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Foreword



It is my pleasure to present the Cities Alliance 2010 Annual Report. This has been an important and transitional year for the Cities Alliance, with a number of significant developments. After a period of intensive and constructive discussion amongst our members, the contours of our future direction are becoming ever more clear. Let me single out the following highlights from 2010:

- ∴ The launch of our first country programme in Uganda, in partnership with national and local government. A range of members, from the World Bank to Slum Dwellers International (SDI), and local partners—from NGOs to the University of Makerere—are now engaged in a multi-year programme that, if successful, could have a profound impact on urban development in Uganda;
- ∴ The adoption of a new business model that saw the closure of the old grant facility, the approval of a country programme approach, the design of the new Catalytic Fund, as well as the reorganisation of the Secretariat;
- ∴ Strengthening of the Cities Alliance as a partnership, with our members taking the lead and the secretariat playing a more facilitative role;
- ∴ Improved integration and alignment with the World Bank, our co-founder and host.

These changes are due to be reflected in the adoption of a revised Charter at our Consultative Group meeting in Mexico City towards the end of the year. I am extremely confident that, in taking these bold decisions, our members will have provided an excellent and stable platform for the Cities Alliance over the next few years.

For my part, I am very grateful for the lively participation, and passion, shown by our members, as well as the support and guidance that the Secretariat has received from the Cities Alliance Executive Committee (EXCO). I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful support and advice that I have received from Elisabeth Gateau, secretary general of United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) and the chair of the Cities Alliance' Executive Committee, and the encouragement and guidance that I have received from Zoubida Allaoua, Director, Finance, Economics and Urban (FEU) at the World Bank.

Most importantly, I would like to thank all members of the Secretariat, for their excellent and consistent dedication, their constant support and—not least—for their good humour. We have needed it.

William Cobbett
Manager