

Cities Alliance Organisation



In accordance with its charter, the governance and organisational structure of the Cities Alliance includes the Consultative Group, the Policy Advisory Board, and the Secretariat.

THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

The Consultative Group—the Alliance’s board of directors—is responsible for setting the Alliance’s long-term strategy, approving its annual work programme and budget, and reviewing achievements. The Consultative Group consists of financial contributors to the Cities Alliance Trust Fund and the political heads of the new global organisation of local authorities, UCLG, and Metropolis, who have pledged their commitment to achieving Alliance goals. The Consultative Group is co-chaired by the World Bank’s vice president for infrastructure and UN-HABITAT’s executive director. Prospective financial contributors may serve as associate members for a period agreed to by the Consultative Group.

Membership in the Cities Alliance has continued to grow with Brazil becoming the first developing country to join the Cities Alliance in October 2003. Brazil is represented on the Consultative Group by its Ministry of Cities and by CAIXA Econômica Federal, which is providing financial support for Brazil’s membership.

The Consultative Group has also set up the five-member Steering Committee, made up of a subset of its members, to provide guidance to the Secretariat.

Consultative Group Meetings

Consultative Group meetings are held annually in connection with a global public policy forum designed to share the lessons learned from experience and agree on policy orientations and standards of practice in areas related to the Alliance’s goals.

Consultative Group meetings have been held as follows:

- **Berlin, December 1999:** inaugural meeting, launch of Cities Without Slums action plan, and approval of the Cities Alliance Charter and 2000 work programme.
- **Montreal, June 2000:** first Public Policy Forum on the dimensions of pro-poor urban policies, Consultative Group review of application guidelines, and approval of Cities Alliance Vision statement.
- **Rome, December 2000:** second Public Policy Forum on Local Partnerships: Moving to Scale, Consultative Group approval of amendments to the Cities Alliance Charter, approval of the 2001 work programme and procedures to establish the Policy Advisory Board and Steering Committee.
- **Kolkata, December 2001:** third Public Policy Forum on Sustainable Partnerships for City Development, Consultative Group review of procedures for the independent evaluation of the Cities Alliance, and approval of the 2002 work programme.
- **Brussels, October 2002:** panel discussion at the European Commission on Achieving the Millennium Development Goal of Cities Without Slums, Consultative Group review of the independent evaluation of the Cities Alliance, and approval of the 2003 work programme.
- **São Paulo, October 2003:** fourth Public Policy Forum on Financing Strategies for Cities and the Urban Poor, Consultative Group approval of the 2004 work programme and procedures for developing country membership on the Consultative Group.

Consultative Group Members as of June 2004

The Consultative Group includes representatives of the following:

- **Local authorities**
 - UCLG, formerly the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), the World Federation of United Cities (FMCU-UTO), and the World Associations of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC)
 - Metropolis
- **Governments**
 - Brazil • Canada • France • Germany • Italy • Japan
 - Netherlands • Norway • Sweden • United Kingdom
 - United States
- **Multilateral organisations**
 - Asian Development Bank
 - United Nations Environment Programme
 - UN-HABITAT
 - World Bank

THE POLICY ADVISORY BOARD

The Alliance's Policy Advisory Board is composed of eminent urban experts from each region. They provide guidance to the Consultative Group on key strategic, policy, and regional issues and support the implementation of Alliance activities. The composition, terms of office, and operating procedures for the Policy Advisory Board were established by the Consultative Group at its December 2000 meeting. The board brings together civic leaders and policy advisers with a formidable range of public and private sector expertise that spans the leadership of community-based organisations, NGOs and their networks, local authority organisations, community banks, community savings and credit schemes, commercial banks, and public sector financial institutions. What they have in common is practical knowledge and political experience in working with poor cities and the urban poor worldwide.

The board meets twice a year and is made up of eight members—two from Africa, two from Asia, one from Eastern Europe, one from the Arab states, one from Latin America and the Caribbean, and one from the industrial countries who serve two-year terms on a rotating basis.

The Policy Advisory Board held its first meeting on 11–12 June 2001 at the UN's headquarters in New York on the occasion of the General Assembly's special session on Istanbul+5. For the Alliance's October 2003 Public Policy Forum held in São Paulo, the board's members from Latin America and the Caribbean and the industrial countries, respectively, led the two working sessions on finance for cities and finance for the urban poor.

