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Africa's municipal leaders commit to strong local government at founding congress of UCLGA Africa

Mayors and elected local leaders representing local government structures, associations, villages, towns and city councils throughout Africa unanimously adopted a charter of commitment to the establishment of local government as a distinct sphere of government, at the Founding Congress of the Africa chapter of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLGA) which held in Tshwane (Pretoria) from May 15 to 18, 2005.

Inspired by the "noble ideals which guided the founding fathers of the continental organization and generations of Pan-Africanists in their determination to promote unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa and African states," the municipal leaders requested the African Union to accord UCLGA the status of the local government organ of the African Union, and fully recognised as such by national governments.

Chairman of the African Union (AU), Olusegun Obasanjo, and President of Nigeria, who delivered the key note address at the Congress acknowledged the developmental role and responsibilities of the "sphere of government closest to the people and most directly responsible for meeting their needs," particularly in the context of a rapidly urbanising African continent that is yet to be put under effective control and management."



President Olusegun Obasanjo at the UCLGA Congress. Courtesy: UCLGA.

Like any other form of government effective local government administration must however, be based on transparency and good governance: "A corrupt and badly run local government is just as useless to the people as a bad government at any level in society. A bad leader cannot run a good local government system. It is therefore, critical that the mobilisation of the people, the strengthening of civil society and the strengthening of oversight and democratic institutions are seen as central to the local government system".

Obasanjo confirmed the local government movement has "today joined the African Union (AU) and Africa's own development programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative, to confirm the potential of Africa as a single unit of development." Joaquim Chissano, the former President of Mozambique and of the African Union, echoed Obasanjo's commitment to UCLGA as the local government organ within the African Union, stressing the historic importance of creating "our own African union at the local government level," and the critical role of local authorities in meeting the MDGs.

In his in-depth analysis of the "State of Local Government in Africa," Cities Alliance Policy Advisory Board member, Professor Akin Mabogunje noted however, that the state of local government in Africa is still very far from what it should be. Several challenges requiring attention at both the level of central governments and of local governments persist. The founding of the United Cities and Local Government of Africa should motivate more systemic appreciation of the enormous challenges still confronting local governments in many African countries. It would have to engage in what has been dubbed 'the second liberation' struggle, a struggle for power sharing entailed in the devolution of power and resources to

local governments. This is a struggle which can be won only on the basis of the extent to which local governments can establish responsible financial management parameters for themselves, promote participatory democracy among all stakeholder groups within their jurisdictions, and involve most of their residents in decision-making on matters that closely affect their lives.

Close to 4000 participants attended the Congress which also elected the first executive of UCLGA. Father Smangalis Mkhathshwa, host mayor and President of the global United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was elected first president of the Africa chapter. Omar Bahraoui (President, Morocco National Association), Baver Dzeremo (President Association of Local Government Organisations of Nigeria, ALGON), Huges Ngouelendele (President, ANC, Congo Brazzaville), Augustin Kampayana (Mayor of Kigali, Rwanda), Eneas Comiche (Mayor of Maputo and President, National Association of Local Government of Mozambique) were all elected Vice Presidents. Together with the elected executive committee, they will form the Executive and Governing Structure of the UCLGA.

Cities Alliance Policy Advisory Board member and Chairman of the Partenariat pour le Developpement Municipal (PDM), Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi was elected the new UCLGA Secretary General. The Cities Alliance is developing the terms of reference for a very proactive partnership with the UCLGA, as part of its strengthening focus on Africa's urbanisation challenges. The Alliance is already working with UCLGA to establish a Commission of African Mayors and local government leaders on municipal finance, designed to facilitate municipal leaders' access to domestic capital to enhance their infrastructural efficiency.

For more on the Founding Congress please visit UCLGA website at: <http://www.uclga.co.za/index.html>

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Fr. Smangalis Mkhathshwa, UCLGA President.

Development Policy dialogue in Berlin during Metropolis 2005 highlights role of Cities for the MDGs

The eighth Congress of Metropolis, held in Berlin between May 11 and 15 was a unique opportunity for Cities Alliance to celebrate the fifth anniversary of its Berlin launch, and the Cities Without Slums action plan. The event was a well-attended Development Policy dialogue focusing on "Cities and their Role for the UN Millennium Development Goals," which the German Federal Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the Berlin Senate organized in collaboration with the Cities Alliance.

Erich Stather, State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development set the context of the dialogue in his opening speech: "Cities are engines of economic development and therefore provide a way out of poverty. The successful achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, to halve extreme poverty by 2015 and to improve significantly the living conditions of at least 100 million slum dwellers, depends above all on the cities.

He called the Cities Alliance's action plan, "Cities Without Slums" a success story, and pledged Germany's continued support to the Cities Alliance "through its direct cooperation with its partners in the cities as well as through financial and personal support of the Alliance's secretariat."



The Development Policy Dialogue at Metropolis '05

UN Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Anna Tibaijuka noted that the "Cities without Slums" initiative enhanced the profile of the issue of slum dwellers when the Cities Alliance was created. She appealed for a broader interpretation of MDG Target 11 to improving the living conditions of 50% of the world's slum dwellers by 2020. She also stressed that upgrading existing slums is necessary but not sufficient – just as important is the prevention of new slums."

World Bank Vice President for Europe and Central Asia, Mr. Shigeo Katsu, who led the Bank's delegation to the Congress pointed to two key lessons for cities as they strive towards achieving the MDGs: (i) good city government does count – its role in developing and implementing sound policies and financing strategies is crucial; and (ii), improving access to basic infrastructure requires city-wide scales of action: "This is why Cities Alliance came into being."

The World Bank, he added, "is proud of the success of the Cities Alliance to date, and believes that a strong foundation has been established for its future growth. Cities

Alliance' support to city development strategies (CDS) and citywide slum upgrading has already had a significant impact on Bank urban lending, with the Alliance's \$50 million in grants directly linked to close to \$5 billion in investments of which more than \$2.7 billion are World Bank loans and credits. In terms of overall lending to urban projects, the Bank as a whole has committed almost \$20 billion to date, and in Europe and Central Asia, the Region that I am responsible for, over \$3 billion.

Mr. Katsu reiterated the significance of cities as where "economies modernize, and are critical to national economic growth." Drawing from a study by the World Bank's East Asia Urban team, he elaborated:

- Densely populated urban areas provide the most efficient locations for service delivery and productive growth; this translates into a disproportionate contribution to national output. For instance, Mumbai alone generates one sixth of India's GDP;
- The presence of large nearby markets for inputs, outputs, labor and other services allows firms to profit from economies of scale and specialisation;
- Transaction costs fall in cities, most noticeably in matching workers to job opportunities;
- Incomes in greater Jakarta, Seoul and Bangkok are at least 80% higher than incomes in their surrounding areas;
- As another proxy to measure the importance of cities, in East Asia the share in GDP of industry and services rose from 72 percent in 1980 to 87 percent in 2000, while that of agriculture fell from 28 to 13 percent.

