African cities are confronted daily with the effects of climate change that exacerbate already sensitive problems. They increasingly see the need to understand climate issues and respond to environmental and socio-economic challenges. Many events on a continental and international scale have already raised the challenges facing African cities. In 2015, the Africities Summit addressed the reinvention of African cities with a view to sustainable development; the Africa Summit of Cities and Regions for Climate proposed to develop and promote a common position on climate change. In 2016, Kampala hosted 450 regional leaders to promote sustainable development. Some thirty cities have developed climate initiatives under the Covenant of Mayors. Without forgetting, the initiatives and experiences of non-state actors that are multiplying on the ground.

The stakes are multiple: to implement concrete projects responding to local needs, to articulate the socio-economic challenges of developing cities and climate issues, to mobilize financial and human resources to innovate and to set up urban development plans adapted to climate change.

The aim is to respond to the many challenges faced by African cities: adaptation to climate change (floods, drought, erosion, food etc.) and anticipation of the growth of cities, urban population while contributing to national mitigation objectives for reducing GHG emissions.

This plenary will attempt to answer the following questions:

- How can urban strategies be developed to increase both the adaptive capacity of cities and mitigate their GHG emissions?
- How can urban strategies balance and find synergies between immediate development priorities and long-term needs for climate resilience?

This plenary session will draw up an inventory of the vulnerabilities, development challenges and local specificities of African cities.
This plenary will be followed by a ceremony (5 to 6 pm) with a large number of local and regional elected representatives from Africa, to present the:

DECLARATION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL ELECTORS OF AFRICA.

Local and regional elected representatives of the African continent, together with the most important international networks of local and regional elected representatives alongside their peers from Europe and around the world, will issue a Declaration in order to strengthen their commitment to combating climate change.