



UCLG take on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

We welcome the fact that 193 UN Member States came to an agreement to adopt the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). A failure to reach an agreement would have negatively affected the adoption of the Post-2015 Agenda in New York in September and the new Climate Change framework at the COP21, in Paris in December.

The UN has described to AAAA as "historic", "ground-breaking", "a milestone", stressing that the agreement contains more than 100 measures relating to infrastructure, social protection, technology, trade, support to micro, small and medium enterprises and capacity building. The agreement reaffirms the commitment of developed countries to dedicate 0.7% of GDP to development aid (with a target of 0.15 to 0.20% ODA/GDP for LDCs by 2030).

For local and regional governments, as mentioned in **the *Position Paper of Local and Regional Governments*** adopted in Addis, the AAAA represents a step forward in the recognition of the role of local and regional governments in the financing for development agenda. The AAAA includes general commitments to support the financing and capacities of subnational governments (para 34), their inclusion in the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (para 10) and in the follow-up process (para 130). The "localization" of financing for development will need, however, the development of further concrete actions and commitments for real achievements in territories.

One of our main concerns is the insufficient measure in the AAAA to address urbanization and "make cities and urban settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". The infrastructure commitments made in Addis Ababa need a stronger urban focus to address the specific demands of growing urban areas over the coming decade. Urban investments will need to double or triple over the next 15 to 20 years to prevent the growth of slums and ensure access to basic services to all urban-dwellers. Local authorities will carefully follow up the call for a Global Infrastructure Forum as means to address infrastructure and capacity gaps, promote clear urban targets and ensure the "localization" of investments to deliver basic services and resilient infrastructures accessible for all.

More generally, we share the mixed feelings of other stakeholders regarding the level of ambition of the AAAA and its ability to ensure adequate Means of Implementation (MoI) for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The **Civil Society Response** to the AAAA highlights other significant disappointments in terms of gender equality, misplaced optimism towards private finance, international taxation regulation and monitoring, tax justice and equity, trade regimes, sovereign debts, limited progress in technology, as the weakening of UN mandate to address systemic issues and limited commitments on terms of transparency and accountability.

With regard to the expanded role that AAAAA expects private finance to play, we share the concerns of civil society about social inclusion and the protection of the commons. Whenever private investments in basic services and infrastructures are promoted, the public sector –and particularly local governments– should be strengthened to ensure the accessibility, affordability and quality of services, and the protection of the environment.

Thanks to the participation of representatives of local authorities, references to 'Localizing the SDGs', 'decentralization of development initiatives', 'greater synergies between local and national levels', the 'empowerment of local authorities' and urban challenges have been included in the minutes of the conference reports (see official [Summaries of Round Tables](#))

We hope that the global summits on the SDGs and COP 21 later this year will revive our optimism, encourage the mobilization of all stakeholders, and build on the AAAAA to construct a more ambitious implementation process. Likewise, we look to Habitat III in 2016 to contribute to the implementation and achievement of the Post-2015 Agenda through the development of a fully-fledged urban agenda that includes an ambitious territorial approach.