



“As we mark this important day, let us celebrate not only the work of public servants worldwide, but their commitment to working in partnership to build a better future for all people”.

António Guterres

UCLG AFRICA
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique
CGLU AFRIQUE

PSI PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

**ACADEMIE MAROCAINE DES COLLECTIVITES LOCALES
UNION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ACADAMY**

On the Occasion of the Celebration of the International Public Service Day (June 23rd)

United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa), Public Services International (PSI) and their Members are honored to organize a Virtual Conference on:

"Celebrating and Honoring Workers in the Household Waste Sector: Peer Learning between Mayors and Workers' Representatives"

Monday, June 26th, 2023 from 2:00pm to 5:30pm (Rabat Local Time (UTC+1))

The link to register for the Conference:
<https://us02.web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZMvCu2hqTlqH9Ln9HS9s7TPme4wAQZRxVV3>

With the Support of:

Ms. Nabila Rmili
Mayor
City of Casablanca
Kingdom of Morocco

Mr. Chris Zsana
President
Abuja Municipal Council
Nigeria

Ms. Fatimé Zera
Mayor
City of NDjamena
Chad

Mr. Vincent Linlada
Mayor
Mazabuka City Council
Zambia

Mr. Mxolisi Mabuza
Mayor
City of Manzini
Eswatini

Mr. Abdallah Mtinika
Mayor
City of Temeke
Tanzania

With the Support of:



“Together for an Effective Local Africa”

CONCEPT NOTE

A vision for Africa

“Extending regular and reliable waste collection services to all. Safe disposal of residual waste to sanitary engineered landfills, while maximizing the recovery of secondary resources from these waste streams through social and technological innovations appropriate for Africa”.

United Nations Environment Programme

Context & Rationale

Today, mankind generates over 2.01 billion tons of household waste every year¹. This volume of waste is set to increase as the world's population continues to grow and, above all, as living conditions improve, affecting lifestyles and consumption patterns, inevitably leading to an increase in household waste. According to the World Bank, global waste production is set to increase by 70% by 2050².

In Africa, a continent that is undergoing a major social, economic, ecological, cultural and digital transformations as a result of its demographic explosion, the urbanization of its territories, and changes in the production and consumption habits of its population. Such transformations inevitably leads to significant growth in waste production, putting a strain on public and private waste management services and infrastructures that are already under pressure³. According to “Forbes” Magazine (2015), 16 of the 25 dirtiest cities in the world are in Africa, a continent where landfills are full to bursting, where toxic materials, electronic and chemical equipment mix with household waste, and where as much garbage lies in archaic infrastructures as in nature or on the streets. Among the countries most affected by this phenomenon are Mali, Niger, Ethiopia, Congo, Tchad, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, and Nigeria.

In most African countries, the household waste collection rate remains very low (below 55%), in addition to the illegal dumping of uncollected waste⁴. This waste comes either from homes, administrative buildings, shops, hospitals and factories, or is sometimes imported from other countries. Much of it is generated in urban centers and their catchment areas.

Although waste production is currently lower in Africa than in developed countries, sub-Saharan Africa is set to become the world's dominant region in terms of total waste production if current trends continue. Waste production in Africa, as in other developing regions of the world, is fueled by demographic growth (the urban population in Africa is growing at a faster rate than on any other continent (3.5% per year)), rapid and poorly controlled urbanization, the growth of the middle class, changing production and consumption patterns, and global trade and trafficking in waste.

This is a key sector which covers a wide range of dimensions, issues and risks, especially for health and the environment, but also a multitude of opportunities for African countries: the institutional environment, organization, operations, infrastructures and services, human resources, capacities and knowledge, collection, sorting and recycling methods, financial resources, technologies, data and statistics, means of communication and dialogue...

Some rather edifying figures:

- 125 million tons of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) generated in Africa in 2012, a figure that is set to double by 2025;
- The increase in the volume of waste in Africa will be so great that any decrease in waste production in other parts of the world will be offset by this Continent;

¹ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org>

² <https://fr-statista.com/infographie/27143/quantite-de-dechets-municipaux-generee-par-habitant-par-pays/>

³ Africa waste management summary for decision-makers, <https://www.wacaprogram.org/knowledge/africa-waste-management-summary-decision-makers>

⁴ https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/08/Session%282%29-1b_EN.pdf