Many of the above findings also hold true for other continents. In Latin America, urban based economic activities account for up to 80% of GDP. Sao Paulo's economy is larger than most national economies in Latin America. The 10 largest metropolitan areas of Mexico with 1/3 of population account for 62% of national value added. Sub-Saharan Africa is the least urbanised continent today, but is the one urbanising most rapidly. The city region of Lagos accounts for 1/3 of total urban residents; 65% of industrial infrastructure; and generates over 60% of Nigeria's non-oil revenue. And South Africa's three largest cities contribute more than 50% of the national GDP.



Mr. Shigeo Katsu, World Bank Vice President, Europe and Central Asia. Courtesy: World Bank.

In his contribution Ashok Kumar Walia, Minister of Urban Development and Finance of National Capital Territory (NTC) of Delhi, India, summarised the challenges that the city of Delhi must deal with: a severe scarcity of water as well as problems to provide urban services, such as electricity, sewerage, and the need to preserve the environment and natural resources. Examples of successful solutions include: the cleaning of air pollution through changing the type of fuel; the privatisation of the electricity service, which minimised the high proportions of stolen energy; the provision of health infrastructure (12 hospitals in 10 years); and the provision of sewerage and drainage to slum areas, which still needs to be complemented by treatment plants.

Comments from the audience at the open dialogue highlighted the critical need to also address cities' direct access to international financial resources and central government decisions tying resources at the local level. Municipal leaders lamented a situation where private markets, as key sources of debt capital were often reluctant to provide financing for social housing, urgently needed to improve harsh living in slums. "For the next eleven years, São Paulo cannot borrow a penny from anyone," said Helena Gasparian, Secretary for international affairs in the Brazilian megacity. This was due to the huge debt of the city and high interest rates, Gasparian said. With a population of nearly 20 million, São Paulo is one of the five biggest cities in the world and provides about 10 percent of Brazil's gross domestic product (GDP).



*Patrick Ramiaramananana, Mayor of Antananarivo, received the first prize of the Metropolis Award 2005.
Courtesy: Metropolis.*

Mayor of Quezon, Metro Manila, Philippines, Feliciano Belmonte explained his efforts to modernise urban management by tax administration reform resulting in a 40% increase in tax collection and by substantially reducing the number of municipal employees. He stressed that the municipal strategies of poverty reduction are reflecting the priorities of the poor: Health care focusing on comprehensive child care and re-productive health. Education measures are raising the quality of public schools and promoting information technology training. Entrepreneurship is fostered by the successful introduction of a Grameen-type micro financing, and the development and training of new entrepreneurs, mainly women. Quezon city also developed a gender development code. To address the need of shelter a private corporation for social housing was created and a community mortgage programme is being implemented jointly with the national government.

Patrick Ramiaramananana, the Mayor of Antananarivo, Madagascar spoke of the importance of partnerships - between the mayor and the national government, in order to avoid competition, between local authorities and donors, and with the population, whose participation and involvement is decisive - to cities' development: "Cities also need the support of international agencies and national governments, to maximize their potentials." The World Bank he added, should "engage directly with local governments and mayors."

Mr. Katsu outlined four key action areas the World Bank will focus on to fight rising urban poverty:

- Support cities' and local governments' endeavor to prepare MDG-based, or – as appropriately adjusted - socially inclusive city development strategies;
- Work with cities and their associations to improve the local investment climate; suitably adapted business climate surveys are useful tools for local authorities as they try to become more productive and competitive and lower transactions costs for investors;
- Mobilisae domestic capital more effectively in order to meet the financing needs of fast growing cities to be proactive developers of urban infrastructure;
- Operationalise city development strategies by incorporating both sustainable financing strategies and more efficient demand management of natural resources.

He also briefed the Mayors on the World Bank's increasing attention to subnational finance and urban infrastructure investments, as well as the status of the current efforts to develop new facilities to respond to the growing demand for subnational finance.

Metropolis is a city network representing more than 80 cities worldwide with populations of more than a million. The eighth Congress focused on this process of transformation and its referents, and on means to turning cities around the world into livable, democratic metropolises ready to meet the challenges of the future, while taking due account of the different traditions of cities and their residents. Other highlights of the Congress include the re-election of Mayor Joan Clos of Barcelona as President of Metropolis for a third consecutive term. The Metropolis Awards for outstanding urban projects were awarded to Anatananrivo, Seoul, and Alexandria.

For more on the Metropolis 2005 Congress please visit their website at: <http://www.metropolis.org>

Africa's progress towards the MDGs tied to shape of towns and cities over the next 20 to 30 Years

Africa's progress towards achieving the MDGs will be shaped by what happens in African towns and cities over the next 20 to 30 years, says Sir Nicholas Stern, Second Permanent Secretary to the UK, former World Bank Chief Economist and Research and Policy Director of the Commission for Africa at a recent World Bank Presidential Fellows lecture titled, "Making Development Happen: Growth and Empowerment."

Stern made the statement against the backdrop of a vivid comparison he drew between poverty in Africa and India from 1960 to today: "Just a few weeks ago, I was in Kibera, a slum in Nairobi, and remember that Kenya is not the poorest of the African countries, and that slum is about ten years old, and it's got nearly a million people in it. When I first went to Africa in the '60s and very shortly after went to India, I was very impressed by how much poorer India was than Africa, whether you looked at rural areas or urban areas. It was a very striking visual difference in the 1960s, and the numbers from the statisticians bore that out. Income per capita at that time in India was about half the average for Africa. It's now well above the average for Africa, and that change is--you can argue about the numbers--but that change is enormously visible, and what I saw in Kibera just a few months ago I think was worse than I've ever seen in the slums of Asia, wherever I've been in the slums of Asia, which is many of the big cities. It is quite extraordinary how that has happened and it's something which I think requires very powerful investment and action quickly because Africa's towns will be shaped by what happens in the next 20 or 30 years."



One major recommendation of the Commission for Africa in its 400-page report titled, "Our Common Interest: Report of the Commission for Africa" is for an investment of \$150 billion in African infrastructure over the next decade. Investing in assets such as rural roads, safe water, ports, a transport network and power generation, in addition to health and education, can lead to growth and job creation, and accelerate African progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

A bold initiative of the UK Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, the Commission for Africa was inaugurated to take a fresh look at Africa's past and present, and the international community's role, and provide a coherent set of policies to accelerate progress towards a strong and prosperous Africa. The Commission seeks to support African leadership shown through the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the African Union; and to also seek to generate increased support for the full implementation of the G8 Africa Action Plan.

