



## Workshop Program

# Elevating the Debate on Decentralization and Multilevel Governance in Africa



LOCAL PUBLIC SECTOR  
ALLIANCE

# Workshop: Elevating the Debate on Decentralization and Multilevel Governance in Africa

**Emara Ole-Sereni Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya**

**May 20-22, 2024**

The Local Public Sector Alliance—led by LPSA’s Working Group on Sub-Saharan Africa and other Africa-based members of the Alliance—wants to engage with experts and partner organizations on how best to advocate for and support more inclusive and effective decentralization and localization in Sub-Saharan Africa. To this effect, LPSA—along with key partner organizations—is organizing the workshop “Elevating The Debate On Decentralization and Multilevel Governance In Africa” which will be held at the Emara Ole-Sereni Hotel, in Nairobi, Kenya, from May 20-22, 2024.

The workshop is hosted by the Local Public Sector Alliance in partnership 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.

A select group of invited participants will be able to join the workshop in-person. Other interested colleagues will be able to follow the sessions and participate online:

<https://decentralization.net/event/workshop-elevating-the-debate-on-decentralization-and-multilevel-governance-in-africa/>

## Program Summary

In December 2021, the Local Public Sector Alliance convened a series of virtual knowledge sharing events on [Decentralization and Local Development in Sub-Saharan Africa](#). Progress on devolution and local governance in the region was found to be uneven, and the extent and pace of decentralization can be described as moderate at best. An initial assessment of the [state of local governance institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa](#) (LPSA, December 2023) indicates that although some countries have devolved regional or local government institutions, decentralization and localization efforts are in need of strengthening and deepening in countries around the region. This is especially true if we wish subnational governance institutions in Africa to be effective and empowered actors in efforts to localize sustainable development and/or to engage in decentralized development cooperation.

Whereas previous workshops have largely focused on assessing the problems and challenges with respect to decentralization and multilevel governance in Africa, the upcoming workshop aims to be forward looking. In this context, the key underlying question is not whether countries should decentralize or not, or even what model of decentralization should be followed, but rather *how to improve public sector inclusiveness and effectiveness* by improving the capacity and coordination among stakeholders at different levels of government to increase the efficiency, equity, and sustainability of public spending in the context of a multilevel public sector.

Workshop sessions will thus seek to identify realistic policy solutions—taking into account existing institutional and political economy constraints—that empower, capacitate, or incentivize subnational governance institutions in Africa to pursue more effective interventions to localize sustainable development and engage in decentralized development cooperation. In addition, workshop sessions will focus on identifying specific mechanisms how bringing together stakeholders from across the continent to engage in knowledge development, knowledge sharing, and evidence-informed policy advocacy can ‘elevate the decentralization and localization debate’ and promote more inclusive and effective decentralization and localization (which we see as a critical precondition for resilient, inclusive, sustainable, equitable and efficient development). Insights and answers to these questions will be informed by different stakeholders’ institutional perspectives as well as by stakeholders’ different country contexts.

## Program Overview: Monday and Tuesday

	Morning Sessions	Afternoon Sessions
Monday May 20, 2024	<p><b>08:30 – 9:00 Registration</b></p> <p><b>9:00 – 10:30 Welcome and opening</b> <i>LPSA, co-hosts, and participants</i> <i>Opening Remarks by Guest of Honor: Kithinji Kiragu, OGW, MBS (Chair, Kenya IGRTC)</i></p> <p><b>11:00 – 12:30 Decentralization and localization in Africa: Motivators for disrupting centralized MLG systems</b> <i>Ensuring inclusion and deepening democracy: Jaap de Visser, South Africa</i> <i>Enhancing economic growth: Nicholas Awortwi, Ghana</i> <i>Localizing services and development: Anne Amin</i></p> <p><i>Session moderator: Jacqueline Muthura</i></p>	<p><b>13:30 – 14:00 An initial assessment of the state of local governance institutions in Africa</b> <i>Nick Travis, LPSA</i></p> <p><b>14:00 – 15:00 Disrupting and elevating the debate on decentralization and localization in Africa: an overview of LPSA resources</b> <i>Jamie Boex and Jacqueline Muthura, LPSA</i></p> <p><b>15:30 – 17:00 Strengthening decentralization and MLG as an opportunity to inclusive, localized development</b> <i>Lessons from CoE/CLRA: Boris Tonhauser, PLATFORMA</i> <i>Localizing the SDGs: Martino Miraglia</i></p> <p><i>Session moderator: Jaap de Visser</i></p>
Tuesday May 21, 2024	<p><b>9:00 – 10:30 Decentralization in Africa: Perspectives from federal contexts: Ethiopia, Nigeria</b> <i>Ethiopia: Ketema Wakjira</i> <i>Discussant: Steve Ogutu</i> <i>Nigeria: Chris Okeke (10:00-10:30)</i></p> <p><b>11:00 – 12:30 Decentralization in Africa: Perspectives from Francophone Africa</b> <i>Nara Monkam, Univ. of Pretoria</i> <i>Rose Vincent, Utrecht University</i> <i>Alice Malongte, Strategies!</i> <i>Discussant: Gerhard van 't Land</i></p> <p><i>Session moderator: Tinashe Chigwata</i></p>	<p><b>13:30 – 15:00 Decentralization in Africa: Perspectives from countries with emerging devolution reforms</b> <i>Zambia: Mukapa Tembo,</i> <i>A view from civil society: Freddy Sahinguvu , SNV</i> <i>Gertrude Rose Gamwera, EALGA</i> <i>Discussant: Tinashe Chigwata</i></p> <p><b>15:30 – 17:00 Toward a Pan-African Network of Decentralization and MLG Advocates</b> <i>Group discussion: Judy Oduma, Jaap de Visser</i></p> <p><i>Session moderator: Augustine Magolowondo</i></p>

