

UCLG's Capacity and Institution Building Working Group

Work plan 2020

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.

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.

The work of the CIB Working Group contributes to SDG 16 (inclusive institutions on all levels) and SDG 17 (international partnerships) in particular. Additionally, special focus is placed on advancing on SDG (gender equality and women's empowerment).

Priorities 2018 – 2020

- 1 General **information exchange** related to policies and programs implemented by CIB members and fostering of **coordination** among CIB members to avoid overlap and to create synergies
- 2 Building a common **knowledge base and learning community** on programming methodologies to contribute to a more effective programme approach
- 3 Support the implementation of and reporting on **international policies**
- 4 Support the development of a **shared narrative and building evidence**, to feed lobby and advocacy efforts and increase recognition of the role of local government in development cooperation.
- 5 Alignment and collaboration with **UCLG**

Orientations & activities in 2020¹

1. Main activities of the CIB Working Group in 2020, organized according to the main components of UCLG's strategic priorities

Please note: CIB will make sure to make all CIB activities for 2020 more gender-sensitive in its set-up.

A. Implementation

- Continuation of facilitation of regular communication and knowledge exchange, through its bi-monthly newsletter, website, social media channels and the CIB networking Whatsapp group, among other.
- Organization of 2020 CIB annual meeting, in close collaboration with the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) and the city of Sint-Niklaas, which will host next years' meeting from 15-17 June 2019. Break-out sessions will be dedicated to the topics of innovative financing, monitoring & evaluation, gender and the urban agenda.
- Continuation of organization of country coordination, in view of higher development effectiveness, through the set-up of conference calls per country or region. CIB members agree on the need for further discussions on synergies between the different local government development cooperation programmes in the same country or region, with strong involvement of the national local government association.

Short list of countries for calls:

- Nepal (May 2020)
- Mozambique (September/October 2020)
- Sahel country (TBC) (December 2020)

Additionally, CIB will also stimulate follow-up to the SALGA coordination meeting which we organized at the UCLG world congress, in early 2020.

- Continuation of organization of several thematic webinars, with speakers from different (CIB member) organizations. Webinars will cover both policy developments and practical project experiences.

Suggested topics:

- Influence of COVID 19 on international programming (for directors and managers) (March/April 2020)
- Gender (April/May 2020; in EN and FR)
- Innovative financing (September 2020)
- Climate (November 2020; connected to COP 26)

Note: topics of webinars also stand central in the agenda of the CIB annual meeting, to ensure interconnectivity and more in-depth discussions on certain topics.

¹ All activities described in this work plan are subject to available funding.



- Buildi • Providing of support to LGAs reporting to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2020, including 3 webinars (EN, FR and ES) on Sustainable Development Goals' reporting, for Local Government Associations (based on UCLG's module 3), in coordination with UCLG Learning and UCLG Research teams.

B. Advocacy

- In 2020, the CIB Working Group will commit to the writing of a successor to the policy paper 'Development Cooperation and Local Government' (2013), in view of the international agendas adopted since 2015, and other developments, and in consultation with other committees and working groups of UCLG.
- In 2020, the CIB Working Group will also explore the set-up of a policy paper on capacity building gaps of local government (associations) with regard to attracting innovative financing. We will make sure to link this to the work being done by PLATFORMA and UCLG where relevant and possible.
- Furthermore, CIB will pay continued attention to the national advocacy work of members, on international agendas. The CIB meeting of 2019 showed that members stand ready to exchange good practices and lessons learnt with regard to their structured policy dialogue with central governments.
- CIB will continue to feed into UCLG's advocacy work, with special focus on gender, Agenda 2030, the new urban agenda, climate (COP 26) and local financing.
- CIB will explore the options for renewing the UCLG/CIB champions programme within the UCLG governance system, with special attention for female leaders, to promote the global agendas and the policy documents developed by the working group.

