



EAST AFRICAN COUNTY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION (EACLGA)

EACLGA HALF YEAR

NEWSLETTER 2024

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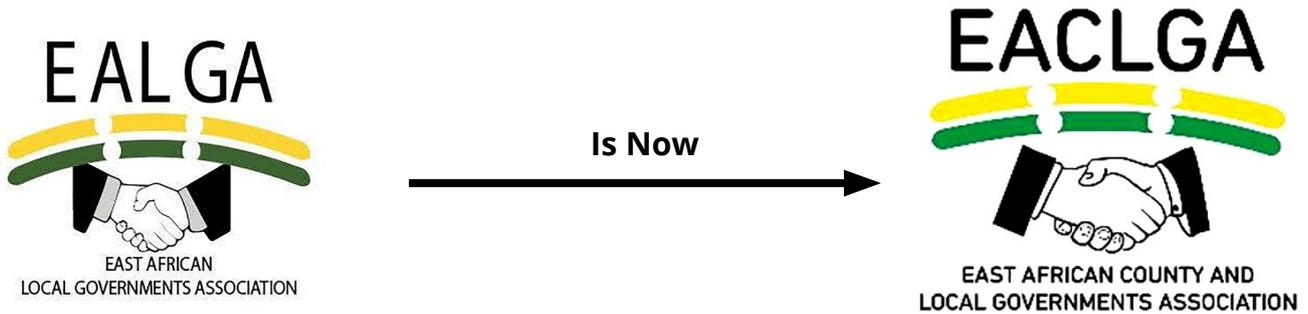
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A publication of the East African County and Local Governments Association.

EAST AFRICA LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION (EALGA) REBRANDED AS EAST AFRICAN COUNTY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION (EACLGA)



The East Africa Local Governments Association (EALGA) announced that the organization was rebranding itself as the East African County and Local Governments Association (EACLGA), effective July 1st, 2024.

The name change reflects the organization’s commitment to inclusivity and acknowledges the unique structure of local governance in Kenya, particularly the County Governments established under their 2010 Constitution.

The decision to rebrand stems from two key developments: the Council of Governors of Kenya (COG) and the County Assemblies Forum of Kenya (CAF) joining EACLGA, and amending the organization’s constitution to better represent the diverse decentralization landscape across East Africa.

“We are thrilled to embark on this new chapter as East African County and Local Governments Association.

This move allows us to harmonize the naming to the functionality of the Association to reflect the varied forms of decentralized governance in the region”, said Gertrude Rose Gamwera Buyinga, Secretary General EACLGA.

She confirmed that all existing legal relationships and contracts signed under the name “East Africa Local Governments Association” would remain valid till the end of their term.

EACLGA assured its stakeholders that the name change signified a renewed focus on fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing between county and local governments in the region. The association would remain dedicated to advocating for subnational governments, strengthening relationships between regional, national, and local levels for improved service delivery, and empowering county and local leaders.

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FOREWORD



“It also features our exploits with cities and local governments through the Strong Cities East and Southern Africa Regional Hub, stories on SDG localization under the UNDP supported SDG Local Action program...”

Hello Cherished Readers,

We are pleased to share highlights from EACLGA’s half-year performance activities detailing the latest developments in the region.

This edition has exciting news about our change of name from East Africa Local Governments Association (EALGA) to East African County and Local Governments Association (EACLGA), the new Secretary General of the East African Community, our recent MOU with ICLEI-Africa and the RISE Africa 2024 Festival.

It also features our exploits with cities and local governments through the Strong Cities East and Southern Africa Regional Hub, stories on SDG localization under the UNDP supported SDG Local Action program as well as the Local Public Sector Alliance workshop on “Elevating the Debate on Decentralization and Multilevel Governance in Africa”.

Additionally, we share the outcomes from the East Africa Local Government Forum-EALGF retreat, RALGA’s 20th anniversary and the highly successful conference on Local Economic Development in cross-border communities.

We hope you find it informative and relevant to your work and we invite you to share your feedback which is valuable and necessary for our improvement.

To contribute to the next issue or simply share thoughts and comments, do write to us at arushasecretariat@ealga.org / jamidahnamuyanja@ealga.org

Wishing you a delightful read.

Gertrude Rose Gamwera Buyinga
Secretary-General

COURTESY CALL ON AG. SECRETARY GENERAL EAC



L-R EALGA SG, EAC Deputy SG and the EALGA Executive Assistant at the meeting.

On 28th January 2024, the EALGA Team led by the Secretary-General Ms. Gertrude Rose Gamwera Buyunga engaged the East African Community (EAC) leadership represented by the Deputy Secretary General Mrs. Annette Mutaawe Ssemuwemba regarding the promotion of local government trade facilitation through their Local Economic Development Policies and discussed collaboration to host the Dialogue on LED in Cross Border Communities.

The dialogue was held on 27th-28th February 2024 and was supported by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum.

The team also interacted with Arusha Municipal Director Eng. Juma Hamsini and Mayor Maximilian Iranqhe as part of consolidating membership interactions and services.

ACO - BURUNDI GETS NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

In January 2024, the Association des Communes du Burundi appointed Ms. Annabelle Niyubahwe as the new Executive Secretary taking over from Mr. Jean-Baptiste Kirimwinzigo.

EALGA congratulated her and committed to working with her and her team to further decentralization and the EAC

integration process on behalf of local governments in the region.

EALGA also extended appreciation to Mr. Jean-Baptiste Kirimwinzigo for his invaluable contribution and support to the association since 2012 when he assumed office.



L-R Mr. Jean Baptiste, the outgoing Executive Secretary and Ms. Annabelle, the new Executive Secretary during the handover process.

CONFERENCE ON LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN CROSS - BORDER COMMUNITIES



L-R EALGA SG Gertrude Rose Gamwera, EALGA Chairperson Jeannette Nyiramasengesho, EAC Deputy SG Dr. Irene Isaka, PO-RALG Deputy PS Health-Wilson Mahera Charles and CLGF Programme Manager Claire Frost during the LED Conference in Arusha

The East African Local Governments Association (EALGA) in collaboration with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) convened local government leaders and practitioners from East African partner states in Arusha, Tanzania, on 27th and 28th February 2024 for a regional conference on local economic development in cross-border communities.

