

**Cities Alliance Consultative Group 2009<sup>1</sup>**  
**21 – 22 January 2010**  
Taj Mahal Palace and Tower Hotel, Mumbai, INDIA

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting chaired by Zoubida Allaoua of the World Bank and Inga Björk-Klevby of UN-Habitat.

21 January 2010

**Morning Session**

The meeting was called to order and the agenda (see Annex 1) of the 2009 Meeting of the Consultative Group of the Cities Alliance was adopted.

Welcomes were extended to Minister Patricia Poblete of Chile and the delegation from Chile; the State Minister from Uganda, Michael Werikhe; Rt. Hon Clare Short, MP, Chair of Cities Alliance Advocacy Panel; the Chief Executive Officer from Lilongwe, Malawi, Kelvin M'mingisa; and Jan Erasmus, Johannesburg City Council, South Africa.

Also welcomed as **Observers** were representatives from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Melanie Walker; GHK International, Jamie Simpson; Habitat for Humanity International, Stephen Weir; and UNICEF, Joaquin Gonzalez – Aleman.

Thanks were also expressed to SDI and SPARC for the excellent and informative site visit day on Monday, 18 January and to the Governments of India, and Maharashtra, and the Mumbai Transformation Support Unit (MTSU) for Tuesday's Public Policy Forum, which focused on implementing India's multi-level Urban Policies.

Particular thanks were given to the delegations from Ethiopia and Nigeria for their participation.

Apologies received: CAIXA, DFID, USAID

**Item One: Report Back from Executive Committee Meetings held in Santiago de Chile, Chile, 7-8 September 2009 and Mumbai, India 17 January 2010 by EXCO Chairperson, Elisabeth Gateau**

The Chairperson of the Executive Committee summarised the debates and the decisions from Santiago and Mumbai EXCO meetings. (The Santiago meeting report has already been circulated to the CG. The summary of the Mumbai meeting is attached as **Annex 2**)

The CG expressed thanks to the members of the EXCO for their work. Various members of the CG expressed the desire to build upon the work of the EXCO and to clarify aspects of the future direction of the Cities Alliance, in particular the suggested European Office, the revision of sections of the Charter and the need to keep cities and the urban poor in the forefront of the Alliance's work. Support was also expressed for the new business model.

---

<sup>1</sup> The 2009 meeting of the Consultative Group was moved to early 2010 due to scheduling conflicts.

## **Item Two: Report Back from Member Policy Debate Forum: 20 January 2010 by Advocacy Panel Chairperson, Clare Short**

The Policy Debate of the 20<sup>th</sup> was deemed to have been an excellent and welcome innovation, with the platform being laid by a number of high quality presentations from Uganda, Johannesburg/Lilongwe, and Chile. Thereafter, CG members participated in a lengthy and lively debate on the proposed revisions to the MTS, as presented by the Manager of the Secretariat.

### **Summary of Key Points from MTS Presentation, and Debate:**

There was strong support for the overall direction of the proposals by the Secretariat to update and implement the MTS, with a preference for the business model in the Manager's presentation - which incorporated the EXCO discussion - over the written document circulated in advance of the meeting. There was unanimous endorsement of the focus on poverty reduction, least developed countries and the role of cities in development.

The Chairperson reported that the meeting endorsed the overall direction of the Land, Services and Citizenship Programme. However, the most significant area of consensus - and clarity - to emerge from the debate was a strong endorsement for the new business model of the Cities Alliance which would increasingly emphasise in-country programmes for cities and local governments, while the current grant-making facility would be replaced by a new Catalytic Fund.

After a long debate, the importance of continuing to engage with Middle Income Countries was endorsed, although it is also envisaged that their role will evolve, and become more of a resource to be utilised by the Cities Alliance, sharing their experiences and lessons with Least Developed Countries (LDCs) facing similar developmental challenges. In this context, members strongly endorsed the need for the Cities Alliance to pay far more attention to the potential of horizontal forms of support, particularly between cities, as had been exemplified in the case study of Lilongwe and Johannesburg. The whole area of south-south learning should also receive more attention from the Cities Alliance.

Members reiterated the city focus of the Cities Alliance, which is what makes the partnership unique in international development. To this end, the role of local government and, in particular, national associations of local government should, wherever possible, play a leading role in Cities Alliance activities, and in-country programmes.