In May 2004, board members gathered in Bangkok for their annual spring meeting, taking advantage of the occasion to gain exposure to slum upgrading programmes being undertaken as part of the government of Thailand's ambitious Cities Without Slums initiative. The meeting was organised by Somsook Boonyabancha, the board's chair and director of the Community Organisations Development Institute (CODI), the public organisation under Thailand's Ministry of Social Development and Human Security that is deeply involved in the implementation of this national initiative. The board's meetings with slum dwellers and local community leaders and authorities generated a fruitful exchange of experiences.

The government of Thailand has undertaken to provide and facilitate housing delivery for 1 million households in five years. One of the central programmes of the initiative is the Baan Mankong (Secure Housing) Programme that, through CODI, is channelling infrastructure subsidies and soft housing loans directly to poor communities for a variety of upgrading activities. The programme is both unconventional and highly innovative, and is based on a communal approach to citywide slum upgrading. This approach relies on a high level of social mobilisation and organisation, with communities, local governments, and affected stakeholders planning an upgrading process to improve all communities within a city. Struck by the power of community participation under the programme, Policy Advisory Board members found the visit rewarding and stimulating and have pledged to continue such substantive exchanges in the future.

Policy Advisory Board members as of June 2004:

- **Somsook Boonyabancha** is Director of the Community Organizations Development Institute, a public organisation under Thailand's Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and Secretary General of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, a regional coalition of NGOs, community organisations, and professionals based in Bangkok.
- **Yousef Hiasat** is Chief Executive Officer of Beit Al-Mal Saving and Investment for Housing, a leading investment and financial firm in Amman, Jordan; former Director General of Jordan's Housing and Urban Development Corporation, the public institution responsible for housing and urban development policies and housing schemes directed at middle- and low-income households; and former Principal Adviser to the prime minister of Jordan on housing and urban development issues.
- **Mary Houghton** is President and Director of Shorebank Corporation in Chicago, a commercial bank holding company with US\$1.5 billion in assets organised to implement community development strategies in targeted urban neighbourhoods and rural areas, and an adviser to private banks and microcredit lending institutions in developing and transition countries.
- **Akin L. Mabogunje** is Chair of the Presidential Technical Committee on Urban Development and Housing in Nigeria; Chair of the Board of Trustees, Ijebu-Ode Development Board for Poverty Reduction; former Executive Chair of the Development Policy Centre, Ibadan; and an internationally renowned African development scholar who has published and lectured widely on urban management, rural development, and spatial perspectives in the development process.
- **Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi** is Coordinator of the Municipal Development Partnership for Africa, based in Cotonou, Benin; Special Adviser to the Council of Cities and Regions of Africa; and an experienced practitioner in urban management and slum upgrading.
- **Sheela Patel** is founding Director of the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres in Mumbai, India, working in alliance with the National Slum Dwellers Federation and Mahila Milan in the federation of community-based organisations of the urban poor, facilitating their direct participation in addressing the problems of cities and their relationship with informal settlements; and Chair of Shack Dwellers International, a global alliance of grassroots community federations of the urban poor.
- **Ana Vasilache** is founding Director of the Partners Romania Foundation for Local Development, a Bucharest-based NGO that supports democratic processes of governance and decentralisation, and works to strengthen the managerial capacities of local governments; former Head of the Settlements Management Office in the Ministry of Public Works and Regional Planning in Bucharest; and has extensive experience with planning legislation.
- **Richard Webb** is Director of the Centre for Economics Research of San Martin de Porres University, Lima, Peru; former President of the Central Bank of Peru; President of the Cuanto Institute; and a widely published scholar on public policy, income distribution, poverty, and economic reform.

THE SECRETARIAT

The Alliance Secretariat, housed at World Bank headquarters, carries out the Alliance's mandates and manages its operations.

Secretariat staff

Manager, **Mark Hildebrand**

Senior Urban Upgrading Adviser,
William Cobbett

Senior CDS Adviser, **Peter Palesch**

Senior Urban Finance Adviser,
Rajivan Krishnaswamy

Urban Economist,
Pascale Marie-Claude Chabrilat

Communications Officer, **Chii Akporji**

Programme Analyst, **Andrea Merrick**

Operations Officer, **Kevin Milroy**

Resource Management Assistant,
Françoise Aubry-Kendall

Financial Management Specialist,
V. Rama Krishnan

Programme Assistant,
Patria Consuelo M. Morente

Programme Assistant, **Susanna Henderson**

Intern, **Till von Knebel**

Regional Advisers

Eastern and Southern Africa,
Carien Engelbrecht

Latin America and the Caribbean, **Ivo Imperato**

South Asia, **Alison Barrett**