

**Cities Alliance
Steering Committee Meeting
1 May 2002**

The Steering Committee met on 1 May at UN-Habitat's headquarters in Nairobi at the occasion of the first session of the World Urban Forum. In attendance were: Alan Lloyd Sarah O'Brien, Emilia Saiz (IULA/WACLAC), Marcelo Nowersztern (FMCU-UTO); Gerd Juntermanns (GTZ); Michael Mutter (DFID); John Flora (World Bank); Daniel Biau, Michael Parkes (Habitat); and Mark Hildebrand (Cities Alliance Secretariat). The agenda is attached.

1. Financial Planning

The Committee reviewed the Alliance's financial status (as of 31 March 2002) and projections and budget for FY03-FY05. These were presented in four tables formatted in accordance with the decisions taken by the Consultative Group at its Kolkata meeting. Since the current financial year ends on 30 June, it was hoped that the members who have not yet contributed for FY02 would be able to finalize these arrangements by mid-June, so that this could be reflected in the 2002 Annual Report.

2. Membership Update

The Committee was briefed on the Secretariat's recent consultations in Manila with the Asian Development Bank and in Brussels with the European Commission. The Committee welcomed ADB's decision to join the Alliance. They also expressed the hope that holding the next meeting of the Consultative Group in Brussels in October might serve to encourage the EC to join. As a follow-up to the related exchange of correspondence between Jim Wolfensohn and Poul Nielson last year, Alan Llyod's suggestion that he inform the EC of the importance attached to this by local authorities was also very much welcomed.

3. Work Programme

- a) The Committee endorsed proceeding with the Mozambique proposal (\$495,000) which had been approved by the CG in Kolkata. The Committee also recommended that in the future all proposals should include confirmation of co-sponsorship in writing from the co-sponsor(s).
- b) The Committee was briefed on the status of preparations for the Community-Led Infrastructure Financing Facility (CLIFF). DFID confirmed that the Trust Fund Agreement would be finalized within the next two weeks and noted their appreciation for the support provided by the Secretariat in the preparation of this documentation. SIDA and USAID have continued to express their interest in co-financing. If this all moves forward in a timely fashion, the initial meeting of the CLIFF Board might be held in conjunction with the October meetings in Brussels.

- c) The Committee recommended approval of the Burkina Faso proposal: “City Development Strategies and Local Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSP) for the local governments of Bobo-Dioulasso, Banfora and Ouahigouya” (\$380,640). In doing so the Committee noted that it was making exception (in this single case) to the minimum requirement of 50% co-financing for large proposals, taking into account the fact that this proposal was formally submitted to the Secretariat well in advance of the CG’s adoption of this requirement. The Committee’s local authority members, while strongly endorsing this proposal, also had a series of detailed comments both on the substantive focus of producing local PRSPs, as well as on the critical implementation and replication role of the Association of Municipalities of Burkina Faso (AMBF). It was felt that the project should strengthen the technical capacity of the AMBF, as well as its leadership role.

The Secretariat also briefed the Committee on the list of new proposals received and on their status (see attached table – Proposals In-Process), as well as on efforts underway to strengthen the Alliance’s portfolio in Africa.

4. Personnel Matters

The Committee reviewed and approved the TOR for the post of Regional Advisor for South Asia which will be funded by DFID as a non core contribution.

5. Independent Evaluation

The Committee was briefed on the finalization of the contract with the Development Planning Unit (DPU) of University College London for the Independent Evaluation of the Cities Alliance. It was agreed that the final terms of reference, including DPU’s methodology would be circulated to all CG members, since it is hoped that all members will contribute to this important exercise. The first draft report (which is due on 27 August 2002), will also be circulated to all CG members, since the review and feedback on this report will be a key item on the agenda of the CG’s next meeting in Brussels.

6. Preparations for Brussels (7-9 October 2002)

The Committee was briefed on the preparations for Brussels. Arrangements are underway for the EC to host a panel discussion by the Cities Alliance Policy Advisory Board on “Cities Without Slums” on the afternoon of 7 October. (This would follow the morning’s programme for the Global Observance of World Habitat Day which will be hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Palais d’Egmont.) The CG meeting on 8-9 October will be held at Le Meridien in Brussels where a block booking has already been made. Accordingly, the Steering Committee agreed to hold its next meeting in the afternoon of 6 October at Le Meridien.