EALGF is a network of ministries of local government, local government associations and organizations with an interest in local government in East Africa, involved in promoting effective decentralization, empowering local governments to deliver development at the local level, and engaging with the East African Community (EAC) and other formal regional structures. It was officially launched in 2012 in Arusha (Tanzania) by the Ministers of local government of the five countries of the EAC, EALGA and its five member associations, in partnership with CLGF, UCLG, EU, and UNDP.

The regional conference showcased and underscored the role of local government in facilitating the EAC trade agenda following a commitment made by EALGA and the EAC under their memorandum of understanding signed in February 2022.

In her keynote address, Dr. Irene Isaka, the EAC Deputy

Secretary General committed to further involving local governments in the EAC's procedures, noting that, "local governments are the epicentre of productivity and they feed and ensure sustainable markets, it therefore becomes imperative that we at the EAC include and involve them in our discussions and planning processes".

EALGA Chairperson, Cllr Jeannette Nyiramasengesho highlighted the challenges of the EAC Common Market Protocol for local governments in terms of regulatory frameworks, revenue generation, service provision, and trade management, as it was developed without adequate consultation or feedback from the local government sector. "The protocol continues to have significant negative impacts on local economies, which inadvertently calls for dialogue to inform the local economic development prospects at the country level", she added.

Ms. Claire Frost, the CLGF Programme Manager explained that CLGF would continue to champion local economic development because of its ability to enable local governments to not only enforce laws and policies but also play a developmental role by convening key stakeholders, reinforcing social inclusion, supporting SMEs and decent work along with increasing opportunities for citizens to engage in trade and investment.

Participants also received information on how to access resources for trade and investment from Dr. Jenifer Bukhohe, the UNCDF Deputy Director for Local Transformative Finance who spoke about the friendly loan guarantee that would allow local governments access loans with UNCDF as the guarantor. This is part of UNCDF's work with other partners in influencing the global financial ecosystem to ensure that cities and local governments have access to finance and the capacity to utilize those resources. She also shared that UNCDF was working on developing sources of own-source revenue for local governments and improving inter-governmental transfer systems given that some countries have no proper systems for transferring resources to local governments.

Florence Atieno, the Chairperson for Women Cross Border Traders in Kenya invited fellow women traders to follow official border procedures to avoid illicit trade and reap the benefits such as free storage space for their goods, established by the formal structures to enhance safety. She referred to cross-border trade as, "a good opportunity for women to access the international market".



Representatives from EALGA, CLGF, PO-RALG, UNCDF and Longido District at the Longido LiveStock Market for a field visit in preparation for the pilot project

"a good opportunity for women to access the international market".

The conference culminated into a cross-border pilot project that will be implemented by EALGA in Longido District, Tanzania linking to Kajiado county in Kenya, with support from CLGF.

The event was supported by the European Union under

its project "Strengthening local government's role as a partner in development", which runs from 2022 to 2025, aimed at increasing recognition of the important role of local government, promoting subsidiarity and reinforcing decentralization across the Commonwealth. The countries represented included; Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania.

Border district representatives from Tororo in Uganda, Holili in Tanzania and Kajiado in Kenya, together with other local government stakeholders from the region outlined several recommendations on how to improve cross-border trade to foster a holistic integration process. These included the following:

- CLGF should support continuous peer learning, dialogue and networking among local government associations on LED and other SDGs to accelerate the realization of Agenda 2030
- The EAC should work with Local leaders and gain insights on how to promote and adapt trade facilitation at the LG level
- EALGF partners should support local governments in building a knowledge hub to document success stories on local economic development, promote innovation and supplement existing capacity-building efforts
- EALGF partners should support information sharing and citizen participation at local government level as they are the engine of local economic development
- The EAC should work on the harmonization of policies and local government priorities
- Cross-border communities in the 7 EAC states must make use of joint border committees (JBC) for mutual co-existence and trade facilitation
- Local governments should be supported to access financing instruments in existence such as pool financing, grants, and bonds- among others. This also includes building their capacity to access these instruments, for instance through the use of alternative mechanisms like special-purpose vehicles
- The EAC working with partner states should create an enabling policy and regulatory environment to facilitate trade in cross-border communities
- Continuous advocacy and engagement are essential to break existing barriers in terms of economic independence e.g. User fees, import permits, and infrastructure developments.

EACLGA EXECUTIVE MEETS IN ARUSHA



EALGA Executive Members, Secretariat staff and the CLGF Programme Manager Ms. Claire Frost (seated extreme left) at Mt. Meru Hotel, Arusha where the meeting was held.

EALGA's Executive Committee met on 26th February 2024 in Arusha to receive updates and deliberate on the work of the Association. This fulfils their role as an administrative organ to monitor the activities and financial operations of EALGA. The Executive resolved several issues key among them being:

Constituting and functionalizing the sub-committees of the Executive Committee which are:

1

- Policy Committee
- Communication, Information and Research Committee
- Finance Committee
- Legal and Administrative Committee
- Committee

2

Approval of policy guidelines at the next sitting. These include Human Resource Policy, Finance, Procurement guidelines, and Communication and Membership guidelines.

EACLGA MEMBERS NOMINATED ONTO CLGF BOARD

Following the CLGF Board meeting held on 22nd February 2024, EACLGA was excited to learn that two of its members had been nominated for a two-year term on the Board of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum.

The new CLGF Board was elected in November 2023 in

Kigali during the General Meeting of Members.

EACLGA is proud to have its members serve on this prestigious board and commits to supporting them deliver effectively in their roles.



Cllr Jeannette Nyiramasengesho
Chairperson EALGA



Cllr Richard Rwabuhinga
President ULGA

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In March 2024, the East Africa Local Governments Association (EALGA) joined the rest of the world to celebrate outstanding women in the service of local government and those working to accelerate the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The campaign kicked off by recognizing EALGA's longest-serving staff member, Mrs. Shirdas Kisamo who serves as the Executive Assistant. She joined the association in 2006.

