



## Africa Smart Cities Network Seminar | June 29, 2021 | Online

### *Summary of Outcomes and Recommendations*

#### **A. Background and Objectives of the Seminar**

WeGO aims to take the initiative to establish its Africa Smart Cities Network (AFSCN) to provide a platform to facilitate conversations, collaboration, and cooperation in enabling the establishment of smart and sustainable cities, towns, and villages in Africa.

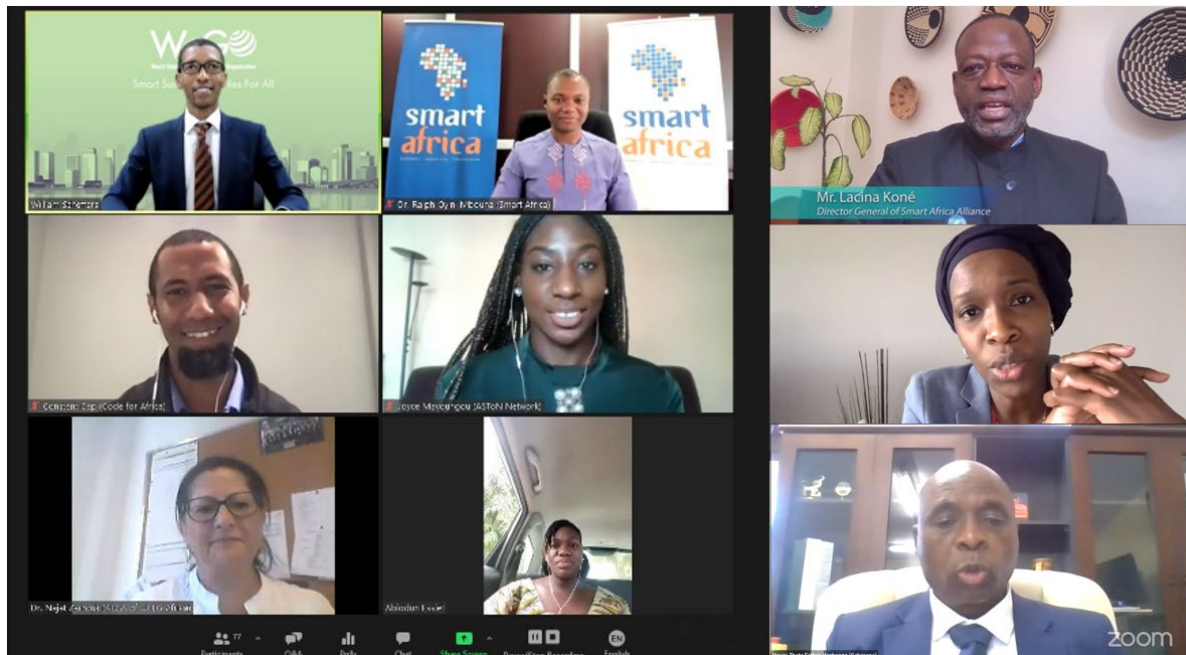
The Seminar held on June 29, 2021, and entitled “*Strengthening Awareness of the Need for Transformational Leadership, Regional Cooperation, and Digital Skills for Smart and Sustainable Communities in Africa*”, was the first event related to the AFSCN initiative. WeGO gathered thought leaders in digital project implementation, capacity building, and regional cooperation to share their knowledge on unlocking Africa’s development potential through smart cities.

The objectives of the Seminar were to:

- Present WeGO’s Africa Smart Cities Network (AFSCN) initiative and secure support
- Share best practice and facilitate discussion on the successes and challenges in leadership, capacity, and cooperation in enabling smart cities in Africa
- Gather feedback from stakeholders on their requirements for the Network
- Hold discussions on developing smart city solutions and approaches for the African context

As a result of this Seminar, WeGO was able to:

- Share knowledge and best practice among key stakeholders and smart city practitioners
- Identify collaboration opportunities and set the direction for further cooperation and exchange on smart communities in Africa under the AFSCN
- Contribute to enhancing the awareness of the necessity of smart communities



**B. Results of Seminar Participant Poll Questions**

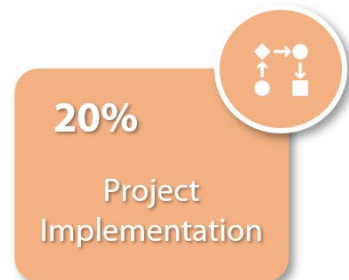
1. "What is the **main challenge** that your city is facing or will face in the future?" (Top three answers)



