



THE E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITIES ALLIANCE

February 2008 Edition

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CITIES ALLIANCE NEWS

Cities Alliance Consultative Group Welcomes Medium Term Strategy 2008-2010

The highlight of the Cities Alliance Consultative Group meetings 8-9 November 2007 was discussion of the Medium Term Strategy 2008-2010 (MTS), which was produced by the Secretariat in response to the second Independent Evaluation of the Cities Alliance (Universalia 2006). Responding to a series of challenges, the MTS contains a number of features designed to improve the role of the Cities Alliance as a learning alliance, and greatly strengthen knowledge management within the organisation, in particular, monitoring and evaluation. The MTS stresses the importance of working through the members of the Cities Alliance, and the importance of the coalition.

Amongst the more significant changes introduced in the Medium Term Strategy were a move to client execution, wherever possible, and a greater emphasis on enhancing the Alliance's ability to provide longer-term, programmatic support to cities and/or countries. Overall, the strategy was warmly endorsed by the Consultative Group. However, the Secretariat agreed to clarify a number of mechanisms, ensure a more balanced focus on least developed countries (LDCs), and raise the profile of gender in its work.

The Consultative Group also took a number of important decisions relating to the governance of the Cities Alliance. The Steering Committee was expanded and converted into an Executive Committee with clearly defined functions. United Cities and Local Governments will chair the Executive Committee for the period of the MTS, while a final decision on the role and composition of the Policy Advisory Board (PAB) will be considered at a joint meeting of the Executive Committee and PAB, which will convene in Trondheim, Norway, 10-11 April 2008.

Cities Alliance Hosts International Policy Dialogue on Slum Upgrading in São Paulo, 10-14 March 2008

From 10-14 March 2008, the City of São Paulo, Brazil will share its urban upgrading experiences with five other mega-cities—Cairo, Egypt; Lagos, Nigeria; Mumbai, India; Manila, Philippines; and Ekurhuleni, South Africa—in a learning event for high-level policy makers and practitioners. Representatives of other cities with Cities Alliance-supported activities have been invited as observers.

São Paulo is sharing its experiences because the challenges the city has been addressing over the past few years reflect issues facing mega-cities worldwide. São Paulo's innovative and award-winning Barrio Legal programme united municipal agencies, public utilities, NGOs and civil society in introducing an integrated housing and upgrading strategy to extend secure tenure and access to urban services to slum dwellers. São Paulo is currently in the process of finalising a new informal settlement mapping and priority-setting system which will feed their new Social Housing Plan. For the first time, the Municipal Secretariat of Housing and Urban Development (SEHAB) is able to design its policies and programmes on the basis of actual demand, leading to a new strategic plan which will overhaul many overlapping programmes, as well as producing a revamped institutional framework to reflect the new priorities. This creates a very strong base for a truly city-wide slum upgrading strategy.

The week of events and discussions will focus on São Paulo's experience with city-wide upgrading, urban policy in a mega-city context, and presentations of city challenges that invite opportunities for feedback from other cities.

Cities Alliance members the World Bank and Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been most active in Alliance activities in Brazil.

Brazil Hosts World Conference on Development of Cities, 13-16 February 2008

Porto Alegre, Brazil hosted the ["World Conference on the Development of Cities: Democratic innovation and social transformation for inclusive cities in the 21st century."](#) from 13-16 February 2008. The conference brought together 7,000 mayors and city councillors, academics and experts, community leaders, business people, and social workers to discuss the importance of cities and the diversity of social innovation and transformation initiatives that have been emerging. The conference focused on four themes: 1) the right to the city, 2) governance and democracy in cities, 3) local development in cities, and 4) sustainability and the network-city.



Cities Alliance-organised Workshop on Urban Regulation

A broad range of supporters came together in partnership around the conference, including the Porto Alegre City Council; Brazil's Ministry of Cities; City Hall of Rome (Italy); Rio Grande do Sul State Government; the National Confederation of Cities (CNM); the Federation of Latin American Cities, Municipalities and Associations (FLACMA); United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); UN-HABITAT; the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); the World Bank; the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy (OIDP), the Committee on Social Inclusion and Participative Democracy (CSIPD); the International Center for Urban Management (CIGU) and the Cities Alliance.