Mama Kisamo as she is fondly called by the Secretariat team recounted her journey of patience and hard work and commended EALGA for its inclusive approach and commitment towards empowering women.

Some of the remarkable women who were celebrated included: Ms. Teresia Mbaika, the Principal Secretary State Department for Devolution in Kenya, Mrs. Regina Nakazzi

Bakitte, the Mayor of Nansana Municipality in Uganda, Mrs. Jeannette Nyiramasengesho, the Chairperson of the Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities/ Chairperson EALGA and Mrs. Florence Atieno, the Chairperson of the National Association of Women Cross Border Traders in Kenya, among others.

EALGA's Secretary General, Ms. Gertrude Rose Gamwera summed up the campaign with a call for more women to embrace leadership through the platforms closest to them.

The 2024 International Women's Day was celebrated under the theme, "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress".

Read some of the memorable quotes from the women leaders on the next page



Ms. Mary Mwiti
Chief Executive Officer
Council of Governors-Kenya

Women in leadership accelerate progress in society. Let us therefore endeavor to mentor aspiring women in leadership to ensure women's representation increases at the decision-making table.



Caroline Odandi
Human Resource,
Council of Governors-Kenya/
EALGA Focal Person

EALGA's business practice inspires Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Belonging for all Local Governments in East Africa.

Through the Council of Governors and the EALGA platform, we actively promote and empower women leaders at all levels. There are efforts to create an inclusive culture that ensures representation for all regions and genders at the Council.

This currently stands at 39/47 Counties with a 50:50 gender representation through staffing.

I am proudly associated with EALGA

Working with Local Government is a lifetime opportunity to serve the people, to realise one's potential and to play a role in community development. The better you serve the people, the more you get empowered.

There are fewer Women in Local Government structures than men. Inclusiveness at a local level means effectively leaving no one behind.

Local Government structures & composition are not homogeneous in all countries. In Rwanda, all categories are represented, men, women, youth, private sector and persons with disabilities. Inclusive decision-making is key to economic inclusion and development.

Empowering women is Empowering Society.



Jeannette Nyiramasengesho
Chairperson EALGA/
President RALGA &
Board Member CLGF

An opportunity to join EALGA opened up in 2006 and I took it. Patience, time management and hard work have been instrumental in my journey. I'm happy with EALGA's inclusive approach and its commitment to empowering women. The future looks bright.



Shirdas Kisamo
Executive Assistant/
Longest serving staff
EALGA

WOMEN GOVERNORS' CAUCUS LAUNCHES G7 STRATEGY



Photo Credit: Machakos County

The G7 strategy for Women Governors was launched on March 7, 2024, at the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi.

H.E William Ruto, the President of Kenya officiated at the

event, also attended by other Kenyan leaders.

The strategy aims to empower and support women leaders within devolved structures, to increase female representation in leadership positions. The seven elected Women Governors, including H.E. Anne Waiguru, Chair of the Council of Governors, are committed to mentoring aspiring female political leaders and advocating for more women in positions of power.

Political parties were urged to support women in politics and to have 16 female Governors in the 2027 general elections. President Ruto reaffirmed his commitment to implementing the Two-Thirds Gender Rule in political representation.

The launch coincided with the International Women's Day celebrations for 2024.

LONGIDO PILOT ON LED PREPARES FOR TAKEOFF



linkage to Kajiado district in Kenya.

The meeting was hosted by Ms. Claire Frost, the CLGF Programme Manager and attended by officials from Longido district, representatives from the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government in Tanzania (PO-RALGA) and EALGA staff.

The EALGA Secretary General, Ms. Gertrude Rose Gamwera said: "We are excited to work with our member, the Association of Local Authorities in

Following the successful Regional Conference on Local Economic Development in Cross-Border Communities convened by EALGA and CLGF in Arusha, Tanzania from 27-28 February 2024, the two partners hosted a virtual briefing for Longido district officials on 7th March 2024, in preparation for the cross-border pilot project with a

Tanzania (ALAT) and the Office of the President, Regional Administration and Local Governments on this project. We extend our appreciation to the European Union's Directorate-General for International Partnerships for the funding".

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RENEW CALL FOR INCLUSION IN THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

Local governments from six of the East African Community (EAC) countries – Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo – collectively urged the East African Community to actively engage local governments.

The stakeholders including Permanent Secretaries from Ministries of Local Government and East African Community (EAC) Affairs, representatives from umbrella bodies of counties and local government associations, donors and civil society partners convened on 22-24 April 2024 at the East Africa Local Governments Forum (EALGF) retreat in Kenya, to strengthen national and local cooperation, advance on devolution and bolster integration efforts within East Africa.

Launched in 2013, the EALGF brings together ministries of local government and national associations to advocate for strong local governance across the East African region. It aims to establish governance frameworks that include constitutional and statutory devolution of powers to local and regional government, and also provide a vibrant regional forum that effectively represents its members and contributes to improved service delivery.

In her keynote speech, Hon. Peninah Malonza, the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of EAC, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands, and Regional Development in Kenya, observed

the close nexus between devolution and integration, highlighting their common goal of empowering people at the grassroots: "This optimal relationship should, thus, deepen devolution by ensuring the representation of subnational governments in EAC policies and decision-making". The Cabinet Secretary also committed to advocate for the inclusion of the Arabic language within the EAC.

The host, Hon. Teresia Mbaika, the Principal Secretary of the State Department for Devolution in Kenya, described the gathering as "an opportune moment to reflect on the prospects for devolution in Kenya and a platform to share challenges and lessons with counterparts in the region". She confirmed the commitment of the Kenyan Government to supporting the economic transformative agenda of counties by leveraging digital technologies to ensure effective service delivery to citizens. Ms. Mbaika also highlighted the improved relationship between counties and the national government, adding that discussions were underway to devolve the remaining functions to county governments.

