

## **FACT SHEET – ALAs**

### **FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS**

**(FPAs)**

**with ALAs**

The EU has strengthened its policy and engagement with Local Authorities in partner countries. In May 2013, the Commission adopted the Communication “*Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes*”.

The Communication recognises and support the strengthening of Associations of Local Authorities (ALAs) as instrumental actor in achieving good governance and development outcomes at local level.

In order to do so, the Commission went beyond project approach and moved towards a programme approach. This implied the establishment of Framework Partnership Agreement between the Commission and specific regional and global Associations of Local Authorities, on the basis of the mutual interest and common general objectives.

## ***Rationale***

Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) illustrate the commitment of the EC to support Associations of Local Authorities (ALAs). Although LAs have recently emerged as important development actors, their involvement in development processes is still a work in progress. They are in a unique position to link local concerns and priorities to national, regional and international debates. Yet they still face significant constraints to their effective contribution to good governance and inclusive development, as well as to provide their members with adequate services. This is, among other things, due to the lack of an adequate level of institutional and organisational capacities as well as human and financial resources.

This partnership will be crucial in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Central governments will not be able to achieve these targets on their own; local needs also need to be taken into account

The main objective of the strategic partnership will be strengthening of the structure of two (2) regional and three (3) global Associations of Local Authorities and their institutional and organisational capacities. This should contribute to the effectiveness of their work as development actors in their own rights and to the empowerment of ALAs to be able to exercise their main functions, and to voice the needs of local communities in regional and international dialogues mainly related to regional integration processes and international development agenda/commitments.

## ***FPAs in the spotlight***

The European Commission has signed 5 FPAs with major international and regional associations of local authorities.

FPAs cover Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America and Europe, and a wide-array of fields of intervention: democracy, good governance, transparency, accountability, gender, human rights, political and social inclusion or economic empowerment, decentralisation, good and inclusive local government.

## ***FPA, a new modality***

FPAs should be considered as long-term (6 years) relations for policy and cooperation between the Commission and specific beneficiaries. Strategic Partnerships will take into account the following aspects:

- Mutual interest and common general objectives shared by the Commission and its partners in pursuing the European Union policies on cooperation to development and the role of Local Authorities and Associations of Local Authorities;
- Actions to be defined and agreed jointly between the Commission and its strategic partners, on the basis of the mutual interest and common general objectives;
- Possible impact of actions on global challenges and citizens by contributing to better policy-making, informing decisions, sharing best practices and engaging stakeholders.

FPAs are not a financial support. They can, or not, be linked with a strategic grant agreement targeting the internal capacity building, the enabling environment or the participation of the signatory networks.

### *FPAs in the future*

For the time being, FPAs are a new modality implemented at global and regional level. Pending their success and the evaluation of their impact, the European Commission will explore their potential renewal, extension, and further deployment at country level.

### *Other FPAs*

The European Commission has signed 23 FPAs with major international and regional networks of civil society. Relevant information can be found at [www.supportcivilsociety.eu](http://www.supportcivilsociety.eu)

# FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT with LAs

## FPA n°000-001

### *Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF)*



#### **Who?**

AIMF is a network representative of over 200 cities across 49 countries. It is the illustration of the solidarity and values shared by all members, such as the strengthening of local democracy, the empowerment of women in decision-making processes, and the planned management of local development. AIMF supports local authorities throughout decentralisation processes as well as on the implementation of urban planning policies.

#### **Where?**

International scope

#### **Which Strategic priorities?**

1. Renforcement des capacités et autonomisation des autorités locales et de leurs associations.
2. Etablissement d'un environnement propice à la participation des citoyens à la vie politique locale et à la prise en compte de leurs aspirations.
3. Promotion d'une approche intégrée du développement qui valorise les acteurs et les ressources socio-économiques, culturelles et naturelles du territoire, pour induire un changement dans la qualité de vie et le bien-être des citoyens, assurant un équilibre entre la croissance socio-économique, l'équité - genre inclus - la qualité de l'environnement et renforçant la résilience des plus vulnérables.