The 17 Commission members are: Tony Blair (Chairman), Fola Adeola, K.Y. Amoako,



Members of the Commission for Africa

Nancy Baker, Hilary Benn, Gordon Brown, Michel Camdessus, Bob Geldof, Ralph Goodale, Ji Peiding, William Kalema, Trevor Manuel, Benjamin Mkapa, Linah Mohohlo, Tidjane Thiam, and Anna Tibaijuka.

The Project makes 10 key recommendations to realising these Goals:

- Immediate US\$25 billion a year increase in international aid to Africa, followed by a further US\$25 billion a year from 2010;
- Debts of poor countries in sub-Saharan Africa to World Bank, International Monetary Fund and African Development Bank be written off, but recipients must be committed to good governance and use the money to deliver "development, economic growth and the reduction of poverty."
- Donor countries "should aim to spend" 0.7 percent of their gross national product on development aid.

- Rich countries called on to "agree immediately to eliminate trade distorting support to cotton and sugar and commit by 2010 to end all subsidies and all trade distorting support in agriculture."
- African governments called on to commit to transparent governance and ratify the U.N. Convention against Corruption in 2005.
- Governments, states and banks in rich countries also said to have a duty to tackle corruption, including repatriating illicit funds held in overseas accounts, and more transparent business dealings with African governments in a bid to cut bribery.
- Negotiations on an international arms trade treaty must open no later than 2006.
- Rich countries called on to fund at least 50 percent of the African Union's peacekeeping budget.

The timing of the Commission's work is intended to seize the year 2005 as one of opportunity to make a difference for Africa, coinciding with the United Kingdom's chairmanship of both the G8 and, in July, the European Union; and the MDGs plus 5 review meetings in New York in September.

For more on the work of the Commission click here: <http://www.commissionforafrica.org/english/report/introduction.html>.

Cities Alliance Policy Advisory Board Meets in Abuja and discusses "State of Nigerian Cities"

The city of Abuja played host to the Spring Meetings of the Cities Alliance Policy Advisory Board (PAB), held from May 25 to 27, 2005. The PAB comprises eminent urban experts from each region who provide guidance to the Alliance's [Consultative Group](#) on key strategic, policy, and regional issues and support the implementation of Alliance activities. The meeting, also the first to be attended by the Board's two newest members – Ms. Juanita Amatong and Paulo Teixeira – afforded the Board a first hand opportunity to assess the urban context in Nigeria in general, as well as Cities Alliance support to the nearby Karu Local Government in particular.



Mrs. Juanita Amatong and Mark Hildebrand at the session.

PAB member and Chairman of the Presidential Technical Committee on Urban Development and Housing in Nigeria, Professor Akin Mabogunje coordinated the meetings, in collaboration with Minister Adeseye Ogunlewe, Minister for Works and Supervising Minister for Housing and

Urban Development; the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, John Alkali, and the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), represented by the Executive Director, Alhaji Alhassan. Closed door meetings of Board members deliberated on operational issues such as an evaluation of the Alliance's activities for the year 2005; the Alliance's strategy for Africa; preparations for the Public Policy Forum coming up in Marrakesh, Morocco in November this year, ways of enhancing Alliance members' generation of proposals from cities among others, were interspersed with meetings with national government officials, and site visits to Karu for evaluation of the CDS.



PAB members, Paulo Teixeira, Mark Hildebrand, Prof. Akin Mabogunje and Yousef Hiasaf in discussions with Chairman, Karu Local Government at Karu.

During the briefing on the Nigerian urban context by Mr. Oladunjoye Oyewunmi, a deputy director in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Board members learned that with an urban population growth rate of 5.8 per cent yearly, an estimated 49.8 million people (43.3 per cent of total population) now live in Nigeria's cities. The total national population itself, now put at 150 million with a growth rate of 2.8 per cent yearly, is expected to double every three decades. This echoes similar projections by the Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo earlier in the month at the Founding Congress of United Cities and Local Governments Africa in Tshwane (Pretoria): [Nigeria has] the "fastest rate of urbanisation in Africa; 40% of its 150 million people already live in cities. There are problems of slums and urban unemployment. We have embarked on urban renewal and poverty alleviation programme coupled with infrastructural development that could benefit from a countywide synergy."

Other critical urban policy issues facing the country are: rapid rate of uncontrolled and unplanned urban growth and proliferation of slums; poor coordination of urban-rural linkages leading to massive rural to urban migration; inadequate basic social services; neglect of infrastructure provision and maintenance; and unemployment and underemployment among urban residents; high rate of juvenile delinquency and crime; emergence of ill-equipped towns and settlements as administrative headquarters; inefficient and uncoordinated urban governance; lack of community participation in urban planning; poor urban land management techniques; and insecurity of land tenure.

Eight priority actions being taken by the federal government to mitigate the issues are:

- Promoting city development plans and strategies for all cities;
- Providing adequate infrastructure on land for housing development;
- Integrating physical planning and housing requirements into the national poverty reduction blueprints known as National Economic and Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS), and its state government referent known as State Economic and

Empowerment Development Strategy (SEEDS);

- Establishment of cadastral and urban information databases for planning, resource mobilisation and management;
- Embarking on slum upgrading and setting of national standards to achieve the MDGs;
- Promoting capacity building for urban and housing development;
- Coordination of planning activities at sub-national and metropolitan levels; and,
- Encouraging private sector participation in housing development.

Board members proffered their own perspectives on approaches to tackling Nigeria's urban challenges. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, coordinator of the Municipal Development Partnership for Africa and new Secretary –General of UCLGA urged that specific efforts be made to appropriately position Nigerian cities, notably Lagos, as a regional hub for global connections, adding: "In the West Africa region particularly, there is a need to significantly overhaul Lagos to enable it play the role of a link with the outside world." Sheela Patel, founding director of the Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centre in Mumbai, India, a global alliance of grassroots community federations of the urban poor noted: "I think a lot more attention needs to be given to issues of migration and the ethnic tensions among settlers."

Cities Alliance' Secretariat Manager, Mark Hildebrand proposed the initiation of a comprehensive, data-based urban planning initiative for Nigerian cities, similar in nature to the South African Cities Network(SACN) *State of the Cities Report* (2004). The SACN report was produced with funding support from the Cities Alliance; it collates a range of economic indicators from South Africa's nine largest cities into a statistical almanac useful for more focused and results-driven urban planning processes. "We see here a great opportunity to develop a database of cities which will include all necessary information - including those that are not always readily available - so that authorities can have a valid basis for their decision-making. This will also present an acceptable way to compare and monitor trends with what is happening in other parts of Africa, like South Africa. We can offer here a fresh collaboration in this area," said Hildebrand.



