



## **Management of the Coronavirus Pandemic in Africa: The Response of Cities and Local Authorities**

### **CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE LAUNCHING SESSION and SUB-REGIONAL WEBINARS**

#### **I. Background**

The emergence and rapid evolution of the new Coronavirus, commonly referred to as COVID-19, is challenging policymakers at different levels to provide immediate and urgent responses to a global health crisis that has revealed in a very short period of time the limitations of the systems we took for granted. This crisis threatens health, social cohesion (education, vulnerable communities, etc.), economy and infrastructures at all levels.

After the appearance of the first case of COVID-19 in Africa in February 2020, all 54 countries on the continent are affected today. Although it is the least impacted continent (309,153 cases recorded on June 21, 2020, i.e. 3.4% of the cases recorded in the world), Africa is facing challenges in terms of health, security, food, etc.

At the local level, authorities are the front line in the fight against the spread of the Coronavirus and play a very important role by ensuring the continuity of basic services, social protection, provision of food and health kits, the installation of hosting sites, funding awareness campaigns, etc.

Given the diversity of the roles played by local authorities in the fight against COVID-19, it seems obvious that the impacts witnessed during the pandemic, and consequently the post-COVID recovery and resilience strategies, will be varied as well. With this in mind, the Coordination for Africa of the International Observatory for Participatory Democracy (IOPD Africa), in collaboration with Enda ECOPOP, is initiating a discussion through a series of webinars bringing together African cities and various actors in the field of decentralization and governance.

#### **II. Objectives of the Webinar**

Through this initiative, the main objective is to share and discuss the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic in African cities through lived experiences, impacts and resilience strategies.

Specifically, it will consist of organizing:

- A framing and launching webinar bringing together partner institutions and authorities representing the different sub-regions of Africa;
- Five webinars, one for each of the sub-regions of Africa, bringing together elected authorities, decentralized services, civil society organizations and researchers.

### III. Organizational arrangements

The first webinar will be held on **July 14, 2020 starting at 2:00 PM GMT**. It will feature the interventions and testimonies of local authorities, IOPD officials and various partner institutions.

The networking session will be launched during a 2 hour 30-minute webinar, divided as follows:

**a. Opening speeches (50mn):**

- M. Oumar **GUEYE**, Minister of Territorial Collectivities, Development and Spatial Planning of Senegal;
- Mrs Minata Samate **CESSOUMA**, Africa, Addis Ababa
- Oumar **CISSE**, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), Nairobi - KENYA
- Mr. Jean-Marc **YACE**, President of IOPD;
- Mr. Marc Rocca **SERRA**, Secretary General of IOPD,

**b. Panels communications (60mn):**

- Mr. Mokhtar Salim **ANDRIANTOMANGA**, Mayor of Majunga, Vice-President of the Association of Major Cities, MADAGASCAR
- Mrs. **BLEUE REGINE**, Mayor of NGOMEDZAP, CAMEROUN;
- M. Calisto **COSSA**, Mayor of Matola, President of the Association of Mayors, MOZAMBIQUE;
- Mr. Mohamed **SOFIENI**, Mayor of Chefchaouen, MOROCCO;
- Mr. Adama **DIOUF**, Departmental Council of Kaffrine, President of the Local Elected Officials Association, SENEGAL;

**c. Debates (40mn):** Online audience

**Moderator:** Mr. Bachir **KANOUTE**, IOPD Africa Coordinator.

**Working languages:** French and English

### III. Targets

The launch webinar will be attended by a wide range of participants, including local elected officials and agents of African local authorities, representatives of ministries and decentralized technical services, members of civil society and technical and financial partners.

### IV. Venue and date

The launch will be held by videoconference on **July 14 from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM GMT**.

Participants can access the platform, via the link below: <http://www.webinaire.oidp-afrique.org/>.