## Program Overview: Wednesday (Focus on Kenya)

Wednesday, May 22, 2024	
Early Morning Panel	Late Morning Panel
<p><b>08:30 – 9:00 Registration</b></p> <p><b>9:00 – 10:30 Devolution in Kenya: how can county governments more effectively promote localized sustainable development outcomes?</b>  <i>Con Omore Osendo, Fmr. Governance Advisor  British High Commission  Muratha Kinuthia, Social Development Specialist,  World Bank  Anki Dellnas, Senior Governance Advisor, UNDP  Kenya</i></p> <p><i>Session moderator: Judy Oduma</i></p>	<p><b>11:00 – 12:30 Devolution in Kenya: Initial lessons for decentralization and localization efforts in Africa</b>  <i>Lady Justice Jacqueline Mogeni, Fmr. CEO CoG  Sen. Catherine Mumma, Senate Committee on  Devolution.  Mrs. Angeline Hongo, MBS, Member of  Intergovernmental Relations Technical  Committee(IGRTC)</i></p> <p><b>12:30 – 13:00 Kenya takeaways</b></p> <p><i>Session moderator: Judy Oduma</i></p>

The Wednesday morning program is followed by lunch for all participants (13:00 – 14:00).

14:00 – 17:00 LPSA Co-Chairs only: LPSA work planning (2024-25)

## Structure of Panel Discussions

The Local Public Sector Alliance —led by LPSA's Working Group on Sub-Saharan Africa and other Africa-based members of the Alliance—wants to engage with experts and partner organization on how best to support and advocate for more inclusive and effective decentralization and localization in Africa.

For the purpose of the program's discussions, experiences on decentralization and localization in Africa have been divided into four sub-groups of experiences: countries with relatively devolved systems (e.g., Kenya; South Africa); populous federal countries with less extensive devolution at the local level (e.g., Ethiopia; Nigeria); and countries with emerging or ongoing devolution reforms (e.g., Cameroon, Malawi, Mozambique, Togo, Zambia). For the purpose of our discussions, the latter group has further been divided into discussions on the experiences of Anglophone and Francophone countries.

Each panel session will generally last 90 minutes, with the time in each session roughly equally divided between panelist remarks and group discussions.

Given that the workshop's participants are senior practitioners and experts with extensive knowledge in the field, this workshop intends to engage in targeted discussions, rather than serving as an opportunity for participants to present academic papers or present a detailed review of the challenges of decentralization reforms in each country. Rather than emphasizing the problems encountered with decentralization reforms, presenters should focus their remarks on adding value around the key topics of the workshop by focusing on (i) possible (and realistic) solutions and/or policy advocacy and (ii) possible inputs that LPSA or a pan-African network on decentralization and localization could provide in support of such solutions. Each panelist will be asked to speak for a maximum of 10-15 minutes (preferably without powerpoint presentations: maximum 1 slide!), touching on the following topics:

- As context, in one or two sentences, what is the current driving force or dynamic with respect to the decentralization/ localization policy dialogue (policy reforms or policy reversals) in your country or sub-region?
- At the margin, what specific (realistic) interventions could help strengthen multilevel governance systems and/or empower, capacitate, or incentivize subnational governance institutions to more effectively pursue inclusive and sustainable localized development (and/or engage in decentralized development cooperation)?
- How can knowledge development, knowledge sharing, and evidence-informed policy advocacy through a nascent pan-African network of decentralization and localization advocates 'elevate the decentralization and localization debate' in different countries or contexts, and promote more effective decentralization and localization as a critical precondition for resilient, inclusive, sustainable, equitable and efficient development?

After the panelists' remarks, the role of the lead discussant is to spend 5-10 minutes to capture the main points made by the panelists and reflect on these points in the larger context of the purpose of the workshop, in order to kick off further discussion and conversation.