Ms. Jeannette Nyiramasengesho, Chairperson at EALGA – East African Local Governments Association, commended the Kenyan leaders for their hospitality, and the partners, British High Commission in Kenya and UNDP Africa, for supporting the meeting. She also acknowledged

the contribution of other partners, including CLGF-Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Strong Cities Network, UNCDF, and UN-HABITAT.

EALGA Secretary General, Ms. Gertrude Rose Gamwera, explained that the EALGF retreat was designed to integrate local governments into EAC structures and have them working as partners with national governments for people-centred development. She added that this objective could be effectively realized by fully implementing the Memorandum of Understanding signed between EALGA and the East African Community in February 2022 in Arusha. The memorandum aims to leverage the joint

efforts of EALGA and the EAC to facilitate the inclusion of local governments and promote their key role in fast-tracking the EAC integration agenda, thus bringing its benefits and message closer to the citizens.

The EALGF Nairobi retreat ended successfully as EALGF members and various development partners engaged in discussions about key issues that are crucial to realize the Sustainable Development Goals, such as local government financing, disaster risk reduction, sustainable housing, effective devolution and good governance, prevention of hate, extremism and polarization.



R-L, EALGA Chairperson cllr Jeannette Nyiramasengesho receives Hon Peninah Malonza Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of EAC, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and Regional Development in Kenya at the EALGF retreat. Looking on (in blue) is Hon Teresa Mbaika, the Principal Secretary of the State Department for Devolution in Kenya

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

EALGA JOINS RISE AFRICA 2024 FESTIVAL

22 May 2024 10:00 - 11:45 CAT

SOLUTIONS ONLY: re-embedding imagination into everyday practice



Paul Currie
Director, Urban Systems Unit, ICLEI Africa



Litabho Makhele
Programme Manager, Sustainable and Resilient Cities, South African Cities Network



Gertrude Rose Gamwera
Secretary General, EALGA



Tuwilika Nailoke Shaimemanya
Founder, Many Design Studio



Radwa Rostom
Founder and CEO, Hand Over



Benjamin Kollenberg
Director, Urban Think Tank Empower



Mohamed Ashraf Abdel Samad
Synergos Social Entrepreneur and Founder, Shagara at School



Wahabo Kiendrebeogo
Head of Statistics Section, Ouagadougou Town Hall

RISE AFRICA ACTION FESTIVAL
22-25 MAY 2024

SOLUTIONS ONLY [failures also]

REGISTER: riseafrica.iclei.org/2024-programme



The [RISEAfrica](#) 2024 Action Festival was held on 22-25 May 2024 and it explored and celebrated African

urban sustainability. Hosted by ICLEI Africa, this year's theme, SOLUTIONS ONLY (failures also), focused on

sharing innovative solutions and positive examples while embracing and learning from failures.

The EALGA Secretary General Gertrude Rose Gamwera participated in a highly inspirational session on “Solutions Only: Re-embedding imagination into everyday practice” which examined the challenges and opportunities, inspiring actions and innovative solutions already shaping African cities. From neighbourhood initiatives to city-wide transformations, they discussed how creativity, collaboration, and forward-thinking are reshaping the urban landscape.

At the close of the event, Ms.Gamwera said, “I was honoured to attend the first day of RISEAfrica Action Festival 2024, which focused on inspiring ways to improve

city planning and design in Africa. The session highlighted creative solutions that are cheap, accessible, and long-lasting. Some examples included community-driven designs and efficient use of space. The message was clear: African cities have a wealth of resources within their communities. By working together, communities can find solutions that improve services for everyone. Let’s champion innovation and creativity in our work so that we can Rise in Action together!”

RISE Africa brings together thinkers, doers and enablers from across the continent and the world to inspire action for sustainable cities. The platform curates monthly engagements, photographic competitions, thought pieces and networking events, taking a whole-of-society approach to imagining African urban futures.

EACLGA BECOMES ICLEI MEMBER



Certificate of Membership



ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is honored to welcome
East Africa Local Governments Association (EALGA), Tanzania

On 2 February, 2024 as a full Member to the international association in pursuit of achieving tangible improvements in global sustainability, through cumulative local action.

Gino Van Begin
 Gino Van Begin
 Secretary General

Frank Cornwie
 Frank Cornwie
 President



On 2nd February 2024, EALGA officially joined ICLEI as a member. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 2,500 local and

regional governments committed to sustainable urban development.

This membership which is renewed annually, distinguishes EALGA as part of an active international network of cities, towns and provinces mobilising and innovating to address shared sustainability challenges.

ICLEI members come together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

The ICLEI world secretariat is in Bonn, Germany while the Africa secretariat is located in Cape Town, South Africa.

EACLGA SIGNS MOU WITH ICLEI AFRICA



Right to left: Mayor Mr Ernest Arthur (Cape Coast, Ghana), Ms Gertrude Rose Ramwera (EACLGA), Ms Kobie Brand (ICLEI Africa Regional Director), Mayor Ms Regina Bakitte Nakazzi (Nansana, Uganda), Mayor Dr Manuel de Araujo (Quelimane, Mozambique) during the ICLEI Africa RexCom meeting

congress for the first time and was represented by the Secretary General Ms. Gertrude Rose Gamwera.

During the congress, EACLGA and ICLEI-Africa formalised their long-standing relationship through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to ensure further collaboration for peer-to-peer learning, multilevel governance engagement and meaningful implementation of sustainability initiatives in East Africa and beyond.

Upon signing the MOU, the EACLGA SG said, “We could not be more excited and delighted on the milestone. We look forward to actively working with our regional chapter ICLEI Africa to grow the sustainability of our Counties and Local Governments in the East African Community”

EACLGA became a member of ICLEI Africa in February 2024. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development.

EACLGA SECRETARY GENERAL SCOOPS ADVISORY ROLE ON ICLEI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

During the ICLEI world congress that took place 18-21 June 2024, the EACLGA Secretary General was appointed Advisor to the ICLEI Africa Regional Executive Committee for a three-year term of office. Ms. Gamwera thanked the Executive members for the vote of confidence, acknowledging that, with the right support system she would, through EACLGA, lead cities and local governments to navigate the conversation on sustainability at the Continental level.

