

Cities Alliance Steering Committee
5 November 2007 meeting
Crown Plaza Galleria Hotel, Manila
Summary of Discussions

Attendance: D.Biau (UN-Habitat); L.Lovei (WB); E.Gateau, E.Saiz (UCLG); E.Berg (Norway); J.Hereda, L.Fabbri; R.Riberio (Brazil); G.Josse (France); W.Cobbett, K.Milroy (CA secretariat)

1. Sweden and Norway Evaluation of Cities Alliance.

An executive summary of the evaluation report was provided to members, and will be provided to the CG for its 8-9 November meeting.

2. Medium-Term Strategy, Work Programme Update and Governance.

The secretariat briefed members on the MTS, WP and Governance paper. Discussion focused on the resource implications of the MTS, and on the Governance paper, particularly the secretariat's recommendations on the Steering Committee. The SC generally endorsed the MTS, with full discussion reserved for the CG.

The SC agreed on the following recommendations to the Consultative Group with respect to its own role and composition:

- a. The role of the SC should be transformed to that of an Executive Committee, along the lines of the CGAP programme.
- b. The EC should have the two main functions as proposed in the Governance paper:
 - i) Interpreting policy decisions of the CG, and providing policy guidance to the secretariat between meetings of the CG.
 - ii) Providing oversight of secretariat, on behalf of the CG, doing so following the formalization of a set of procedures.
- c. The EC would not be involved in reviewing and recommending proposals to the CG.
- d. Composition of EC - three permanent and eight rotating members:
 - i) Permanent members (same as current SC) – UCLG, UN-Habitat and WB
 - ii) Two bilateral donor members
 - iii) Two developing country members - one middle income country and one lower income country
 - iv) One multilateral member
 - v) Three independent expert members (with geographical and institutional balance)
- e. Terms of rotating members would be three years, possibly on a staggered basis, to retain institutional memory.
- f. The EC would select a Chair from among its members.
- g. The changes should be effective immediately after adoption by the CG.

Regarding the Policy Advisory Board, most SC members supported option 4 of the Governance paper, to abolish the PAB but make use of its current members.

Regarding new membership in the CG, the SC endorsed the recommendation in the MTS that the SC, at its Spring 2008 meeting, should review the Governance implications of continued expansion of the CG, and criteria for engaging with potential new members.

3. Secretariat budget.

The SC endorsed the secretariat’s budget proposal and staffing plan for FY08, which includes a new Core funding allocation of \$1,900,000 for FY08, and a total budget of \$3,373,000 (including staff secondments). The FY08 budget includes funding of \$210,000 for five new staff positions to be hired during the year, as proposed in the MTS. A sixth position would be added in FY09. The estimated cost in FY09 for the six new positions is \$435,000.

The SC endorsed the Young Professionals proposal included in the MTS.

The SC discussed the secretariat’s proposal to begin converting, during FY09, the two lead technical specialist positions (CDS and SU advisors) from secondments to funded from the Core budget. The SC would prefer to continue funding these two positions from Non-Core funds, and use Core funding only as a fallback option.

Summary of secretariat staffing:

TYPE	Current Core	New Core	Current Non-core	Total
Management and Administration				
- Professional	4	0	0	4
- Support	2	2	0	4
Communications and knowledge management				
- Professional	2	2	0	4
- Support	0	1	0	1
Technical staff				
- Professional	1	1	6*	8*
- Support	0	0	0	0
TOTALS				
- Professional	7	3	6	16
- Support	2	3	0	5

* Three of these Non-Core positions are scheduled to end around June 2008.

4. Large Proposals.

The Aleppo (Syria) CDS proposal was discussed and recommended for approval, subject to GTZ incorporation of UN-Habitat inputs at the implementation stage.