



OIDP Afrique IOPD Africa



International Observatory of
Participatory Democracy - Africa

MANAGEMENT REPORT 2025-2026



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DU LEADERSHIP LOCAL**

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PANAFRICAINE**

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FOREWORD

The International Observatory of Participatory Democracy in Africa (IOPD Africa) was launched on 7 December 2012, during an assembly on the sidelines of the AFRICITES Summit held in Dakar. The solemn ceremony was presided over by the Minister of Territorial Planning and Local Government of Senegal, the Director of the UN-Habitat Projects Office, the Secretary General of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy, the President of the Union of Associations of Local Elected Officials of Senegal and in the presence of 156 participants from 13 African countries.

IOPD Africa aims to (i) strengthen democracy and citizen participation in Africa, (ii) strengthen institutions and actors in democracy, governance and development, and (iii) integrate the achievements of participatory democracy into public policies.

This report covers the 2025-2026 financial year. At the end of this fourteenth year, progress has been made on the components that constitute the core activity of the Observatory, namely the operational and experimentation component, the Influence, advocacy and networking component and the development of intervention capacities.

Thus, on the operational and experimentation side, IOPD Africa has continued its commitment to the institutionalization of participatory and deliberative democracy, in particular through the second phase of the Mainstreaming Democratic Innovations project, implemented with People Powered and the Institute of Public Finance in Kenya. The Observatory has also provided methodological support to the Project for the Promotion of the Participation of Children and Youth in West Africa (PPJE), implemented by Enda ECOPOP in partnership with Social Watch Benin and AJEAH Togo. This project has notably enabled the development and contextualization of a methodological guide on the Children and Youth Participatory Budget and the creation of the Network for the Promotion of the Participation of Children and Youth in West Africa (REPEJ).

On the Influence, Advocacy and Networking component, IOPD Africa organized the 6th edition of the International Forum on Participatory Democracy in Africa (FIDEPA06), held in Dakar from 4 to 6 November 2025, around the theme "From Resilience to Sovereignty: Roles of Cities, Territories and Actors". The Observatory also continued its pan-African initiative to promote excellence in decentralization, territorial governance and local development through the 2nd Pan-African edition of the Local Leadership Excellence Award (PELL 2026). During the exercise, it also took part in several African and international summits and spaces for dialogue, exchange and cooperation on territorial governance, citizen participation, decentralization, local development and open government.

As for the Capacity Development component, IOPD Africa continued its training and capacity building activities for territorial actors. Several international sessions were organized on Local Economic Development and Territorial Marketing, but also on participatory and citizen engagement approaches in public management and the budget process. These activities led to the certification of coaches, facilitators and trainers, as well as the constitution of an African pool of specialized skills in training, coaching, mentoring, facilitation and advice.

In perspective, IOPD Africa will continue to implement the guidelines set out in its 2026-2027 roadmap, in particular through the organization of the 8th edition of the International Forum on Participatory Democracy in Africa, the continuation of the pan-African edition of the Local Leadership Excellence Award, as well as the development of its actions in terms of training, advocacy and support for local initiatives.

In conclusion, IOPD Africa would like to thank all its partners for having participated in the success of its activities and thus contributed to the accomplishment of its missions during this year.

Bachir KANOUTE
Secretary General

Part 1:

GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL LIFE OF IOPD AFRICA

This part presents the governance and institutional life of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy in Africa (IOPD Africa), through its **political bodies** and its **sub-regional operational mechanism**.

I. THE OBSERVATORY'S BODIES

1. Political bodies

The governance of IOPD Africa is based on a political organization that ensures representation of the different sub-regions of the African continent. The **sub-regional political bodies** are made up of local elected representatives from local authorities and responsible for representing and carrying out the orientations of IOPD Africa in their respective sub-regions.

