



## **JOINT 64<sup>th</sup> LGAZ ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND 17<sup>th</sup> AMICAALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **2020 LUSAKA DECLARATION**

**We**, the delegates comprising Mayors, Council Chairpersons, Deputy Mayors, Deputy Council Chairpersons, Ward Councillors, Town Clerks, Council Secretaries, Senior Government Officials and other Stakeholders, meeting as the Joint 64<sup>th</sup> LGAZ Annual Conference and 17<sup>th</sup> AMICAALL General Assembly at the Government Complex Conference Centre, Lusaka, from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 under the theme: **“Territorial Approach to Local Development: Promoting Decentralisation, Innovative Local Governance and Local Development”**:

**Appreciating** the uniqueness of each district and the transformational potential of Territorial Approach to Local Government in the implementation of national and local development programmes without leaving anyone or any place behind;

**Reaffirming** that Decentralisation, when fully implemented, will strengthen the ability of local authorities to foster community participation in decision-making and ensure delivery of quality public services;

**Appreciating** the principle of subsidiarity which demands that public responsibilities are best exercised by the level of the governance structure that is closest to the people leaving responsibilities and tasks that cannot be performed at the local level to central government;

**Appreciating** further that subsidiarity requires local authorities to have financial, managerial, technical and professional competencies to enable them to execute their mandate effectively;

**Stressing** that strengthened intergovernmental cooperation at all levels is imperative in the implementation of national and international development agendas such as the 7<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals resulting in improved quality of life of our communities;

**Recognising** that Local Economic Development emphasizes the mobilization of endogenous resources, local knowledge and skills in a manner that attracts investment to stimulate economic growth leading to poverty reduction and improved livelihoods of local communities;

**Recognising** further, the importance of local authorities to develop Integrated Development Plans in order to rationalize and coordinate local resources and competences in a coherent manner that leads to efficient and effective service delivery at the local level;

**Convinced** that success in stemming pandemics and natural disasters such as the novel COVID-19 pandemic and climate change respectively calls for a shared vision approach among all actors including multi-level government cooperation;

**Calling** for strengthened social inclusion in local democracy and governance by ensuring increased participation of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities;

**Considering** that HIV is still active and a threat to the nation due to, among other factors, many people not knowing their HIV status;

**Determined** to strengthen a cordial working relationship between elected and appointed local officials to facilitate the provision of quality services to the public and maintain a good image of the local government system;

### **Now therefore Resolve that**

1. Member local authorities commit to adopt Territorial Approach to Local development (TALD) the process that will enable them to leverage the contribution of actors operating at multiple scales locally, to produce public goods and services tailored to the local reality which in turn will bring incremental value to national development effort equitably.
2. Government through the Decentralisation Secretariat be urged to expedite the Decentralisation process including the development of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Decentralisation Implementation Plan.
3. Efforts continue to lobby for increased fiscal autonomy for local authorities and more

transparent intergovernmental fiscal relations through equitable sharing of public expenditure allocations including the authority and power to raise local resources in line with the provisions of Article 147 (2) of the Constitution.

4. Local authorities commit to complement government effort in the achievement of national and global agendas including the 7<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan, Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.
5. Local authorities reaffirm their commitment to develop Local Economic Development strategies in liaison with local stakeholders through the utilization of LED Guidelines, in order to unlock the economic potential of their localities.
6. Local authorities commit to comply with the provisions of the Urban and Regional Planning Act by developing Integrated Development Plans through working together with local actors in meeting the needs of the people and ensuring that resources are targeted in the areas of greatest need as well as ensuring that inefficiencies, duplications and inequalities in development are eliminated.
7. As the level at the forefront, local authorities commit to supplement government efforts in addressing the economic and social impact of the COVID 19 pandemic as well as the negative effects of climate change and ensure uninterrupted provision of public services.
8. Local authorities commit to utilize knowledge products effectively and usefully, emanating from the COVID 19 Advisory Centre for Local Authorities to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and other future disasters.
9. Local authorities further commit to mainstream disaster risk preparedness and Management strategies to mitigate effects of future disasters.
10. Letters of appreciation be sent to GIZ D4D and USAID for the support rendered to the Local Government Association of Zambia to establish the COVID 19 Advisory Centre for local authorities.
11. LGAZ continue to work with other like-minded stakeholders to upscale active women and Persons with Disabilities' participation and involvement in decision-making processes and positions of influence at the local level.
12. To promote participation and inclusion of youths in local governance practices that sustain effective decision-making processes at the local level, local authorities commit to introduce/reactivate Junior Mayor programmes.
13. Local authorities commit to continue providing short-term and long-term pragmatic

local responses to HIV through the programmes of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders initiative for Community Action on Aids at the Local Level.

14. Local authorities commit further to intensify collection of ward-based data on HIV and AIDS through District Aids Coordination Advisors.
15. Elected and appointed officials in local authorities commit to work in harmony and to strive to satisfy the will of the local people by meeting their needs.