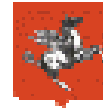




euro-africanpartnership
FOR DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE



**Consiglio regionale
della Toscana**

Seminar

*“The Network of Women Representatives of Local Authority Associations: Moving towards
Decentralization, Good Governance and Innovation”*

**Regional Council of Tuscany
Florence, Italy**

**12 December 2008
14.30-18.00 p.m.**

The recent history of Africa shows that women leaders associations are an important tool for asserting new spaces of freedom and political role of women. The role of women is a decisive condition for addressing major challenges: poverty alleviation, gender equality, family law and access to economic resources as well as participation in political decisions, sexual and reproductive rights, and relations with religion.

The presence of women in governments and local elected assemblies in some African countries is one of the most interesting aspects of the current policy of the continent. Indeed, the role played by women in the African society, their contribution to the development of local self-government processes and democratic participation is of great importance.

The conclusions of the 1st Conference of African Women Leaders in Local Governments, held in Yaoundé last May, highlighted the need to strengthen the association of women leaders in local governments and the urgent request to support this process with strategic alliances and structured south-south and north-south partnerships.

In order to answer this need and continue the work started in the last years, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Regional Council of Tuscany have invited five local administrators representing national associations of local authorities of Niger, Senegal, Ghana, Tanzania, and Uganda to attend a Women Study Tour in Italy. The Study Tour will take place within the framework of the initiative of the Euro-African Partnership for Decentralized Governance.

This path aims at promoting and supporting processes of decentralization and good governance, facilitating the creation of networks of women leaders in local governments. The seminar is therefore an opportunity to exchange experiences and initiate concrete joint works between networks of European and African women leaders in local governments.

The seminar will investigate good practices of European and African women leaders' networks in the process of decentralization and local governments. Furthermore, it will focus on strategies that would strengthen the fabric of the networks, in order to promote good governance, to help fight against poverty and to promote processes of reconciliation and peace.

Building awareness and interest on the role of women leaders in decentralized cooperation, as well as assessing the impact of networks of institutions and administrators on the agendas of government, can represent an added value and become a key driver of expanding forms of participation, governance and innovation.

Programme

Gonfalone Hall

2:30 p.m.

Opening of the Seminar

2.30 – 2.00 p.m.

Official Opening

- **Mr. Riccardo Nencini**, President of the Regional Council of the Tuscany Region
- **Mr. Enrico Cecchetti**, Coordinator of Euro-African Partnership for Decentralized Governance

3.00 – 4.45 p.m.

Round-table

The role of Women Representatives of Local Government Associations to the Decentralized Cooperation and Good Governance: Good Practices and Perspectives in the North-South and South-South Cooperation.

- **Chairperson Ms. Bruna Giovannini**, Regional Counsellor of the Tuscany Region
- **Ms. Neila Akrimi**, VNG International Co-operation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities
- **Ms. Rahamatou A. Kountché Issa**, Municipal Councilor of DAMANA, Regional Councillors President of the Tilabéri Region
- **Ms. Isadora D'Aimmo**, Coordinator of the International Cooperation Group of the Association of the Italian Provinces, UPI
- **Ms. Kasya Josephine**, Chairperson District Kanungu, Uganda
- **Ms. Rita Zampolini**, Equal Opportunities Commission, National Association of Italian Municipalities, ANCI
- **Ms. Janet Edna Nyame**, Vice President of NALAG, Ghana
- **Ms. Astrid Frey**, CITES UNIES France

4.45- 5.00 p.m.

Coffee Break

5.00 - 5.15 p.m.

Discussion

5.15 - 5.45 p.m.

The role of Italian Institutions in the Euro-African Partnership

- **Mr. Massimo Toschi**, Ministry of the Tuscany Region for the International Cooperation, Peace and Reconciliation
- **Mr. Luca Riccardi**, Representatives for Africa, Italian Government
- **Mr. Gianni Martini**, Head of Office III (Central Africa and Great Lakes), DGA, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

5.45 - 6.00 p.m.

Closing of the Seminar

- **Mr. Gherardo Casini**, Head of UN/DESA Office in Rome