



## Sixth International Forum on Participatory Democracy in Africa

# -FIDEPA06-

**Dakar, from 04 to 06 November 2025**

**6th INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA**

**FIDEPA06 DAKAR**

**4-6 NOV. 2025**  
KING FAHD PALACE HOTEL

**FROM RESILIENCE TO SOVEREIGNTY: ROLE OF CITIES, TERRITORIES AND STAKEHOLDERS**

Logos: MUCTAT, OIDP Afrique IOPD Africa, AEL Union des Associations d'Élus Locaux Dooleel Ellokoyi, VILLE DE DAKAR, enda ECOPOP, Hewlett Foundation, DGPPPE, UMA, PROCASEF, CDC, ANPEJ, PRODAC, PNDL, FSM, ADA.

## DAKAR DECLARATION

Dakar - SENEGAL, November 2025

***Initiated by the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy in Africa (IOPD Africa), the Union of Associations of Local Elected Officials of Senegal, the City of Dakar, and Enda ECOPOP, under the auspices of the Ministry of Urban Planning, Local Governments, and Territorial Development, the participants of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Participatory Democracy in Africa (FIDEPA06), held in Dakar from 4 to 6 November 2025, on the theme 'From Resilience to Sovereignty: The Role of Cities, Territories, and Stakeholders,' discussed three thematic orientations: democratic sovereignty, economic sovereignty, and digital sovereignty.***

CONSIDERING UN 2030 Agenda SDG 11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive",

CONSIDERING The African Union's Agenda 2063 which aims at "*An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law*" to stimulate economic growth and development on the continent,

CONSIDERING the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development, adopted by the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held on 26 and 27 June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea,

CONSIDERING the 2016 Quito Declaration and the New Urban Agenda, which underlines the importance of participatory democracy through the participation of citizens in decision-making that affects their daily lives and their futures,

CONSIDERING the general option of the African national reference policies of States resolutely committed to the promotion of policies of sovereignty, decentralization and territorial development,

CONSIDERING the adoption of participatory democracy to promote citizen participation, the promotion of human rights, the strengthening of innovations and territorial institutions, territorial equity and economic competitiveness, in short, the territorialization of public policies,

CONSIDERING the widespread but differentiated diffusion according to gender and residence of digital transformation tools in our territories and municipalities.

***We, national governments, local authorities, practitioners of participatory democracy and local governance, academics, civil society actors and media professionals***

REAFFIRM the innovation potential of territories as a lever for the structural transformation of economies, societies and the environment in Africa and as an instrument of democratic, economic and digital sovereignty,

REAFFIRM the role and place of participatory democracy in the prevention and regulation of crises and conflicts in Africa,

REITERATE the demand for decentralization as an irreversible way of promoting territorial development,

RECOGNIZE the need for the African Union, States and local governments to continue their efforts to improve the frameworks for the implementation of decentralization by emphasizing mechanisms of citizen participation, citizen control of public action and accountability,

RECOGNIZE the role and responsibility of continental and sub-regional institutions, States, Local Governments, Technical and Financial Partners, African civil society actors and the academic world in the promotion of participatory democracy as a cross-cutting approach and partnership response for inclusive, resilient, equitable and sustainable development,

ARE CONVINCED of Africa's immense potential to build a sovereign continent, resilient to climate change thanks to resilient territories with low GHG emissions and large-scale users of renewable energies,

URGE in relation to the academic and research communities to facilitate the introduction of the principles and methods of participatory democracy into education systems,

CALL for a synergy of thought and action through the establishment of frameworks for discussion, consultation and dialogue with all the components of the territories, including the non-formal sector,

REAFFIRM our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for "Safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements" and the African Union's Agenda 2063 for "Modern and livable habitats and basic quality services",

ADVOCATE for laws, regulations and standards that are more appropriate for the promotion of participatory democracy,

ADVOCATE for the implementation of digital development plans for territories and any other relevant tool for coordinating the digital transformation of territories.

***We, national governments, local authorities, practitioners of participatory democracy and local governance, academics, civil society actors and media professionals***

COMMIT to promoting territories in vulnerable situations and to "leaving no one behind" in public policies,

COMMIT to improving the capacities of actors to actively participate in the effectiveness of participatory democracy in the territories for more inclusiveness and responsibility,

COMMIT to involving citizens in the definition, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies,

COMMIT to promoting good practices of citizen participation in the continent through the establishment of mechanisms and tools for participation and governance by making information accessible and citizen dialogue regular through interactive debates and exchanges,

COMMIT to encouraging territorial initiatives targeting young people, women, people with disabilities and vulnerable or excluded groups for effective community resilience,

COMMIT to promoting and diversifying innovative financing sources (solidarity financing, green financing, Islamic financing, alternative financing, decentralized financial systems, etc.),

COMMIT to promoting the institutionalization of Participatory Budgeting in local and regional governments in Africa,

COMMIT to promoting the institutionalization of digital transformation in local authorities for efficient and accessible services: civil registration, local taxation, basic urban services, education, information, communication, waste management, security, etc.,

COMMIT to capitalize, disseminate good practices and monitor and evaluate the implementation of the FIDEPA06's recommendations with a view to achieving the objectives of this declaration,

SOLEMNLY DECLARE our commitment to carry out the resolutions and recommendations of the Dakar Declaration,

PROPOSE that the next edition of FIDEPA be convened in 2026 in Cameroon.

### ***MOTION OF THANKS***

***The participants in FIDEPA06 warmly thank the Government of the Republic of Senegal through the Ministry of Urban Planning, Local Authorities and Territorial Planning (MUCTAT), the Union of Associations of Local Elected Officials (UAEL), the Mayor and the Municipal Council of the city of Dakar, for the hosting and successful holding of the 2025 meeting of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy in Africa and look forward to the seventh edition scheduled in Cameroon in 2026.***

***Dakar, November 6, 2025.***