The sub-regional presidents are as follows:

Sub-region	President	Function
West Africa	Mr. Rufino D'ALMEIDA	Mayor of the Commune of Bohicon, Benin
North Africa	Mr. Mounir LYMOURI	Mayor of Tangier and President of the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Communal Councils
Central Africa	Mrs. Monique AYI	Mayor of the Commune of Dzeng, Cameroon
East Africa	Mrs. Hanitra Adèle RAVAOALISOA (interim)	Permanent Secretary of the Association of Large Cities of Madagascar
Southern Africa	Mr. Jack Moloko MAEKO	Executive Mayor of Waterberg District Municipality, Afrique du Sud

2. Operational bodies

In addition to its political bodies, IOPD Africa has an **operational network of focal points**, intended to ensure the operational aspects of the organization in the different regions of the continent. These focal points are relays to facilitate the circulation of information, the animation of the network, the identification of opportunities for collaboration and the connection of IOPD Africa with local actors of participatory democracy.

Thus, the focal point is provided by the following organizations:

- **Botswana Watch**, in Botswana, for Southern Africa;
- **AfroLeadership**, in Cameroon, for Central Africa;
- **The Observatory of Decentralization and Local Development**, in Madagascar, for East Africa;

- **Banlieues du Monde**, in Mauritania, for North Africa and;
- **Enda ECOPOP**, Senegal, for West Africa.

II. PRESIDENCY INAUGURAL MEETING 2025-2026

The Inaugural Meeting of the 2025-2026 Presidency of IOPD Africa was held on 26 November 2025, following the 6th edition of the International Forum on Participatory Democracy in Africa (FIDEPA06), held in Dakar from 4 to 6 November 2025. It marked the handover of the rotating presidency to Mr. Roger TAFAM, Mayor of the Urban Community of Bafoussam (Cameroon), who succeeds Mr. Mamadou Oury Bailo DIALLO, President of the Union of Associations of Local Elected Officials of Senegal (UAEL).

This meeting, which was attended by the Presidency, the General Secretariat and the Council of the Observatory, aimed to officially install the new President, to present the Observatory, its mission to promote participatory democracy, its Council and its network of focal points. It also provided an opportunity to reconstruct the highlights of the FIDEPA06 (scientific forum, masterclasses, cooperation and networking fair, gala of distinction and award ceremony, readings of the PELL declaration and memorandum, visit of tourist sites) and set the 2025-2026 roadmap.



Following the presentation of the IOPD Africa and the summary of the FIDEPA06, the President then presented the FIDEPA07, scheduled to take place in Bafoussam in 2026 under the theme *"Accelerated Decentralization – Empowered Territories"*. In particular, he reviewed the contextual elements, the objectives, a proposal for a provisional agenda, and the coordination team that will be put in place. This presentation then gave rise to discussions and strategic orientations among the members of the Observatory Council.

The last highlight of the session was the presentation of the perspectives of the next edition of the Forum, namely the organizational standards, the five large spaces to be provided and the various committees to be set up to ensure the organization. The session ended with closing words and thanks from the newly installed President.

Part 2:

OPERATIONAL AND EXPERIMENTATION

The 2nd part of the report focuses on the operational aspects and the experiments of the Observatory.

I. MAINSTREAMING DEMOCRATIC INNOVATIONS PROJECT – PHASE 2

May 2024-February 2026

Implemented in partnership with People Powered and Kenya's Institute of Public Finance (IPF), the Mainstreaming Democratic Innovations project aimed to foster the sustainable integration of participatory and deliberative democracy into public governance policies and practices. It is based on building the skills of leaders, reformers, and organizations that will play a role in transforming governance systems. The project was carried out in 2 phases:

- **Phase 1 – Research and case studies:** development of the panorama of participatory and deliberative democracy experiences in Africa and realization of two studies devoted to local participatory democracy practices in Senegal and Kenya. This work made it possible to document existing experiences, identify achievements and highlight the challenges related to the institutionalization of citizen participation.
- **Phase 2 – Action Learning:** Launch, from May 5 to 8, 2025, of a training program to support participants in the design and implementation of concrete initiatives. The training consisted of five modules:
 - mainstreaming and institutionalization of public participation;
 - legal and institutional frameworks conducive to participation;
 - building and communicating a value proposition;
 - mapping stakeholder influence;
 - systemic change and transformation strategies.

The different modules were facilitated by experts from several international organizations, including OGP (United Kingdom), ICNL (United States), Kita Kota (Indonesia), Ciudadanía Inteligente (Brazil), MOSAIC (Croatia) and IOPD Africa.

