

**UCLG's Capacity and Institution Building Working Group**  
Final work plan 2022

**Overarching goal:** UCLG's Capacity and Institution Building (CIB) Working Group aims to advance the effectiveness and quality of international policies and programs of local and regional governments and their associations. The CIB achieves its purpose by exchanging knowledge and information, enabling coordination and cooperation among its members and within UCLG.

**Who are the CIB members?** The CIB Working Group is a voluntary community of practitioners, members of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), who are engaged in international development cooperation.

**How does the CIB work contribute to Agenda2030?** The work of the CIB Working Group contributes to SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 16 (inclusive institutions on all levels) and SDG 17 (international partnerships) in particular. Additionally, special focus is placed on advancing on SDG 5 (gender equality and women's empowerment).

**Main activities in 2022:**

- Finalisation of new Policy paper on Development Cooperation & Local Governments
- Coaching of Local Government Associations with regard to Voluntary Subnational Reviews (SDG reporting)
- Roll-out of module 4 and possibly development of related MOOCs or other pedagogical materials
- Piloting the set-up of a gender knowledge hub
- CIB annual meeting 2022 in June, hybrid format in Sint Niklaas, Belgium
- Strengthening the membership and installing the new leadership of CIB in a consultative way involving the membership to jointly support the way forward as to our internal governance
- Active presence at the UCLG retreat with workshops on the policy paper and the VSR by LGAs
- Active presence at (and in the run-up to) the UCLG World Congress 2022 in Daejeon, Korea

**Financial contributors to CIB in 2022:** UCLG (through its EU and Sida grants), City of Barcelona, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Generalitat de Catalunya and VNG International.

## Detailed description of orientations and activities in 2022<sup>1</sup>

### Implementation

- The CIB working group will continue its activities aimed at **information exchange between members**, through CIB and UCLG channels (i.e. UCLG newsletter, CIB newsletter, CIB circulars, CIB WhatsApp group, CIB LinkedIn and CIB Twitter). In 2022, we will develop a **communication strategy** which should help us to improve our communication efforts, with the ultimate aim of better showcasing what members and UCLG are doing in the field of international cooperation.
- The CIB secretariat will organize the 2022 Annual Meeting in-person in Sint Niklaas in Belgium, on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June, with some online sessions for the members who are unable to join physically on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June. This year's Annual Meeting will be co-organized with VVSG. Possible topics for the CIB annual meeting (suggested by members) include: climate change (incl. engaging citizens), VSR reporting, self-evaluations (as a M&E tool), capacity building & financing, digitalization and a validation of the UCLG-CIB policy paper. CIB will make sure to closely cooperate with the World Secretariat in order to ensure contributions to UCLG's priority for 2022 and to ensure global representation.
- Following CIB's previous engagements in the **SDG VSR reporting process**, the UCLG GOLD team has requested CIB to play a larger role in 2022. CIB will engage in the following activities:
  - Evaluation and projection workshop/session on last year's process
  - Launch of new VSR trajectory with participation of 10 LGAs from: Sri Lanka, Pakistan, The Philippines, Cameroun, Botswana, Côte-d'Ivoire, Italy, The Netherlands, Argentina and Uruguay
    - Introducing of the guidelines to the new group of LGAs in a kick-off workshop; create space for discussion and mutual learning for the group of LGAs
    - Organizing a session at the UCLG Retreat in Barcelona in February 2022, to inform UCLG regional sections about the ongoing process and see how they can involve their members in this work in the coming years
    - Organization of 2-3 other workshops with the participating LGAs, further on in the process
    - Coaching of 3 of the participating LGAs. Based on the network and (language) skills of the CIB secretariat's SDG experts, we will coach Sri Lanka, The Philippines and Cameroon.
- Co-organization of the Forum of Local Government Associations at the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon, Korea, together with LGA members of CIB (FCM, VVSG and UMT among others).

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<sup>1</sup> All activities described in this work plan are subject to available funding.

## Policy

- Conclude and disseminate the work on the successor to the '**Development Cooperation and Local Government**' (2013) **policy paper**, for which the research and development has progressed rapidly in 2021. The draft policy paper is on schedule to be presented to the UCLG Executive Bureau in 2022. The efforts will particularly be focused on further transforming the preparatory 2021 research paper into a policy paper, which includes viewpoints from all parts of the world.
- Connect the findings and recommendations from the policy paper to **the Townhall and Assembly processes** towards the Congress, as well as contributions towards the **Pact for the Future**, while monitoring the place of development cooperation as strategic priority for the world organization in the upcoming mandate of the Organization. The policy paper should also articulate contributions to the Global Partnership for Development Effectiveness.
- **Co-organisation of multiple consultations and high-level dialogues on the findings of the draft policy paper**, in the run-up to the UCLG World Congress in Korea. These sessions will be strongly connected to the **UCLG Policy Council on Opportunities for All and the Townhall track 'trust and governments'**. CIB will also cooperate closely with **PLATFORMA** through its Cluster on National Focal Points.
- CIB will continue to feed into **UCLG's (other) advocacy work**, with special focus on gender, Agenda 2030 and the new urban agenda.

## Learning

- The CIB Working Group will continue to support and contribute to the roll-out of the UCLG-PLATFORMA **Module 4 on the SDGs and development cooperation**, and contribute to the development of related learning materials, such as a **MOOC directly targeted at practitioners working in international cooperation programmes**.
- The CIB Working Group is expected to launch a study specifically focused at identifying **innovative and successful international cooperation practices** from the city perspective, with additional financing of the City of Barcelona. This study will present case studies on decentralized cooperation initiatives contributing to international agendas.
- The CIB Working Group will explore the set-up of a '**gender knowledge hub**' within CIB, together with FCM, following the long engagement and various discussions within CIB on this topic. The knowledge hub should help facilitate more regular exchange among members and act as a space for innovation and learning. The CIB secretariat will also explore how to **contribute to the SDG 5 learning materials, based on the knowledge and materials gathered in the hub**, which UCLG will develop in the second semester.

### Strengthening the UCLG network

- The CIB secretariat will update members on UCLG's calendar, **stimulating large participation of CIB members at relevant/key events**, including the UCLG World Congress in Korea (10-14 October 2022) and UCLG Africa's Africities (17-21 May 2022).
- The CIB secretariat will further contribute to the development of specific spaces within UCLG Meets in accordance with the activities of the permanent working group.
- Following the participation of several related networks and working groups in the CIB activities in previous years and the ideas for joint activities in 2022 mentioned above, the CIB Working Group secretariat will explore possibilities of future partnerships with other actors and parts of the UCLG family. In particular contributions to the intermediary cities agenda will be explored.
- CIB plans to mobilise CIB member involvement in the **finalisation of the GOLD VI report** on inequalities, among others through a presentation/discussion at the CIB annual meeting.
- CIB will continue to contribute to the global priorities of the Organization reflected in the work plan and will support the identification and documentation of practices through **UCLG Observatories, platforms and Local4Action Hubs**.

### CIB governance

- Many members have not seen each other for two years in a row. Furthermore, in the past two years, quite a lot of active CIB members have left their organisations and/or retired. Therefore, the CIB secretariat will make a **large effort to reconnect with current members and meet possible new members in 2022**, at UCLG events, through online conversations and at events of CIB members.
- 2022 will see the **renewal of the CIB leadership**, as both of the chairs will have left by Summer 2022. The CIB secretariat will consult with UCLG as well as members on how to best fill up the gap and move forward. Once the new leadership is installed, the secretariat will make sure to help the leadership get up to speed with all relevant activities, relations and other developments.