- Waste collection services in most African countries are inadequate. The average rate of MSW collected is only 55% ;
- Over 90% of the waste generated in Africa is disposed of in anarchic dumps and landfill sites with outdoor incineration;
- 19 of the world's 50 largest dumping sites are located in Africa, all of them in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- On average, 13% of MSW generated in Africa is plastic waste and 57% is organic waste. Most of this waste is currently dumped anarchically, and therefore represents a significant socio-economic opportunity for the countries concerned;
- Recycling is gaining momentum in Africa, driven more by poverty, unemployment and socio-economic needs than by the public and private sectors. 70-80% of MSW produced in Africa is recyclable, yet only 4% of MSW is currently recycled;
- Informal waste collectors are quick to recover useful items at a derisory cost to local authorities and private companies;
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), environmental insalubrity causes more than 12.6 million deaths a year, a figure that is set to soar in the coming years due to Africa's demographic boom and urbanization.

There is an urgent need for African countries to meet current waste management challenges and prepare for the expected growth in waste production over the next century, recalling that the African Union has set itself the ambition that “African cities will recycle at least 50% of the waste they generate by 2023”.

It should also be remembered that in recent years, a real political will has emerged and colossal investments have been mobilized, making it possible to set up real waste recovery projects in record time, efficient collection and sorting systems, build new infrastructures, modernize old ones, raise public awareness of the benefits of recycling, and create jobs in the hygiene, cleanliness and solid waste management sectors.

How, then, can we change the paradigm and see waste not as a problem to be left behind, but rather as a resource to be exploited as part of the overall sustainable development dynamic? How can we make this transition in perspective? How can we achieve effective, efficient waste collection? How can we give a second life to waste, so as to reap economic and health benefits for all? At a time when waste treatment has become a growing, multi-billion-dollar business, how can we ensure the emergence and anchoring of social responsibility on the part of governments - at all levels of governance - and companies?

As part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDG 12, which aims to “ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”, is a call for producers, consumers, communities and governments to reflect on their habits and uses in terms of consumption, waste production, and the environmental and social impact of the entire value chain of our products. More broadly, this SDG calls for us to understand the interconnections between personal and collective decisions, and to perceive the impacts of our respective behaviors between countries and on a global scale.

Based on the roles, responsibilities and powers devolved to local and regional governments, and more specifically to cities, towns, districts, counties... (according to the names given in each country), these institutions are the closest level of governance to impact this social, economic, cultural and technological transformation in waste management and solid waste treatment.

Local and Regional Governments, in particular cities, are increasingly seen as essential partners in developing and implementing public policies, providing efficient and equitable services to citizens, and building the infrastructure needed for effective governance and efficient waste management. It is the responsibility of these entities to create liveable territories for populations, citizens and communities, to create the conditions to attract investment and create decent jobs, to ensure the collection of waste (whatever its nature), the cleanliness of public spaces and green areas, and to work towards beautification, urban aesthetics and public hygiene.

These are roles, responsibilities and skills whose implementation faces a multitude of challenges and problems, and requires holistic approaches as well as the involvement of several other players. Despite these constraints, local and regional governments, especially cities and communes, played an essential role throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, and their leaders and employees ensured the continuity of the public waste management and collection service, despite the risks and at the expense of their lives and well-being.

It is to enhance and upgrade this Sector that United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) and Public Services International (PSI) have signed, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, a Memorandum of Understanding with the following main objectives:

- Enable equitable access to quality Local Public Services for all;
- Make cities, communities and territories inclusive and equitable;
- Achieve sustainable and fair local socio-economic development;
- Strengthen the capacities and skills of Local and Regional Government staff to ensure decent working conditions, in line with the SDG 8 call to “**Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**”.

Within the framework of this Partnership, UCLG Africa and PSI have agreed to launch a first Pilot Program covering six (6) African Cities/Communities/Municipalities that have demonstrated their commitment to the promotion of Quality Public Services and Decent Work particularly in the Waste Management Sector, namely:

1. **North Africa: the Commune of Casablanca in Morocco:** The pilot case study will focus on solid waste management in the city. The aim is to examine the opportunities and obstacles to improving service delivery and protecting workers' health and safety through a process of social dialogue and engagement.
2. **West Africa: the City of Abuja in Nigeria:** The pilot case study will focus on Social Dialogue and Engagement around revenue generation and utilization at the local and regional government level.
3. **Central Africa: the Municipality of N'Djamena in Tchad:** Tchad is a country facing complex and difficult challenges. The *Fédération des Syndicats du Secteur Public du Tchad* (FSPT (The Union Federation of Public Sector in Chad) has already had the opportunity to work on the working conditions and health and safety issues of the city's garbage collectors, a sector largely made up of women.
4. **East Africa: the Municipality of Ilala in Tanzania:** The Municipality of Ilala is one of five municipalities under the jurisdiction of Dar es Salaam. Solid waste management in the City poses many problems and challenges. The Union (TALGWU) has already played an active role in raising these issues. The aim is to improve waste management, while improving health and safety conditions for workers through a process of social dialogue and engagement with the authorities/employers concerned.