In addition to this collective training, a personalized mentoring program was set up under the leadership of Mr. Bachir KANOUTE, Secretary General of IOPD Africa. This system made it possible to support four mentees from Mexico, Morocco and the Democratic Republic of Congo. A total of **20 individualized sessions were carried out**, offering support adapted to the needs and projects of each beneficiary.

Through this project, IOPD Africa has contributed to the development of international expertise in participatory and deliberative democracy and to the support of actors engaged in the institutionalization of more inclusive, transparent and participatory governance practices.

II. PROJECT TO PROMOTE THE PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN WEST AFRICA (PPJE)

The Project for the Promotion of the Participation of Children and Youth in West Africa (PPJE), implemented by Enda ECOPOP, in partnership with Social Watch Benin and AJEAH Togo, with the methodological support of IOPD Africa, is part of the WYDE Civic Engagement program. This program, funded by the European Union and coordinated in its first cluster by ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy, in partnership with People in Need and elbarlament, aims to strengthen the inclusion and participation of children and young people in democratic processes.

The implementation of the project took place gradually, through eight (8) major activities, aimed at strengthening the capacities of local actors, raising awareness of the integration of the BPEJ in the partner communes and setting up a network to promote the participation of children and young people in local decision-making processes.

- **Activity 1 & 2 – Methodological scoping workshop and project launch**

The methodological scoping and launch workshop made it possible to bring together stakeholders from the three countries, to share the objectives of the project and to clarify the modalities of collaboration. Partnership agreements were also signed with the municipalities of intervention, namely Bohicon (Benin), Golf Sud (Senegal) and Golfe 2 (Togo).

- **Activity 3 – Development of the BPEJ methodological guide**

The Children and Youth Participatory Budget (BPEJ) methodological guide was developed and contextualized for Benin, Senegal and Togo, to provide communities, CSOs and other actors with a reference tool to foster the participation of children and youth in local budget processes.

- **Activity 4 – Training of Facilitators at BPEJ**

The training of facilitators made it possible to strengthen the capacities of 17 participants from Benin, Senegal and Togo on the concepts, methods and tools of the BPEJ. This training was completed by a pilot workshop with the municipal council of Agoè Nyive 1, allowing the participants to discover the BPEJ approach, through its principles, its dimensions, its stages, but also to put into practice the tools through the mapping of the actors, the inventory of the municipality, the inventory of infrastructures and equipment dedicated to children and young people, the analysis of the reality of the municipality and the community achievements.

- **Activity 5 – Development of Action Plans**

Following the training, three draft action plans were developed to support the partner municipalities in the BPEJ experiment. These included awareness-raising activities for municipal councilors, district councilors, civil society, youth organizations, schools, etc. This step also marks the last activity of phase 1 of the project.

- **Activity 6 – Restitution and awareness-raising in the partner municipalities**

In the second phase, the municipalities were supported through restitutions, awareness-raising sessions, capacity building for elected officials and the involvement of youth associations and community actors.

In Bohicon, these actions have contributed to a strengthening of the capacities of civil society and a political commitment of elected officials in favor of the integration of the BPEJ and to the support of technical staff for its future implementation.

In Golf Sud, the approach made it possible to mobilize the mayor and local actors from the 35 neighborhoods during 3 workshops. The activities made it possible to strengthen the

capacities of neighborhood councilors and municipal councilors, but also to raise awareness among youth organizations of the approaches and mechanisms of participation.

In Togo, the activities carried out at Golfe 2 have strengthened the mobilization of CSOs, the media, the private sector, youth, students, community leaders and technical services around citizen participation. These actions have contributed to strengthening knowledge of participation mechanisms and citizen control tools.

A total of 207 people were informed, sensitized or trained on mechanisms for the participation of children and young people in local affairs, including 136 men and 71 women.



- **Activity 7 – Capitalization and sharing of knowledge**

The achievements and lessons of the project were capitalized and shared during the FIDEPA06 in Dakar, during the panel "*Democratic sovereignty: building citizen power from the territories*". This panel was moderated by the mayors of the three beneficiary municipalities in front of 578 participants from about 40 countries.



- **Activity 8 – Creation of the REPEJ sub-regional network**

The project led to the creation of the Network for the Promotion of the Participation of Children and Youth in West Africa (REPEJ), launched on 16 December 2025 during a sub-regional webinar with 127 participants. The network now has 193 members.

