



We are pleased to present you the latest news on City Development Strategies (CDS):

1. *Outcomes of the World Urban Forum 2010 in Rio*
2. *UCLG Mentoring in Malawi*
3. *UCLG Congress in Mexico City*
4. *Call to participate on the social inclusion policy platform*

### 1. Outcomes of the World Urban Forum 2010 in Rio



The World Urban Forum was taking place in Rio de Janeiro, organized by the Brazilian Government and UN Habitat. Unlike the last Forum, both the Brazilian government and NGOs were very involved and present, and the topic "right to the city" well chosen in a country like Brazil. The UCLG took part in the following activities:

- Mayors roundtable
- Sessions of the task force on the policy paper on Urban Strategic Planning
- Cities Alliance/Polis session on the state of the cities report
- Meetings with the African partners for exploring a project with the Gates foundation

### Sessions on the Policy Paper

The task force on urban strategic planning validated the global chapter of the policy paper and further discussed the key findings where some adjustments and remarks were made:

- Updating the policy paper every 2 years is important to keep the document interesting and current.
- Taking into account the opportunity of planning beyond the legislative boundaries is becoming relevant as in Europe, Asia and also in Brazil, where urbanization frequently flows over boundaries and requires inter municipal cooperation.
- Planning is coming out of the box and new approaches, not focusing only on land use, are being applied, especially when it comes to planning for regions.
- A key achievement of CDS is integration, both sectoral on the municipal actions as well as institutional on horizontal integration.
- Institutionalization is helpful to overcome legal limitations to implementation and it is crucial to link monitoring to planning.
- Digital inclusion is a requirement for proper social inclusion in the planning process.

- Decentralization cannot work without proper planning policies.
- Governments are a knowledge resource and therefore the updating of universities is crucial.

Interesting contributions were made for example from Rosario, Ile de France, the Philippines, Johannesburg and Belo Horizonte, who underscored the importance of integration and inclusion, on a spatial, institutional and social level. Billy Cobbett from Cities Alliance recalled the importance of proper policies to reduce poverty and to include the urban poor. He stated that decentralization must over all apply the principle of subsidiarity to the most effective local level, not necessarily to the lowest. In order to succeed with an inclusive strategic plan, local governments do not only need to be given more competences, but also need to improve their capacities to match those competences.

All participants agreed on the importance of participation. The ways in which communities can contribute and the importance of building on the existing organizational structures of the informal sector in the city are being increasingly acknowledged.

### Official presentation of the Policy Paper

This week, the global chapter of the policy paper has been presented in the UCLG Executive Bureau by the mayor of Cologne. Cologne itself has long experience with strategic planning. Apart from summarizing the recommendations, Mayor Roters will stress that the urbanization phenomena has to be more recognized, anticipated and planned for. It is the task of the cities itself to support the preparation all cities for sustainable growth, addressing especially the planning capacity of medium-sized cities in the South. Local authorities must lead the strategic process. However, their leading role needs to be recognized equally to their responsibility on urban development.

### 2. UCLG Mentoring in Malawi



UCLG held a working session in Lilongwe on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The session was proposed on the success of the Lilongwe/Johannesburg mentorship program, which resulted in the launching of a City Development Strategy for Lilongwe.

The most important lessons from the experience of Johannesburg and Lilongwe during the past two years are that CDS are not transferable, but must reflect the local context and that stakeholder

participation must be developed from the very beginning. The reflections on the mentoring process were predominantly positive. The mentor is especially important when it comes to keeping the CDS development on track and alive. The contact must be regular, equal, and flexible. If this is the case, mentoring can contribute to capacity building within the administrations and help remaining focused throughout the CDS process.



UCLG, based on the positive feedback on the mentorship program and on request from other Malawian cities, mobilized additional South African cities in cooperation with SALGA and MALGA which may be interested in mentorship programs. The Malawian cities of Blantyre and Mzuzu presented their challenges very dynamically, showcasing the phenomena of accelerated urbanization and per-urban development in this least developed country. We hope that the South African cities of Ekurhuleni and eThekweni will soon be mentoring the Malawian cities of Mzuzu and Blantyre who have already defined priority areas for partnerships.

All four cities are interested in working together, and the establishment of the mentoring process is now handled by UCLG, SALGA and MALGA.

It is hoped that the development of a CDS in the three major cities of Malawi will also reflect upon national policy development on urban development. This should not be done in a top down approach, but taking into account the contributions and increasing the competences and resources of the municipalities in an integrated multi level approach. Cities Alliance is intending to partner with Malawi for that topic.

The next steps to be taken will be the preparation of a mentoring schedule and the exploration of possible funds and partners.

### CDS Lilongwe – “A Shared Future”

The mayor of Johannesburg, Amos Masondo paid a visit to Lilongwe for the launching of the City Development

strategy. He appreciated this very hands-on partnership and committed his city to further support the process to prepare implementation offering specific sectoral technical assistance along the projects. The challenges faced by Lilongwe are extensive – massive urbanization in particular poses a challenge to the city in the fields of service delivery and infrastructure development. The City Development Strategy has improved management capacity preparing the local administrations for the tasks to come. The Assembly is now equipped with a tool to manage the tasks in an integrated manner, to communicate tasks and needs, to measure performance and to attend to priorities based on local decisions that involved key stakeholders.

The process was funded by Cities Alliance, the Lilongwe City Assembly and the city of Johannesburg. Johannesburg was involved in the process through several meetings, revision feedback and benchmarking, giving valuable input in the strategy development. The preparatory phase included a strict revision of internal proceedings due a “stabilization strategy” that revealed and overcame severe weakness in operability, management and response.

Lilongwe was one of the first cities to profit from the UCLG mentoring programme and has noted several advantages of the methodology. Through learning from a city with a long standing experience in urban strategic planning such as Johannesburg, obvious mistakes can be avoided. The technical support is valuable and to make the city and the stakeholders more confident on participating in the process.

### 3. UCLG Congress in Mexico City



The 2010 UCLG World Congress will take place in Mexico City in 2010, from Tuesday 16 to Saturday 20 November 2010. The UCLG Congress –is organized every 3 years and it brings

together over 3000 local and regional elected representatives and practitioners from around the world. UCLG experts will launch the policy paper on Urban Strategic Planning!

Further information and how to register can be found under: <http://uclgcongress.com/>.

### 4. Call to participate on the social inclusion policy platform

Many of your innovative planning experiences integrated inclusive policies and methodologies. We are therefore calling to contribute to the research of the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion and Participative Democracy (CISDP). Please find an information sheet [here](#) that we invite you to fill out and return to us before **May 21, 2010**.



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