



PEER TO PEER ACTION

SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENTS

# THE UCLG AFRICA PEER REVIEW PROGRAMME

Establishment of National Associations of Local Authorities in African Countries where they do not exist and/ or Strengthening of Nascent and Weak Associations of Local Authorities

## **Specific Projects Activity**

Peer to Peer support for the implementation of actions aiming at creating and developing the national local governments associations in countries where they do not exist in Africa

# THE PEERS

BOTSWANA ASSOCIATION OF  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES

(BALA)

**LEADERS OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENTS IN LESOTHO**

## The Project Objectives

- ▶ To introduce the approach of Peer Learning to ‘advocate’ the concept of national associations of local authorities in those countries where they do not exist by engaging practitioners in a process of mutual learning;

To establish ‘south-south’ decentralised cooperation among African institutions to support their mutual peer-to-peer learning and development.

## THE METHODOLOGY

Peer exchange of letters, telephone communications between team members on both sides, the supporting and host teams.



Peer visits to engage in discussions exchanging of ideas and sharing experiences

Formal meetings between peer teams with remote facilitation of the UCLG Africa

Peer Learning workshop involving all the local leaders of local governments in Lesotho.

# THE PEER PROCESS

- The UCLG-Africa identifies countries that have functional local government system that potentially could benefit from the establishment of a national association of local authorities (NALA);
- Identification of NALAs that have been successful in undertaking their roles and have proven functional organisational systems
- The UCLG-Africa facilitates a Peer Learning Platform bringing together a team of peers from existing NALAs and local authorities' leaders in countries without NALA
- The Experienced Peer Team will undertake an assessment of the country status in order to better understand the situation or environment

# THE PEER PROCESS

- Feedback and exchange of experiences sessions are organised among the partners.
- The primary beneficiary peer country undergoes a period of reflection to establish a NALA
- To consider establishing peer to peer south-south cooperation to support continuous experience sharing and learning among the two or more participating NALAs.

# THE PEER PROCESS

- Support for the formulation of the governing organisational structure and governing statutes of the new association
- Support for the development of the first strategic plan of the new association
- The UCLG-Africa assists the new NALA establish relationships with development and financial partners and to facilitate the continuation of the 'south-south' partnership established under the project.
- The learning and capacity development points will be transformed into organisational learning programme designed to improve the functioning of the association.



# P2P RESULTS

BALA

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LALA

- The establishment of the Lesotho Association of Local Authorities (LALA)
- The election of office bearers to manage the affairs of the new association
- The establishment of South-South Cooperation between LALA and BALA.



## Some Key Points

- It is important to train peers
  - It is essential to establish the readiness of the target organ
  - Peers must understand that they are equals engaging in a mutually beneficial process
  - There must be a mutually agreed objective for the peer engagement
  - Adequate resources should be available to support the P2P process.
  - Minimise the time lapse between peer engagements. Changes in political leadership in any of the partnering organisations could derail the process.
  - The legal and administrative institutional procedures that support the desired change must be put in place before scaling down the peer engagement.
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