



## JOINT 61<sup>ST</sup> LGAZ ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND 14<sup>TH</sup> AMICAALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### THE 2017 LIVINGSTONE DECLARATION

**We**, the 630 Mayors, Council Chairpersons, Councillors and Officers meeting as the joint 61<sup>st</sup> LGAZ Annual Conference and 14<sup>th</sup> AMICAALL General Assembly, under the theme: **“Strengthening Local Leadership for effective Local Action”** at Chrismar Hotel, Livingstone from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017:

**Express** sincere gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, for gracing the proceedings of this joint conference through the proxy of Her Honour Madam Inonge Mutukwa Wina, Vice President of the Republic of Zambia;

**Welcome** government's recognition, appreciation and resolve to strengthen local government as a strategic sphere in national governance;

**Thank** Honourable Vincent Mwale, Minister of Local Government for the support and commitment exhibited since his appointment, by creating conditions that promote, strengthen and enable local government to effectively satisfy the needs of the local communities we serve;

**Affirm** our unwavering commitment to uphold national cultural values and unity of purpose which are necessary in ensuring a shared prosperity for all, as well as a peaceful and inclusive society;

**Welcome** the action taken by Cabinet Office that will lead to the ratification of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation and Local Development by Government;

**Embrace** the use of SMART Technologies to improve local government management through enhanced revenue collection for better and inclusive service delivery;

**Re-affirm** our pledge to accelerate the pace of the local response aimed at curbing the HIV epidemic so that it no longer represents a public health threat and thereby contribute to the global strategy of ending AIDS by 2030;

**Re-affirm** our commitment to raise awareness and advocate for the active role of local government in the localization and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Now therefore resolve to:

1. Place on record sincere appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia for his relentless efforts to develop a conducive environment aimed at strengthening the system of local government through the devolution of functions with matching resources.

**Action:** A letter be sent to the head of State expressing the Association's appreciation.

2. Place on record gratitude to Hon. Vincent Mwale, Minister of Local Government for his inspiring and positive approach to issues that have the potential to compromise the service delivery and developmental role of local government.

**Action:** A letter be sent to Hon. Mwale thanking him for the support shown so far.

3. Encourage member local authorities to introduce SMART technologies as a measure to improve their management systems and eventually contribute to improving the quality of life for the communities they serve.

**Action:** The Secretariat continues liaising with the e-government SMART Zambia Institute to identify appropriate SMART technology solutions for local government and advise member local authorities accordingly.

4. Sensitize member local authorities on the contents of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation and Local Development which among other things, aims to promote, protect and act as a catalyst for decentralisation local governance and local development.

**Action:** The secretariat take steps to secure copies of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation and Local Development for distribution to all member local authorities at the same time continuing to lobby for its ratification by Government.

5. Ensure that global fund resources for HIV, malaria and TB are accessible by member local authorities for decentralized level coordination and community response service provision.

**Action:** Lobby the Ministry of Local Government to claim its membership on the NAC Board and the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism including the Cabinet Committee of Ministers on Health and HIV in order to secure local government voice and funding for decentralised level HIV, Malaria and TB responses

6. Support member local authorities to start making decisions that contribute to the localization and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) considering that all the 17 SDGs have targets directly related to the responsibilities of local government.

**Action:** The secretariat should take steps to unpack the SDGs by identifying those that have a direct relevance to local government's work and advice member local authorities accordingly.

7. Enable local authorities to proactively begin implementing the Paris Declaration – Fast Track Cities – whose goal is to end AIDS by 2030, through the development of action plans.

**Action:** Secretariat lobby for technical support from cooperating partners to build local authorities' capacity in developing and implementing Fast Track Action Plans.

8. Enable Town Councils secure Planning Authority Status in terms of the provisions of section 13 (1) of the Urban and Regional Planning Act No. 3 of 2015.

**Action:** The Secretariat lobby the Ministry of Local Government to designate Town Councils as Planning Authorities as provided under the Urban and Regional Planning Act.

9. Enable member local authorities to comply with the provisions of section 19 (1) of the Urban and Regional Planning Act as regards the preparation of Integrated Development Plans.

**Action:** The Secretariat lobby cooperating partners for assistance aimed at building the capacity of member local authorities in the development of Integrated Development Plans for their respective areas.

10. Enable member local authorities acquire firefighting and prevention equipment now that the Ministry of Local Government has designated all councils as Fire Authorities.

**Action:** The Secretariat lobby the Ministry of Local Government to secure firefighting and prevention equipment for member local authorities.

11. Facilitate collaboration between member local authorities and the National Water Supply and Sanitation Council (NWASCO) on the management/enforcement of the Urban On-site Sanitation, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation and Solid waste Regulations.

**Action:** The Secretariat liaises with the National Water Supply and Sanitation Council (NWASCO) management with a view to developing modalities for collaboration.

12. Initiate collaboration between the KfW Development Bank and LGAZ aimed at finding ways of accessing funding for infrastructure development by member local authorities and the Association.

**Action:** The Secretariat take steps to open discussions with KfW Development Bank to identify opportunities available for accessing funding for infrastructure development and advice member local authorities accordingly.

13. Collaborate with government in order to identify specific roles for local government in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda which is a key instrument for sustainable development.

**Action:** The Secretariat to:

- i. circulate the Habitat III New Urban Agenda to all member local authorities in order for them to get an in-depth understanding of this global development agenda;
- ii. liaise with the Ministry of Local Government to obtain strategic guidance which will enable member local authorities develop their own local strategies including prioritization of financial resource utilization in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.