2. Which **skills** are most important in enabling smart city development in Africa? (Top three answers)



3. What types of **activities** would you like to see WeGO and its partners engage in with your city? (Top three answers)





## C. Main Recommendations from Panel Discussion

### THEME 1. LEADERSHIP

- Acknowledge that digital transformation requires a **revolution of the mindset** starting from the top
  - o Transitioning to knowledge-based economies is where smart cities come into play transforming the human being into the main resource
- Raise awareness of the need to **bring science and technology into processes** to add value
- Institutionalize approaches that do not leave any citizen behind by adhering to the **principles of a just city**: dignity, equity, diversity, rights, responsibility, and democracy
- **Mainstream digital for leaders** at both the local and regional government levels, embedding it in their vision, mission, and activities

### THEME 2. CAPACITY BUILDING

- Accelerate training of **research and development** expertise for local solutions to improve adoption
- Create a larger pool of **African experts** working in smart city solutions and technologies
- Enhance focus on **cybersecurity** in light of the increase of digital government services and associated digital transactions
- Invest in **ethics and the culture of public service** for citizens, communities, and businesses
- Build capacity in the policy design and implementation of the **digitization of public services**

### THEME 3. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

- Formalize **participatory processes** in developing and implementing solutions to ensure sustainability
  - o Solution providers should immerse themselves in the community to fully understand their challenges and needs
  - o Citizens are key sources of unique data that can guide the development of appropriate and effective solutions
- Create solutions that respond to the **local context** to enhance the uptake of digital services and sustainability
  - o Smart solutions for African cities, towns, and villages need to develop while remaining true to the local realities
    - Example: In Kigali, the number solution used in the fight against COVID-19 (450% increase in use) was digital payment services through mobile money

### THEME 4. COOPERATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Build the right solutions by not only **involving all key stakeholders** such as political decision-makers, beneficiaries, funding agencies, communication and evaluation bodies, etc., but also ensuring that each fully understands their roles, takes ownership in the co-design of projects, and is involved in the process from the beginning to the end
- **Identify and collaborate with existing local experts** to benefit from their experience in co-creation and reduce dependence on international technical support



- Ensure that **valid and up to date information is available and accessible** for citizens to be involved in the decision-making process – from the identification of needs through implementation, monitoring, and evaluation
- Adapt and implement at the local government level **existing tools and methodologies** such as citizen budgeting, participatory budgeting, territorial coaching, etc.
- **Realize leave-no-one-behind** by including women, youth, people with disabilities, and marginalized populations



## Annex 1. AFSCN Seminar Program

Time KST (CAT)	Program
<p><b>SESSION 1</b></p> <p>18:00 – 18:25 KST <b>(11:00 – 11:25 CAT)</b></p>	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b> Mr. Kyong-yul Lee Secretary General, <i>WeGO</i></p>
	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b> Mr. Lacine Koné Director General, <i>Smart Africa Alliance</i></p>
	<p><b>Congratulatory Remarks</b> H. E. Yasmin D. Amri Sued Ambassador, <i>Embassy of Rwanda in Korea</i></p>
	<p><b>Congratulatory Remarks</b> Mr. Thata Father Maphongo Mayor, <i>Gaborone City Council</i></p>
<p><b>SESSION 2</b></p> <p>18:25 – 19:06 KST <b>(11:25 – 12:06 CAT)</b></p>	<p><b>Introduction of WeGO and the AFSCN</b> William Scheffers Program Officer, <i>WeGO</i></p>
	<p><b>Unlocking Africa’s potential through smart and sustainable cities – the key role of leadership</b> Dr. Ralph Oyini Head of Digital Transformation, Services, and Innovation, <i>Smart Africa Alliance</i></p>
	<p><b>The importance of digital skills in addressing urban challenges</b> Dr. Najat Zarrouk <i>Director of Development and the African Local Government Academy, UCLG-Africa</i></p>
	<p><b>Regional cooperation and inter-exchange in enabling digitization</b> Joyce Mavoungou Cities Program Officer, <i>Africa Smart Towns Network Secretariat</i></p>
	<p><b>Achieving citizen-centric innovation and impact in the urban space: African smart solutions</b> Constant Cap Senior Product Manager, <i>Code for Africa</i></p>
<p><b>SESSION 3</b></p> <p>19:06 – 19:28 KST <b>(12:06 – 12:28 CAT)</b></p>	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b> Moderator: William Scheffers Discussants: Abiodun Essiet (Director of WeGO Africa Regional Office) Dr. Ralph Oyini Dr. Najat Zarrouk Joyce Mavoungou Constant Cap</p>