

CITIES ALLIANCE ORGANISATION

The year under review saw some significant structural changes in the Cities Alliance organisation. Four new bilateral members—Chile, the Commonwealth of Australia, Spain, and the Philippines joined the Consultative Group, as did the umbrella organisation for slum dwellers, Shack/Slum Dwellers international (SDI).

The main feature of the Manila Consultative Group meeting was the MTS 2008–10, which was subsequently adopted with minor amendments. As part of the evaluation process, the role and composition of the Steering Committee and the Policy Advisory Board were reviewed. The role of the Steering Committee was enhanced through its transformation into an Executive Committee. It will now be able to provide policy guidance to the secretariat, as well as review and approve the secretariat’s budget and staffing. For the duration of the MTS, this new Executive Committee will be chaired by UCLG.

For the Policy Advisory Board the consensus was to retain it but re-direct its focus to an advocacy—rather than policy or advisory—function.



Courtesy: SDI

South African slum-dweller in Mankhurd, India

Shack/Slum Dwellers International

In an historic step, SDI—a network of federations of the urban poor—joined the Cities Alliance Consultative Group. This was one of the outcomes of the Secretariat’s August 2007 meeting with the SDI Council of Federations in Stellenbosch (Cape Town, South Africa). Following that meeting, SDI canvassed support for membership among a number of Cities Alliance members, including Brazil, South Africa, DFID, USAID, and Norway (which sponsored SDI’s membership). All of those members responded positively. SDI currently has affiliates in more than 20 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. SDI President Jockin Arputham led the SDI delegation to the Manila Consultative Group meetings.

Laying the groundwork for this membership was SDI’s partnership with Cities Alliance in coordinating a donors meeting in London in October 2007. Representatives from the Cities Alliance, the Ford Foundation, the Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, Norway, USAID, and DFID met to share detailed information on individual programmes of support to SDI and to discuss ways in which the organisations represented could better collaborate to improve the quality of support to SDI.

The Consultative Group

The Consultative Group—the Cities Alliance’s board of directors—is responsible for setting the Alliance’s long-term strategy, approving its annual work programme and budget, and reviewing its achievements. The Consultative Group consists of financial contributors to the Cities Alliance Trust Fund and the political heads of UCLG and Metropolis, who have pledged their commitment to achieving Cities Alliance goals. By tradition, the Consultative Group is co-chaired by representatives of the Alliance cofounders, the World Bank and UN-HABITAT. Prospective financial contributors may serve as associate members for two years.

Meetings

Consultative Group meetings are held annually in conjunction with public policy forums (PPFs) designed to share cities knowledge and experiences. The PPFs also present opportunities for advocacy on key policy orientations and standards of practice in areas related to the Alliance’s goals. The following Consultative Group meetings have so far been held:

Berlin, December 1999—Inaugural meeting at which the Cities Without Slums action plan was launched under the patronage of President Nelson Mandela, and the charter of the Cities Alliance and its 2000 work programme were approved.

Montréal, June 2000—First Public Policy Forum (“Political Dimensions of Support for Cities”). The Consultative Group reviewed the application guidelines, and approved Cities Alliance Vision statement.

Rome, December 2000—Second Public Policy Forum (“Local Partnerships: Moving to Scale”). Consultative Group approved amendments to the Cities Alliance charter, the 2001 work programme, and procedures to establish the Policy Advisory Board and the Steering Committee.

Kolkata, December 2001—Third Public Policy Forum (“Sustainable Partnerships for City Development”). Consultative Group reviewed procedures for the first independent evaluation of the Cities Alliance, and approved of the 2002 work programme.

Brussels, October 2002—Panel discussion at the European Commission (“Achieving the Millennium Development Goal of Cities Without Slums”). Consultative Group reviewed of the independent evaluation of the Cities Alliance, and approved the 2003 work programme.

São Paulo, October 2003—Fourth Public Policy Forum (“Sustainable Financing Strategies for Cities and Financial Services for the Urban Poor”). Consultative Group approved procedures for developing country membership in the Consultative Group, and approved of the 2004 work programme.

eThekweni, November 2004—Fifth Public Policy Forum (“Making City Development Strategies Come Alive in South Africa”). Consultative Group approved new Policy Advisory Board members, and approved of the 2005 work programme.

Marrakech, November 2005—Sixth Public Policy Forum (“Morocco’s Cities Without Slums Programme”). Consultative Group reviewed procedures for the second independent evaluation of the Cities Alliance, and approved of the 2006 work programme.

Washington, D.C., November 2006—Seventh Public Policy Forum (“Environment, Poverty and Development in an Urbanising World”). Consultative Group discussed and approved the findings of the second independent evaluation.

Manila, Philippines, November 2007—Eighth Public Policy Forum (“Leveraging Resources for Liveable Cities”). Consultative Group reviewed and discussed the new MTS 2008–10, the restructuring of the Steering Committee as the Executive Committee, and decision to redefine and restructure the Policy Advisory Board.