The Nigerian Minister for Works and Housing, Honourable Adeseye Ogunlewe, welcomed the offer, indicating that the proposal would be promptly taken up: "We can assure you that we are excited by this. We have in the Ministry up to 200 town planners who can be deployed to the selected cities to properly undertake the exercise with the assistance of the National Planning Commission and other related state organs."

Up to 10 of Nigeria's largest cities could be initial beneficiaries of the effort, which will offer a more reliable basis for development planning and the execution of urban and regional planning schemes: "But the basket of beneficiaries could expand considerably if the fresh initiative sails through. It will involve, essentially, undertaking a comprehensive study of some of the nation's largest cities - of which no fewer than 10 already have populations of up to one million residents - towards establishing a coordinated basis for monitoring urbanisation trends locally and in comparison with other countries across the continent," writes Paul Okunlola, the Environmental editor of the Nigerian Guardian newspapers.

Board members also visited Karu, a fast growing satellite town located on the outskirts of Abuja in Nassarawa state, which recently undertook and completed a CDS, where they were enthusiastically welcomed by the local government officials and community leaders. Karu has a population of over one million with an unprecedented annual growth rate caused primarily by migration – migrants make up 80% of the population – the relocation of Federal Capital Territory in 1991, 'unaffordable living costs in Abuja for the middle and lower-middle class and demolition of settlements in the capital. The broad objective of the Karu Development Strategy (KDS), co-sponsored by the World Bank and UN-HABITAT, was to support the city government in effectively managing this growth through the development of a local economic development strategy to reduce poverty and maximise economic growth.

Key outcomes of the strategy, according to the presentation of the KDS by Mr. Kabir Yari, a Director with the Urban Development Bank of Nigeria who participated in the implementation of the strategy, have been the institutionalisation of a participatory framework for local government decision making processes, improved resource mobilisation from the communities to implement projects, and the establishment of Business and Economic Development Committee (BEDC) - for promotion of private sector economic activities, networking among members.

Spotlight on Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders' Strategy on HIV/AIDS in Africa



Approximately 30 out of the 42 million global population with HIV/AIDS live in Sub-Saharan Africa (World Bank 2004). In 2004 an estimated 3.1 million people were newly infected, up from 2.9 million in 2002, while 2.3 million Africans died of the disease, compared to 2.1 million in 2002 (UNAIDS/WHO 2004). The region is regarded as the epicentre of the epidemic with southern Africa as the sub region with the highest prevalence rate where most countries have national prevalence rates of 10% and above.

Recent efforts at mitigating the epidemic have shifted responses and resources from national to local governments. A prominent initiative in this regard is the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa, a growing network of local government authorities, mayors and municipal leaders committed to supporting sustainable solutions to the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the local level, which was launched at the 1998 Africities Summit in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The Alliance's overall goal the promotion of concrete actions that contribute to limiting the spread of HIV, and alleviating the social and economic impact of the epidemic on communities in Africa.

The Alliance has inspired political commitment to the fight against the epidemic with ten countries (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia) having already launched chapters and concrete programmes of action. An Executive Secretariat has been established, hosted by the City of Windhoek, Namibia, with support from the Government of Namibia. It has also received international recognition and has forged strong partnerships with multilateral organisations like the World Bank and United Cities and Local Governments.

The Alliance's strategy for impacting AIDS at the local level, known as Alliance of Mayors' Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the

Local Level (AMICAALL), promotes principles of inclusion, participation, partnership and gender sensitivity. Activities include:

- Local advocacy and sensitisation
- Community/stakeholder assessments to identify needs and gaps
- Development of local government/civil society partnerships
- Participatory planning
- Capacity development
- Resource mobilisation
- Community-response projects and services.

The activities of the Swazi chapter of the Alliance more specifically illustrate the workings of AMICAALL. The Kingdom has one of the highest infection rates in the world – 38% adult prevalence per government statistics. Life expectancy is currently 44 years and there are an estimated 35,000 children orphaned by AIDS. School enrollment has fallen by one third, with girls most affected. Health care systems are overstretched; AIDS is wiping out decades of social and economic progress. The chapter was launched in January 2000, when the Swazi National Association of Local Authorities (SNALA), and Local Authorities Managers Association of Swaziland (LAMAS), made a public declaration recognising the crisis and urging local action. With a US\$1.06 million grant from the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (<http://www.acbf-pact.org/>), the official start up of the national AMICAALL Programme began in August 2001. The Programme operates in all 11 municipalities covering approximately 25% of the total population of Swaziland.

The National AIDS response structure has designated AMICAALL Swaziland as the lead organisation for mobilising the local government response to HIV/AIDS in urban centres of the country. The Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders urges other municipalities in Africa to build on the Swazi lead in addressing the pandemic.

For more on the work of the Alliance click here: <http://www.amicaall.org>.

>> Partnership News



World Environment Day, 2005: World Mayors Pledge "Greener Cities"

Mayors from around the world signed the "Urban Environmental Accords: Green Cities Declaration," as part of celebrations marking this year's World Environment Day, observed June 5 in San Francisco, birthplace of the United Nations Organisation. The Accords list 21 specific actions to enable greener and healthier cities.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his opening statement kicked off the very graphic images of the dangers of untrammelled urban sprawl to the health of the planet painted throughout the observations. He projected that "by 2030, more than 60 percent of the world's population will live in cities, up from almost half now and just a third in 1950," and cautioned that "the San Francisco City Hall illuminated in Green on

WED rising concentration of humanity in cities and towns means the world will not achieve the Millennium Development Goals unless environmental planning is incorporated into all aspects of urban management."

Echoing the Secretary General's caution, Klaus Toepfer, United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) added, cities "impacts stretch beyond their physical borders affecting countries, regions and the planet as a whole. So the battle for sustainable development, for delivering a more environmentally stable, just and healthier world, is going to be largely won and lost in our cities."

Mayors pledged to "commit to build an ecologically sustainable, economically dynamic, and socially equitable future for our urban citizens; and we call to action our fellow mayors around the world to sign the Urban Environmental Accords and collaborate with us to implement the Accords." The Accords' 21 specific actions are organised along seven environmental categories called "proven first steps toward environmental sustainability":

- **Energy** Renewable Energy | Energy Efficiency | Climate Change
- **Waste Reduction** Zero Waste | Manufacturer Responsibility | Consumer Responsibility
- **Urban Design** Green Building | Urban Planning | Slums
- **Urban Nature** Parks | Habitat Restoration | Wildlife
- **Transportation** Public Transportation | Clean Vehicles | Reducing Congestion
- **Environmental Health** Toxics Reduction | Healthy Food Systems | Clean Air
- **Water** Water Access and Efficiency | Source Water Conservation | Waste Water Reduction.



San Francisco City Hall illuminated in Green on WED.
Courtesy: UNEP.