Members also endorsed the Catalytic Fund, which should increasingly be utilised as a mechanism to consistently raise the quality of Cities Alliance-funded activities and, more specifically, act as an entry mechanism for the identification of potential in-country programmes. This will increase the overall coherence of the Cities Alliance work programme, and its portfolio.

Members, therefore, endorsed the proposal that the Catalytic Fund should operate on the basis of a Call for Proposals, initially semi-annually and, in due course, on an annual basis. This will also allow the secretariat to free more time to actively manage the portfolio, pay more attention to ensuring coherence within in-country programmes, and better manage funds under its control. To this end, the CG endorsed the proposal that the grant-making facility be wound up as soon as possible, even by 31<sup>st</sup> March, and the catalytic Fund launched soon thereafter.

Members noted that the new business model will generate the need for increased resources, as well as the identification of potential new members.

The Secretariat was asked to immediately work on the details for the implementation of these decisions, and report to the Executive Committee prior to the next CG meeting.

Finally, members also identified the need for enhancements to the new business model in a number of important areas. These include the need for a significantly improved approach to advocacy and communications, both at an in-country level, but also globally.

Members also strongly endorsed the need for more consistent attention to be paid to producing CA materials in relevant languages, particularly French, as the CA expands in activities in LDCs in general, and in sub-Saharan Africa in particular.

**Item Three: “Updating and Implementing the Medium Term Strategy” report by Programme Manager, William Cobbett**

MTS Update and Repositioned Business Model

With respect to the proposed revisions of the Cities Alliance business model and the Medium Term Strategy (summarised in Item Two), augmented by contributions by various members, the following decisions were taken:

**Decision One:** The CG endorsed the overall direction as outlined by the Manager on 20 January 2010

**Decision Two:** The Secretariat will capture those decisions in a revised MTS, to be presented to EXCO at its next meeting (mid 2010).

**Decision Three:** The Secretariat will prepare a more detailed document outlining the process and procedures of the Catalytic Fund, to be presented to EXCO.

**Decision Four:** The transition to the Catalytic Fund, effective 1<sup>st</sup> April, was confirmed. All current proposals in process by 31 March 2010 will be submitted as a batch to EXCO for ratification.

**Decision Five:** Secretariat will elaborate conceptual and operational description of country programmes, and a proposal for countries, including the criteria for their selection, with inputs from CA members; reporting back through Exco at next CG meeting. A draft will be prepared for the next EXCO meeting.

**Decision Six:** The Secretariat will work with UCLG and other members to pilot feasibility/assessment process in Francophone Africa, and bring outputs to EXCO as a basis to develop criteria and other aspects of ICP design.

**Item Four: Presentation: The Road to Results-based Management, Günter Meinert**

Based on the presentation, the discussion focussed on three major issues concerning M+E and results-based management of the Cities Alliance overall work programme:

- 1.) Whether to adopt a sector approach to M+E, with many indicators, or an integrated approach promoting improved, pro-poor and inclusive urban development;
- 2.) The adoption of a Results Framework, to guide the work programme;
- 3.) The selection of the appropriate level of monitoring and evaluation for the Cities Alliance.

Members expressed a desire to keep M+E and RBM simple, and quantifiable. Support was expressed for an integrated approach to pro-poor urban development as well as for the draft Results Framework and implementing the output based M&E. Subject to these comments, there was support for the Secretariat to begin implementation and, if necessary, finalise this issue with EXCO,

**Decision Seven:** The Secretariat to begin implementation and provide a progress report to EXCO.

**Item Five: Presentation: Work Programme and Financial Plan, Kevin Milroy**

The Secretariat revised its presentation of the Work Programme to reflect Results Based Management and improved Monitoring and Evaluation. The report is organised around OECD-DAC income classifications and the main results objectives of improved knowledge, improved policy and improved implementation. The Secretariat will be aligning all input and information systems around this framework and business line, as far as practical. The portfolio analysis is based on results from types of countries.

Members complimented the Secretariat on the new format of the work programme and financial plan, which was generally held to be far more readable and user-friendly.

**On-Going Funding Allocations**

(As of 31 December 2009)

- Approximately \$28m of country-specific and knowledge and advocacy activities were on-going as of end of 2009.
- More than 80% of on-going Core-funded activities were country-specific projects from the open-access grant facility, mostly for elaboration of policies and strategies.
- The plans for 2010-2012 would reduce funding for the open-access facility (Catalytic Fund) to approximately 33% of Core funds, and to less than 24% of total funding (including Gates and Africa Facility).
- Country Programmes would increasingly focus on implementation of policies and strategies.