- **Complementary activities not initially planned**

Several activities not initially planned helped to broaden the scope of the project. As part of the African Territories Knowledge Marathon (MASTA), a capacity building webinar on the child and youth participation approach was held and brought together 175 participants from 17 countries. As part of the celebration of International Youth Day, a week-long digital campaign called #YouthVoice was conducted and generated more than 32,000 impressions on social networks. The campaign was also closed by a webinar to share experiences between the 3 countries, which brought together 294 participants from 18 African countries.

Part 3:

INFLUENCE, ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

This part focuses on IOPD Africa's Influence, Advocacy and Networking activities.

I. 6th EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA (FIDEPA06), DAKAR

From 4 to 6 November 2025, Dakar hosted the sixth edition of the International Forum on Participatory Democracy in Africa (**FIDEPA06**), organized by the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy in Africa (IOPD Africa), in collaboration with the Union of Associations of Local Elected Officials of Senegal (UAEL), the City of Dakar and Enda ECOPOP, under the institutional anchoring of the Ministry of Urban Planning, Local Authorities and Territorial Planning (MUCTAT).

Under the theme "**From resilience to sovereignty: the roles of cities, territories and actors**", this sixth edition brought together **1,478 participants from 43 countries in Africa and around the world**, mainly composed of representatives of the State, local authorities, civil society organizations, universities, technical and financial partners, media and citizens.



The work was structured around three major axes: **democratic sovereignty**, through the strengthening of citizen power and local participation; **economic sovereignty**, focused on the mobilization of endogenous resources, financial empowerment and the development of territorial economies; and **digital sovereignty**, dedicated to data management, digital transformation and digital inclusion of territories.

The Forum combined an inaugural conference, three high-level panels, six parallel sessions, three masterclasses, as well as an exhibition, networking and cooperation fair. These different spaces made it possible to share African and international experiences, to promote territorial innovations and to strengthen exchanges between communities, institutions and local development actors.



The FIDEPA06 was also marked by the holding of the General Assembly of IOPD Africa, which aimed to bring together the Presidency, the Council of the Observatory, the operational focal points and the Secretariat in order to take stock of the previous year and to identify the prospects for 2025-2026.

It was also an opportunity to celebrate territorial excellence with the award ceremony of the pan-African edition of the **Local Leadership Excellence Award (PELL)**. This edition of the PELL, which registered **734 applications from 28 countries**, distinguished **27 winners** from different categories and highlighted inspiring initiatives in decentralization, territorial governance and local development. The gala was also marked by the reading of the Dakar Declaration and the Memorandum of the Award of Excellence.



Trophy in the Journalist Category – Press Article



PELL Trophy for the PhD Student Category



Trophy in the Budgetary Effectiveness and Efficiency Category



Trophy in the Participation and Citizen Engagement Category

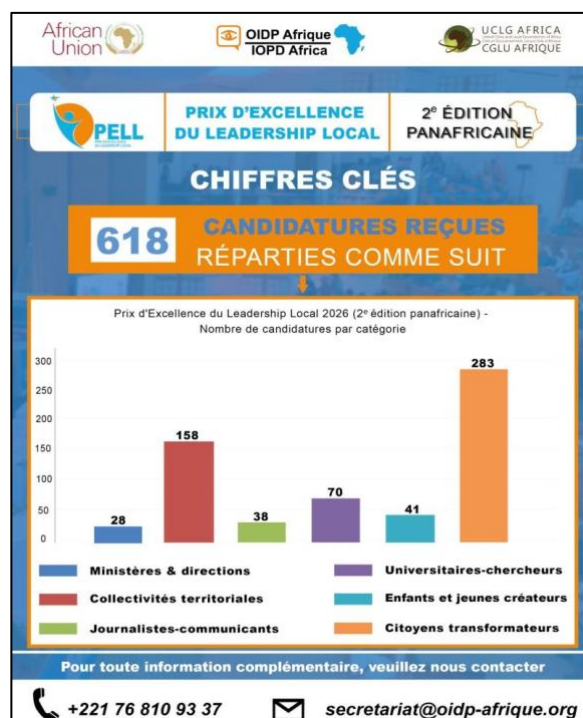
II. 2nd PAN-AFRICAN LOCAL LEADERSHIP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE — PELL 2026

The International Observatory on Participatory Democracy in Africa (IOPD Africa), in collaboration with the African Union Commission and United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa), continued its pan-African initiative to promote excellence in decentralization, territorial governance and local development, through the Local Leadership Excellence Award (PELL).