Also in attendance was Mrs. Regina Bakitte Nakazzi, the Mayor of Nansana Municipality and ICLEI Africa REXCOM Member.

Read some of the quotable moments from the ICLEI World Congress below:



 Congresso Mundial ICLEI
 ICLEI World Congress
 Congresso Mundial ICLEI
 São Paulo, Brasil - 2024


**CITY OF
SÃO PAULO**

Even if you have the funding if don't involve communities you cannot do it in a sustainable way. Community dialogues have enabled us to enrich our climate and energy plans.

I would like to thank ICLEI for their technical support to enable us to do what we have done in an effective and efficient way.



Regina Bakitte Nakazzi
 Mayor of Nansana Municipal Council (Uganda)
 ICLEI Africa REXCOM member



 Congresso Mundial ICLEI
 ICLEI World Congress
 Congresso Mundial ICLEI
 São Paulo, Brasil - 2024


**CITY OF
SÃO PAULO**

Food markets is one big area that local governments in Africa have been working to improve, but one of the challenges they still face are dealing with waste.



Gertrude-Rose Gamwera
 Secretary General, East African County and Local Governments Association



 Congresso Mundial ICLEI
 ICLEI World Congress
 Congresso Mundial ICLEI
 São Paulo, Brasil - 2024


**CITY OF
SÃO PAULO**

National government is in the habit of planning top-down rather than bottom-up.

For example, our data on wetlands and other urban environments is more accurate and more up-to-date than theirs, but our data is not digitised, so it is **disregarded in national planning.**



Regina Bakitte Nakazzi
 Mayor of Nansana Municipal Council (Uganda)
 ICLEI Africa REXCOM member



 Congresso Mundial ICLEI
 ICLEI World Congress
 Congresso Mundial ICLEI
 São Paulo, Brasil - 2024


**CITY OF
SÃO PAULO**

We need to think outside of the box. If something is not working, how do we get it to work? We have seen a realisation by local government officials that they don't have to struggle on their own. **The solutions lie with the communities.**

We also need to get **politicians and technical folks** talking to each other, being together in a shared space to find solutions.



Gertrude-Rose Gamwera
 Secretary General, East African County and Local Governments Association

Source: ICLEI AFRICA

ELEVATING THE DEBATE ON DECENTRALIZATION AND MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA



Photo Credit: Local Public Sector Alliance

From May 20-22, 2024, the Local Public Sector Alliance hosted a pan-African workshop on “Elevating the Debate on Decentralization and Multilevel Governance in Africa” at the Emara Ole-Sereni Hotel, in Nairobi, Kenya. Leading experts and partner organizations came together to identify practical steps to advocate for—and support—more inclusive and effective decentralization and localization in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Local Public Sector Alliance partnered with the Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance and Human Rights (University of the Western Cape, South Africa); the East Africa Local Governments Association (EALGA); the Institute for Local Government Studies, Ghana; and the Intergovernmental Relations Technical

Committee (IGRTC), Kenya to host the workshop.

Ms. Gertrude Rose Gamwera, the EALGA Secretary General referred to the workshop as, “A fantastically crafted agenda that set the minds off in a frenzy of thoughts and ideas.”

Participants identified realistic policy solutions—taking into account existing institutional and political economy constraints—to empower, capacitate, or incentivize local governments in Africa to pursue inclusive governance, contribute to sustainable localized development, and better position local governments to engage in decentralized or localized development cooperation.

[Read more](#) about the key takeaways.



Elevating the Debate on Decentralization and Multilevel Governance in Africa

Nairobi, May 20-22, 2024





Mukapa Tembo
Chalimbana Local Government Training Institute, Zambia

Freddy Sahinguvu
SNV

Gertrude Rose Gamwera
East Africa Local Governments Association

Decentralization and localization in Africa:
Perspectives from countries with emerging devolution reforms











FIRST FEMALE EAC SECRETARY GENERAL SWORN IN



Photo Credit: EAC

On 7th June 2024, Ms. Veronica Mueni Nduva was sworn in as the new Secretary General for the East African Community, following the re-assignment of Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki, who had held the position since April 2021.

Ms. Nduva, the first woman to hold the position, was sworn in during the 23rd Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the EAC Heads of State that was held virtually and chaired by H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, the Chairperson of the Summit and President of South Sudan.

She committed her tenure to promoting deeper integration and development of the people of East Africa, as well as promoting peace and security to build lasting prosperity in the region.

EACLGA welcomes the new Secretary General and looks forward to working with the EAC to continue highlighting the key role of cities and local governments in fostering the EAC integration agenda. EACLGA through the Strong Cities East and Southern Africa Regional Hub mobilizes and provides a platform for mayors and local leaders to advance city-led efforts to address hate, extremism and polarisation.

EACLGA further applauds the Community for choosing a woman to continue the work of facilitating collaboration to realize the EAC integration. This aligns with the theme of this year's Women's Day theme of "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress" and EACLGA's key message calling for the inclusion of women in positions of leadership.

In February 2022, EACLGA signed an MOU with the EAC to leverage relations between the EAC and local governments to drive decentralization and the integration agenda.

RALGA CELEBRATES 20 YEARS, WELCOMES NEW SECRETARY GENERAL



Mr. Dominique Habina, new RALGA SG addressing delegates during RALGA's 20th AGM

Photo Credit: RALGA

On 6th June 2024, all roads led to Kigali as the local government fraternity came together to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities-RALGA.

Cllr. Jeannette Nyiramasengesho, the Chairperson of RALGA emphasized the enhancement of decentralization policy as a key guidance of good governance throughout its 20-year journey.

RALGA used the historic event to unveil a new Secretary General Mr. Dominique Habimana who took over from Mr. Ladislav Ngendahimana.

Mr. Anicetus Mramba, the EAC and Gender Liason Officer represented the EACLGA Secretary General in Kigali. In her Message, the EACLGA SG commended the past and present leadership of RALGA for a job well done and appreciated the "tremendous effort put towards rapidly building a strong institution that is equally invested in a Global and Regional collaboration network".

