced by Local and Regional Public Service workers as they provide vital services to communities and at the Territorial level and to explore ways to promote a constructive and transformative Social Dialogue.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To bring and make heard the voice of Local and Regional Public Service workers and their unions from African cities and local communities at Africities 9;
- Highlight the critical work challenges that Local and Regional Utility workers face when providing vital services to communities (e.g., Local Government, Emergency Services, Community Health Services, Fire Fighters, Water and Sanitation, Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Municipal Police, Energy Workers, Traffic Control, Education Support, Social Care and Services, etc.);
- Demonstrate how these challenges-if left unresolved-can undermine joint PSI-UCLG Africa efforts to (1) provide equitable access to public services for all; (2) foster inclusive socio-economic development; (2) strengthen local democracy and participation; and (3) empower local communities and territories;
- To explore and propose, in dialogue with the public, solutions on how UCLG Africa and PSI Africa and Arab Countries and their constituencies can be stronger together when their respective members commit to building and engaging in constructive and good faith Social Dialogue and collective bargaining in the GRL workplaces, as they are both called upon to confront the multiple crises facing the world and the continent (pandemic,

rampant urbanization, climate, war, employment, human rights, migration and displacement, financing, equality and non-discrimination, digitization, etc.) ;

- Open perspectives on how the constituent groups of PSI-UCLG Africa can support each other to ensure quality access to public services and equitable delivery to the communities they serve, and localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the African Agenda, possibly making proposals on specific cities.

MAIN ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE SESSION

- What are the main challenges of the LRG workers in African cities and territories face that are related to quality local public service delivery and access?
- How a Decent Work deficit (as per the definition of the International Labour Organisation, ILO) can jeopardise the good delivery of quality local public services and the good local governance in African cities and territories?
- How can the PSI-UCLG-Africa regional dialogue and cooperation concretely help? Where could our respective memberships work constructively together towards their shared objectives?
- How can we empower together LRG workers including women, young officials – in both blue- and white-collar professions - to empower them to deliver quality local public services and to nurture and strengthen future LRG leadership and good governance in the African region?
- How can we build joint dialogue and advocacy with institutions such as the African Union, the African Regional Bank as well as partners such as the European Union (EU) in favour of adequate funding for Adequate staffing and quality local public services in Africa?
- How can we improve public emergency responsiveness through constructive dialogue and collective bargaining geared at enhancing local public service quality and access, while keeping LRG staff motivated, skilled, safe and in decent working conditions?
- How can we unlock the potential of local public service to fight territorial inequalities in Africa?
- Which cities in Africa represent a blueprint and/or a low-hanging fruit opportunity to establish strong, progressive and good faith social dialogue in LRG workplaces?

PARTNERS

- PSI, AFRICA SECTION.
- UCLG Africa/ALGA Academy.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Representatives of States and Governments;
- Representatives of Local and Regional Authorities;
- Representatives of International Organizations;
- Civil servants, employees and agents of the Local and Regional Governments;
- Representatives of Trade Unions;
- Universities, Schools and Research Centers as well as the Community of Experts and Researchers;
- Representatives of the Private Sector;
- Representatives of the Civil Society and NGOs;

WORKING LANGUAGES

French and English.





DATE AND VENUE





The SOU-10 Session is planned for **Wednesday, May 18th, 2022 from 02: 30pm - 06: 00pm**, in Kisumu, Kenya in **Room 18**.



AGENDA

TIME	Activities
02:30pm-02:45pm	Official Opening: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hon. Mr. Landing B. Sanneh, President of the Gambian Association of Local Government Authorities (GALGA), The Gambia- Hon. Mr. Sani Baba, Regional Secretary for Africa, PSI Africa, Nigeria. Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa or his representative.
02:45pm - 03:00pm	Introduction, Presentation of the Panel and reminder of the rules of the game. Dr. Everline A. Aketch , PSI, Sub-Regional Secretary - Anglophone Africa, PSI Africa, Moderator, Kenya
03:00pm – 04:00pm	Panel Discussion moderated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hon. Roba Sharu Duba, Secretary General of the Kenya Government Workers Union (KCGWU), Kenya.- Ms. FATOU DIOUF, Project Coordinator for French-Speaking Africa, PSI, Senegal- Mr. Kudakwashe Munengiwa, General Secretary, Zimbabwe Urban Council Workers Union (ZUCWU), Zimbabwe.- Hon. Mr. Emile-Gros Raymond Nakombo, Mayor of the City of Bangui, President of the Association of Mayors of Central Africa (AMCA), Central Africa.
04:00pm - 04:30pm	Coffee Break
04:30pm - 05:30pm	Discussion

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE SPEAKERS:

