

Proposal Summary

Advocacy campaign: Cities Contributing to “The future we want” towards Habitat III

CDS

Global

Summary	<p>In the last 20 years, the world urban population has grown from 2.25 billion to 3.5 billion. It is expected that it will reach 4.9 billion in 2030.</p> <p>Local governments have grown in importance in recent decades and their role is widely recognized, but probably not sufficiently taken into account in important international policy-making processes that are to shape the future of the planet. In many cases the political, institutional and financial resources and powers do not match the mandate nor the actual responsibilities of local governments.</p> <p>Economically and culturally, cities are effective engines of growth and innovation, allowing personal development of its inhabitants and the territories around them. When badly managed or insufficiently taken into account in wider policies there can be great inequalities and poverty.</p> <p>The international debate on sustainability, the Millennium Development Goals, MDGs, and the III Habitat conference starting with the Rio+20 process and the document “The Future we want”, needs to acknowledge the role and potential of cities, big and small; their impact beyond national borders and beyond sectors.</p> <p>UCLG is together with Habitat, promoting the implementation of the Guidelines on Decentralization and Access to Public Services for all. The Guidelines can be an important tool to contribute to improve national policies and strengthen pro-poor urban policies and decentralization.</p> <p>These shared opinions and visions expressed above and contained in the Cities Alliance Charter are not permeating sufficiently in the international community. The mandate of the Alliance as a global partnership for urban poverty reduction and the promotion of the role of cities in sustainable development, cannot be accomplished fully unless the gains of urbanization and the opportunities in well managed and resourced cities are fully taken into account in the international decision making processes.</p> <p>The last two evaluations of Cities Alliance have stressed the need to increase the advocacy capacity of the Alliance. The current proposal aims at addressing this issue and creating a base for joint action for all members and partners.</p> <p>The proposal will further build on preceding cooperation between UCLG, UCLGA and Cities Alliance for the Support of the UCLG Committee on Local Finance. The UCLG Committee was established in 2006 and is currently chaired by the Mayor of Rabat. The preceding project made concrete contributions to approaches of sustainable financing strategies for urban and local development through:</p> <p>a) organizing seminars with local authorities for the dissemination of the urban strategies of donors in Africa and in Latin America (conference in Rabat and Porto Alegre) b) setting up a knowledge-sharing network that will bring together local government practitioners and international experts (FiNet) c) collecting specific data on local finances in approximately 70-80 countries; d) finalizing the draft of the 2nd Global report on decentralization and local democracy focusing on local finances; e) Supporting to the national local governments associations in Benin and Kenya for improving access to long-term financing for municipalities and to improve their dialogue with national government and donors on fiscal decentralization.</p> <p>Financing strategies to improve urban development is particularly related to basic services and infrastructure investments and delivery.</p>
----------------	---

Objectives	Activities
<p>General Objectives Increasing visibility and knowledge on the role of cities and local authorities in sustainable development and poverty reduction.</p> <p>Specific Objectives 1) Strengthen joint advocacy by members of the Cities Alliance on the gains and opportunities of urbanization and the potential contribution of local authorities to the international negotiations on sustainability and development.</p> <p>2) Strengthen the role of Local Authorities in basic service delivery and the increasing awareness about the links of service delivery and the achievements of</p>	<p>Key activities and tasks will be carried out under this initiative. These are:</p> <p>Objective 1: Global advocacy on urban policies in international fora</p> <p>The advocacy efforts will focus around 4 main activities: 1. High Level Partners Session in New York (U.N.) (April 2012) 2. Rio +20 Local Authorities Sessions. (June 2012) 3. Joint action at the World Urban Forum as preparation for the 2013 MDG Review (Sept 2012) 4. Joint session in Africities – Dialogue between CA members and local authorities (Dec 2012)</p>

the Millennium Development Goals

3) Defining sustainable financing strategies for urban development

In the framework of these 4 main activities, a campaign will be developed based on the "Cities contribution to 'The future we want' towards Habitat III"

Division of task between UCLG and CA partners:

- a) The UCLG World Secretariat will ensure the mobilization of UCLG members and the consolidation of messages to put forward to the international community. It will develop communication materials on the role of cities and local governments in development.
- b) Cities Alliance Members and its Secretariat will contribute to defining the advocacy messages
- c) Cities Alliance Secretariat will participate in the events organized to give visibility to the role of cities in development
- d) Cities Alliance members will facilitate a political follow-up through participation in dialogues with local governments
- e) The Chair of the Cities Alliance Policy Advisory Board jointly with the UCLG leadership will deliver messages before the international community through actively participating in dialogues and sessions.