RALGA is among the five members of EACLGA and works to advance decentralised service delivery and the EAC regional integration agenda in the local authorities in Rwanda.

SDG LOCAL ACTION: CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ACCELERATING AGENDA 2030



*Mrs. Regina Nakazzi Bakite (in red skirt), the Mayor Nansana Municipality in Uganda launching a school Peace and Justice Club.
Photo Credit: Nansana Municipality*

UNDP renewed its support to EACLGA for another year to bolster the communication function of the association under the SDG Local Action Project.

In February 2023, EALGA together with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) began implementing the SDG Local Action Project, which is part of the UN SDG Action Campaign. The UN SDG Action Campaign was established by the UN Secretary-General to inspire people and organizations from all backgrounds and every part of the world to take action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals while holding decision-makers accountable for progress society-wide. The Campaign aims to showcase how cities and local governments are actively contributing towards the implementation of Agenda 2030, accelerating transformative action to achieve the SDGs for all, and everywhere.

Cities and local governments continue to share their outstanding progress in SDG implementation amidst great challenges.

Visit the local action website at <https://sdglocalaction.org/> to read about innovative green financing in Tanga, Tanzania, Peace and Youth empowerment in Nansana Municipality in Uganda and AMICAALL Uganda’s work with mayors to address non-communicable diseases in cities, among other stories.

To share your story on SDG implementation and localization, send an email to jamidahnamuyanja@ealga.org or jamidah.namuyanja@undp.org

“Cities and local governments continue to share their outstanding progress in SDG implementation amidst great challenges.”

HOW THE STRONG CITIES EAST AND SOUTHERN REGIONAL HUB-ESA IS SUPPORTING CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADDRESS HATE, EXTREMISM AND POLARISATION

Strong Cities is an independent global network of more than 235 cities and other local governments dedicated to addressing all forms of hate, extremism and polarisation, while promoting a human rights-based prevention framework. Through in-person and online convenings, exchanges and trainings, Strong Cities facilitates sharing and learning among mayors, other local leaders and municipal-level practitioners. By doing so, it helps local authorities leverage their full potential in prevention while complementing national, regional and global efforts.

To deepen its engagement with cities and local authorities across the ESA region, and with support from the EU's STRIVE Cities initiative, Strong Cities launched the ESA Regional Hub in late 2022, which serves as a helpdesk for cities across the region, supporting them with city-city sharing, localising international good practice and elevating their voices on a global stage. The ESA Regional Hub is hosted by the East African County and Local Governments Association-EACLGA.

Between January -June 2024, the ESA Hub continued to support cities and local governments to address hate, extremism and polarisation based on their needs and through various events.

On 19-20 March 2024, the HUB was in Malawi for a dialogue between national and local actors on how local governments can support the implementation of the country's new National Counter Terrorism and Prevention

of Violent Extremism Strategy and to enhance national-local cooperation (NLC) on prevention. Read the [event report](#) for the outcomes.

In **Masaka city**, the Head of Hub together with Joseph Nazareth from Mombasa engaged with 70 youth leaders on how to address hate, extremism and polarisation and instead become positive change agents in their communities. This was inspired by a learning visit to Mombasa which Mayor Masaka attended in November 2023.

The **Arusha Regional Workshop** held from 8-9 May 2024 was another successful event for the HUB in this period. This was the third regional workshop for the Hub and it focused on Scaling city-led Action to Prevent and Respond to Hate, Extremism and Polarisation. Mayors, Governors and other officials from 30 cities attended and discussed key practice areas including youth-local government engagement, community engagement, refugee integration, national-local cooperation (NLC) and how urban design and planning can strengthen social cohesion. Read the event details [here](#).

This was followed by a **Border Cities Working Group meeting on the 10th/05/24** where leaders discussed strengthening cross-border city-city collaboration, implementation of the border municipalities strategy and how to address hate, extremism and polarisation in border communities.



L-R Louis Dey, EU Delegation in Kenya, Gertrude Rose Gamwera, EACLGA Secretary General Wilson Mahera Charles Deputy PS PO-RALG, Maximillian Iranque, Mayor Arusha City, Charlotte Moyens Strong Cities Chief of Staff and Farah Warsame, Mayor City of Cadaado, Somalia during the Arusha Regional Workshop

The HUB together with officials from Stellenbosch Municipality in Durban, South Africa facilitated a **training in Nansana Municipality on the Neighbourhood Watch Model from 14 - 15 May 2024**. Inspired by a learning visit to Cape Town in 2023, Mayor Regina Bakitte sought support from Strong Cities and Stellenbosch Municipality

to implement the Neighbourhood Watch Model in Nansana Municipality. The model serves as an early-warning mechanism for cross-border militants. Over 150 officials from two divisions of Gombe and Nansana were trained to pilot the model.

ULGA HOLDS REGIONAL MEETINGS ON REVENUE MOBILIZATION



Hon Raphael Magyezi, the Minister of Local Government in Uganda launching the Local Government own Source Revenue Mobilization Strategy in March 2024 in Kampala
Photo Credit: Ministry of Local Government- Uganda

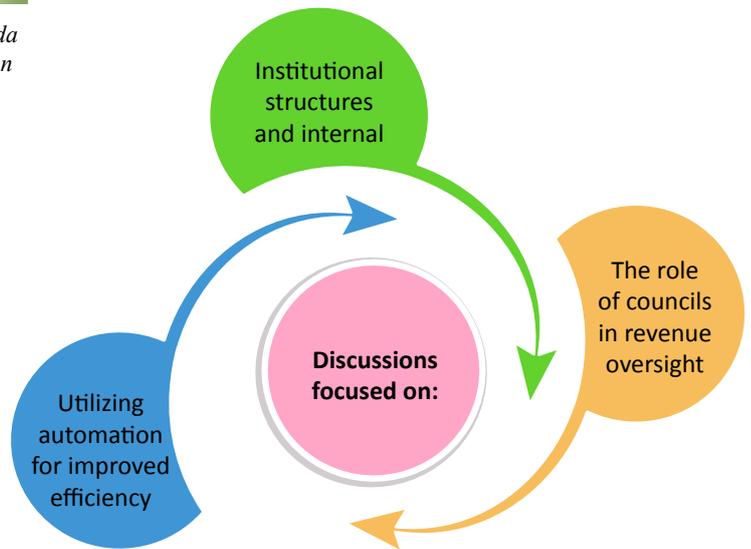
The Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA) recently concluded a series of regional meetings aimed at boosting the capacity of local governments to enhance local revenue. Held between March and June 2024, these meetings brought together hundreds of participants from across the country. ULGA has five regions namely: Central, Eastern, Western, Northern and Karamoja.