**Approved and Recommended Funding Allocations – SUMMARY FY10 to date**

(As of 31 December 2009)

- More than \$9.5m approved during first half of FY10, of which \$6.5m from Core funds.

#### **Approved and Recommended Funding Allocations – DETAILED FY10 to date**

(As of 31 December 2009)

- Detailed listing of approved and recommended allocations.
- No objections were made to the \$510,000 of fund allocations recommended for approval.

#### **Sources and Uses of Funds – Estimated FY10 for entire year**

- Summarized by main sources of funds – Core, Gates Foundation (for Land, Services & Citizenship programme), Africa Facility and other Non-Core.

#### **Sources and Uses of Funds – Budgeted FY10-FY12**

- Projected 3-year budget presented to illustrate the cash flow implications and trade-offs of the on repositioned business model,
- Assumes 33% increase in Core funding contributions (\$7m over 3 years).

<b>Decision Eight:</b> FY10 Allocations, as recommended, were approved.
---

#### **Item Six: Statement: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Melanie Walker**

Ms Walker briefly addressed the CG, and emphasised that the Foundation is very proud to be supporting the Land, Services and Citizenship Programme. She expressed her organisation's support for the long-term, programmatic, multi-stakeholder approach that the Alliance is taking with its LSC and other programmes, and strongly endorses the need for long term commitment.

In May 2010, the Board of the Gates Foundation will be reviewing and deciding on the future of the urban programme portfolio of the Foundation.

#### **Item Seven: Presentation: “The Land, Services and Citizenship Programme,” Julian Baskin**

Julian Baskin gave an overview of progress made in the implementation of the LSC programme, which has – thus far - been launched in Uganda, with the next countries likely to be Ghana and Vietnam. Using the convening power of the Cities Alliance and its members, the programme creates a platform for each country to adopt a programme to help manage the dynamics of rapid urbanisation. The programme has proved to be an excellent vehicle to simultaneously engage national government, local government, community organisations, CA members and other interested urban stakeholders (universities, banks).

The CG expressed its strong support of the programme and would like to see, *inter alia*, the institutional learning, south-south cooperation, capacity building, knowledge management and advocacy aspects strengthened.

#### **Item Eight: Presentation: “Cities and Climate Change and the CDS sub-group,” Andrea Haer**

The CDS team reported on the new approach to knowledge management of the revised MTS:

1.) Joint Work Programme example – WB, UNEP, UN-Habitat - \$500,000 CA funding has leverage almost \$5million dollars around cities and climate change, aiming to:

- Bring new coherence of effort amongst members

- Create a database to track partners work

2.) CDS Sub-Group of several CA members aiming to improve collective know on CDS. The two initial tasks of the Sub-Group are to develop a:

- Conceptual Framework for CDS, and a

- Taxonomy of CDS support from CA members

The CG commented that both programmes are an excellent illustration of how the Cities Alliance can provide a platform for members. It was commented that the Secretariat should work to simplify the CDS Sub-Group, and clarify the link between Slum Upgrading and the City Development Strategies.

### **Item Nine: Partnership Matters**

1.) World Bank Presentation – Restructuring of the Finance, Economics and Urban Department (FEU), *Zoubida Allaoua, Director FEU*

The FEU Director explained that the Cities Alliance is now a component of the new Urban Pillar within the Finance, Economics and Urban Department, the other Pillar being focused on Finance.

While concern was expressed by some members that, in the visual presentation, the Cities Alliance looks like just another programme of the World Bank, reassurance was given by the Director that the Secretariat remains independent, with control over its own work programme, and budget. For example, the CG – and not the World Bank - decides who will be the Programme Manager. The World Bank has strict rules concerning Trust Funded programmes – staff whose positions are funded by Trust Funds, as in the case of the Secretariat staff, cannot work directly on World Bank activities, for example. The new structure of FEU is trying to break down barriers that have built up over time within the unit and make the department more efficient and effective.