Consultative Group Members as of June 30, 2008

Local authorities

- United Cities and Local Governments
- Metropolis

Governments

- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada



Courtesy: Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Manila, the Philippines.

Vice President of the Philippines, Manuel Noli de Castro, Jr. with Inga Bjork-Klevby, Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT and other guests at the opening of the Manila PPF.

- Chile
- Ethiopia
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- The Netherlands
- Nigeria
- Norway
- The Philippines
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- United States

Multilateral Development Organisations

- Asian Development Bank
- United Nations Environment Programme
- UN-HABITAT
- World Bank

The Executive Committee

Set up by the Consultative Group, the strengthened Executive Committee is charged with providing guidance to the work programme of the secretariat. The first meeting of the committee was held in Trondheim, Norway, where it formally approved amendments to the MTS.

Executive Committee members as of June 2008 are: UCLG (chair), ADB, Brazil, France, Nigeria, Norway, UN-HABITAT, and the World Bank.

Update on the Policy Advisory Board

Comprising eminent urban experts from each region, the Policy Advisory Board of the Cities Alliance was designed to provide guidance to the Consultative Group on key strategic, policy, and regional issues and to support the implementation of Cities Alliance activities.

However, part of the recommendation of the independent evaluation of 2006 was the reassessment of the role of the board in the light of Cities Alliance’s short and medium-term goals. Policy Advisory Board members led the reassessment exercise, concluding that their expertise and influence could be better served in a smaller, more targeted board with a stronger focus on advocacy functions. This change will be finalised with the Executive Committee and presented at the Consultative Group meeting in Barcelona in January 2009.

The Secretariat

The year under review witnessed significant changes in the senior, substantive staffing of the Secretariat of the Cities Alliance. First to leave was Rajivan Krishnaswamy who accepted a position as head of a technical institute in his hometown of Chennai, India. He was followed a few months later by Pelle Persson and Pascale Chabrilat, both of whom had completed their secondments and returned to their various organisations. Farouk Tebbal, also a secondee, retired from UN-HABITAT and left the secretariat at the end of June 2008.

The Secretariat was strengthened through new secondments and the recruitment of a number of new staff. Thierry Paulais, senior urban finance specialist, joined the secretariat from AFD, where he was head of the urban department. In addition to leading the municipal finance team, Thierry is managing the programme on the Financing of African Cities, cofinanced by the Cities Alliance and AFD. Also coming from UN-HABITAT is Jean-Christophe Adrian, who recently joined the secretariat to work on CDS and urban environment issues. Jean-Christophe has a long history of working with both the Sustainable Cities Programme and Localising Agenda 21. His most recent experience was managing a huge post disaster reconstruction project in Pakistan.

In terms of new recruitments, Stefan Agersborg, a graduate of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, is supporting the programme operations team with document collection and data input. Previously with the World Bank's Moldova country office, Viorica Revutchi is providing support to the Alliance's grant administration process. Madhavan Balachandran ("Balu") joined the secretariat from the World Bank's South Asia region as the new financial management specialist, and Neelam Tuteja joined the front office team as programme assistant. The Cities Alliance will be further strengthened through the appointment of nationally recruited regional advisers in Delhi and Addis Ababa.

Concurrent with this flow and ebb of staff was a systematic reevaluation and redefinition of staff job functions in line with the objectives of the MTS and the strengthened mandate received from the Consultative Group. A new knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation team was formed to take charge of the growing results-based knowledge agenda; the communications function was strengthened with a more targeted role expansion and the hiring of short-term consultants, and Kevin Milroy assumed an expanded role as deputy programme manager.

Secretariat Staff as of June 30, 2007

Adrian, Jean-Christophe—Urban Specialist
Agersborg, Stefan—Consultant
Akporji, Chii—Communications Officer
Aubry-Kendall, Françoise—Resource Management Analyst
Balachandran, Madhavan—Financial Management Specialist
Carlin, Anne—Knowledge Management Officer
Cobbett, William—Manager
Csorba, Ildiko—Programme Assistant
Haer, Andrea—Urban Specialist
Henderson, Susanna—Programme Assistant
Meinert, Günter—Senior Urban Specialist
Merrick, Andrea—Programme Officer
Milroy, Kevin—Senior Operations Officer and Deputy Programme Manager
Paulais, Thierry—Senior Urban Specialist
Puspa, Erika—Knowledge Management Analyst
Revutchi, Viorica—Programme Assistant
Tebbal, Farouk—Senior Urban Specialist
Tuteja, Neelam—Team Assistant

Regional Office, São Paulo, Brazil

Abiko, Alex Kenya—Consultant
Bertolassi, Regianne Henriette—Team Assistant
Jose, Mariana Kara—Consultant/Urban Specialist
Schutte, Giorgio Romano—Consultant/Project Manager

Regional Office, Pretoria, South Africa

Hosken, Adele—Cities Alliance Projects Officer