The regional platform provided a valuable space for members to share best practices and address challenges faced in local revenue mobilization and management.

KEY RESOLUTIONS FOR IMPROVED REVENUE MANAGEMENT

The meetings resolved to strengthen local revenue management through:

- **Increased Capacity Building:** Training programs for both technical and political staff were emphasized, along with a focus on mindset change towards effective revenue mobilization.
- **Peer-to-Peer Learning:** Sharing experiences and knowledge through visits and workshops was seen as crucial.
- **Focus on Lower Local Governments:** Organizing sub-regional meetings to address the specific needs of lower-level governments was proposed.
- **Embracing Technology:** The importance of local revenue automation for improved collection and management was highlighted.
- **Sharing Success Stories:** ULGA will showcase best practices to inspire and motivate other local governments.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Promoting regional partnerships, knowledge sharing, and setting regional standards were deemed important.



WHAT WILL ULGA DO?

The association will play a key role in implementing these resolutions by:

- Advocating for wider adoption of digital revenue systems
- Disseminating Public-Private Partnership (PPP) guidelines and training for implementation
- Supporting the identification of potential taxpayers and fair assessment practices
- Providing recommendations for improvement in revenue administration and collection

The regional meetings were guided by the ULGA/CLGF-Commonwealth Local Government Forum project on Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers and marked a significant step forward in empowering local governments to become more self-reliant through effective local revenue mobilization.

Uganda’s Ministry for Local Government launched an Own Source Revenue Mobilization Strategy in March 2024 to address budget shortfall challenges in the districts.

The regional platform provided a valuable space for members to share best practices and address challenges faced in local revenue mobilization and management.

ULGA PARTNERS WITH CLGF TO BOOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE IN UGANDA



Richard Okuku, the ULGA Secretary General speaking at a recent EACLGA meeting.

The Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA) and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) have launched a collaborative project aimed at strengthening local government finances in Uganda.

This initiative, which began in March 2024, focuses on “Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers and Local Government Experience Sharing for Sustainable Local Revenue Mobilization and Management.”

The project will involve several key activities:

- Experience sharing workshops: ULGA members will participate in these sessions to exchange best practices and successful strategies for optimizing local revenue collection and management.
- Study on fiscal transfers: A comprehensive analysis of Uganda’s intergovernmental fiscal transfer system will be conducted to assess its effectiveness.

The Project’s Main Goal

The project’s primary goal is to enhance local government financing through a data-driven approach. This will involve research and experience sharing focused on key strategies, practices, and challenges that impact local revenue collection and management. The project will examine institutional structures, internal capacity, automation, and the role of local councils in providing oversight.

The project has several specific objectives:

- Create a platform for knowledge exchange: ULGA members will be able to share information and

successful practices, allowing them to learn from each other and replicate strategies for improved local revenue mobilization and management within their respective regions.

- Identify challenges and solutions: Discussions will address the obstacles faced by local governments in optimizing revenue collection and management. The project will document these challenges and issues to guide policy revisions and ensure better institutional support.
- Raise awareness of financing options: Local government leaders will be introduced to alternative financing mechanisms, such as pooled financing arrangements.
- Inform advocacy efforts: The project will gather feedback and concerns from members, which will be used to develop advocacy positions for engaging with the Ugandan government.
- Evaluate fiscal transfers: The project will assess the effectiveness of the intergovernmental fiscal transfer program and its impact on local government financing.

A partnership to empower local governments

Richard Okuku, the ULGA Secretary General, expressed his appreciation for CLGF’s partnership, highlighting that “this support will go a long way in building the capacity of our members to generate own source revenue hence improving service delivery to the citizens.”

Why is local revenue generation important?

Locally generated revenue is crucial for empowering local governments, granting them autonomy in decision-making and bolstering funds obtained from the central government. Despite existing legal provisions enabling local governments to raise revenue locally, many have faced challenges in seizing these opportunities since the abolition of graduated tax in Uganda. Consequently, there has been an over-reliance on central government transfers, which currently constitute approximately 90% of local funding and have been dwindling, thereby impeding local service delivery.

The collaborative initiative between ULGA and CLGF is a significant step in strengthening Uganda’s local government finances, to enhance service delivery for the citizens.

19 KENYAN COUNTIES SHOWCASE PROGRESS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Nineteen Kenyan counties have taken significant steps towards achieving the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In December 2023, these counties – including Homa-Bay, Nakuru, Mombasa West Pokot, Taita Taveta, Elgeyo Marakwet, Mombasa, Nyeri, Embu, Makueni, Kakamega, Narok, Vihiga, Wajir, Kilifi, Kajiado, Nyamira, Baringo, and Bungoma, – expressed interest in developing Voluntary Local Review (VLR) reports. These reports will highlight their efforts in promoting inclusive economic growth, social well-being, and environmental sustainability, all aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To support this initiative, the Council of Governors (COG) collaborated with the State Department for Economic Planning, the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to hold a three-day capacity-building workshop in Naivasha from March 10th to 14th, 2024.

Building Capacity for Stronger Local Reviews

The workshop provided technical assistance to county officials in developing their VLR reports. This includes assessing their current progress on the VLRs, identifying areas needing further guidance, and exploring ways to ensure their reports align with Kenya's upcoming Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2024.

