



## Join us

7<sup>th</sup> edition of the African Forum of Territorial Managers  
and Training Institutes targeting the Local Government

## FAMI VII - 2023

On the Theme:

“The contribution of Local and Regional Governments to the achievement  
of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”

From November 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

El Jadida, Region of Casablanca-Settat, Kingdom of Morocco

Soon on the UCLG Africa Portal: [www.uclga.org](http://www.uclga.org)

For registration to the FAMI 7\_2023, please scan the QR-code:



*“Together for an Effective Local Africa”*



With the support of the Kingdom of Morocco and the European Commission

جامعة شعيب الدكالي  
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Université Chouaïb Doukkali



# CONCEPT NOTE

## Context & Justifications

Around the world, regional economic integration is accelerating growth and development by bringing several benefits related to better political cooperation, more integrated trade and exchange of goods and services, and job creation. It has been a powerful engine for greater economic efficiency and rising living standards around the world, and has contributed to a significant improvement in the economic situation of emerging market economies. Several examples from around the world show the multiple benefits and advantages of economic integration, including in Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa.

The ultimate goal of economic integration is to increase trade, by promoting\*:

- a) **The promotion of the comparative advantages** of each country and each economic zone;
- b) **The creation of commercial opportunities and growth markets:** the countries involved have the freedom to choose from a wide range of goods and services, including cheap ones;
- c) **The creation of employment opportunities:** the different options available in economic integration help to liberalize and encourage trade;
- d) **The promotion of benefits for financial markets:** economic integration is extremely beneficial for financial markets, as it makes it easier for companies to borrow capital at a concessional interest rate;
- e) **Increasing foreign direct investment:** Economic integration promotes increased Foreign Direct Investment and enterprise creation (FDI);
- f) **The political integration:** countries that engage in economic integration form a grouping and acquire greater political influence than a country that acts individually;
- g) **It is conducive to real economic convergence:** regional integration can be conducive to real economic convergence among member countries through the opening of markets to foreign competition, resulting from the dismantling of bureaucratic, administrative and, above all, customs barriers, and also promotes the free movement of capital, labor and other resources.

## Historical review and Mapping of existing experiences in Africa

It is thus that the first African Heads of State and Government will rely on integration to build an integrated Africa as a prerequisite for the development of the continent. Since 1963, the quest for African Unity has been inspired by the spirit of Pan-Africanism, focusing primarily on liberation and political and economic independence with the creation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Its objectives were then:

- the reinforcement of the unity and solidarity of African States,
- the coordination and intensification of their cooperation and efforts to provide better living conditions for the peoples of Africa,
- the defense of their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence,
- the elimination, in all its forms, of colonialism from Africa,
- the promotion of international Cooperation, with due regard to the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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\* [https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/workingdocuments/12553-wd-sia\\_english.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/workingdocuments/12553-wd-sia_english.pdf)

There are many arguments in favor of strengthening African regional integration, including the weakness of internal trade, the permeability of borders, and the obsolescence or absence of infrastructure and quality services.

Several initiatives will emerge in this wake, including:

1. The creation of **Regional Economic Communities (RECs)** which have developed individually and have different roles and structures.
2. **The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)**: created in Marrakech in February 1989 by a constitutive treaty, it regroups Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania. These main objectives are as follows: to strengthen the bonds of fraternity that unite the Member States and their peoples; to achieve progress and prosperity for their societies and to defend their rights; to strive for a common policy in various fields; to contribute to the preservation of peace based on justice and equity; and to work progressively towards achieving the free movement of persons, services, goods and capital”.
3. **The Southern African Development Community (SADC)** has redefined the basis for cooperation among member states from an informal association to a legally binding arrangement. Its vision is to build a region that can achieve a high degree of harmonization and rationalization - to enable the pooling of resources to achieve collective self-sufficiency and improve the standard of living of the region's people. SADC now has 16 member States: Angola, Botswana, Comoros (as of August 2017), Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
4. **The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)** is a regional economic community composed of eight States in the Horn of Africa: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda. Their Summit approved the decision to strengthen regional cooperation in three priority areas: a) food security and environmental protection; b) economic cooperation, regional integration and social development; and c) peace and security.
5. **Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)**: It is an organization mainly located in East and North Africa, composed of 21 member countries: Burundi, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Union of the Comoros, Zambia and Zimbabwe) On November 5<sup>th</sup> 1993, the Treaty on the Transformation of the PTA (Preferential Trade Area) into a Regional Economic Community was signed in Kampala (Uganda) and on December 8<sup>th</sup> 1994, the Treaty was ratified by 12 of the 19 member States, thus marking the effective creation of COMESA. The main thrust is to promote regional integration through trade and investment as well as the sustainable use of resources for the benefit of all the people of the region, gender equality and capacity building for youth and social development.
6. **The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)**: is an international organization regrouping 29 African States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia. The main task of the CEN-SAD is the socio-economic development of its member States, through