C. Monitoring and follow-up

- The CIB Working Group will continue facilitating/contributing to peer evaluations in 2020. CIB members acknowledge that external evaluations of their local government development cooperation programmes often do not grasp the specificity of working with local and regional governments and therefore do not show the real impact of these programmes. As a continuation of the work started in 2019, the CIB will support VVSG (Association of Flemish cities and municipalities) in its peer evaluation of the VVSG program in Morocco. This evaluation will provide space for up to two CIB members to participate in the evaluation. The CIB secretariat will share the experiences and results of both peer reviews with the CIB network (at CIB annual meeting and/or online).
- By the end of 2020, the CIB secretariat will work with members to identify the next possibility for a peer evaluation, within our network. The second round of peer reviews will lead to the development of documentation and approach for other types of external evaluations. This should be ready for distribution at the end of 2021.
- Evaluations of the 2019 CIB annual meeting showed that members had wished for more exchange on trends and developments in monitoring and evaluation. We will pay special attention to this in the set-up of the 2020 annual meeting.

D. Learning

- A strong effort will be made to contribute to UCLG's SDG learning module 4 on SDGs and decentralized cooperation, as many CIB members are discussing integration of the SDGs in international capacity building programmes, or have already done so.
- Following the organization of the forum for local government associations in Durban, the CIB Working Group and LGA forum will continue to facilitate exchange among CEOs and Presidents of LGAs within the world organization. CIB and the LGA forum will transform the draft LGA declaration produced in the run-up to the UCLG world congress into a paper on 'LGAs of the future'.
- Active dissemination of the CIB gender publication, to which 10 CIB members contributed. Follow-up will also be given in the dedicated webinar and at the CIB annual meeting. All case studies will feature in the CIB newsletters.

E. Strengthening the UCLG network

- Following the UCLG world congress in Durban, the CIB secretariat will see how to further disseminate and build on the GOLD V report, the advice of the UBUNTU group and other relevant outcomes and publications.
- The CIB secretariat will update members on UCLG's calendar, stimulating high participation of CIB members at relevant/key events, such as the World Urban Forum and the High Level Political Forum.
- Following the participation of several related networks and working groups in the CIB activities in 2019, the CIB Working Group secretariat will explore how to more structurally align work and efforts with such organizations (e.g. DeLoG, Metropolis, regional UCLG sections)
- The CIB Working Group will continue to support the development of UCLG's lobby and advocacy actions, with special focus on the work in the field of gender. Additionally, CIB will continue to feed into the development of the UCLG gender strategy (and the broader process), by sharing concrete examples and experiences from development programmes with the UCLG secretariat and leadership.
- Associations of local governments account for around 85% of the active membership of CIB, as opposed to 15% cities. CIB members and the secretariat commit to further reaching out to cities next year, both in terms of participation at the CIB annual meeting, and at other events. The services provided by the secretariat will also be diversified, to be able to better serve cities. CIB will explore options to organize a session at the Metropolis meeting in Guangzhou (October 2020, TBC).

2. Sustainable leadership and financing of CIB

- Peter Knip, director of VNG International, has indicated that he is happy to continue as chair of the CIB Working Group. Sebastien Hamel, Executive Director of FCM Programs, will also remain co-chair in 2020.

- Both chairs did raise the issue of sustainability of the CIB Working Group at the CIB annual meeting 2019. The CIB secretariat will explore different scenarios for the years to come, in this regard. This includes looking into new ways of financing of the CIB Working Group.

How to get the most out of CIB as a project manager?

- **Receive updates** on trends, developments and good practices within the local government development cooperation sector, by subscribing to the CIB newsletter and other mailing lists and regularly checking the website (www.cib-uclg.org)
- **Participate in CIB activities** (webinars, coordination calls, CIB annual meeting) as project manager, and learn what your colleagues (practitioners working in local government development cooperation) are doing in their projects, how donor organizations are changing their focus and how the policy work of UCLG connects to the project work in the field. N.B. we also encourage you to invite your project partners/beneficiaries to actively participate in CIB activities, as a means for learning, exchange and capacity building.
- **Showcase good practices and lessons learnt** from specific projects, in CIB webinars, country coordination calls and at the CIB annual meeting, or in the studies which CIB produces. This gives visibility to your work and provides you with an opportunity to exchange with colleagues on the bottlenecks, opportunities and challenges you encounter.
- **Make use of the results of studies** carried out by CIB, such as a recent gender publication (including case studies from projects in different countries in the world) and a study on SDG reporting by Local Government Associations. These are important and useful tools, when working with Local Government Associations/Local Governments in other countries, and can also serve as inspiration for project design and implementation.

Do you want to build a connection between 'your' project and the CIB working group? Please get in touch by sending an email to uclg.cib@vng.nl