	<p>Hon. Mr. Landing B. Sanneh, President of the Gambian Association of Local Government Authorities (GALGA), The Gambia.</p> <p>Mr. Landing B. Sanneh has a post-graduate degree in population and development and fourteen years of experience as a youth worker in development (entrepreneurship, leadership, planning, management and security at home and abroad). During my professional career, I worked at Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) as a Program Director, an international humanitarian non-governmental organization giving me considerable experience in NGO and humanitarian work as well.</p>
	<p>Hon. Mr. Émile-Gros Raymond Nakombo, Mayor of the City of Bangui, President of the Association of Mayors of the Central African Republic (AMCA), Central African Republic.</p> <p>Mr. Emile-Gros Raymond Nakombo is a Central African politician, economist and business leader. During his professional career, Mr. Émile-Gros Raymond Nakombo has held various management positions including, Deputy General Manager of the Popular Bank of Central African Morocco (BPMC), then administrator-manager of the Central African Tobacco Company (CETAC) of Gamboula. On May 5, 2016, he was appointed President of the Special Delegation of the City of Bangui by decree of President Faustin-Archange Touadéra.</p>
	<p>Mr Sani Baba Mohammed, Regional Secretary for Africa & Arab Countries, PSI, Nigeria</p> <p>Sani Baba works with Public Services International (PSI) as Regional Secretary for Africa and Arab countries. He has been in the trade union movement since 1985, when he joined the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) as Organising Secretary. Sani is a passionate defender of labour and trade union rights, as well as an advocate of quality public services, from the local to the national level. He is an expert representative for PSI on a number of policy foras at an African and International level on water & utilities, local government services, tax & trade justice, health & care services, climate change etc.</p>
	<p>Mr Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa.</p> <p>Mr Mbassi has been the Secretary General of UCLG Africa since 2007. He was Chairman of the Interim Board of Directors of Cities Alliance until April 2016, Co-Chairman of World Cities Scientific Development. Alliance-WCSDA, and Deputy Secretary General of the China-Africa Local Government Forum.</p> <p>Mr. Elong Mbassi is the man behind the creation of the Africities Summit, the largest event and gathering of Cities, Regions and Local Governments in Africa, which he has overseen since the first edition in 1998.</p> <p>Mr. Elong Mbassi has a rich experience of nearly 40 years in the field of Decentralization and Local Governance, particularly in the areas of urban</p>

	development and planning, urban services, local economic development, housing and slum upgrading.
	<p>DR EVERLINE A. AKETCH, Sub-Regional Secretary for English-Speaking Africa, PSI</p> <p>Dr Everline A. Aketch (PhD) works with Public Services International (PSI) as Sub-Regional Secretary for English-Speaking Africa. She is an advocate and educator on human/trade union rights including access to quality public services as essential drivers of socio-economic transformation. She has previously represented PSI in the 8th UCLG-Africa Africities 8 Summit that was held in Marrakesh, Morocco in 2018.</p>
	<p>Hon. ROBA S. DUBA General Secretary, Kenya County Government Workers Union (KCGWU)</p> <p>Hon. Roba Duba is the General Secretary of Kenya County Government Workers Union (KCGWU), which represents employees from Kenya's County Governments, especially in water & sanitation utilities. He also serves as Executive Board Member of Kenya's Central Organization of Trade Unions the Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU-K) and is the Secretary General of PSI's Africa Municipal and Local Government Unions Network (AMALGUN) in English Speaking Countries. He has previously served as Member of the National Assembly in the 11th Parliament and as Board Member of the Local Authorities Provident Fund. He has been a local public servant as County Clerk in County Council Kilifi, Town Clerk Municipal Council of Mombasa and Town Clerk Nairobi City Council.</p>
	<p>FATOU DIOUF, Project Coordinator for French-Speaking Africa, PSI, Senegal</p> <p>Fatou Diouf works for Public Services International (PSI) as a Project Coordinator for French Speaking-Africa. As a member of the Senegal Independent Trade Union Confederation (CSA), she previously served as President of the PSI Youth Committee of Africa and Arab countries. Her work & expertise revolve around quality public services, the promotion of health workers in conflict zones, gender equality, and decent work for municipal waste workers. She is a passionate trade union & human rights defender, committed to including the physically challenged persons into decent employment. She also advocates for the equitable access to schooling and higher education for girls and women, especially in rural areas.</p>
	<p>Mr Kudakwashe Munengiwa, General Secretary, Zimbabwe Urban Councils Workers Union (ZUCWU), Deputy General Secretary, Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU)</p> <p>Kudakwashe Munengiwa is the General Secretary of the Zimbabwe Urban Councils Workers Union (ZUCWU). He formerly served as ZUCWU National Trustee of the Union between 2014-2019 and one of its National Executive Members since 2006. He also is the Deputy General Secretary of the National Federation the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) and former ZCTU Regional Chair for the Central Region (2015-2019). He holds a BSc with honours in Local Governance from Midlands State University and several Labour-related qualifications, including a Diploma in Labour Law. He is currently doing a Master in Public Administration at</p>

	Midlands State University of Zimbabwe.
	<p>Ms Nagawa Joséphine, Vice-President of the Women’s League, Uganda Local Government Workers Union (ULGWU)</p> <p>Josephine Nagawa is Vice-President of the Women’s League of the Uganda Local Government Workers Union (ULGWU). She is actively engaged in workers’ recruitment in the union. In addition, she is an ardent advocate for preventing and ending gender-based violence and femicide in Uganda. She serves as Senior Accounts Assistant for Sembabule District Local Government in Uganda</p>
	<p>Ms. Jessica A Omundo, a former Program Officer of the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), was seconded to the Association by the Government of Kenya. Prior to joining AAPAM, she held various positions including Assistant Secretary (Government of Kenya), Secondary School Teacher and Research Assistant (at the Central Bureau of Statistics in Nairobi - currently the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics). She is currently back in the Kenyan civil service. She holds a Master's degree in Armed Conflict and Peace from the University of Nairobi - Kenya. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Languages and Linguistics and a Post Graduate Diploma in Education from Moi University and Maseno University respectively. Ms. Omundo has also completed a number of professional development programs such as the Diploma in Public Administration and the Senior Administration Course at the Kenya School of Government. She has participated extensively in international and global programs as an organizer, speaker and rapporteur.</p>