

(d) **Entrenchment of Local Government in national constitutions:**

Whether a country has a constitution or not, democracy would require that there be appropriate legislation that ensures that individual gatekeepers do not temper with the law of the nation. The example of South Africa and Uganda is something that any serious government committed to promoting local democracy should emulate. In fact there is a lot that commonwealth governments have to do in order to empower communities beyond the "Declarations rhetoric". At present the trend is to make decisions but without a binding system that ensures implementation of such decisions.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I urge that as commonwealth countries are engaged in developing sustainable local government systems, we should commit ourselves to the application of the following guiding principles for sustainable development that have been derived from expressed concerns of local communities world-wide:

- * An integral, cross sectoral approach that includes, economic, ecological and social concerns.
- * Participation and transparency, that involves all major groups of society (as well as participants that do not necessarily belong to formal or informal organisations) in local government planning and makes information about sustainable development easily accessible to the general public.
- * Partnerships that build collective responsibility into planning, decision making, problem solving, project implementation and evaluation. These should essentially include a global dimension of North/South and global local links that forms an integral part of local activities.
- * Accountability that holds that all stakeholders are answerable for their actions.
- * A systematic approach that addresses the underlying causes of problems and the entire systems that are affected rather than just problem symptoms.
- * Equity and justice, that provide opportunities and human rights that are essential to sustainable social and economic development.
- * More importantly, we must commit ourselves to sharing our experiences and learn from one another via international municipal cooperation in partnership with our national, regional and international associations of local government.
- * The impact of globalisation, urbanisation and economic growth on local government in the commonwealth.
- * Urbanisation and macro economic reforms.
- * Urban development planning in developing commonwealth states, financing urban development and infrastructure.
- * Local government politics and governance.
- * Financial management, investment evaluation, managing urban systems and strategic planning in urban management.