The second pan-African edition was launched in February 2026, during a regional webinar and sub-regional information sessions that mobilized a total of **878 participants from some twenty African countries**.

At the end of the process, **618 applications** from **33 African countries** were registered, covering all the sub-regions of the continent. They are divided between the different categories of the Prize, with 28 applications from ministries and technical directorates, 158 from local authorities, 38 from journalists and communicators, 70 from academics and researchers, 41 from children and young creators and 283 from transformative citizens.

In perspective, the process will continue with the evaluation of the application forms, followed by the deliberation of the scientific committee, and the validation and publication of the list of nominees. This will be followed by the holding of the learning conference, intended to promote the sharing of experiences and the promotion of the nominated initiatives. A second deliberation meeting with the scientific committee will then make it possible to decide on the final list of winners, and, finally, the organization of the trophy ceremony, which will close this second pan-African edition of the PELL.



III. MEMORANDUM ON THE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF DECENTRALIZATION, GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

As part of the promotion of the lessons learned from the pan-African edition of the **Local Leadership Excellence Award (PELL 2025)**, IOPD Africa, at the end of a multi-stakeholder process that mobilized representatives of governments, local authorities, civil society, the academic world as well as technical and financial partners, has developed a **Pan-African Memorandum on the issues, challenges and priorities of decentralization and local governance for development**.

This document was designed as a capitalization, **advocacy and mobilization** tool for all actors in the African ecosystem of decentralization, territorial governance and local development. Its development was based on the lessons learned from the **734 initiatives received from 28 African countries** as part of the PELL 2025, making it possible to highlight the main difficulties encountered by the territories, but also the innovative practices and levers likely to support their transformation.

The memorandum is structured around **seven major issues and challenges** identified in the dynamics of decentralization in Africa. In particular, it highlights the slow operationalization of continental normative frameworks, the low financial autonomy of local authorities, the still limited institutional and human capacities, as well as the inadequacies in terms of citizen participation and accountability. It also highlights the need to better value local innovations and strengthen peer-to-peer learning dynamics, while promoting increased involvement of the private sector, civil society, the media and academia in local governance. Finally, the document draws attention to the weakness of innovative financing mechanisms dedicated to territorial initiatives.

On the basis of this analysis, the memorandum formulates **21 priority recommendations**, structured according to the different categories of actors. These recommendations cover regional and sub-regional institutions, states and ministries in charge of decentralization, technical and financial partners, associations of local authorities, local authorities, universities and research centers, journalists and communicators, civil society organizations and the private sector. This structuring aims to make the document a **collective roadmap**, associating each level of intervention with specific orientations ranging from accelerating the implementation of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization to strengthening research, citizen participation, partnerships and the mobilization of innovative financing.

Read the full memorandum here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1akBfxRd_WmAJqyoN3C6EAM52ppi8Y6oQ/view?usp=sharing

IV. MARATHON OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE TERRITORIES OF AFRICA (MASTA)

The African Territories Knowledge Marathon (MASTA) is an initiative of Enda ECOPOP and IOPD Africa aimed at sharing experiences for local elected officials and actors of participatory democracy, decentralization and local governance.

The MASTA aims to contribute to meeting the challenges of the empowerment of local elected officials and territorial actors, by serving as a framework for learning and exchanges for all actors in the decentralization ecosystem in Africa. To do this, each year, the members of the IOPD Africa network identify, in a participatory approach, a series of priority themes relating to the issues, challenges and prospects of participatory democracy and territorial development in Africa. These themes are then the subject of a series of thematic discussion webinars, led by experts, in order to deepen the reflection and strengthen the capacities of the actors concerned.

