



PSI Africa and the Arab Countries & UCLG Africa

PANEL DEBATE & MoU LAUNCH EVENT

**Local Quality Public Services in Africa and the Arab countries:
what can PSI and UCLG Africa do together?**

Thursday 24 September 2021

14h00-15h30 WEST (UTC+1) | 15h00-16h30 (CEST)

Interpretation: **ENGLISH, FRENCH, ARABIC**

[Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

UCLG-Africa: <https://www.uclga.org>

PSI: <https://publicservices.international>

CONCEPT NOTE

Background:

- Stemming from the longstanding dialogue and continued cooperation between UCLG and PSI International Secretariats, PSI Africa and Arab Countries Region and UCLG Africa dialogue initiated in 2018 and have now been substantiated into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for structured dialogue and cooperation between the constituencies of the two regions.
- UCLG Africa and PSI Africa and Arab Countries share strategic priorities and are both committed to supporting and enhancing access to Quality Public Services (QPS) for citizens, inhabitants, and communities of the African continent and the Arab Countries. Among these are: effective decentralization; institutional and staff capacity enhancement for Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) staff, management, and National Associations; good practices in human resources management and social dialogue, access to funding for local public service; and good governance.
- As the membership-based organisations most representatives of LRG employees and management in the continent, dialogue, and joint field initiatives between UCLG Africa and PSI Africa and the Arab Countries have the potential to bring concrete, progressive change to the benefit of local communities, as well as LRG institutions and their workers.
- These elements point to significant opportunities for cooperation and joint advocacy and to co-create, build together concrete programmes and activities to the benefit of both organisations' members.

Objectives:

- The panel debate will explore how UCLG Africa and PSI Africa and Arab Countries and their constituencies can be stronger together as they are called to confront the multiple crises the world and the continent face (e.g. pandemic, climate, employment, migration, funding, human rights, etc).
- It will open perspectives on how they can mutually support each other to ensure quality public service access and equitable delivery to the communities they serve, and localise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the African Agenda.
- The event will also mark the official signature and launch of the MoU and highlight the first next steps of the cooperation, including reciprocal contributions and participation in UCLG-Africa flagship event Africities 9 in Kisumu (Kenya) from 17 to 21 May 2022, and PSI's AFRECON in 2022.

Guidance questions:

- What are the main challenges related to quality local public service delivery and access in Africa and the Arab Countries? How can the PSI-UCLG-Africa regional dialogue and cooperation concretely help?
- How can we empower together LRG women, young officials and staff to nurture and strengthen future LRG leadership and good governance in the 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 local public services?
- How can we improve public emergency responsiveness through constructive dialogue geared at enhancing local public service quality and access, while keeping LRG staff motivated, skilled, safe and in decent conditions?
- How can we unlock the sound human capital potential existing and working at regional and local levels in Africa?

AGENDA:

Time (UTC+1)	Time (CEST)	AGENDA ITEMS
14:00-14:15	15:00-15:15	<p>Welcome and opening remarks (15')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, General Secretary, UCLG-Africa • Sani-Baba, Regional Secretary for Africa and the Arab Countries, PSI
14:15-15:15	15:15-16:15	<p>Panel debate (1h)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, General Secretary, UCLG-Africa • Sani-Baba, Regional Secretary for Africa and the Arab Countries, PSI • Najat Zarrouk, Director of Development, Capacity Building, Knowledge Management, and ALGA • Najwa Hanna, PSI Subregional Secretary for the Arab Countries • François Yatta, Director of Operations and Technical Assistance, UCLG-Africa • Farah Mizouni, HR Director, City of La Marsa, Municipal Federation – UGTT - Tunisia <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daria Cibrario, Local and Regional Government Officer, PSI <p>Followed by a plenary discussion</p>
15:15	16:15	<p>Signature and launch of the MoU (15') followed by Closing Remarks by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosa Pavanelli, PSI General Secretary
15:30	16:30	Closure

United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) is the Pan-African Organization composed of 54 National Associations of Local and Regional Governments (“LRGs”) from all regions of Africa, as well as 2000 cities that have more than 100,000 inhabitants, representing overall nearly 350 million African citizen and communities. UCLG Africa Headquarters are located in Rabat (Morocco) and its Regional Offices are based in: Accra, Ghana (West Africa); Nairobi, Kenya (East Africa); Pretoria, South Africa (Southern Africa); Libreville, Gabon (Central Africa), and Cairo, Egypt (North Africa). The mandate of UCLG-Africa is based on 3 pillars: Advocacy; Capacity Building and Knowledge Management; Operations and Technical Assistance. The African Local Governments Academy (ALGA) is part of UCLG Africa as its arm for training and empowering Human Capital.

Public Service International (PSI) Africa and the Arab Countries is composed of 157 affiliated trade union organisations in 45 countries representing a combined membership of around 1.5 million women and men working at all levels of governments, including LRGs, to deliver quality public services to communities and territories. PSI Africa and the Arab Countries Sub-regional offices are in Lomé, Togo (Francophone-speaking Africa); Beirut, Lebanon (Arab Countries); Nairobi, Kenya (English-Speaking Africa); and Johannesburg, South Africa (Southern Africa). It 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 the Arab Countries is a Region of Public Services International (PSI), a Global Union Federation of more than 700 trade unions representing 30 million workers in 154 countries. PSI brings the voice of public service workers to the UN, ILO, WHO and other regional and global organisations, defends trade union and workers' rights and fights for universal access to quality public services.