The structure allows the Secretariat to leverage Cities Alliance's position with the World Bank to build partnerships. The World Bank's new urban and local government strategy provides an appropriate vehicle for improved alignment between the Cities Alliance and the World Bank through, for example, specific mechanisms such as the Urbanisation Review. The third component of the Urban Pillar is another Global Programme, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), which includes a number of critical areas of work relevant to the Cities Alliance, such as the importance of disaster-resilient cities, or the risks to which the urban poor are exposed through their location on marginal and dangerous land.

CA members were reminded that (i) most risks associated with the Cities Alliance – financial, fiduciary and reputational – were borne by the World Bank, and (ii) CA staff were treated as full members of Bank staff, and had access to all privileges and services offered by the Bank. The Director expressed the view that this was a relationship that had worked very well in the past, but it was important to ensure that the activities of the Cities Alliance were aligned with those of the Bank, and other CA members, which can be achieved without undermining the Alliance's independence or lessening the value of the other CA members. In the view of the World Bank, the Cities Alliance provided the platform for a valuable partnership, and it was her hope that the CG would move on from debating this relationship, which has consumed a great deal of time and energy.

The Manager emphasised the importance of CA members familiarising themselves with the reality – and the complexity – of the Cities Alliance’s relationship with the WB, which remains substantially the same since the foundation of the Cities Alliance. He also emphasised the reality that he was a Manager with two reporting lines – one through the Director, FEU, and the other through the Executive Committee of the Cities Alliance.

## 2.) Cities Alliance Advocacy Panel

Members noted that the Advocacy Panel still had only one member and that, in light of the new business model and the increased emphasis on communications and advocacy, it would now be appropriate to set the Advocacy Panel on a more secure footing.

**Decision Nine:** Secretariat to present a paper on the future of the Advocacy Panel to the EXCO.

## 3.) Executive Committee Membership

**Decision Ten:** Norway to replace France, which has completed its three year term.

## 3.) 15% Supervision Guideline

This matter was raised by the secretariat, which had noted possible non-compliance or reinterpretation by a few CA members.

**Decision Eleven:** EXCO agreed to change procedures, making the 15% guideline solely for supervision, and directed that any implementation fees or costs should be motivated as a separate budget line outside the 15% cap.

## **Item Ten: Presentation by Metropolis: “Global Fund for Cities Development Metropolis”**

Metropolis made a presentation of the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), which they view as complementary to the mission and activities of the Cities Alliance. The Facility would be designed to would allow Metropolis members much needed access to funds to support its 1.2 billion constituents through technical assistance, financial engineering and financing.

CG members expressed some support for the initiative but cautioned that there a number of international finance institutions already in existence. It would be beneficial for Metropolis to learn from their mistakes.

Metropolis will contact members individually to set up meetings.

## **Item Eleven: Governance of Cities Alliance**

### **CHARTER:**

Norway, Sweden, France and Germany presented a proposal on the way forward for the governance of the Cities Alliance. The proposal suggests a two step phase for the revision of the CA Charter,

Phase 1: A limited immediate process is initiated to look at:

- Membership issues, in particular how to include cities, LGAs, NGOs, Foundations and other types of new members

- The decision making structure – roles, functions and necessary composition of EXCO, CG and Advocacy Panel

Phase 2: A full revision of the whole charter is undertaken after the 2011 independent evaluation and a proposal is presented to the CG for decision at its 2012 meeting.

This issue was discussed for some time, during which some members noted that the paper was not circulated prior to the meeting to EXCO, which had considered similar Working Group recommendations on the Charter.

**Decision Twelve:** The proposal was referred to the forthcoming meeting of EXCO for action.

#### OTHER MATTERS:

Request for the MTS to be revised to capture the comments and conclusions of the week and re-circulated to the CG, after presentation to EXCO.

Request from France to have all CA documents translated into French. It was also requested to have simultaneous interpretation at CG meetings in French.

#### **Item Twelve: Presentation: Knowledge Management and Advocacy**

There is CG agreement that the Cities Alliance needs an aggressive advocacy plan. Members expressed the need to put pressure on donors and multilaterals such as the OECD and EU, decide upon the future of the CA Advocacy Panel, and use economists to quantify the urban problem.

The Secretariat will incorporate the CG's ideas into an informal task force to help it develop advocacy plans, to include UCLG, HFHI, Clare Short, SDI, and any other interested members, and report to EXCO.

