

**Cities Alliance
Steering Committee Meeting
18 October 2001, Marrakech**

The Steering Committee held its third meeting on 18 October in the municipal building of Marrakech-Gueliz at the occasion of the Fourth International Forum on Urban Poverty (16-19 October). In attendance were: Marcelo Nowersztern (FMCU-UTO), Judit Carrera (WACLAC); Daniel Biau, Michael Parkes (Habitat); Michael Mutter (DFID); and Mark Hildebrand (Cities Alliance Secretariat). The Netherlands and the World Bank were unable to attend. The agenda is attached.

1. Personnel Matters

The Committee endorsed the appointments of Peter Palesch as Senior CDS Adviser (on secondment from GTZ through the World Bank) and Andrea Merrick as Programme Analyst in accordance with the procedures agreed at its June meeting. With these appointments the Secretariat is now fully staffed as per the staffing table and TORs approved by the Committee in March 2001, with the exception of the Communications Specialist. DFID raised the need to consider any eventual request for the extension of the South Asia Regional Adviser, Alison Barrett (on secondment from DFID), and it was agreed that this would be considered at the time of the CG meeting in Calcutta.

2. Work Programme

- a) The Committee recommended approval of the proposal for City-Regional Development Strategies in China, noting that DFID had agreed to provide \$400,000 in co-financing for this proposal, and that it should result in “implementable” strategies for poverty reduction. It was agreed that this proposal would be circulated by the Secretariat to all CG members for approval on a no objection basis.
- b) The Committee took note of the recent approvals of the Addis Ababa CDS and the Collaborative Nairobi Initiative on Slum Upgrading and requested that the final versions of these proposals be distributed. The Committee was also informed of progress in finalizing the Burkina Faso proposal for CDS/local poverty reduction strategies in three secondary cities which should be ready for review prior to the Calcutta CG meeting.
- c) As was discussed at its June meeting, DFID also briefed the Committee on the recently submitted proposal for the Municipal Infrastructure Finance Facility (MIFF) which is designed to support the entry of the commercial financial sector to scale up slum upgrading.
- d) The Committee was briefed on the 19 new proposals received since its June meeting and agreed to review the large proposals electronically on the basis of Secretariat and independent review prior to the CG meeting in Calcutta. Taking into account the need to clarify the co-financing requirements for large proposals, the Committee recommended that the following guidelines be considered by the CG at its next meeting for incorporation in the Cities Alliance application guidelines, and to be reviewed annually by the CG taking into account the size of the Core Trust Fund:

- The maximum Cities Alliance contribution from Core Funds for any proposal would be \$500,000;
 - Large proposals as defined in the Charter (over \$250,000) would require at least 50% co-financing.
 - Small and medium proposals would continue to require at least 20% co-financing.
- e) The Committee also discussed the status of the panel of independent technical assessors and was briefed on the need to increase the number of developing country assessors specialized in upgrading, strategic urban planning and municipal finance. It was agreed to circulate the current list of technical assessors to the Committee.

3. **Preparations for Kolkatta (Calcutta)**

The Committee was briefed on preparations for the forthcoming meetings of the Consultative Group and Public Policy Forum which will be held from 9-12 December in Calcutta. The theme of the Public Policy Forum is “Pro-Poor City Development Strategies”. The Forum is being organized with support of DFID and the Policy Advisory Board members from East and South Asia, and will begin with site visits in Calcutta on 9 December. The Committee was of the opinion that the timing and location of these meetings should be maintained, but requested the Secretariat to contact all CG members to confirm their attendance.

The Committee also suggested that the Policy Advisory Board should meet on 8 December, hoping that the Board members from the other regions would be able to remain in Calcutta at least through 10 December, so that they could meet with the Consultative Group (which meets on 11-12 December).

4. **Other Business**

- a) Habitat distributed a draft note on indicators for the Millennium Declaration’s Cities Without Slums goal, and expressed its intention to use the Consultative Group meeting in December as a sounding board for these indicators.
- b) Habitat suggested that consideration be given to holding the next Steering Committee meeting in May 2002 in Nairobi in connection with the Urban Forum, and it was also suggested that the November/December 2002 meeting of the Consultative Group might be held in Brazil. It was agreed that these options would be further explored by the Secretariat.
- c) The Committee was informed that the Annual Report has been sent by the CG Co-Chairs to President Mandela.