

Concept note – High-level UCLG-CIB seminar on Trends, Developments and Challenges in Development Cooperation at Local Level – organized by CIB and DeLoG

8 June 2022, 13:30-15:30 CEST

Hybrid (possibility to join online and offline, in Sint-Niklaas)

Registration link

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1IDAJfxZBQfr0racWi6zSRS7iSDKVMhcdYoZ0TOSOtI8/edit>

Zoom Meeting details

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85424480185?pwd=OCsxcGN0aTRkQmlyV0RIR3d2VDFNZz09#success>

Meeting ID: 854 2448 0185

Passcode: 325189

Background of the seminar

UCLG and its Capacity and Institution Building Working Group are organizing a hybrid High-Level Seminar on Trends, Developments and Challenges in Development Cooperation at Local Level. This event is primarily a conversation between donors (international and national) and local governments active in international cooperation, based on the findings from the forthcoming **UCLG-CIB policy paper on development cooperation by local governments (more information below)**.

The objectives of the seminar are:

- i) To start turning the policy paper into a concrete action plan, with input from our own constituency, donor community and other stakeholders
- ii) To seek commitment from the donor community to partner with us in implementing the calls to action from the policy paper

The dialogue takes place within the annual meeting of the Capacity and Institution Building (CIB) Working Group of world organisation of local governments UCLG, on the **8th of June, between 13:30 and 15:30 CEST**. You will be able to join the event online, through Zoom or join us at the venue in Sint-Niklaas, Belgium.

A conversation based on trends and developments mentioned in the forthcoming UCLG-CIB paper

UCLG and the CIB Working Group have prepared a paper on the role of Local and Regional Governments in Development Cooperation in recent months, which describes the trends, developments and challenges within the sector. The document will be adopted at the Executive Bureau meeting of UCLG in June 2022, as a core document for development cooperation within the global network of cities and local, regional, and metropolitan governments and their associations. The policy paper is the successor of a [UCLG-CIB paper on the same topic, from 2013](#).

The 2022 policy paper in brief

The forthcoming paper describes some of the global challenges that we face and how these affect development cooperation, including climate change, conflict and humanitarian crises and COVID and its aftermath. It underlines that in this complex context, cities, local, regional and metropolitan governments, and associations of local government, are strategically positioned to contribute address global development issues.

To respond to contextual changes and to the evolution of decentralized cooperation, LRGs and their associations have to be more recognized, engaged, and enabled as strategic actors and key partners in development cooperation.

More concretely, the paper calls to action through the following 6 objectives:

1. Push for More Recognition, and with Real Means, for Local and Regional Governments to Address Global Challenges
2. Make Decentralized Cooperation a Fully Recognized and Resourced Development Cooperation Approach
3. Make Decentralized Cooperation More Effective, Professional, and Innovative
4. Further Engage Decentralized Cooperation in the Financing Sphere
5. Help Create More Integrated Development Cooperation between all Countries and Actors
6. Foster Stronger Public Support for Decentralized Cooperation

Please note: you will find policy paper attached to the CIB circular of 26 May 2022, in EN, FR and ES.

Draft agenda of the High-Level Seminar

13:30-14:30

Plenary opening: setting the scene (EN-FR-ES)

- Opening remarks by Emilia Sáiz, Secretary General of UCLG
- Panel: Priorities within our sector– now and in the future
Moderator: Sebastien Hamel, senior consultant and former co-chair of CIB
 - ❖ Mr. Andrea Ferrari-Bravo, Head of Sector of Local Authorities, DG INTPA, European Commission
 - ❖ Mr. Jan van der Poel, senior policy advisor, Federal Government of Belgium (TBC)
 - ❖ Ms. Hemanthi Goonasekera, Secretary General of the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities
 - ❖ Ms. Tonni Brodber, UN Women (TBC)

14:30-15:15

Workshops: moving from policy to implementation

Action-oriented sessions, with presentations from either donors or implementing organisations, in each workshop



Participants are asked to register for one of the workshops:

Online options:

- ❖ Workshop 1 (online): Dialogue on findings of recent OECD study on decentralized cooperation and how this translates into action (incl. presentation by Stefano Marto OECD) (EN-FR-ES)
- ❖ Workshop 2 (online): How do we concretely advance on gender equality at local level in the years to come, with intervention from UN Women (TBC) (EN)
- ❖ Workshop 3 (online): What does the donor community advise us to do concretely in the next years? Dialogue between donors and implementing partners and directors from CIB network (EN)

On site options (at CIB annual meeting in Sint-Niklaas):

- ❖ Workshop 4 (on site): Moderated conversation: the role of associations in relation to the calls for action from the UCLG-CIB policy paper (EN-FR)
- ❖ Workshop 5 (on site): Moderated conversation: the role of cities and city networks in relation to the calls for action from the UCLG-CIB policy paper (EN)

15:15-15:30

Plenary wrap-up – some last reflections (EN-FR-ES)

Moderator: Neila Akrimi, incoming chair CIB

Panel: Peter Knip, Sebastien Hamel, Bert Janssens and Emilia Sáiz