You can follow all the sessions here:

1. **Inter-municipal cooperation for sustainable territorial development in Africa:** <https://youtu.be/BvEw4Cy5v-8?si=ySztqRI5sNSrQ3ex>
2. **Publication of the White Paper of the Knowledge Marathon of African Territories:** <https://youtu.be/enh3l4PLnP8?si=ALRm4KI4di-MaBuR>



3. **What operational levers for inclusive and resilient decentralization?:**
<https://youtu.be/ql34TWor45Q?si=3JmT3dk4EK0Jqpm>
4. **Urbanization and the right to the city:** https://youtu.be/TPE9Ww9Sbto?si=pRGq-9uU_1qxkP0E
5. **100 Years of Footprint – Peace through Sport, Art and Culture:**
<https://youtu.be/HzeUNmTdKkl?si=5oVqVQusgsp5P3VZ>

V. 2nd EDITION OF THE AFRICAN URBAN FORUM, NAIROBI

From 8 to 10 April 2026, IOPD Africa took part in the second edition of the **African Urban Forum (AUF2)**, which was held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi.

Organized under the aegis of the African Union Commission, with technical support from UN-Habitat and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the meeting brought together more than **5,000 participants**, including representatives of governments, local authorities, development partners, civil society organizations and experts from different African countries.

Under the theme *"Adequate Housing for All: Advancing Socio-Economic and Environmental Transformation for the Achievement of Agenda 2063"*, the meeting aimed to discuss the main challenges related to the continent's rapid urbanization, including access to housing, urban planning and territorial governance.



VI. AFRICAN OPEN GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE (AAGO2026), RABAT

From 5 to 7 May 2026, IOPD Africa took part in the African Open Government Conference (AAGO2026), held in Rabat. Under the theme **"Towards an Open Africa"**, the conference aimed to strengthen cooperation between the participating countries and institutions around reforms relating to transparency, the fight against corruption, citizen participation, accountability and the modernization of public action, particularly through digital transformation. They provided a space for high-level political dialogue, sharing of experiences and the identification of concrete avenues for collaboration.

On this occasion, the Secretary General of IOPD Africa moderated the panel on *"National Policies, Territorial Implementation Mechanisms and Institutional Anchoring"*. This high-level session brought together officials and decision-makers in charge of decentralization and local authorities from Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco and Togo.



VII. 13TH EDITION WORLD URBAN FORUM (WUF13)

From 17 to 22 May 2026, IOPD Africa took part in the **13th World Urban Forum (WUF13)**, held in Baku, Azerbaijan. Under the theme "*Housing the World: Safe and Resilient Cities and Communities*", the WUF aimed to highlight the urgency of addressing the global housing crisis and positioning housing as a driver of inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban development.

Under the leadership of its Secretary General, the Observatory carried out several activities to strengthen citizen participation and territorial governance.

Among the main actions carried out are the **launch of the Methodological Guide to Citizen Participation and Engagement in Public Management in Côte d'Ivoire**, as well as the **signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between IOPD Africa and the Country Capacity Building Program (PPRC Côte d'Ivoire)**, with a view to supporting the Ministry of the Interior and the General Directorate of Decentralization and Local Development (DGDDL) in strengthening citizen participation.

IOPD Africa also hosted a networking session dedicated to *practices and policies for adequate and sustainable access to public infrastructure and services in African cities and territories*. This session presented the seven key challenges and 21 recommendations of the Pan-African Memorandum on Decentralization, Governance and Territorial Development in Africa. It also promoted the sharing of experiences, innovations and good practices implemented on the continent. And finally, the session provided an opportunity to formulate guidelines for decision-makers and stakeholders in decentralization, territorial governance and urban development.



VIII. ECONOMIC FORUM OF AFRICAN TERRITORIES IN EUROPE 2026

The third edition of the Economic Forum of African Territories in Europe (FET) was held from **1 to 10 June 2026** in Paris and Brussels. This initiative, organized by the **International Observatory of Participatory Democracy in Africa** (IOPD Africa) and **Enda ECOPOP**, in collaboration with the **High Commission for African Diasporas in France** (HCDAF), the **European Association for Local Democracy** (ALDA), and the **International Observatory of Territorial Diplomacy** (OIDT), aimed to i) create a space for meeting, exchange and partnership between local authorities in Africa and those of Belgium and France, ii) connect local authorities in Africa with investors, economic operators and the qualified diaspora and iii) promote meetings between African local authorities and institutional partners to share on co-development issues.