## Overview of Participants



**Anne Amin**

Lead Governance and Legislation  
UN-Habitat, Nairobi



**Nicholas Awortwi**

Director  
Insititute for Local Government Studies, Ghana



**Jamie Boex**

Executive Director  
Local Public Sector Alliance



**Avril Bundale**

Fmr. Manager, Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
UN-Habitat, Nairobi



**Samuel Kipkirui Chepkwony**

Chief Executive Officer  
Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC), Kenya



**Tinashe Chigwata**

Associate Professor and Head of Multilevel Government  
Dullah Omar Institute, University of the Western Cape, South Africa



**Anki (Ann-Christine) Dellnas**

Senior Governance Advisor  
UNDP Kenya



**Gertrude Rose Gamwera Buyinga**

Secretary-General  
East Africa Local Governments Association



**Angeline Hongo**

Member  
Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC), Kenya



**Muratha Kinuthia**

Senior Social Development Specialist  
World Bank, Kenya



**Kithinji Kiragu, OGW, MBS**

Chairman  
Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC), Kenya



**Paddy Siyanga Knudsen**

Development Economist / Public Financial Management Expert  
Independent Consultant





**Gerhard van 't Land**  
Managing Partner  
DEGE Consult



**Augustine Magolowondo**  
Regional Director, Chief of Party, Democracy Works Foundation  
Co-Chair, LPSA Thematic Working Group for Local Democracy



**Alice Malongte**  
Consultant  
Strategies!, Cameroon



**Martino Miraglia**  
Coordinator, SDG Localization and Local Governments Team  
UN-Habitat, Nairobi



**Jacqueline Mogeni**  
Judge of the Environment and Land Court  
Former CEO of the Council of Governors, Kenya



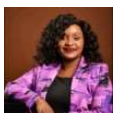
**Nara Monkam** <sup>(V)</sup>  
Associate Professor, Public Economics  
University of Pretoria, South Africa



**Catherine Mumma**  
Senator, Senate Committee on Devolution,  
The Senate of the Republic of Kenya



**Sylvia Murunga**  
Lecturer, Water Sanitation and Hygiene research  
Jomo Kenyatta University Of Agriculture And Technology



**Jacqueline Muthura**  
Water and Sanitation, Local Governance, and Gender Equality Expert  
Co-Chair, LPSA Thematic Working Group on Gender Equity



**Judy Oduma**  
Team Leader, Kenya Devolution Programme (UK Aid)  
Co-Chair, LPSA Regional Working Group for Sub-Saharan Africa



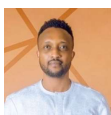
**Steve Ogutu**  
Executive Director and East Africa Coordinator  
Movement for Community-Led Development, Nairobi



**Chris Okeke** <sup>(V)</sup>  
Senior Governance Advisor  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Nigeria



**Con Omoro Osendo**  
Governance Adviser  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Kenya



**Freddy Sahinguvu** <sup>(v)</sup>

PGLR+ Programme Coordinator  
SNV Netherlands Development Organisation



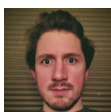
**Mukapa Tembo**

Training Officer  
Chalimbana Local Government Training Institute, Zambia



**Boris Tonhauser**

Director  
PLATFORMA (Council of European Municipalities and Regions)



**Nick Travis**

Researcher and Consultant  
Local Public Sector Alliance



**Rose Camille Vincent** <sup>(v)</sup>

Assistant Professor of Economics, Utrecht University  
LPSA Board of Directors



**Jaap de Visser**, Research Chair in MLG, Law and Development  
Dullah Omar Institute, University of the Western Cape, South Africa  
Co-Chair, LPSA Regional Working Group for Sub-Saharan Africa



**Ketema Wakjira**

Assistant Professor and Head of Center for Federalism and Governance  
Studies of Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



**Kah Walla** <sup>(v)</sup>

Decentralization expert and CEO, STRATEGIES!, Cameroon  
Co-Chair, LPSA Regional Working Group for Sub-Saharan Africa



**Mercy Wangui**

Public Finance Management Officer  
Act! Kenya Devolution Programme, Kenya

<sup>(v)</sup> Signifies virtual (online) participation.

## What does the Local Public Sector Alliance do?

The Local Public Sector Alliance (LPSA) seeks to promote inclusive, equitable societies, and sustainable global development by enhancing the understanding of decentralization and localization as complex, cross-cutting and multi-stakeholder reforms.

LPSA supports evidence-informed multilevel governance reforms and elevates the global debate on public sector decentralization and localization, by (1) advancing the state of knowledge on decentralization and localization and supporting policy reforms by engaging in evidence-based policy analysis; (2) ensuring a more informed, interconnected global Community of Practice, where knowledge sharing takes place across countries, disciplines, institutions and sectors; and (3) engaging in convening, outreach and field building to achieve a larger, more empowered global Community of Practice, with country-level champions well-positioned to champion decentralization and localization reforms.

Our programs are geared towards bringing together—and exchanging knowledge with—stakeholders from a range of different institutions and backgrounds, including central government officials, policy makers, local government officials, sector specialists, academics and researchers, civil society organizations, development partners and citizens.

