

Narrative report January – December 2022
UCLG Capacity and Institution Building (CIB) Working Group

Implementation

- The CIB secretariat arranged for **regular communication to and with the CIB membership** throughout the year. We published 4 CIB newsletters, including many news items from members themselves, and a special edition on the UCLG world congress, various circulars and were also active in the CIB whatsapp group and on social media. We closely collaborated with the UCLG communication team on all of these products.
- Towards the UCLG world congress we produced different **CIB communication materials**, including the UCLG-CIB policy paper (see ‘advocacy’) and its executive summary (flyer), a video on the new on the policy paper and a flyer on SDG reporting, together with UCLG GOLD and UCLG learning.
- On 8 and 9 June, 45 practitioners from local governments and their associations traveled to Sint-Niklaas, Belgium, for the first in-person **CIB annual meeting** since september 2019, hosted by the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) and the municipality of Sint-Niklaas. CIB members really appreciated to catch up with each other in-person, ongoing programmes and donor developments.
- During the meeting former CIB chair Peter Knip handed over to Dr. Neila Akrimi, senior manager at VNG International and director of CILG-VNG International as new chair of the CIB working group. Pascal Lavoie, director International and Governance and Social Inclusion Programs at FCM, was installed as co-chair. Throughout the year, the CIB working group secretariat made a strong effort to inform the **new leadership** on all ongoing CIB matters, in regularly calls.
- UCLG GOLD/research and CIB have joined forces again with regard to **Voluntary Subnational Reporting (VSRs)**; reporting on the SDGs by national associations. CIB co-organized workshops for associations involved in VSRs this year, and coached associations where necessary. In addition, CIB led the organization of a VSR/SDG reporting side event at the UCLG world congress and was strongly involved in the MOOC on VSRs, and one of the editors of the other MOOCs.

Advocacy

- A major activity in 2022 has been the drafting of a **new UCLG-CIB policy paper on development cooperation and local governments**, after the edition of 2013. Since 2013, the context has changed drastically so we felt the need to revise the paper to understand the new challenges of decentralised cooperation as a policy for local change and international partnership as well as contribute to a constructive vision to enhance Local Authorities innovative role in international relations and in particular in development cooperation.. The final draft was constructed with various members and partners, through regional workshops among other methods such as analyzing large amounts of complex data/information, to make sure we produced a truly global policy paper. The paper is a conversation starter for dialogues with other

local governments, national governments, the international community and other development partners. The policy paper was adopted by the UCLG world council in Daejeon.

Learning

- During the drafting process of the policy paper, real efforts were made to link learning, research and policy despite the complexity of the task. **Regional papers** on development cooperation by local governments, which were outputs from Trainings of Trainers organized by UCLG Learning, did serve as important inputs.
- In Fall, we hired a consultant to carry out a **study on the role of cities and local authorities in international cooperation for global justice**, with the financial support of the city of Barcelona. The objective of the study was to map and identify the cities that most strongly implement this format of international cooperation, as well as the different visions, modalities and instruments used. The research looks into:
 - Types of activities: Technical cooperation in the field of urban management, financial support to NGOs or other cooperation actors, support for direct or advocacy activities for the protection of human rights and environmental defenders, cooperation work within the framework of international networks and general of cities, or in specific or sectorial networks..
 - Level of economic resources effort and human resources participation. Implementing initiatives through delegated cooperation in coordination with LGAs, central government or EU initiatives. Local competences and political autonomy in their international cooperation and awareness of global challenges policy.
 - Recent historical evolution of Local Authorities International Cooperation. Highlight 2-4 reference examples.

A first draft is available, based on in-depth interviews with the following 10 cities: Brugge, Berlin, Vienna, The Hague, Barcelona, Medellín, Amman, Malmö, Jakarta and Bologna.

We have agreed to take a little more time for the study, to be able to enlarge the number of respondents, to ensure a global scope and build the necessary fundament for a city-to-city cooperation knowledge hub within CIB. This hub should serve extensive knowledge exchange on all forms of international partnerships and policies of local governments, as well as learning and advocacy. The CIB leadership aims to use this hub to attract more individual cities to the working group, aside from the many local government associations active in CIB.

- Advancing equality has been a key priority for CIB for many years. CIB now wants to take a next step, with the support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and try to consolidate work that has already been done by local governments and their associations in this field. The CIB leadership and secretariat have started defining the concept of a **Gender Knowledge Hub**, together with colleagues from the Government of Catalonia, the UCLG



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Learning Team, Metropolis, DeLoG, the Association Nationale des Communes du Bénin, the National League of Communes of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities, the Local Government Association of Zambia and the National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana. Together we came to the following definition:

The CIB Gender Knowledge Hub is a global collaborative platform for CIB members and partners, which should help strengthen the Feminist Municipal Movement. It will be a space through which local government elected officials and staff, and their associations, can advance their efforts to achieve gender equality at local level. The hub will consist of at least two components:

- an interactive online library that will function as a dynamic and curated repository of resources, regularly updated and organized by categories*
- a space of dialogue, connection and collaboration for local government practitioners and activists within the municipal movement.*

First concrete activities which will take place within the CIB gender knowledge hub:

- **A champion program for female local elected leaders** to increase their capacities and opportunities to contribute to the global feminist municipal movement.
- **A toolkit to equip Local Government Association's (LGA)** with material and tools available to mainstream gender equality in local policies, programs and actions –with a focus on the provision of gender-sensitive public services.
- **An improved access for LGAs and local leaders to existing evidence and research** about the impact of gender mainstreaming in LRG's affairs.

A more elaborate work plan for the period 2022-2024 has been developed in Q1 of 2023, and will be disseminated to the CIB members at the CIB annual meeting in Marrakech in May 2023, for feedback and validation.

Strengthening the UCLG network

- The CIB Working Group secretariat was present at the **CIB annual retreat** in Barcelona to align its plans and priorities to the work of the world secretariat and to other consultation mechanisms. CIB co-organised a meeting on VSR reporting at the event, and presented some first findings from the policy paper on development cooperation in plenary, for feedback from GTF members and other partners.
- The CIB Working Group was very actively present at the **UCLG world congress in Daejeon**, on which we also communicated a lot to the CIB members (beforehand and afterwards). CIB was involved in the organization of the following side events/activities:

Policy paper

- Adopting of the UCLG-CIB policy paper on development cooperation in the World Council- preparation of Chair of SALGA to present the paper
- Preparing and presenting of motions with members to achieve more explicit mentioning of decentralized cooperation/development cooperation in the Pact for the Future (and succeeding strategic plan of UCLG)
- Side event with UCLG learning on the findings from the regional papers on development cooperation, incl. short presentation of the new paper by chair of CIB Dr. Neila Akrimi.



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Other

- Co-organisation of side event on feminist municipalism, in which we launched the CIB gender equality & inclusive governance hub partnership.
 - Co-organisation of the Local Government Associations Forum (LGA Forum), with GAOK and other active LGAs. This side event provided for exchange between CEOs and Presidents of various LGAs, on different crises (health, social inequalities, climate emergency)
 - Co-organisation of the VSR side event with UCLG GOLD and UCLG learning, including preparation of a promotional flyer.
- Throughout the year, we have been in contact with partner network **DeLoG** on different occasions. CIB was present at the DeLoG Knowledge Week and DeLoG traveled to the CIB annual meeting, among other encounters. Both networks see a lot of value of cooperating together closely. We will therefore continue to explore collaboration throughout 2023.