Setting out a target review date of World Environment Day 2012, cities were urged to work to implement as many of the 21 actions as possible, with a goal of three actions per year. At the end of the seven years, cities will be granted from four-star to single-star ratings in declining order, according to the extent to which they have been able to attain the implementation targets.

Declared Klaus Toepfer: "The world is not short of inspiring answers to the questions raised by the urban millennium. Across the globe, and not just in the developed world,



*UNEP'S Executive Director, Klaus Toepfer at WED Closing Ceremonies.
Courtesy: UNEP.*

there are examples of communities, businesses and governments working to redesign the metropolis. Traffic-clogged city centres are being reclaimed for pedestrians, green spaces preserved and expanded, recycling schemes promoted, environmentally friendly buildings designed." "These examples are like seeds. The challenge is to nurture these seeds, propagate them, and spread them to the furthest reaches of the globe. Towns and cities are humanity's home and its future. Making that a future of peace, dignity and prosperity is the responsibility of all," he added.

For more information on the Urban Environmental Accords and 2005 World Environment Day celebrations please visit UNEP's website at http://www.unep.org/wed/2005/english/About_WED_2005/.

MDGs take centre stage at the 20th Session of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council

The 20th session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT held from April 4 to 8 set the stage for the stock-taking exercise at the upcoming MDGs plus 5 review meetings in New York. It called on governments of UN member states to bolster support for the Millennium pledges to fight poverty with all its ramifications for slum dwellers and other poor people around the world.

In his message to the Council, UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan referred to the eight Millennium Development Goals and to Target 11 in particular, asking the Governing Council to play a crucial role on keeping the promise that world leaders have made to improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. "Today, more people live in urban areas than ever before. And nearly 30 percent of that population – 1 billion – are slum dwellers. Cities hold great potential as engines of growth and social development. Yet they are also bastions of inequality – in terms of health and living conditions, employment opportunities and the crime and insecurity people routinely face."

In her keynote address, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT reflected on the importance of aligning the slum dwellers target with the other MDG Targets. Mrs. Tibaijuka also said MDG Target 10 on halving the number of people without adequate water and sanitation, was no less important because human health and life depend on clean drinking water and proper solid waste and sewage management, and that a large part of the agency's work programme was centred on water and sanitation improvements in Africa and Asia: "As the developing world becomes urbanized, the struggle to achieve the MDG targets for slums, water and sanitation will have to be waged in human settlements – in our cities, towns and villages – where priorities are set and action can be coordinated and managed."



Mrs. Tibaijuka and Pres. Mwai Kibaki of Kenya at the opening of the 20th session of UN-Habitat Governing Council.



*Prof. Wangari Maathai.
Courtesy: UN-Habitat.*

Prof. Wangari Maathai, the 2004 Nobel peace laureate and Kenya's Assistant Minister of the Environment tasked delegates with the responsibility of "initiating measures and steering humankind towards action-oriented solutions on the challenges that we are facing relating to our built up environment." Governments and communities themselves had to take collective responsibility for protecting the built and the natural environment, she added: "The agenda of the man-made environment, or what you call human settlements, impinges on most of the priority issues of the day: Be it disaster and post-conflict reconstruction; poverty reduction strategies; democratic governance or financing urban development."

Klaus Toepfer, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive-Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), stressed that: "The urban environment is one of the most extraordinary contributions that humankind has made to this planet. Cities are the engines of commerce and of trade due to the urbanization and localization economies of functional cities. They are the seats of government where big decisions are made. They are melting pots of cultures and places where the social hierarchies are blurred. Cities are the centres of science, technology development, of cultural identity as well as diversity. They are catalysts for ideas and for political movements. They are engines for sustainable development. But they are also a conundrum. Rather than places of wonder, of hope and of outstanding possibilities, many have become havens of misery, of fear, crime and of human degradation. --- The battle for sustainable development will be won or lost in the urban environment."

President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya pointed to other challenges facing the continent - of civil conflicts and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which he said, was threatening to reverse previous gains in health and economic sectors: "I am gratified to note that one of the special themes during this session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT will focus on post conflicts and disasters mitigation. I hope that the outcome of the deliberations will contribute significantly towards reducing the impact of disasters particularly in developing countries," Mr. Kibaki said.

The UN-HABITAT Governing Council meets every two years to oversee UN-HABITAT and set its work programme for the 2006 – 2007 biennium. For more on the 20th Session of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council please visit www.unhabitat.org.

World Bank Urban Research Symposium examines paths to managing dynamic growth for cities

The challenges of rapid urbanisation and the attendant implications for poverty reduction and national economic growth have led to numerous treatises from cities and their donor partners and initiatives aimed at ameliorating the situation. These only serve to throw up further knowledge gaps on issues such as scaling up city development strategies and slum upgrading initiatives, the dynamics of informality and about translating urban research findings into workable policies.

The third Urban Research Symposium, co-hosted jointly by the World Bank Group and Brazil's Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) created a platform where these issues could be debated further. More than 300 participants at the symposium grappled with many pressing questions, including:

- How metropolitan governance can be improved in urban peripheral areas beyond established municipal boundaries;
- What the appropriate level of regulation of urban land markets is;
- The nature of informal land delivery systems, and just how pro-poor they are; and
- How the political economy of property taxation can be better navigated in the search for answers to more sustainable infrastructure financing.

Sir Peter Hall, Bartlett Professor of Planning at University College, London delivered the keynote address at the symposium. Hall spoke of three types of cities: those that are coping with informal hyper growth, notably in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian subcontinent; cities that are managing dynamic growth - as in many middle-income and rapidly developing countries of East Asia, Latin America and the Middle East; and what he described as mature cities that are coping with aging. He focused on the second group—cities that are managing dynamic growth—and elaborated on ways in which such cities could address their needs for housing and transport.

He cited the Latin American cities of Bogota and Curitiba as examples of those that were taking steps to manage dynamic growth. These cities, he explained, were pursuing such practices as formalising or urbanising informal settlements for housing and infrastructure provision, and providing rapid bus systems for commuters.

Erminia Maricato, Executive Secretary to the Brazilian Ministry of the Cities, outlined the particular example of Brazil and her government's efforts to address the question she asked: "Is there really a place for the poor in our cities today?" Brazil, like the rest of Latin America, is already overwhelmingly urban. Most of the migrant or second generation urban poor have found the region's swelling cities ill prepared to receive them. Formal land and housing markets are so constrained by regulation and unrealistic development standards that they seldom yield anything within the reach of the poor. Poor urban dwellers often find basic infrastructure services hard to obtain. Meanwhile, crime and violence increasingly threaten not only personal well being and safety, but also the very competitiveness of cities as hosts of investments crucial to economic growth.

Maricato said her government is committed to addressing the challenges of integrating the vast numbers of low income residents who are unable to afford available shelter under the formal systems, and who live in the expanding favelas, or squatter settlements, in major Brazilian cities.

