

# **Capacity Institution Building Working Group**

## **Work plan for the period 2008-2010**

### **1. Background**

The Capacity and Institution Building (CIB) Working Group of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) brings together professional practitioners from Local Government Associations (LGAs) and individual cities active in the field of Municipal International Cooperation (MIC), Association Capacity Building (ACB), and local government and public sector reform programmes (LGR). The CIB Working Group is the successor to the CIB Platform that had previously been formed within the International Union of Local Authorities.

The CIB Working Group of UCLG serves as a technical resource base for the political committees of UCLG, such as the Committees on Decentralised Co-operation, City Diplomacy and the Millennium Development Goals. Its participants provide the UCLG political committees with access to a pool of technical support and practical experience that can be used to help inform the development of documents, policies or activities being proposed by the UCLG political committees that might relate to municipal international cooperation (MIC) or association capacity building (ACB).

The Technical Chair of the Working Group is Peter Knip, Director of VNG International and the Technical Vice Chair is Tim Kehoe, Director of FCM's International Centre for Municipal Development.

### **2. Objectives**

The objectives of the CIB working group are to:

- Exchange experiences, best practises and know how in order to improve the quality of the work of associations of municipalities and individual cities in this field;
- Contribute where possible to better co-ordination and fine-tuning of the work that associations of municipalities and individual cities are doing;
- Attract and secure external donor funding for developing, managing and implementing MIC, ACB or LGR projects and programmes on a bilateral or multilateral basis;
- Give professional advice where appropriate to the political committees of UCLG on Decentralised Co-operation, City Diplomacy and the Millennium Development Goals;
- Develop and stimulate professional working methods and codes of conduct for organisations involved in MIC, ACB and LGR projects and programmes.

The CIB Working Group is responsible for enriching the discussion among local government practitioners and is intended to undertake activities that will help inform and

add value to the work of UCLG's political Committees. The Working Group is also responsible for fostering dialogue and coordination amongst members involved in development cooperation initiatives.

### **3. General Priorities, 2008-2010**

General priorities for the CIB Working Group are:

- To facilitate exchange of know how and experience on capacity and institution building of local governments and their associations between member organisations of UCLG in order to enhance the quality of this work and to contribute to donor coordination and aid effectiveness;
- To establish a good working relationship with the UCLG world secretariat in order to contribute modestly to the following priorities identified in the UCLG Programme of Activities for 2005-2007: 1.2 Increase the role of local government in the global development agenda; 2.1 Contribute to the strengthening of the capacity of local governments and their associations; 2.2 Promote the principles of good local governance through support to networks of local elected representatives and cities; 2.3 Be the primary source of information and intelligence concerning local government; 3.3 Develop an effective exchange of information with the members;
- To cooperate more intensively with the Committees on Decentralized Cooperation, City Diplomacy and MDG's and ensure that there is proper reciprocal communication between the UCLG Committees and the professional Working Group representatives; in order to be better informed of the work of the various Committees and Working Groups and possible opportunities to complement each other's work.

### **4. Activities**

For the period 2008-2010, the CIB Working Group will focus on the following activities:

- *Annual Meetings of the CIB Working Group:* Annual meetings will be hosted by members of the CIB Working Group on a rotational basis, with preparation of the meeting agenda and minutes handled by the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretariat. The next year's meeting is scheduled for April 2009, in Barcelona (host: Diputació Barcelona).
- *Information sharing:* Set up guidelines which define eligible content and access rules (open versus members-only sections) for the UCLG CIB compendium and website. Systematically update the compendium of key tools and publications (every 6 months) that have been developed and used by members of the CIB working group in their ACB and MIC programs. Enhance the CIB knowledge sharing platform on the UCLG website in order to facilitate access to the compendium and its associated documents.

- *Policy/advocacy:*
  - Revise and finalize the position paper on the value and role of local governments and their associations in development cooperation, in particular taking into account the emerging aid effectiveness agenda (i.e. the Paris Declaration). This paper will include feedback from the South and case studies on MIC and ACB practices.
  - Work on the development of common indicators for local governance capacity building.
  - Prepare and propose to the Decentralised Cooperation Committee a coordinated advocacy strategy to guide lobbying activities towards individual donors, the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness of the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
  - An identified task group will assist the UCLG Committee on Decentralized Cooperation in enriching and re-drafting the Charter on Decentralized Cooperation. The Charter is to be presented, discussed and communicated in Istanbul at the occasion of the World Council (28-30 November, 2008).
  - Develop a UCLG policy statement on Association Capacity Building in order to promote the understanding of the important role of LGAs, building on the existing paper “Local Government Associations in a Changing World” presented in Africities (2006).
  
- *ACB-MIC Capacity Development Conference:* The CIB Working Group members will jointly plan and organize a global knowledge sharing workshop on MIC/ACB in The Hague, June or September 2009 that will be designed to foster dialogue and share knowledge and best practices amongst northern and southern cities and LGAs.
  
- *Program coordination:* CIB Working Group members that have been identified as focal points will take a leadership role in strengthening coordination and harmonization among LGA implementing agencies working in the same southern country. Such coordination will be piloted in four countries with the following LGA leads: Mali - Cités Unies France/AMM; Ghana – VNG/NALAG; Nicaragua – FCM/AMUNIC; Burkina Faso – UVCW/AMBF. The LGAs identified as focal points will, together with the host LGA, help coordinate the sharing of information on country strategies, sector analyses, current programming, etc. and identify opportunities for joint program planning, delivery and monitoring. Each six months, the lead LGAs will prepare a progress report card.
  
- *Code of Ethics:* Develop an international professional code for organizations involved in MIC, ACB and LGR programs.

July 10, 2008