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With the support of:

Africa-Europe Week

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and Covenant of Mayors Sub Saharan Africa side event with the support of Clima-Med/CoM Med

Youth and Cities vs. Climate Change

How cities, local organisations and youth can team up to fight climate change

17 February 2022

15:00 to 16:30 CET

1. Context

In view of the 6th African Union – European Union Summit, taking place in Brussels, Belgium on 17-18 February 2022, the *'Africa-Europe Week'* aims to gather stakeholders' events as well as cultural and communication activities. The Africa-Europe Week will take place throughout the week of 14-18 February 2022.

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) Secretariat is invited by the EC Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) to help shape the Africa-Europe Week, which puts forward the "people-centred" approach of the EU-Africa partnership. The active and engaging contribution of different actors to the political partnership is key to bringing the people of both continents together.

2. Rationale

The GCoM secretariat and the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) secretariat, with the support of the Covenant of Mayors for the Mediterranean (CoM Med / Clima Med), would like to take the opportunity offered by the Africa-Europe Week to promote the concrete work of GCoM signatory cities in Africa committed to combat climate change and working towards a low-emission and climate-resilient future. Civil society organisations (CSOs) play a key role in policymaking in Africa and local and subnational governments know that by working with CSOs, they can achieve much more together.

3. Focus

The event will focus on successful partnerships between cities in Africa and the local CSOs representing youth on projects combating climate change and advancing clean energy transition. Initiatives involving citizens should be highlighted throughout – emphasising how strong partnerships improve the success and ultimate longer term sustainability of projects in African cities and regions.

4. Target audiences

- GCoM signatories, African cities and mayors;
- Targeted African cities that are not yet committed to GCoM;
- African organisations from the civil society;
- African youth representatives focused on climate change, energy and urban environment.

5. Goal - Objectives

- The side event aims to engage key CSOs and youth representatives already working with African cities to combat climate change;
- By highlighting their projects, the objective of the side event is to promote the concrete results and impact from these partnerships, as well as the importance of developing a stronger relationship between CSOs and local governments;
- Develop Climate Action Plans (CAPs) that better address youth-relevant themes and issues (job creation, education, social inclusion, urban environment, shifts in cultural behaviours). This can be achieved by involving the youth (organisations and individuals) in the formulation and implementation of CAPs in Africa: How to develop a future-proof Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAP) in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Learning about views and experiences from the participants on the best use of co-benefits to advance the climate/energy agenda in a meaningful way.
- An additional objective is to convince other cities and actors involved in the Africa-Europe Week of the benefits of committing to CoM.

6. Format

When	Thursday 17th February 2022	15:00 to 16:30 CET
Where	https://www.swapcard.com/	100 % online
Registration	Needed to access the platform	Open to anyone on other channels (TBD if YouTube or others)
Interpretation	From and to English and French provided	

- African youth representatives are invited to present their partnerships with African cities and promote the successes and challenges of their projects;
- Thematic matchmaking style moderation with representatives interacting with mayors on achievements, goals, vision, needs, and more. Key questions to raise:
 - How do partnerships between youth organisations and mayors/city-councils work?
 - What are some of the most common challenges that arise when CSOs work with local governments?
 - How to elevate the voice of youth so they can define and propose solutions.
 - How can they get a better access to the political decision-making on climate and energy actions, especially at the local level?
- **Expected outcomes:**

The following items are the key messages that we would like the audiences to catch during the event.

- Grow the understanding of the work of GCoM, CoM SSA, and CoM Med;
- Deepen engagement between civil society organisations, youth representatives and local governments using SEACAP as one tool to organise the cooperation;
- Accelerate climate action in cities and regions while enhancing the voices and of youth to support energy transition and sustainable lifestyles in cities.