The 2024 HLPF focuses on "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty amid multiple crises through sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions." The forum will specifically review SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 13 (Climate Action), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Kenyan counties will showcase their localized efforts and progress

in these specific areas within their VLR reports.

Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

The workshop fostered peer learning, with each county presenting their VLR progress and receiving feedback from their peers. Additionally, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics provided technical sessions to guide counties in selecting the most relevant SDG indicators and data sources for evidence-based reporting.

A key focus was placed on documenting innovative and sustainable best practices that have yielded positive local results. Counties were encouraged to tailor these practices to their unique contexts. Through interactive sessions and group work, the Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee on SDGs (IATWC) ensured county VLR drafts adhere to 2024 reporting guidelines and encompass all dimensions of sustainable development, including the principle of "leaving no one behind." Collaborative efforts across sectors and inclusive stakeholder engagement were emphasized as crucial for impactful VLRs.

Next Steps: Finalizing VLRs and National Integration

The workshop equipped counties with a roadmap to finalize their VLRs before a follow-up review session. Following revisions, the State Department for Economic Planning and the IATWC will conduct a compliance check before incorporating the county VLRs into Kenya's national 2024 VNR submission.

This collaboration between Kenyan counties and national entities demonstrates their commitment to achieving the SDGs at the local level. By showcasing their progress and best practices, counties can contribute significantly to Kenya's national SDG efforts and inspire others to follow suit.

CAF COLLABORATES WITH LEGAL INSTITUTIONS ON GOVERNANCE



Photo Credit: County Assemblies Forum

In June 2024, the County Assemblies Forum (CAF) made strides in strengthening governance and legislative processes at the county level in Kenya by collaborating with prominent legal institutions. Two key partners, the National Council of Law Reporting (NCLR) and the Kenya Law Reforms Commission (KLRC), joined forces with CAF to enhance legislative transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness.

The CAF-NCLR partnership focuses on five critical areas:

1. **Strengthening Bill Tracking Systems.** Enhancing the efficiency and transparency of legislative tracking in County Assemblies.
2. **Enhancing Access to Legal Information.** Providing better access to legal resources for informed decision-making.
3. **Developing a Case Law Digest.** Creating a comprehensive digest to guide County Assemblies on procedures and practices.
4. **Strengthening Public Participation.** Improving mechanisms for public involvement in the legislative process.

5. **Capacity Building.** Training County Assemblies on policy formulation and legislative drafting to foster robust legislation.

Concurrently, CAF partnered with KLRC to focus on four key areas:

1. **Joint Capacity Building Initiatives.** Training Members of County Assemblies and legislative drafters to enhance their skills.
2. **Development and Adaptation of Model Laws.** Creating model laws for uniformity and consistency across counties.
3. **Monitoring and Evaluation.** Assessing the impacts of legislation to ensure they meet their objectives.
4. **Enhancing Citizen Engagement.** Promoting accountability and involvement of citizens in governance.

These partnerships are set to enhance the legislative and governance processes at the county level. By leveraging the expertise of NCLR and KLRC, CAF aims to ensure more efficient, transparent, and effective legislative operations.

ZALGA OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED



Photo Credit: ZALGA

The Zanzibar Association of Local Government Authorities -ZALGA was officially launched on 22 April 2024 by Hon. Dr. Khalid S. Mohamed, the Minister of Infrastructure, Communication and Technology, on behalf of the Second Vice President of Zanzibar Hon. Hemed Suleiman Abdulla.

can jointly address the challenges affecting them so as to contribute towards the development of the country.

ZALGA was founded in December 2013 and was re-registered in 2023. On September 30, 2023, ZALGA conducted elections that ushered in new leaders for a three-year mandate (2023 – 2026).

The main goal of the Association is to ensure that Cities, Municipalities, Districts and Councils have one voice and

ACO-BURUNDI HOLDS 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Photo Credit: ACO-BURUNDI

The Association Des Communes Du Burundi held their General Assembly on 22 March 2024 in Gitega, the political Capital of Burundi

The three main activities were:

1. To approve the annual report (activities and financial report)
2. To approve the annual plan and budget
3. To approve the annual report of the control commissioners

ALAT MEMBERS CONVENE IN ZANZIBAR FOR 38TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Photo Credit: ALAT

The Association of Local Authorities in Tanzania (ALAT) convened its 38th Annual General Meeting on 23-25 March 2024 at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Zanzibar under the theme, “The Local Government Election is our responsibility, Participate in the development of our nation”.

Hon. Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Minister for the President’s Office, Regional Administration and Local Government-PO-RALG officiated at the opening. He urged

Local Government Associations to maintain integrity and professionalism in their work and to continue implementing developmental projects that improve service delivery to the community.

The AGM also discussed the need for local authorities to increase revenue collections, Monitoring and Evaluation for development projects and building good relations between LGA leaders and the community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- » High-Level Political Forum on the crucial role of Local and Regional Governments in achieving the SDGs and Launch of the GTF Annual Report “Towards the localization of the SDGs.” July 10th 2024, New York
- » Strong Cities NLC, Youth Engagement Meeting 30-31 July 2024 in Zanzibar
- » Inaugural East African Community Regional Education Conference Commemorating the AU Year of Education August 12- 15, 2024, Arusha, Tanzania
- » Strong Cities Uganda Strategic Engagement Co hosted with AMICAALL Uganda, 14-15 August, 2024, Kampala Uganda
- » Strong Cities Kenya strategic Engagement, (Dates TBC)
- » EACLGF Annual Forum September 2024, (Dates TBC)
- » EACLGA Annual General Meeting, (Dates TBC)
- » EU Policy Development Forum, Africa Region Meeting 26-27 November 2024 Nairobi, Kenya
- » Strong Cities Global Summit 4-5 December 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa

FUN CORNER



Team EALGA share a light moment at the LG Conference on LED in Cross Border Communities, held in Arusha in February 2024.



EALGA/ESA Hub team after the Arusha Regional Workshop in May 2024.

EACLGA



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For regular updates, follow the EACLGA social media platforms



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