agriculture, industry, energy, trade, finance, infrastructure, social development, culture and health.

7. **The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS):** created in October 1983, it gathers 11 countries: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe. The mission of ECCAS is to promote political dialogue in the region, create a regional common market, establish common sectoral policies, promote and strengthen harmonious cooperation and balanced and autonomous development in all areas of economic and social activity in the region, particularly in industry, agriculture, natural resources, infrastructure, trade, customs, monetary and financial matters, and tourism.
8. **The East African Community (EAC):** It includes Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Originally founded in 1967, the EAC was dissolved in 1977 and then recreated in 2000-2001 with Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The objectives of the Community are to develop policies and programs aimed at broadening and deepening cooperation among member states in the political, economic, social, cultural, research, technological, defense, security, legal and judicial fields for their mutual benefit.
9. **The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** was established on May 28th 1975 by the Treaty of Lagos and has a mandate to promote economic cooperation and integration in all economic fields among its 15 member states: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. In 1976, Cape Verde joined ECOWAS and in December 2000, Mauritania withdrew from this integration.
10. **The African Union (AU):** established in 2002 in Durban, South Africa by the OAU Heads of State. Its purpose is to facilitate regional economic integration among members of each region and within the larger African Economic Community (AEC).

The Report on the State of Regional Integration in Africa published by the African Union Commission, Economic Affairs Department in 2019, concludes that the African integration process has recorded undeniable results in line with the Abuja Treaty's predictions, despite various obstacles that are slowing down or hindering the integration process.

These challenges include insecurity, lack of implementation of protocols by some member States, trade barriers, high production costs, insufficient technological development, insufficient networking, supply-side constraints, poor infrastructural development, low foreign direct investment, lack of policy harmonization, membership in more than one regional organization, and weak human resources and financial and material resource mobilization.

### **The Economic Integration, a Strategic Lever in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the African Agenda 2063**

Over the past decade, African governments have embraced, like other countries around the world, the shift in global policy and the convergence of global agendas, namely the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Addis Abeba Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the New Urban Agenda. This accession is part of a continental policy shift towards sustainable development, as defined in Agenda 2063.

In adopting its Agenda 2063 with its Seven Aspirations, African Leaders were “deeply conscious that Africa in 2015 (stood) at a crossroads and (were) determined to transform the continent and ensure irreversible and universal change of the African condition”.

With its 7 aspirations, the African States expressed their desire for shared prosperity and well-being, unity and integration, a continent of free citizens and broader horizons where the full potential of women and youth, boys and girls, is realized and they are free from fear, disease and want.

Agenda 2063 aims to achieve a set of Seven Aspirations each with its own objectives which, if achieved, will enable Africa to realize its vision of the year 2063. These 7 Aspirations reflect our desire for shared prosperity and well-being, unity and integration, a continent of free citizens and expanded horizons, where the potential of women and youth is fully realized, and free from fear, disease and want.

Regional integration is therefore a key priority of Africa's development strategy, where free trade among members is one of the cornerstones of this Agenda.