Objective 2: The role of Local Authorities in delivery of local basic service and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals

2.1. Wider implementation of the International Guidelines on Decentralization and Basic Services in Mozambique or Uganda: supporting national dialogues on public policies on access to public services

a) National commitment: obtaining support of the national government and the national local government association to organise a national dialogue on the implementation of the Guidelines. b) Stakeholder mobilization: building a steering committee with representatives of different stakeholders (national and local governments, operators of public services and NGOs and slum dwellers organizations) and validate the methodology for the assessment and dialogue c) Quick assessment: mobilizing experts to review the situation and organization of basic services at national and local level (through a set of representatives' cities). Identification of gaps between the Guidelines and the national and local situation and development of draft recommendations to improve national policies for basic service delivery. d) Round tables: to present and validate the assessment, discuss on the stakeholders' recommendation and possible priority actions to addressing main gaps vis-à-vis the guidelines. e) Development of consensus and a plan of action: based on the results of the firsts round tables and the feedback of the stakeholders, the expert prepare an adapted action plan with main priorities and follow up indicators and engage in a process of consensus building with the different stakeholders. f) Final Conference: based on the results of the consensus building process a national conference will gather the main stakeholders to present and debate the action plan with key priorities to improve the access to public services, including some follow up indicators. If approved, the action plan will be signed by the national and local governments with the support of the other stakeholders.

2.2. Consolidated messages on achieving MDGs and public policies to improve access to basic services, from the perspective of cities and Local Governments Associations

a) Sub-regional analyzes: In the framework of the 3rd Global Report on Decentralization (GOLD III), 4 sub regional reports will be developed on the role of local authorities in basic services delivery in Africa. b) Regional Dialogue between local authorities: organize 1 or 2 regional seminars to present the main conclusions of the sub regional report to the local authorities and debate the main conclusions and recommendations to improve the role of local authorities

and their capacity to deliver basic services c) Consolidate the policy recommendations: based on the regional dialogues, the contribution of local authorities will be collected and disseminated as a contribution to the debate on MDGs, particularly, for the multi-stakeholder consultation that will be promoted in 2012-2013 on the "United Nations development agenda beyond 2015".

Objective 3: Concrete contribution to sustainable financing strategies for urban development

3.1. Prefeasibility study of an International Observatory on local finances a) Contracting of an international expert On local finance (Michel Bouvier, FONDAFIP, France) to develop the prefeasibility study of the Observatory b) Pilot experience with the indicators proposed for the Global Observatory in four countries in Africa 3.2. Elaboration of a preparatory document for resource mobilization in support of the Committee on Local Finances and FiNet a) Definition of a program to promote peer to peer exchanges and training between FiNet experts b) Develop methodological tools to capitalize and disseminate experience on the theme of land management and land-based financing for local investment, particularly for Africa

Submission

Submitted by:
UCLG

CA Sponsor:
Cities Alliance Secretariat; UCLG

Implementation

Implemented by:
UCLG
CA Monitor:
Adele Hosken, Kevin Milroy

Budget and Time

Request to CA: \$ 200,000
Co-Financing: \$ 30,000
Total Budget: \$ 230,000

Duration:
30 months

Expected Impacts

Objective 1: i) Increasing visibility of Local and Regional Authorities inputs to the Rio+20 process ii) Identifying key issues for the future Habitat III agenda
Objective 2: i) Defining messages on MDGs achievement and public policies to improve access to basic services, from cities and Local Governments Associations perspectives ii) Promoting implementation of the International Guidelines on Decentralization and Public Services in Mozambique or Uganda
Objective 3: i) Advocating in favor of fiscal decentralization and increasing access to finances ii) Strengthening the capacities of national local governments associations and local authorities to improve the management of local finances