## FPA n°000-002

### *United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-A)*



#### **Who?**

UCLG-A is the Pan-African Association gathering the main cities and regional/provincial/county governments and national associations throughout the five sub-region of the Continent (Central Africa, East Africa, North Africa, South Africa and West Africa). Its direct members are cities with over 250.000 inhabitants, as well as other tiers of sub-national governments such as counties, provinces, regions, etc. Its 40 national associations of local authorities and over 2.000 sub-national governments represent around 350 million African citizens.

#### **Where?**

Regional scope (Africa)

#### **Which Strategic priorities?**

1. Support to decentralization processes on the African continent;
2. Enhancement of accountable and representative African local authorities through appropriate authority, responsibilities, capabilities and resources, to provide services to the citizen, including in situation of fragility;
3. Improved local governance through the adoption and implementation of appropriate policies, facilitating citizen participation in local affairs and their

involvement in enhanced and sustainable local economic development;

4. Make the voice of African local authorities and their associations more professional and audible in policy dialogues at local, national, continental and international levels.

### **FPA n°000-003**

#### ***United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)***

##### ***Who?***

UCLG was founded in 2004 when the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), the United Towns Organisation (UTO) and Metropolis merged their respective global networks of Local Authorities and Associations in a single organisation. UCLG's members represent over half the world's population, the cities (over 1.000) and Association members of UCLG are present in over 120 UN Member States across seven world regions.



##### ***Where?***

International Scope

##### ***Which Strategic priorities?***

1. Fight against poverty, ignorance, intolerance, discrimination, exclusion, insecurity, environmental degradation and cultural levelling;
2. Democratic decentralisation and subsidiarity in the spirit of inter-connecting spheres of government;
3. Participative local governance within the principles of decentralisation and subsidiarity, to the benefit of citizens;
4. High ethical standards of local public service delivery, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability;
5. Promotion of solidarity and mutual learning among local and regional authorities;
6. Partnership with the international community and other tiers of government, civil society organisations and other key actors.

### **FPA n°000-004**

#### ***Commonwealth Local Governments Forum (CLGF)***

##### ***Who?***

CLGF works to strengthen effective democratic throughout the Commonwealth and to facilitate the exchange of good practice in local government structures and services. CLGF brings together central, provincial and local spheres involved in local government policy and decision-making. CLGF has more than 160 members in 40 countries including local government associations, individual local authorities, and ministries dealing with local government.



##### ***Where?***

International scope

##### ***Which Strategic priorities?***

1. Promotion and achievement of democracy, good governance and sustainable development at the local level, with a particular emphasis on

improving participation, transparency, accountability, scrutiny and gender equity.

2. Support for the principle of subsidiarity, including clarity of the roles and responsibilities of different spheres of government, and strengthening partnerships between them for effective decentralisation.

3. Enhancement of inclusive local government and local government associations that are empowered, and have the necessary capacity and resources to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of all members of the community, including vulnerable groups.

## **FPA n°000-005**

### ***Council of European Municipalities and Regions - PLATFORMA***

#### ***Who?***

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is the oldest European association of local and regional government. It is the only organisation that brings together the national associations of local and regional authorities from 40 European countries.

PLATFORMA coordinates the voice of European local and regional authorities in the field of development cooperation (24 members). Its main objectives are: (i) to present a common message to the European institutions; (ii) sharing experiences; (iii) to promote decentralised cooperation; (iv) to strengthen links with civil society. PLATFORMA Secretariat is hosted by CEMR.

#### ***Where?***

Regional scope (Europe)

#### ***Which Strategic priorities?***

1. Promoting the principle of subsidiarity, enhancing the roles and responsibilities of different spheres of government including through effective decentralization processes, strengthening partnerships between Local Authorities and their association and civil society;

2. Promoting awareness raising and Development Education of European citizens regarding global Development issues as the Poverty reduction, sustainable Development Goals, promotion of democracy and good governance, human rights and the rule of law;

3. Promoting and implementing peer to peer Development projects and programmes through decentralized cooperation, strengthening their efficiency, drawing best practices and develop innovative mechanisms for mobilizing EU municipal and regional expertise for better development outputs;

4. Contribute to strengthen National Associations of Local Authorities in partner countries with a particular focus on Countries in the Neighbourhood in order to subsequently impact on capacities of Local Authorities to execute their institutional mandate as defined by law.

