

<<UCLG AFRICA-WARO INFORMATION BULLETIN>>

I) About UCLG AFRICA / WARO

UCLGA-WARO exists as the West Africa regional office of United Cities and Local Government of Africa (UCLG AFRICA) with the mandate to champion and defend the interests of local government associations and their member local government units in West Africa.

Address of WARO : N°10 Zambezi Crescent – 6th floor – WAEC Building, Maitama - Abuja -Nigeria

Local Government Association members of WARO:

14 LGAs in West Africa:

1. Association Nationale de Communes du Benin (ANCB)
2. Association de Municipalités du Burkina Faso (AMBF)
3. Union des Villes et Communes de la Cote d'Ivoire (UVICOCI)
4. Association Nationale de Communes de Guinee (ANCG)
5. Association de Municipalités du Mali (AMM)
6. Association de Municipalités de la Mauritanie (AMM)
7. Association de Municipalités du Niger (AMN)

8. Association de Maires du Sénégal (AMS)
9. Union de Communes du Togo (UCT)
10. National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG)
11. Gambia Association of Local Government Authorities (GALGA)
12. Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON)
13. Local Councils Association of Sierra Leone (LoCASL)
14. National Association of Municipalities of Cape Verde (ANMCV)

A) Vision of WARO

- To bring LGAs in West /Africa on a common ground of interest towards
 - Building their capacity, effectiveness and performance
 - Through institutionalisation of structural collaboration and dialogue
 - In order to better serve LGs at the national level

B) Mission of WARO

UCLG A-WARO is committed to strengthening the quality of democratic local governance in West Africa

C) Strategic Objectives of WARO

- i) Institutional Strengthening of UCLGA-WARO
- ii) Institutional strengthening of Local Government Associations through skills development and capacity building
- iii) Lobbying and advocacy for members through effective communication
- iv) Promoting decentralisation, democracy and devolution of competencies and resources to Local Governments
- v) Promoting Local Economic Development (LED)

D) Functions of WARO :

- i) To represent members in terms of lobby and advocacy vis-a- vis regional bodies such as ECOWAS, AMCOD, UEMOA etc;
- ii) To provide services for its members in the form of technical assistance, training, information services etc.
- iii) To serve as a platform for exchange of ideas and experiences

II) ARIAL Programme in UCLG A - WARO

a) ARIAL overall objective

The overall objective of the ARIAL programme is to improve the quality of local government in the African, Caribbean and Pacific region (ACP). Local governments play a central role in the daily lives of people and provide those facilities crucial for personal development. Strengthening the capacities of local governments is therefore an essential requirement for a successful development policy.

b) Results and Added Value of ARIAL to WARO members

With the inception of the ARIAL Programme, there have been some achievements. The results and added value of ARIAL to the membership are the following¹:

- i) WARO office has been made operational with presence of two technical officers, whose salaries are 100% ARIAL sponsored
- ii) Financial support to WARO office - office has been equipped
- iii) WARO members have been trained in identifying development opportunities and in communication, lobby and advocacy strategies.

It is envisaged that LGAs in West Africa will make use of the skills acquired from these training programmes by:

- Taking full advantage of the development opportunities within the EU-ACP Development Cooperation framework and other partners
- Developing clear and deliberate communication and lobby/advocacy strategies to engage national governments and development partners to enhance their political recognition and better development cooperation

iv) WARO shares information with members (ARIAL tools and publications) on development opportunities and communication and advocacy strategies; offers follow-up technical assistance to access development assistance from partners. The Emerging Local Government Association Facility (ELGAF) is an example.

- The tools and publications are useful to LGAs as technical instruments for their own institutional improvement.
- Important websites to visit include: www.arial-programme.eu and www.arial-publications-tools.eu

v) Information on members' development needs has been collected and documented. This has served as the basis for the preparation of the Strategic Plan

vi) WARO participated and represented the region in the ARIAL Project Steering Committee Meetings: 1st and 2nd PSC meetings held in January and June 2012. The 3rd Meeting is slated for 22 January 2013

vii) ACP-LGP database has been updated with addresses from Member local Government Associations.

- Members need to visit the Platform website (www.acplgp.net) and make use of the quarterly newsletter which contains information on development opportunities

viii) WARO held a General Meeting of Members on 19th July 2012

- Members got to know each other better and brought a new sense of belonging to WARO
- This enthusiasm needs to be maintained with better interaction among the membership

ix) WARO has received technical assistance from ARIAL and has completed the drafting of a Strategic Plan and Communication and Advocacy strategy.

- The Strategic Plan awaits the inputs of members towards final adoption by the Executive Committee

C) WARO activities

a) Developing WARO Strategic Plan 2012-2015

b) Consultation of regional bodies such as ECOWAS, AMCOD, UEMOA etc

- The regional bodies are being contacted for the establishment of a local government desk to advance the interest of local governments in the sub-region

c) Follow up on the trainings on lobby and communication that took place in July 2012

- Political Dialogue Experts to be engaged to assist LGAs to prepare Actions Plans on political dialogue in their respective countries.
- 20 best practice cases to be selected by VNG International for a knowledge-sharing seminar on the Best Practices in the Netherlands in June 2013
- A best (good) practice is an initiative by an LGA with positive results and which can serve as an example to other LGAs or local governments.

d) The ARIAL Programme is organizing a Panel Discussion at Africities in Dakar in the morning of 6th December 2012

- WARO member LGAs are invited to participate in the panel discussions

The main themes for the discussions include the following:

VI) What can members contribute?

Member LGAs are hereby entreated to share with us information on your current activities. This will help enrich the sharing of information about LGA programmes among member

VII) Contact Persons at WARO :

- ALHASSAN Ziblim Al-hassan, Senior Technical Officer, Arial Programme,
E- mail : ziblimaa@yahoo.co.uk ; Phone Number : 00 234 81 30 71 90 05
- BADIROU Iradath Mokpélola, Junior Technical Officer, Arial Programme,
E-mail : iradathbadirou@yahoo.fr ; Phone Number : 00 234 30 71 67 67