This year's symposium was held in Brasilia from April 4 to 6, 2005, and was primarily financed by donors including SIDA, GTZ, Lincoln Land Institute, Cities Alliance, the Federal Government of Brazil through Caixa and the Federal District of Brasilia. Some of the research presented at the Symposium was also financed through Cities Alliance grants.



Erminia Maricato, Executive Secretary to the Brazilian Ministry of Cities, at symposium. Courtesy: World Bank.

Cities Alliance Secretariat selects RTI International as implementing partner for Municipal Finance Task Force (MFTF)

The MFTF is a joint effort by USAID and other multilateral and bilateral organizations - L' Agence Française de Développement, the UK's Department for International Development, Caixa Economica Federale (Brazil), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Asian Development Bank and the World Bank - "to identify ways to increase the flow of domestic long term private capital to developing cities in support of their slum upgrading and city development strategies." It is to operate in an advisory capacity to the Cities Alliance members and others who wish to make use of their ideas and guidance, and serve as a focal point for collecting the experience and views of international experts on municipal finance and private capital mobilisation for use in formulating practical guidance to multilateral and bilateral donors, international local government associations, national and city governments.

RTI International is to assist the MFTF in bringing together the international experience in mobilising private capital for financing the long term capital requirements of cities by undertaking the following responsibilities:

- Provide technology support and day-to-day management needed to enable the MFTF to operate successfully as a "virtual team". This will be through the setting of a web site for the MFTF and maintaining it on a regular basis. The ownership of the web site will be with the Cities Alliance;
- Collect published case studies, discussion papers and tool kits prepared by multilateral and bilateral organisations, any other organisation or institution and such other relevant source, and upload them into the MFTF web site;
- Prepare six guidance/discussion papers on municipal finance issues based on guidance to be provided by the MFTF on the identification and selection of the issues and the content of the papers;
- Prepare four technical toolkits that provide generic scopes of work that can be used/adapted by city/national governments, donors, and multilateral development banks to procure services to (i) promote slum upgrading and (ii) mobilise long term private capital investment to bring tangible improvements to the quality of infrastructure in cities and to implement City Development Strategies;
- Four Case studies on cities that are in the process of accessing debt finance. The selection of the cities/countries will be done jointly

by the MFTF and the implementing partner.

A Steering Committee comprising Cities Alliance members would guide RTI International in this process as well as to ensure quality control for the outputs prepared by RTI International. Details of the work of the MFTF and the new website will be posted as they become available.

Changes in the Cities Alliance Secretariat

Sr. City Strategy Adviser, Peter Palesch has left the Secretariat to take up a new assignment as GTZ's Director for Bangladesh. Peter oversaw the growth of the Alliance's CDS portfolio, organising the audiences, CDS learning agenda and several meetings and conferences where cities shared knowledge of their respective CDS, the most recent being the highly successful Hanoi CDS Conference in November 2004, hosted by the Government of Vietnam in collaboration with Cities Alliance members. Peter's contribution is probably best captured in the various accolades from task managers and city clients that have poured into the Secretariat following the announcement of his departure. One appreciated "Peter's help in getting our CDS portfolio well in shape in ECA (World Bank's East Europe and Central Asia region) and MNA (Middle East and North Africa region) has been outstanding. He always impressed all of us with his understanding of local contexts and real challenges facing Local Governments in writing good application and during implementation. He has always been there for timely help and excellent advice. He will be missed sorely."

Assuming Peter's duties as the focal point for CDS is **Pelle Persson**, who joins the Cities Alliance Secretariat from Swedish Sida, where he has been working for almost 20 years in different positions relating to infrastructure and development, the last 5 years as head of the division for Urban Development and Environment. In that position Pelle followed the development of the Cities Alliance since its start in 1999, and has been an active member of the Consultative Group. He has a degree in civil engineering and urban planning from the Swedish Royal Institute of Technology, and has lived in Mozambique, Tanzania and Namibia at various stages of his career.

>> Upcoming Events

MDGs +5 Meetings, New York, September 14 – 16, 2005

A high level plenary of the UN General Assembly will be convened at the United Nations headquarters in New York from September 14-16, 2005 to review the implementation of the Millennium Declaration (2000), and the integrated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

Member States at the summit will also deliberate the Jeffrey Sach's led Millennium Project's report on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals titled, *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, presented to UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan in January this year, and on issues of peace and security, as well as UN reform. The MDGs themselves aim at a series of ambitious targets, ranging from halving extreme poverty, to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, to providing universal primary education, all by 2015, including the Alliance's Cities Without Slums action plan, (MDG Target 11),

Following a format similar to the first Millennium Summit in 2000, the high-level meeting would consist of a combination of plenary meetings and interactive roundtables. Member states are implementing open and inclusive preparatory processes that deliver consensus and results for the summit. UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan has said that the decisions to be taken at the meeting "may determine the whole future of the United Nations." He added: "Even more important, they will offer us our best – perhaps our only – chance to ensure a safer, more just and more prosperous world in the new century, not only for our own sakes but for those of our children and grandchildren."

The Assembly will also hold a High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development as a follow-up to the 2002 UN International Conference on Financing for Development, which was held in Monterrey, Mexico. The session will convene from 27 and 28 June 2005 in New York immediately prior to the ministerial segment of the 2005 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in order for the Dialogue's recommendations to be considered during the preparatory process for the Millennium review.

For more on the MDGs + 5 Summit, click here: <http://www.un-ngls.org/MDG/unaction.htm>.

Cities Alliance Annual PPF/CG – Marrakech, Morocco, November 7 – 11, 2005

The city of Marrakech will host the next Cities Alliance Public Policy Forum and Consultative board meetings from November 7 to 11, 2005. Preparations are in full gear with both the government of Morocco and local authorities to ensure a successful event, which will also afford the government an opportunity to showcase its *Villes sans Bidonvilles* programme. Details of the event will be posted on the Events page of the Cities Alliance website as they become available.

>> Publications Announcement

One Planet Many People: Atlas of our Changing Environment – (London and Nairobi, United Nations Environment Programme, 2005)

A new atlas launched to mark World Environment Day (WED) brings into sharp focus the dramatic and, in some cases, damaging environmental changes sweeping planet Earth. Produced by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), **One Planet, Many People: Atlas of our Changing Environment** compares and contrasts spectacular satellite images of the past few decades with contemporary ones, some of which have never been seen before.

The huge growth of greenhouses in southern Spain, the rapid rise of shrimp farming in Asia and Latin America and the emergence of a giant, shadow puppet-shaped peninsula at the mouth of the Yellow River are among a



string of curious and surprising changes seen from space. They sit beside the more conventional, but no less dramatic images of rain forest deforestation in Paraguay and Brazil, rapid oil and gas development in Wyoming, United States, forest fires across sub-Saharan Africa and the retreat of glaciers and ice in polar and mountain areas.