<p><b>Aspiration 2 of the African Agenda 2063</b></p> <p><i>An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa’s Renaissance</i></p> <p>Since 1963, the quest for African Unity has been inspired by the spirit of Pan Africanism, focusing on liberation, and political and economic independence. It is motivated by development based on self-reliance and self-determination of African people, with democratic and people-centered governance.</p>	<p><b>Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>United Africa (Federal/Confederate)</b> Accelerating progress towards continental unity and integration for sustained growth, trade, exchanges of goods, services, free movement of people and capital through establishing a United Africa and fast-tracking economic integration through the of the CFTA.</li> <li>● <b>World class infrastructure criss-crosses Africa</b> Improving connectivity through newer and bolder initiatives to link the continent by rail, road, sea and air; and developing regional and continental power pools, as well as ICT.</li> <li>● <b>Decolonization</b> All remnants of colonialism will have ended and all African territories under occupation fully liberated.</li> </ul>
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In addition, the Goal 17 of the SDGs, calls for global cooperation and partnership to: “17.6 enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation, and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, particularly at United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism when agreed” to address global, regional and local challenges such as climate change, waste management, energy efficiency and local economic development (LED).

**A New Milestone in the Building and Consolidation of the African Economic Integration: the AfCFTA**

Marked by a pan-African emancipatory voluntarism of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in March 2017 in Kigali (Rwanda), the historic signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and officially launched in January 2021, is a proof to materialize this continental aspiration.

It is composed of the existing regional economic communities, namely:

- COMESA, Eastern and Southern Africa,
- EAC, East Africa,

- SADC, Southern Africa,
- ECOWAS, Central Africa,
- ECOWAS, West Africa,
- UMA, Maghreb,
- CENSAD, Sahelo-Saharan States.

Its main objectives are as follows:

- (1) Deepen economic integration in Africa, in line with the Agenda 2063,
- (2) create a continental customs union,
- (3) liberalize intra-African trade,
- (4) Resolve overlapping memberships in regional economic communities (RECs),
- (5) improve competitiveness,
- (6) contribute to the movement of capital and individuals and facilitate investment,
- (7) promote sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development, gender equality and structural transformation, and
- (8) promote industrialization.

According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the implementation of the AfCFTA will increase intra-African trade by 52%, with an increase of \$35 billion per year.

### **What are the implications for Governance and Development at the Local Level?**

This reorientation reflects the growing recognition of the role of cities and territories as key players in development, now involved in the dynamics of the global transition to sustainable growth, where each player and stakeholder has its share of responsibility for the success of this structuring project.

The African Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) have an important role to play in the horizontal integration process of Africa.

It is at this level that the socio-cultural development needs of the population are met, including public health, education, housing, mobility, waste management, access to drinking water, lighting, cultural and recreational facilities, and other public goods and services essential to the quality of life in the territory and to the well-being of the citizens).

It is also at this level that an enabling and facilitating environment for competitiveness, investment promotion and job creation is created. The LRGs are also responsible for taking appropriate measures contributing to sustainable development (green areas, control of greenhouse gas emissions, waste management, etc.), and for providing the territory with the necessary infrastructure, equipment and services, while ensuring the management of relations with natural ecosystems, the protection of biodiversity, the organization of the transition to sustainable development, the structuring of relations between rural and urban areas, the promotion of social and territorial justice.

This is how the United Nations calls for the localization of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), of which they recognize that more than 65% fall within the competence of the Local and Regional Governments.

The importance of these missions and their diversity show how LRGs are an essential level of governance for Africa's structural transformation and sustainable development.

The Forum of African Regions which was initiated during the 8th edition of the Africities Summit of UCLG Africa, held in November 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco, constitutes a federating and unifying tool of the voice of Local and Regional Governments. Its first meeting was held from 8 to 10 September 2022 in Saïdia, Kingdom of Morocco, with the theme “The contribution of Local and Regional Governments to sustainable development and the dynamics of integration of Africa”.