The Paris stage took place over four days, with the first day devoted to dialogue with the African diaspora and a visit to the achievements of the municipality of Yèbles. The second day focused on the attractiveness of territories, digital innovation, ecological transition and the financing of sustainable development in Paris Est Marne et Bois. The third day was devoted to a visit to the Moissy-Cramayel market garden farm and discussions on food sovereignty, organic farming and the ecological transition. The fourth day began with the discovery of the Val d'Europe territory, followed by a visit to the Multien Biogas methanization site. It ended with a conference devoted to health, financing and decentralized cooperation at Crédit Agricole Brie Picardie, marking the end of the Paris stage.



The Brussels stage took place over three days, with the first day dedicated to meetings with ALDA, Cities Alliance, the Open Government Partnership, VNG International, PLATFORMA and EPD on local governance and territorial development. The second day focused on exchanges with ENABEL and Team Europe Democracy on opportunities for funding, technical assistance and support for African local and regional authorities. The third day began with a meeting with the European Commission, devoted to partnerships, decentralized cooperation and territorial investments. It continued at the European Committee of the Regions, then at the European External Action Service, around institutional strengthening, territorial development and prospects for international cooperation. The stage ended with a visit to the Parliamentarium, also marking the closing of the third edition of the Economic Forum of African Territories in Europe.



IX. 8th UCLG WORLD CONGRESS, TANGIER

The 8th UCLG World Congress was held in Tangier, Morocco, from 22 to 25 June 2026. This event is the flagship event for cities, regions and their associations, bringing together mayors, governors, city councilors, civil society partners and representatives of international institutions from around the world.

IOPD Africa marked its presence at this event by taking part in the launch of the Tangier Participatory Budget, led by its Mayor, who is also President of IOPD Africa for the North African sub-region. This participatory budget amounts to 5 million euros. Similarly, the Secretary General of IOPD Africa delivered a communication during the session on the theme *"Sustaining Participation: From Institutional Commitment to Social Transformation"*, organized by the Open Government Partnership (OGP).



Part 4:

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERVENTION CAPACITIES

This part on the development of intervention capacities mainly focuses on the didactic materials designed and the training sessions provided by the Observatory during the 2025-2026 financial year.

I. METHODOLOGICAL GUIDE TO THE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT (APEC) APPROACH IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND THE BUDGET PROCESS, CÔTE D'IVOIRE

On 11 December 2025, in Abidjan, IOPD Africa took part in the official ceremony to hand over the Methodological Guide of the Citizen Participation and Engagement Approach (APEC) to the General Directorate of Decentralization and Local Development (DGDDL) of the Ministry of the Interior and Security of Côte d'Ivoire. The document was received by Dr. Fidèle YAPI, Director General of the DGDDL, on behalf of the Minister, General Vagondo DIOMANDE, in the presence of a hundred local elected officials and technical and financial partners.

The Guide is a repository of tools and mechanisms designed to support local authorities in the implementation of citizen participation, in particular in the identification of needs, budgeting, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of local actions.

This guide was developed by IOPD Africa, through its Secretary General, Mr. Bachir KANOUTE, with the support of Expertise France, the Support Project for Francophone Open Governments (PAGOF), the French Development Agency (AFD), the Country Capacity Building Program (PPRC), the World Bank and UNICEF. The process included consultations with local authorities and a pre-validation workshop held in February 2025.

The meeting provided an opportunity to present the Guide to local stakeholders and to discuss its implementation, appropriation and dissemination to local authorities, in particular through training, advisory support and monitoring of participatory initiatives.



II. INTERNATIONAL TRAINING SESSION ON LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TERRITORIAL MARKETING

From 23 March to 3 April 2026, in Abidjan, IOPD Africa, with the support of the PPRC and the DGDDL, organised the international training session on Local Economic Development (LED) and Territorial Marketing.

This training session, which brought together participants from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Togo, aimed to strengthen the participants' knowledge and skills on the concepts and pillars of LED, participatory planning methods and territorial marketing. It also addressed the practices and attitudes necessary to facilitate local economic development.

At the end of the session, eighteen (18) coaches and facilitators, including elected officials, heads of public institutions and civil society actors, received an international certificate issued by IOPD Africa and PPRC.



III. INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND GRADUATION SESSION FOR PARTICIPATORY BUDGET TRAINERS

From 18 to 28 August 2026, in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), IOPD Africa, in collaboration with PPRC Côte d'Ivoire, the ECOWAS Côte d'Ivoire National Office, UCLG Africa and Enda ECOPOP, organized an international training and certification session for trainers on Participatory Budgeting and citizen participation and engagement approaches in public management.

This session, which brought together participants from Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal, aimed to strengthen the knowledge (knowledge), know-how (skills, aptitudes) and interpersonal skills (attitudes, behaviors) of trainers to make them more effective in the preparation and facilitation of training sessions for facilitators on participatory budgeting and to evaluate PBs.

At the end of the session, about twenty participants were certified as trainers, with the aim of multiplying African expertise and eventually having a pool of specialized skills in training, coaching, mentoring and advice to PB facilitators.



IV. INTERNATIONAL SESSION OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGET FACILITATORS AND ADVISORS, DAKAR

From 8 to 18 September 2026, in Dakar, IOPD Africa, in partnership with UCLG Africa and Enda ECOPOP, organized an international training session for facilitators and advisors on Participatory Budgeting and the participatory and citizen engagement approach in public management and the budget process.

This session, which brought together elected officials, civil society actors and agents from ministerial departments of Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Togo and Senegal, aimed to contribute to the constitution of an African pool of facilitators and advisors capable of supporting local authorities in the design and implementation of the Participatory Budget approach.

At the end of the training, the participants developed a post-training action plan to ensure the implementation of the achievements and the follow-up of the steps taken. The session ended with the official presentation of the certificates issued by IOPD Africa, UCLG Africa and Enda ECOPOP.



Part 5:

BUDGET AND OUTLOOK

V. Budget 2025-2026

The overall budget mobilized for the 2025-2026 fiscal year amounted to US\$447,651, distributed as follows:

Topics	Amount in US\$
Personnel	51 740
Process Support	359 365
Visibility	7 448
Travel, Transport and Pick-up	25 648
Offices and Rental Charges (1 office, 12 months)	3450
Total	447 651

Partners who supported IOPD Africa's action during the exercise included:

African institutions and intergovernmental organizations

- Union africaine (UA)
- African Union Commission
- UCLG Africa
- Bureau National CEDEAO Côte d'Ivoire

European institutions and organizations

- European Union
- European Commission
- European Committee of the Regions
- European External Action Service (EEAS)
- ENABEL
- Team Europe Democracy
- PLATFORMA

International organizations and UN agencies

- World Bank
- UNICEF
- UN-Habitat

Development cooperation agencies and organizations

- French Development Agency (AFD)
- Francophone Open Government Support Project (PAGOF)
- Cities Alliance
- VNG International
- Hewlett Foundation

National public institutions, agencies and programs

- Ministry of Urban Planning, Local Authorities and Regional Planning of Senegal (MUCTAT)
- General Directorate of Decentralization and Local Development (DGDDL)
- City of Dakar
- Municipality of Bohicon
- Municipality of Golf Sud
- Municipality of Golfe 2
- Country Capacity Building Program (PPRC) – Côte d'Ivoire

Civil society organizations and associative networks

- ALDA
- Social Watch Bénin
- AJEAH Togo
- People in Need
- elbarlament
- EPD
- People Powered
- Open Government Partnership (OGP)
- Institute of Public Finance (IPF) Kenya
- International Observatory of Territorial Diplomacy (IODT)
- Enda ECOPOP
- High Commission for African Diasporas in France (HCDAF)

VI. OUTLOOK AND ROADMAP 2026-2027

For the next fiscal year 2026-2027, the outlook for action will cover the following areas:

Operational component:

- monitoring of funding opportunities,
- finalization of national focal points,
- implementation of the Quality Measurement Index of Participatory Democracy (pilots in local authorities),
- holding international training sessions.

Strategic component:

- development of the 2027-2029 Strategic Plan,
- organization of the 8th edition of FIDEPA
- 3rd Pan-African Edition of the PELL.

Political component:

- Continuation of the campaign for the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization,
- advocacy for financial decentralization and Local Open Government,
- establishment of a community of practice,
- Preparation of position papers on various themes related to participatory democracy, open governance and thematic issues