

## CITIES ALLIANCE ORGANISATION

In accordance with its charter, the governance and organisational structure of the Cities Alliance includes the Consultative Group, the Policy Advisory Board, and the Secretariat.

### THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

The Consultative Group—the Alliance’s board of directors—is responsible for setting the Alliance’s long-term strategy, approving its annual work programme and budget, and reviewing its achievements. The Consultative Group consists of financial contributors to the Cities Alliance Trust Fund and the political heads of the global organisation of local authorities, UCLG, and Metropolis, who have pledged their commitment to achieving Alliance goals. The Consultative Group is co-chaired by the World Bank’s vice president for infrastructure and UN-HABITAT’s executive director. Prospective financial contributors may serve as associate members for two years.

Membership in the Cities Alliance has continued to grow, with Nigeria becoming the first African country and the second developing country to join the Cities Alliance in January 2005. Nigeria is represented on the Consultative Group by its Ministry for Housing and Urban Development.

The Consultative Group has also set up the five-member Steering Committee, made up of a subset of its members, to provide guidance to the Secretariat.

### *Consultative Group Meetings*

Consultative Group meetings are held annually in connection with a global public policy forum designed to share the lessons learned from experience and agree on policy orientations and standards of practice in areas related to the Alliance’s goals.

Consultative Group meetings have been held as follows:

- **Berlin, December 1999:** inaugural meeting, launch of Cities Without Slums action plan, and approval of the Cities Alliance Charter and 2000 work programme.
- **Montreal, June 2000:** first Public Policy Forum on the dimensions of pro-poor urban policies, Consultative Group review of application guidelines, and approval of Cities Alliance Vision statement.
- **Rome, December 2000:** second Public Policy Forum on Local Partnerships: Moving to Scale, Consultative Group approval of amendments to the Cities Alliance Charter, approval of the 2001 work programme and procedures to establish the Policy Advisory Board and Steering Committee.
- **Kolkata, December 2001:** third Public Policy Forum on Sustainable Partnerships for City Development, Consultative Group review of procedures for the independent evaluation of the Cities Alliance, and approval of the 2002 work programme.



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- **Brussels, October 2002:** panel discussion at the European Commission on Achieving the Millennium Development Goal of Cities Without Slums, Consultative Group review of the independent evaluation of the Cities Alliance, and approval of the 2003 work programme.
- **São Paulo, October 2003:** fourth Public Policy Forum on Financing Strategies for Cities and the Urban Poor, Consultative Group approval of the 2004 work programme and procedures for developing country membership of the Consultative Group.
- **eThekwini, November 2004:** fifth Public Policy Forum on Making City Development Strategies Come Alive in South Africa, and Consultative Group approval of new Policy Advisory Board members and the 2005 work programme.

### *Consultative Group Members as of June 2005*

The Consultative Group includes representatives of the following:

- **Local authorities**
  - United Cities and Local Governments
  - Metropolis
- **Governments**
  - Brazil • Canada • France • Germany • Italy
  - Japan • Netherlands • Nigeria • Norway
  - Sweden • United Kingdom • United States
- **Multilateral organisations**
  - Asian Development Bank
  - United Nations Environment Programme
  - UN-HABITAT
  - World Bank

### *The Policy Advisory Board*

The Alliance's Policy Advisory Board is composed of eminent urban experts from each region. They provide guidance to the Consultative Group on key strategic, policy, and regional issues and support the implementation of Alliance activities. The composition, terms of office, and operating procedures for the Policy Advisory Board were established by the Consultative Group at its December 2000 meeting. The board brings together civic leaders

and policy advisers with a formidable range of public and private sector expertise that spans the leadership of community-based organisations, NGOs and their networks, local authority organisations, community banks, community savings and credit schemes, commercial banks, and public sector financial institutions. What they have in common is practical knowledge and political experience in working with poor cities and the urban poor worldwide.

The board meets twice a year and is made up of eight members, two from Africa, two from Asia, one from the Arab states, one from Eastern Europe, one from Latin America and the Caribbean, and one from the industrial countries who serve on a rotating basis, typically between two and four years.

The Policy Advisory Board held its first meeting on 11–12 June 2001 at the United Nations headquarters in New York on the occasion of the General Assembly's special session on Istanbul+5. For the Alliance's November 2004 Public Policy Forum held in eThekwini, the board's members from Africa led some working sessions on sustainable finance strategies, and on city strategies to respond to global economic integration, economic transformation and urban poverty. Board members also convened a meeting with African mayors, civil society leaders and slum dwellers' representatives attending the Forum to discuss the issue of local partnerships.

In May 2005, board members gathered in Abuja, Nigeria for their annual spring meeting, taking advantage of the occasion to gain direct exposure to urban policy issues the country is tackling. The meeting was organised by Professor Akin Mabogunje, board member and Chair of Nigeria's Presidential Technical Committee on Urban Development and Housing, and hosted by Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. The board's meetings with local authorities and community leaders in both Abuja and its fast growing satellite town of Karu, which recently completed a city development strategy, generated a fruitful exchange of experiences.