5. Southern Africa:

5.1. the Municipality of Mazabuka in Zambia: the country is in a difficult economic situation. However, it is committed to decentralizing public services to Local and Regional Governments. The decentralization process has been slow. One of the main problems hampering it is the lack of funding for Local and Regional Governments, which remain dependent on intergovernmental transfers. The pilot case study will focus on the issue of decentralization of Public Services and how to ensure that it happens in practice, as well as on the financing of local governments to correlate with the competences transferred.

5.2. The City of Manzini in Eswatini.

It is within the framework of the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the United Public Service Day (2003-2023), the Strategic Partnership between UCLG Africa and PSI-Africa Region, and of this Pilot Program, that the two Parties have decided to join forces to celebrate the United Nations Public Service Day, which is held on June 23rd each year, proclaimed in 2003 by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution A/RES/57/277. It's a day that provides an opportunity to highlight the role of public administration in development and in communities, and above all to honor and celebrate civil servants (executives, managers, officers, agents, employees) in the Public Service.

On this occasion, UCLG Africa and PSI are honoured to invite their respective Members and Partners to a Virtual Conference which will focus on:

**“Celebrating and Honoring Workers in the Waste Management Sector:
Peer Learning between Mayors and Workers' Representatives”**

General objective:

Celebration of the United Nations Public Service Day and honoring the Human Capital of the Waste Management Sector in African Cities.

Partners:

- UCLG Africa through its African Local Government Academy ;
- The Public Services International (PSI);
- The Local and Regional Governments (Cities/Communes/Municipalities) involved in the Pilot Program;
- The Unions and Representatives of workers, in particular those in the Waste Sector.

Date and place: Monday, June 26, 2023 from 02:00pm to 05:30pm (Rabat Local Time (UTC+1), on UCLG Africa's Zoom Platform.

- The link to register to the Conference:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvucu2hqTlqH9Ln9HS9s7TPme4wAQZRxVv3>

Working languages: English, Arabic, French and Portuguese.

Target Audience:

- Representatives of Governments;
- Representatives of Local and Regional Governments;
- Trade unions and workers' Representatives;
- Representatives of International Organizations;
- Civil servants, managers and territorial employees;
- Training and Capacity Building Actors (Universities, Schools, Institutes, Research Centers...);
- Representatives of the Private Sector;
- Representatives of Civil Society;
- Students.

Persons to contact:

For UCLG Africa:	For PSI:
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Draft Agenda

Moderator:

Time	Activities
01:30pm	Welcome and installation of the Honorable Guests and Participants
02:00pm – 02:30pm	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Juwang Zhu, Director, Division of Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN-DESA/DIPGD, New York. - Mr Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa. - Mr Sani Baba Mohammed, PSI Africa Regional Secretary. - The Representative of the International Labor Organization (ILO) (TBC).
02:30pm – 03:00pm	<p>Introductory statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why should we celebrate the United Nations Public Service Day, particularly at sub-national level?, by Dr John Mary Kauzya, Former United Nations Civil Servant, Senior Expert in Public Administration and Governance, Uganda. - Issues, challenges and opportunities for the Waste Management Sector in Africa (TBC).
03:00pm – 04:15pm	<p>Peer Learning Moment between Mayors and Trade Unions involved in the UCLG Africa and PSI Pilot Program (TBC):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Communal Council of the City of Casablanca and UMT, Morocco. 2) Abuja City Council - Federal Capital Territory and the Union Nigeria. 3) The City of N'Djaména and the <i>Fédération des Syndicats du Secteur Public du Tchad</i> (FSPT), Tchad. 4) The Ilala Municipality & the TALGWU Trade Union, Tanzania. 5) The Mazabuka City Council & Trade Union, Zambia. 6) The City of Manzini & a Trade Union, Eswatini.
04:15pm – 04:45pm	Testimonials from Civil Servants/Employees in the Waste Management Sector (TBC)
04:45pm – 05:15pm	Questions/Comments from the Virtual Room.
05:15pm – 05:30pm	Closing words and end of the Virtual Conference.

