

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES IOPD AFRICA

OIDP Internal Members' Session
Cascais, 2nd July 2013



Bachir KANOUTE, July 2013

I. The PB Panorama in Africa

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is increasingly becoming a best practices innovation for municipal administrations that is adapted to the promotion of the principles of good local governance. In fact, the focus of a participatory budgeting allocation can provide as many benefits to local authorities as it does to civil society. It can render municipal expenses more transparent and stimulate the participation of citizens in decision making with regard to public resources. It can also improve the revenues of the municipalities and redirect municipal investments in basic infrastructures in favour of the more disadvantaged districts. Finally, it can also contribute to the strengthening of social networks and assist in the resolution of differences between the elected officials and the different components of civil society.

Given that it extends the base of citizens' participation in the distribution of public resources, participatory budgeting also contributes to the accessibility of those local groups that are better integrated in social terms, allowing social categories that have traditionally been ostracised to break free of this circle of exclusion.

Since its first appearance, in 1989 in Latin America, this practice has grown ceaselessly and today there are ever more territorial groups, throughout the world, that have adopted PB principles, on the basis of a vast number of local variations.

In Africa, Participatory Budgeting has increasingly caught the attention of governments, civil society and international development bodies, which see it as an innovative platform that allows citizens to have their say in the drafting of budgets and the management of public resources and services. Of the Participatory Budgeting experiences that have been identified throughout the world, over 162 are located in Africa. Participatory Budgeting is acknowledged, not just as a good means of directing public resources in favour of the poorest, but also as an additional support for achieving the goals of decentralisation and persuading governments to take on responsibilities with regard to society.



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES IOPD AFRICA

OIDP Internal Members' Session
Cascais, 2nd July 2013



In order to assist with this process the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy in Africa was set up on 7th December 2012, during the sessions of the 6th Africities Summit, which was held in Dakar from 4th to 8th December 2012.



This launch was presided over by the Minister of Territorial Development and Local Administration of Senegal, the President of the Association of Locally Elected Officials of Senegal, the Representative of the International Observatory, the Director of the UN-HABITAT Projects Office, along with the 156 participants in attendance, from 14 African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal and Zimbabwe.

Since its launch, the OIDPA has worked towards achievement of the following major goals:

- The observation, monitoring and publicising of PB experiences in Africa
- Accompanying the application of PB and reinforcing its process in Africa
- Capitalisation of PB experiences in Africa and sharing them with the rest of the world
- Generalising/institutionalising the PB focus on public policies

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES IOPD AFRICA

OIDP Internal Members' Session
Cascais, 2nd July 2013



The present note is a report on the progress made and the challenges overcome in the achievement of the above-mentioned goals, as well as the perspectives for development.

II. Main Activities

- Capitalisation of the Participatory Budgeting process, from 11th to 26th January 2013, in Madagascar.
- Participation, between 21st and 28th February at the High-Level Meeting of African Union and the All Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralisation and Local Development (AMCOD) for the final validation of the Africa Charter on Values, Principles and Standards of Decentralisation Local Governance and Local Development. This Charter, which includes a focus on PB, as one of the ways in which local democracy can be strengthened, is going to be ratified at the All Africa Ministerial Meeting on Decentralisation and Local Development. After it has been signed by the 13 countries the Charter will be adopted by the African Union and the different African states will have to adapt their laws with regard to decentralisation and Participatory Democracy.
- Participation, from 25th to 29th March, in the WSF Tunisia and promotion of an information session on Participatory Budgeting, with the collaboration of the Foundation for the Future. This session brought together participants from the countries of the Maghreb.
- From 9th to 19th April 2012, an international training session was held for Participatory Budgeting facilitators and assessors. This session was attended by some twenty participants, from 6 francophone African countries.
- The technical withdrawal and framing of the collaboration between AMCOD and UCLGA for the staged application of Participatory Budgeting on the African Continent (ENDA and MDP-ESA).

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES IOPD AFRICA

OIDP Internal Members' Session
Cascais, 2nd July 2013



- Support for the elaboration of the Methodological Guide for the Application of Participatory Budgeting in Burkina Faso (from 27th May to 7th June), with the collaboration of the Programme for Decentralisation and Local Development (PDLC) and the support of GIZ (German Technical Cooperation).
- The holding, in the city of Tunis, from 11th to 21st June 2013, of the National Training Session for Participatory Budgeting Facilitators and Assessors in Tunisia.

III. Perspectives

- Participation in the OIDP Conference in order to share the progress that has been made, along with the perspectives for PB, in Africa.
- From 16th to 26th July 2013, an International Participatory Budgeting Training Session will be held in the city of Tunis. This Session is to be held within the framework of the cooperation between AMCOD and the UCLGA, with the goal of setting up a capacity for Participatory Democracy at a national level.
- National PB Capitalisation Process Workshop in Senegal (from 6th to 8th August 2013) dealing with the question: What Teachings and Perspectives for Institutionalisation exist in Senegal?
- International Training Session for the training of public officials (General Managers for decentralisation in African countries), held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, with the collaboration of AMCOD, the AU and the UCLGA.
- The holding of the International Conference on Participatory Budgeting, from 3rd to 5th December 2013, in Dakar, with the collaboration of AMCOD, the AU and the UCLGA.