In the wake of the meetings, Nigeria's Ministry of Housing and Urban Development expressed its intention to launch a comprehensive, data-based urban planning initiative for Nigerian cities, similar in nature to the South African Cities Network State of the Cities Report (2004), in support of more focused and results-driven urban planning processes.

The board meeting in Abuja marked the first rotation of Policy Advisory Board members, as incoming members, Juanita D. Amatong of the Philippines and Paulo Teixeira of Brazil respectively filled the regional representative positions of exiting members Somsook Boonyabancha and Richard Webb. Alliance partners hope to continue drawing on the wealth of experience and knowledge its two exiting members have offered since the Board's formation: Somsook Boonyabancha in her capacities as Director of the Community Organizations Development Institute, a public organisation under Thailand's Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and Secretary General of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, a regional coalition of NGOs, community organisations, and professionals based in Bangkok; and Richard Webb, Director of the Centre for Economics Research of San Martin de Porres University in Lima, former President of the Central Bank of Peru, and a widely published scholar on public policy, poverty and economic reform.

*Policy Advisory Board members as of June 2005:*

- **Juanita D. Amatong** is a former Secretary of Finance of the Philippines; and a former Executive Director of the World Bank Group. With an educational background in business, economics and public administration, she has worked with international consultancies, in academia, and as a tax economist at the International Monetary Fund. She is a prime proponent of strong local government finance in the Philippines.
- **Yousef Hiasat** is Jordan's Minister of Public Works and Housing, with responsibility for the country's road networks, government buildings, and construction and housing sectors; former Chief Executive Officer of Beit Al-Mal Saving and Investment for Housing, a leading investment and financial firm in Amman; former Director General of Jordan's Housing and Urban Development Corporation, the public institution responsible for housing and urban development policies and housing schemes directed at middle- and low-income households; former Principal Adviser to the prime minister of Jordan on housing and urban development issues; and founding and board member of the Morocco-based Near East and North Africa Urban Forum.
- **Mary Houghton** is President and Director of Shorebank Corporation in Chicago, a commercial bank holding company with US\$1.6 billion in assets organised to implement community development strategies in targeted urban neighbourhoods and rural areas, and an adviser to private banks and microcredit lending institutions in developing and transition countries.
- **Akin L. Mabogunje** is Chancellor of Bells University of Technology; Chairman of the Presidential Technical Board of the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria; Chair of the Board of Trustees, Ijebu-Ode Development Board for Poverty Reduction; Foreign Associate of the United States National Academy of Sciences; former Executive Chair of the Development Policy Centre, Ibadan; and an internationally renowned African development scholar who has published and lectured widely on urban management, rural development, and spatial perspectives in the development process.
- **Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi** is Secretary General of the Municipal Development Partnership for Africa, based in Cotonou, Benin; Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa; and an experienced practitioner in urban management and slum upgrading.

- **Sheela Patel** is founding Director of the Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres in Mumbai, India, working in alliance with the National Slum Dwellers Federation and Mahila Milan in the federation of community-based organisations of the urban poor, facilitating their direct participation in addressing the problems of cities and their relationship with informal settlements; and Chair of Shack Dwellers International, a global alliance of grassroots community federations of the urban poor.
- **Paulo Teixeira** is a Councillor for the Municipality of São Paulo, Brazil; former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development of the Municipality of São Paulo, responsible for the development of a large-scale slum upgrading and land tenure programme; a member of the United Nations Millennium Task Force Eight, Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers; and a member of the UN-HABITAT Advisory Group on Forced Evictions.
- **Ana Vasilache** is founding Director of the Partners Romania Foundation for Local Development, a Bucharest-based NGO that supports democratic processes of governance and decentralisation, and works to strengthen the managerial capacities of local governments; former Head of the Settlements Management Office in the Ministry of Public Works and Regional Planning in Bucharest; and has extensive experience with planning legislation and designing participatory strategic planning processes.

### *The Secretariat*

The Alliance Secretariat, housed at World Bank headquarters, carries out the Alliance's mandates and manages its operations.

#### **Secretariat staff**

*Manager,*

Mark Hildebrand

*Senior Urban Upgrading Adviser,*

William Cobbett

*Senior CDS Adviser,*

Peter Palesch

*Senior Urban Finance Adviser,*

Rajivan Krishnaswamy

*Senior Programme Officer,*

Pelle Persson

*Urban Economist,*

Pascale Chabrilat

*Communications Officer,*

Chii Akporji

*Programme Officer,*

Andrea Merrick

*Senior Operations Officer,*

Kevin Milroy

*Resource Management Assistant,*

Françoise Aubry-Kendall

*Financial Management Specialist,*

V. Rama Krishnan

*Programme Assistant,*

Patria Consuelo M. Morente

*Programme Assistant,*

Susanna Henderson

*Communications Consultant,*

Erika Puspa

#### **Regional Advisers**

*West and Central Africa,* José Tonato

*South Asia,* Alison Barrett