Produced in collaboration with organisations including the United States Geological Survey and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the atlas highlights the explosive growth and changes around some of the major cities of the world such as Beijing, Dhaka, Delhi and Santiago, the destruction of farmland, the clogging of river beds, the draining of water supplies and many others.

Klaus Toepfer, UNEP's Executive Director provided the context for the publication of the Atlas and its simultaneous launches in London, Nairobi and San Francisco thus: "People living in San Francisco (which hosted the commemorations for WED 2005) or London may look at these images of deforestation or melting Arctic ice, and wonder what it has to do with them. That these changes are the result of other people's lifestyles and consumption habits hundreds and thousands of kilometres away. But they would be wrong. Cities pull in huge amounts of resources including water, food, timber, metals and people. They export large amounts of wastes including household and industrial wastes, wastewater and the gases linked with global warming. Thus their impacts stretch beyond their physical borders affecting countries, regions and the planet as a whole," he added.

So the battle for sustainable development, "for delivering a more environmentally stable, just and healthier world, is going to be largely won and lost in our cities." He hoped the atlas and its images will concentrate the minds of mayors, governments, private business, non governmental organisations and the private individuals on our changing environment and on how globalisation is driving local and regional change.

Copies of the Atlas can be obtained from Earthprint at <http://www.earthprint.com/show.htm?url=http://www.earthprint.com/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/ProductDisplay?prfnbr=592462&prmenbr=27973>.

The Millennium Declaration: An Urban Perspective (UN-HABITAT/The World Bank, 2005)



September 2005 will witness an all important five year review of progress on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, agreed to by world leaders in 2000 in New York. The Review process has already been initiated by the Jeffrey Sachs-led UN Millennium Challenge in its 3,000-page report by report titled, *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, which was presented to UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan in January this year. To set the upcoming review of the Cities Without Slums Action Plan developed at the launch of the Cities Alliance in 1999, and adopted by Heads of State in 2000 in context, UN-HABITAT and the World Bank have published a short and user friendly note capturing the urban perspective to the UN Millennium Declaration, in English and French translation.

In their foreword, Cities Alliance' co-chairs, Anna Tibaijuka, UN Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN- HABITAT and, Kathy Sierra, World Bank Vice President for Infrastructure which hosts the Cities Alliance Secretariat see the adoption of the Cities Without Slums action plan target of improving 100 million lives by 2020 as a "first step towards addressing one of the key challenges of our urban millennium." They hope the "review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration gives the international community the opportunity to re-affirm and update this target, and to re-iterate its commitment to slum dwellers."

The Note provides a set of 12 structured arguments and declarations around the Cities Without Slums Target 11 of the MDGs, which could be used by delegations and partners to the September meetings to contribute effectively to the review:

1. **Reiterating Our Commitment:** A reminder to world leaders' commitment to "promote the upgrading of slums and regularization of squatter settlements, within the legal framework of each country. In particular, we reiterate the aim of the Cities Without Slums initiative to make a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020."
2. **Updating the Target:** This becomes necessary in view of growing urban challenges which could see slum population increase by 400 million over the next 15 years and the absence of national and local action plans for slum upgrading.
3. **Making all Cities Engines of Sustainable Development:** Cities are indeed engines of rural development. They absorb excess rural population, and offer markets for farm produce and other rural product. They provide services and amenities – universities and hospitals – that may not be available or feasible in rural areas. So sustainable development requires first and foremost sustainable urbanisation policies designed to facilitate – and not to hinder – the current urban transition.
4. **Maximising Urban Opportunities, Minimising Urban Risks:** In 2006 the world's population will be predominantly urban for the first time in human history. Successful implementation of the MDGs will rest largely on the ability of cities to maximise economic benefits to improve the present and future living conditions of urban dwellers while reducing risks for citizens.
5. **Motivating Leadership at all Levels:** Successful cities are those with the vision, the commitment and the resources to bring all actors together to " providing political and economic opportunity, improving services and quality of public space, planning for future needs, expanding local sources of revenue, attracting investment – in active cooperation and dialogue with all citizens, especially slum dwellers, both women and men"
6. **Funding Large scale Slum Upgrading:** Total costs for improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers estimated by Task Force 8 of the Millennium Challenge has been put at US\$67 billion. Cost of decent settlements for the estimated 400 million new poor, notwithstanding regional and economic differences between 2005 and 2020 is estimated at US\$ 300 billion. Domestic resource

mobilisation as well as international support is critical to the investment needed to deal with the challenge.

7. **Ensuring Accountable Urban Governance:** Participatory urban planning approaches are key to good urban governance while the promotion of efficient and accessible land markets is a prerequisite to stopping the growth of new slums
8. **Promoting the Leading role of Local Authorities:** Strengthening local authorities and promoting their leading role at the local level are essential to achieving the MDGs. The recently formed United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and its regional chapters are uniquely placed to create a global network of Millennium Cities.
9. **Supporting Decentralisation and Local Democracy:** Local authorities should be assisted by other spheres of government to determine local policy and strategic frameworks within the parameters set by sound national policies. Where central governments devolve powers to them they should be guaranteed the resources necessary to exercise these powers.
10. **Building Partnerships to deliver basic services:** Improving access to basic services requires the adoption of a broad based partnership approach involving governments, local authorities, civil society organisations and the private sector.
11. **Empowering the urban poor:** The urban poor are not a problem. They are a resource. Their right to the city must be recognised and protected. Forced evictions that are contrary to the law should be particularly combated. The forced demolitions of urban slums has never reduced poverty, it creates poverty. Forced evictions have never reduced slums; they simply move slum formation elsewhere. Forced evictions represent gross violations of human rights. Barring exceptional circumstances deriving from irreversible environmental hazards, informal settlements must be protected from forced evictions and regularized with the consent and active participation of the interested populations.
12. **Developing innovative financial systems:** Mechanisms that have been adopted by governments and local authorities for financing the upgrading of infrastructure and services in different parts of the world have not been adequate to meet the challenges. New options should be explored based on public-private partnerships and self-help approaches. Well targeted public subsidies should be part of the response, combined with optimal cost recovery on marketable services such as water and electricity supply.

Copies of the Note are available by emailing: infohabitat@unhabitat.org, or info@citiesalliance.org.

Enabling Strategy for Moving Up to Scale in Brazil – CD-ROM (Washington DC: The Cities Alliance Secretariat, 2005)

This collection of ground-breaking studies, financed by the Cities Alliance and managed by the World Bank, provides one of the most comprehensive bodies of analytical work regarding urban land markets and urban slums in Brazil. The volume includes three CDs and is organized by the topics: (i) Enabling Strategy for Moving Upgrading to Scale in Brazil; (ii) Assessing housing stocks, needs and demand; (iii) Informal housing analysis and evaluation of urban upgrading programs; (iv) Assessment of urban land markets in Brazil; and (v) Land use management in Brazil.