Given the geographic scale, the Regions are the appropriate scale to develop, implement and evaluate economic development policies focused on job creation and income generation. In addition to industrial parks, they must work to improve the business environment and develop instruments such as Regional Development Agencies. They are also responsible for the exploitation of natural resources, heavy industries, mining and forestry, the automotive industry, the textile industry, etc...

UCLG Africa, as the umbrella organization of African Local and Regional Governments through its members that are the National and Regional Associations, has the mission to support the process of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development in Africa so that the LRGs play a significant role in the dynamics of sustainable development and integration of the Continent, through a vision, strategies and pillars of action very diverse: advocacy, capacity building and knowledge management, technical assistance, resource mobilization and partnerships.

It is in this context that UCLG Africa, through its African Local Government Academy (ALGA) has decided to continue the dialogue, reflections and exchanges on economic integration in Africa, by dedicating the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of its African Forum of Territorial Managers and Training Institutes targeting the Local Government (FAMI7\_2023), in face-to-face format, to the following general theme:

### **“The contribution of Local and Regional Governments to the achievement of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”**

As it has been the case since 2017, the FAMI 7\_2023 aims to be a meeting that leaves no one behind, dedicated certainly to Local and Regional Governments and Training Institutes in Africa, but also to all the other actors and stakeholders concerned by the dynamics of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local and Territorial Development in Africa ([The FAMI7.mp4](#)).

#### **General Objective:**

This 7<sup>th</sup> edition will be the occasion to present and debate on the stakes and the place of African Local and Regional Governments in the dynamics of the economic integration of the Continent.

#### **Specific Objectives:**

- Inform the members and networks of UCLG Africa on the status of progress in the operationalization of the AfCFTA;
- Present the main challenges and obstacles facing this structuring project;
- Take advantage of existing experiences and best practices in economic integration throughout the world;
- Situate and exchange on the place and the role of the African Local and Regional Governments related to the general Theme of the Forum;

- Provide spaces for empowerment, peer learning, training, development and capacity building for the benefit of UCLG Africa Members and Networks;
- Share knowledge and methodologies;
- Promote partnership, decentralized cooperation and networking;
- Discovering a new Region of the Kingdom of Morocco, in this case the Region of Casablanca-Settat for its Heritage and Culture.

### **Date & Location**

**From Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**, City of El Jadida, in the Region of Casablanca-Settat, Kingdom of Morocco, University Chouaib Doukkali, Ecole Nationale de Commerce et de Gestion (ENCG), in person.

### **Target Audience:**

- The Representatives of States and National Governments.
- The Representatives of International Organizations.
- The National and Regional Associations of Local and Regional Governments.
- The Local and Regional Governments represented by the Local Elected Officials.
- The African Territorial Managers.
- The Anchoring Institutes of ALGA of UCLG Africa and its Partners as well as the Universities, Training Institutions and Research Centers.
- The Development Partners and Donors.
- The different components of the Civil Society.
- The Representatives of the Private Sector.
- The Youth, especially the Local elected officials/Advisors and Students.

### **Main Segments of the FAMI 7\_2023**

- An official opening session.
- One or two distinguished guests.
- A plenary session dedicated to the general theme of the Forum.
- Parallel workshops.
- Days of information, awareness raising, training, capacity building, peer learning, and exchange of good practices on priority themes for UCLG Africa and its Partners.
- The holding of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting with the African Regional Referents of ALGA of UCLG Africa.
- The organization of meetings of the Professional Networks of UCLG Africa.
- Field visits.
- The organization of an Excursion and discovery of the Cultural Heritage of the Region of Casablanca-Settat.

### **The Organizers and Partners**

- United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) through its African Local Government Academy (ALGA);
- The General Directorate of Territorial Collectivities (DGCT) of the Ministry of the Interior, Morocco (**TBC**).
- University Chouaib Doukkali, Ecole Nationale de Commerce et de Gestion (ENCG).
- The National Associations of Local and Regional Collectivities of Morocco (ARM, AMPCPP, AMPCC) (**TBC**).
- Partners and Sponsors (**TBC**).



## Modalities of Organization

This 7<sup>th</sup> edition of FAMI will be organized in person.