#### **Item Thirteen: Request for Membership**

Request from Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) for Membership. Habitat is a membership organization that works in over 100 countries around the world. Established in 1976, HFH is now looking to build new partnerships, and to focus more in a relatively limited number of countries. In response to a question, Steve Weir confirmed that HFHI is a faith-based organization, but nonetheless worked on a secular, non-discriminatory basis in different countries in all parts of the world.

Habitat for Humanity already has operational (or other) relationships with most of the CA members.

After a long discussion about the future of Cities Alliance membership, the caution not to dilute the existing membership, the request to review the governance, organizational structure and Charter of the Cities Alliance, the CG approved the membership.

**Decision Thirteen:** Habitat for Humanity International's request to join the Cities Alliance Consultative Group was approved.



**Item Fourteen: Next CG Meeting**

Decision was taken to have the next CG meeting in Mexico City in conjunction with UCLG's World Congress in November 17-20, 2010, pending a formal invitation. It is anticipated that two days will be needed for the CG meeting, one day for EXCO, and that the PPF might be incorporated into the World Congress (2000-3000 mayors are expected). The events would be held in the historic centre of the city and would involve changing venues for the various meetings.

**Decision Fourteen:** The next CG meeting would be held in Mexico City in November 2010, in conjunction with the UCLG World Congress.

Thanks were given to the members for their active participation, and to the Secretariat for the presentations and logistical arrangements and, in particular, to the team led by Susanna Henderson.

The meeting was adjourned.

## ANNEX I

**The Cities Alliance  
2009 Consultative Group Meeting  
Agenda  
21-22 January 2010**

**Venue: \*Taj Mahal Palace and Tower Hotel, Mumbai, INDIA**

<b>THURSDAY, 21 January 2010</b>		
<b>8h30–9h30</b>	<i>Morning Coffee</i>	<i>Venue: Rooftop Rendezvous</i>
<b>9h30-10h45</b>	<b>Introductory statement &amp; Welcome to Observers</b> <i>Co-Chairs: Inga Björk-Klevby &amp; Zoubida Allaoua</i>  <b>Report Back: Executive Committee</b> <i>Elisabeth Gateau, Executive Committee Chairperson</i>	
<b>10h45-11h00</b>	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	
<b>11h00-12h30</b>	<b>Report by Manager: Updating and Implementing the Medium Term Strategy</b>  Summary of discussion from PPF debate 20 January <i>Clare Short, MP, Advocacy Panel Chair</i>  Implications <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Grant Facility</li><li>➤ Knowledge and Learning programme</li><li>➤ Staffing</li></ul>	<i>Handouts: Updating and Implementing the Medium Term Strategy</i>
<b>12h30-14h00</b>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Venue: Starboard</i>
<b>14h00-16h30</b>	<b>Presentation: The Road to Results-based Management</b> <i>Günter Meinert, Sr. Urban Specialist</i>  <b>Presentation: Work Programme and Financial Plan</b> <i>Kevin Milroy, Sr. Operations Officer/ Deputy Manager</i>  <b>Presentation:</b> <b>“The Land, Services and Citizenship Programme”</b> <i>Julian Baskin, Andrea Merrick, Celine d’Cruz, Slum Upgrading Team</i>  <b>Statement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, <i>Melanie Walker, Senior Programme Officer, Global Development</i></li></ul>	<i>Handouts: Work Programme and Financial Plan</i>
<b>16h30-16h45</b>	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	

16h45-17h30	<p><b>Presentation: Knowledge Management and Advocacy</b> <i>Kevin Milroy, Sr. Operations Officer/ Deputy Manager</i></p> <p><b>Presentation:</b> <b>“Cities and Climate Change and the CDS sub-group”</b> <i>Andrea Haer, City Development Strategy Team</i></p> <p><b>Summary of decisions</b> <i>Co-Chairs: Inga Björk-Klevby &amp; Zoubida Allaoua</i></p>	
17h30–18h00	<b>FRIDAY, 22 January 2010</b>	
8h30	<i>Morning Coffee</i>	<i>Venue: Rooftop Rendezvous</i>
9h00-10h45	<p><b>Partnership Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ World Bank Presentation – Restructuring of the Finance, Economics and Urban Department (FEU), <i>Zoubida Allaoua, Director FEU</i></li> <li>➤ Cities Alliance Advocacy Panel</li> <li>➤ Executive Committee Membership</li> <li>➤ 15% Supervision Guideline</li> </ul> <p>Presentation: “Global Fund for Cities Development Metropolis” ➤ <i>Josep Roig &amp; Alain LeSaux, Metropolis</i></p>	<p><i>Handout: Partnership Matters</i></p> <p><i>William Cobbett and Kevin Milroy</i></p>
10h45–11h00	<i>Coffee/ Tea Break</i>	
11h00-12h00	<p><b>Request for Membership:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Habitat for Humanity International, <i>Steve Weir, Vice President, Global Programme Development</i></li> <li>➤ Government of Ghana, <i>Honourable Minister Joseph Chireh, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development</i></li> </ul> <p>Discussion on next steps for review of Cities Alliance membership and other governance issues</p>	<i>Handouts: Letters of Intent</i>
12h30-13h00	<p><b>Closing Remarks by the Co-Chairs</b> <i>Inga Björk-Klevby &amp; Zoubida Allaoua</i></p>	
13h00–14h30	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Venue: Starboard</i>