If you would like a copy of this collection of studies, please send an email to Dean Cira (dcira@worldbank.org).

Local Government Responses to HIV/AIDS: A Training Toolkit. Adapted from African Local Government Action Forum (Washington DC: The World Bank, 2005)



Cities and towns present unique challenges and opportunities in the fight against HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS has the potential to undermine the considerable investments by cities and towns, national governments, donors and civil society organisations in the core areas of municipal management, municipal finance, local service delivery (particularly to the poor) and local economic development. As more people are infected with HIV/AIDS, a city will see decreases in labour productivity, increased demand for services, lower capacity of users to pay for services, increased household vulnerability and increased numbers of absolute poor (e.g., orphans, people living with HIV/AIDS). The climate for private investment will deteriorate and local government itself will suffer the absenteeism and productivity losses that result from increasing prevalence.

As the organ of government closest to communities, local governments need to be well equipped for their frontline positions in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The World Bank's Africa region urban team, in conjunction with AMICAALL and other partners has published a Training Toolkit CD-ROM to help local governments in Africa win the battle. The toolkit is based on a recent publication by the same team: **Local Government Responses to HIV/AIDS: A Handbook** with video segments and learning guidelines developed as part of a Distance Learning Course prepared for the African Local Government Action Forum that piloted the Handbook with municipal teams in 7 African countries (Rwanda, Tanzania, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe between November 2003 and February 2004). It is intended to provide users with a better understanding of the roles that local government authorities can play in addressing HIV/AIDS; and to guide users through the issues and exercises presented in the Local Government Responses to HIV/AIDS Handbook. Target users include individuals and teams within local government authorities and trainers who work with local governments.

The CD-ROM provides:

- Session objectives and discussion themes;
- Overview Video presentations by a World Bank Local Government HIV/AIDS specialist that outline the key issues and themes. (15 minutes per session, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation);
- In-practice video presentations by specialists and practitioners on specific topics (15 minutes per session);
- Readings from the *Handbook*, and additional resources on each of four topics;
- Assignments using Tools from the Handbook, and Commentary on Assignments that offer additional information and examples relevant to the assignments and the session objectives;
- ALGAF Country Presentation made by teams from Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Kenya during the ALGAF piloting of this training in 2003. Please note that not all cities submitted presentations for each session.

Copies of this Training Toolkit can be obtained from **Local Government HIV/AIDS Initiative**, Urban Unit, The World Bank, 1818 H Street, NW, MSN H3-305, Washington, DC 20433, USA - www.worldbank.org/urban/hivaids/

>> Cities Alliance Grant Approvals Update

Iran: Preparatory assistance to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development for the institutionalization of the CDS into the urban planning process in Iran

The grant is to support Iran's Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to institutionalise CDS into the urban planning process. To be implemented by the World Bank financed Urban Upgrading and Housing Reform Programme (UUHRP), this activity will facilitate the preparation of terms of reference (ToR) for the CDS through broad-based stakeholder participation; build consensus on the ToR priorities; design a curriculum and training on strategic planning and public participation in municipal decision-making delivered to small groups of municipal professionals and community leaders; survey the existing urban planning systems in Iran proposing means of incorporating the CDS into that system; and, scaling up the CDS activities and dissemination. Expected outcomes in addition to the institutionalisation of CDS into the national urban planning system and processes include: budget allocation for the CDS initiatives in the country by the Management and Plan Organization; and improved capacity of local institutions (including municipalities) involved in urban development planning.

West Bank and Gaza; Establishment of an Integrated Strategic Planning Process for the Neighboring Towns of Ramallah, Al-Bireh and Beitunia

In face of rapid population growth, spiraling demand for better quality and quantity services, as well as declining revenues, the mayors of the neighbouring cities of Ramallah, Al-Bireh and Beitunia in the West Bank and Gaza applied for a Cities Alliance' grant to enable them to develop an integrated CDS to tackle growing poverty. The CDS grant will facilitate project set up and mobilisation of resources; strategic analysis/assessment of the three towns; definition of vision and shared cooperation with prioritisation of strategies; development of 5-year action plan; promotion and marketing of capital investment plan; evaluation and capture of the CDS process. The strategic planning process is expected to establish and strengthen urban governance capacity of the three towns; lead to a significant improvement in public service delivery (such as water, electricity, wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal); an improvement in the employment situation, all of which will have a significant impact on poverty alleviation. GTZ, AFD, KfW, UN-Habitat, World Bank are the Cities Alliance members sponsoring this activity.

Morocco: Partnership Framework Agreement for Support and Monitoring of the Program "Cities Without Slums"

The Framework Agreement for this activity sets the foundations for a Cities Alliance partnership with Morocco's Ministry of Housing and Urban Development for the support and monitoring of the Government's national Cities Without Slums Programme, (Villes Sans Bidonvilles), which aims to upgrade 200,000 slum households by 2010, taking the city as the programming unit, and within a contractual framework between the State and local authorities. The Agreement will include the drawing up of a comprehensive technical assistance and training plan; creation of a Slum Observatory; and the establishment of a Technical Monitoring Committee to ensure coordination and follow-up of the Cities Without Slums Programme's implementation. Requested by the Minister for Housing and Urban Development in the Office of Prime Minister, the ambitious activity is supported by USAID, UN-Habitat, AFD, and the World Bank, and is to be implemented by the Near East and North African (NENA)/Urban Forum and Holding Al Omrane.

South Africa: Preparation of the South African National Upgrading Support Programme

This will facilitate South Africa's Department of Housing efforts to develop the technical assistance, capacity, and institutional reform requirements for the successful design and multi-year roll out of the municipal-led National Upgrading Support Programme (NUSP) to scale-up and mainstream upgrading of informal settlements throughout South Africa. It will be implemented through interviews and field visits with both key actors in the SA national upgrading programme and the project managers/coordinators overseeing and implementing NUSP pilot-lead projects; Field visits to municipalities and provinces that have well established major upgrading projects and those at an advanced stage of planning or near to implementation. Following the field visits, the draft activity plan for NUSP will be the subject of a workshop with key actors leading to finalisation of the proposal. Implementation is expected to result in the mainstreaming of a continual process of upgrading informal settlements throughout South Africa, in a process driven by accredited local authorities within a clear and consistent national policy framework; and an improved institutional framework, better aligned with a strategy of continuous upgrading and consolidation at both scale and requisite speed. USAID and the World Bank are sponsoring this activity.

Guidelines for proposals and eligibility requirements for funding support are available from the [Working with Cities Alliance Guide](#), accessible from the Cities Alliance website.