## Working languages

To take into account the African cultural diversity, interpretation services will be available:

- For the Plenary Sessions: in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese.
- For the Parallel Workshops: in English and French (unless otherwise agreed with the Partners who will be mobilized).

## Practical information on the FAMI7\_2023

All information on FAMI7\_2023, including the program as well as practical and logistical aspects, can be found in the portal of UCLG Africa: [www.uclga.org](http://www.uclga.org)

## Registration to the FAMI7\_2023

To participate in FAMI 7\_2023 and benefit from all its segments, works and activities, you are cordially invited to register by clicking on the link below:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftoKi5OXpUFkjOQKI96BITRC6SN4nPZFFvt6VbhbaAnolM1g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftoKi5OXpUFkjOQKI96BITRC6SN4nPZFFvt6VbhbaAnolM1g/viewform?usp=sf_link)

## Registration fees and participation in the FAMI 7\_2023

- For the Members and Networks of UCLG Africa: **850 euros per person.**
- For non-members of UCLG Africa: **950 euros per person.**
- Spouses and Persons Accompanying: **100 euros per person.**
- or Delegations/Groups of more than 5 participants: **20% discount.**

***There are two ways to pay the registration fee***

### ***1) By bank transfer directly to the Bank Account of UCLG Africa :***

#### **References of UCLG Africa for the bank transfer**

BANK : BANQUE MAROCAINE POUR LE COMMERCE ET L'INDUSTRIE (BMCI) AGENCE 16 NOVEMBRE-RABAT

Beneficiary: CITES ET GOUVERNEMENTS LOCAUX UNIS D'AFRIQUE

Account Number RIB: 013 810 01124 202406 001 63 94

BIC/Code SWIFT : BMCIMAMCXXXX

Address of the Bank: Rabat 16 Novembre (00810), 2 Rue 16 Novembre, Rue Oued Makhazine, 10000 Rabat.

The Bank Transfer must include the following statement:

**NAME & FIRST NAME OF THE INSTITUTION OR PARTICIPANT + UCLG Africa / ALGA - FAMI 7 \_ 2023.**

### ***2) Or upon arrival, at the Forum Secretariat, at the time of registration.***

This registration fee entitles you to the following main benefits:

- Benefit from the reception facilities to and from the Airport;
- Access and benefit from all segments, proceedings and activities of the Forum;
- Benefit from empowerment, peer learning, training, development and capacity building sessions;
- Benefit from a Team Building;
- Have the Forum Kit at your disposal;
- Benefit from two (2) coffee breaks and one lunch per day during the Forum;
- Participate in the Gala Dinner;

- Benefit from a day of excursion;
- Benefit from the facilitation of the visa process if needed;
- Benefit from internal transportation;
- Receive a Certificate of Recognition and/or Participation;
- A professional team at your service to facilitate your stay and make it enjoyable.

### Visa Process

To enter the Kingdom of Morocco, foreign nationals must have a visa when required by the Moroccan authorities. There are, however, several countries that are exempt from visa requirements. Participants from countries that require an entry visa to Morocco and whose countries have an Embassy/Consulate of the Kingdom of Morocco, are required to contact the Embassy or Consular Services to obtain their entry visa to Morocco by presenting all required documents. For participants from countries where there is no Moroccan Embassy, the concerned UCLG Africa Services will assist them in obtaining an electronic visa. To do so, they must transmit as soon as possible a copy of their passport valid for at least six (6) months.

### International Transport and Accommodation

The participants of the Forum are invited to take care of their international transportation, as well as their stay in half board.

As this 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Forum will be held in the Casablanca-Settat Region, it is recommended to choose the Mohammed V International Airport.

A list of hotels will be sent to the participants with a variety of standards (5 stars, 4 stars and 3 stars).

### About the Organizers

- UCLG Africa through its Academy ALGA;
- The National Associations of Territorial Collectivities and the Territorial Collectivities of the Region of Casablanca-Settat (**TBC**);
- The University Chouaib Doukkali.

### To contact us

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