



# **e-Governance and Digital Solidarity : *Building Local Agendas in Africa***

## **Aide-Memoire for Participants**

*African Regional Preparatory Forum  
for the Second World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities  
on the Information Society (Bilbao Summit 2005)*

13 – 15 July 2005  
Dakar, Senegal  
Hotel Méridien Président

## Context

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The Dakar Forum is a preparatory meeting for the Second World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on the Information Society (Bilbao Summit 9-11 November 2005).

As a Regional Forum, it targets local authorities in Africa and their main institutional, academic and private partners. This Forum will provide a platform to elaborate concrete projects that could be funded by the Digital Solidarity Fund and presented at the Bilbao and Tunis summits.

Also this Forum will set up a group of experts from Africa who are interested in providing assistance to local authorities in building projects in the field of Information Society.

The Forum will be a link between NEPAD and other institutions. With its thematic and the debates that it will host, the Forum is a milestone allowing African local authorities to position themselves both on the e-governance and digital solidarity themes.

## Objectives

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The objectives of this Forum are:

- To provide a framework for local authorities information society projects. Operational measures, which will be defined during this Forum, are necessary to implement this framework or “e-governance local agendas”.
- To propose to the Digital Solidarity Fund a set of criterias for financing projects meeting local authorities needs. The principles and the operational modalities for the engagement of the Fund will be discussed.
- To define the position of local authorities with the help of the recommendations issued by the Working Group on Internet Governance for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

**Politically** : this Forum mobilizes the representatives of local authorities of Africa and offers a platform for them to commit themselves to the use of ICT in local governance;

**Technically** : this Forum will start the discussions among concerned cities and regions and will invite them to examine the contents and training needs linked to the implementation of e-governance in Africa;

**Operationally** : this Forum will validate relevant projects and will elaborate a programme with a set of priority actions that local authorities of Africa will present at the Bilbao and Tunis summits.

## Programme

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The programme consists of 5 sessions. A limited numbers of speakers are invited to introduce strategic issues on each of the themes. Most of the time will be spent on discussion where participants are invited to share their views in order to elaborate a common framework for concrete Information Society projects.

## Participants

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This Forum is open to any interested person. The target audience is African local authorities as well as their public and private partners, namely:

- Representatives of local authorities: Mayors, Presidents of Regions or municipalities, etc;
- Representatives of international and national associations of African local authorities;
- Government representatives interested in decentralization and the role of local authorities in the field of ICTs;
- Academics and experts;
- African and international entrepreneurs in the field of ICTs;
- Private sector;
- Partners of the decentralized cooperation as well as regional and international cooperation; and
- Civil society and NGOs.