\*Apollo Bunder Road, NA  
Mumbai 400001, INDIA  
(91-22) 6665 3366

## **Annex 2: Summary of the EXCO Meeting Mumbai, India - 17 January 2010**

### **1.) Presentation of revised MTS**

The Secretariat presented the revised Medium-Term Strategy (MTS), which was then followed by a lengthy and lively debate by EXCO members. A number of areas were identified for clarification, to be incorporated for the presentation at the forthcoming policy debate on 20<sup>th</sup> January.

### **2.) CLIFF**

The Secretariat explained the reasons behind the recent decision to decline to act as a financial agent for the next phase of CLIFF. In summary, this decision was informed by recent changes to WB Trust Fund policy, as well as the new direction of the Cities Alliance.

### **3.) Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Secretariat explained that the CG has yet to come to a definitive decision on the proposed M&E strategy. The discussion on the new business model would provide an appropriate context for implementing the M&E strategy.

### **4.) Update on Advocacy Plan and Results Based Management**

The Secretariat identified advocacy as an area requiring particular attention, especially given the interest of a number of members. To this end, a professional firm with international expertise has been identified.

It was agreed that this matter would be further discussed at the CG meeting.

### **5.) Evaluation of Project Implementation Modalities**

Following the decisions of the Barcelona meeting, an international tender had been issued by the CA, with GHK International being selected. The inception report should be ready by the end of January. February – April has been reserved for field work, with half of the field visits taking place in Africa. The evaluation should be completed by the end of June. EXCO and CG members will be contacted for interviews.

### **6.) European options paper**

The Secretariat presented three options for EXCO to consider. After discussion, the creation of a sub-office in Europe attracted little support, and members believed that underlying concerns could better be addressed through an advocacy programme in Europe.

### **7.) 15% supervision fee**

After a presentation by the secretariat, EXCO endorsed the Secretariat's recommendation that the 15% guideline pertain only to grant supervision and

administration. Any proposed fees for implementation would need to be clearly motivated, and presented in a separate budget line. EXCO forcefully reiterated, however, that agreed supervision budgets were to be rigorously enforced.

a. Staffing Issues

The Manager signaled that, if the new business model was adopted by the CG, then the Secretariat will need to be restructured. Members were also informed of the secretariat's current institutional, and physical, location within the WB. EXCO also endorsed the recommendation of the Director (FEU) that the Manager of the CA serve as a Principal Member of the Urban and Local Government Sector Board of the World Bank.

8.) Membership

EXCO reaffirmed the decision of the Barcelona meeting that members who do not pay their membership fees for two consecutive years will de-select themselves from Membership of the Cities Alliance. Accordingly, it was confirmed that Asian Development Bank, Canada and Japan are no longer members of the Cities Alliance.

There was a lengthy discussion on the merits, and implications, of the membership application by Habitat for Humanity International. Some members had reservations, worrying about a gradual dilution of the original purpose, and focus, of the Cities Alliance. There was general agreement that the whole issue of membership needed a fuller examination.

EXCO recommended that CG approve the membership of HFHI.

9.) Location of next CG meeting

The Secretariat raised concerns about holding CG meetings in cities/countries where the host is not adequately engaged. The Secretariat also recommended that the timing of the CG revert to its traditional slot, in Q3/Q4 of the calendar year.

Members welcomed and endorsed UCLG's suggestion for the next CG to be held in Mexico City, in conjunction with the UCLG Congress, 17 – 20 November 2010