The Cities Alliance was actively involved in the conference through its São Paulo, Brazil office. A workshop on urban regulation that presented case studies from São Paulo City and Chile was organised; and a mini-course on lessons learned through the implementation of Cities Alliance projects in Latin America were conducted with UN-HABITAT. The Alliance also launched a publication featuring a Cities Alliance upgrading project in the city of Salvador that was scaled up (Technical and Social Assistance Project - PATS), and announced the [Youth Essay Competition 2008](#) which calls for essays in response to the question: What can you do to shape the city of your dreams?

The Cities Alliance was represented at the conference by Giorgio Romano Schutte and Prof. Alex Abiko of the Alliance's São Paulo, Brazil office.

More Conference Information: <http://www.cmdc2008.com.br/novo/>.

Mayors of New York City and Amman, Jordan Address Urban Issues at World Bank Event

Urban development was discussed during several sessions of a World Bank forum on sustainable development, 19-22 February 2008. High-level speakers from cities and development institutions addressed issues including governance, climate change, and inequality. The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City, spoke on *Building a Better City: New York's Experience in Urban Transformation* during a session on Metropolitan Governance. He outlined four values that transformed New York City: 1) harmonising the forces of immigration and globalisation; 2) tapping the power of innovation; 3) instituting rigorous and accountable governance; and 4) having the independence to take on entrenched interests when they stand in the way of progress.

The Honorable Omar Maani, Mayor of Amman, Jordan participated in a panel on the Dynamics of Urbanisation with Cities Alliance Manager William Cobbett, and senior World Bank staff. Mayor Maani highlighted the challenges of leading a city that has grown from 3,000 to 3 million people over the past decades, in part due to the successful integration of refugees who have fled neighbouring countries. He emphasised that for urban development to succeed, all stakeholders should be included, leadership must be strong, and a city's historic soul must be retained.

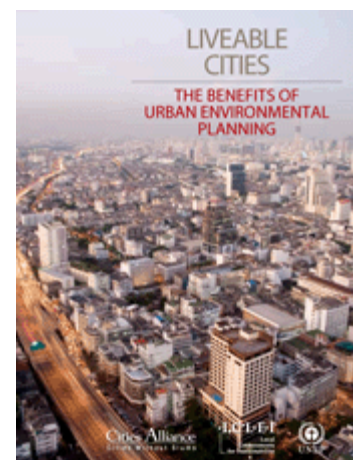
Mayors Assume Leading Role in Combating Climate Change

Two recent international conferences have underscored the importance of mayors in taking a leading role in tackling climate change. Since half of the world's population live in cities—and the figure is rising—it is critical to have local leaders fully engaged in, and in some places leading, the climate change agenda.

Mayors at the 2nd World Congress of [United Cities and Local Governments](#) in October 2007 issued the [Jeju Declaration](#) that affirmed a commitment to placing the challenges of global warming and environmental protection high on local authority agendas. This was followed up at the December 2007 [United Nations Climate Change Conference](#) in Bali, Indonesia where the [World Mayors and Local Government Climate Protection Agreement](#) was launched.

This agreement builds upon existing commitments of local government leaders and their associations, including the [ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection™ Campaign](#), the [World Mayors Council on Climate Change](#), the [U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement](#), the [C40 Climate Leadership Group](#), and the [Jeju Declaration](#) mentioned above. By signing on to the agreement, signatories accept the challenge put forth by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to affect immediate and deep reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions. The agreement contains six points around which mayors and local leaders should take action and advocate for participation at the national and international level.

On 11 December 2007, during the Local Government Climate Sessions of the Climate Change Conference, the report "**Liveable Cities: The Benefits of Urban Environmental Planning**", was launched. "Liveable Cities" is a joint publication of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Cities Alliance, and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. The report showcases 12 cities around the world that have integrated environmental concerns into planning processes, and it explores options for sustainable urban environmental planning ranging from practical tools and comprehensive policies to innovative market mechanisms.



The report is available on the [UNEP](#) and [Cities Alliance](#) Web sites.

Medcities General Assembly 2008 Bolsters CDS Restart in Northern Lebanon

An encouraging development and sign of hope in a war-torn region is the reopening of the city development strategy (CDS) in northern Lebanon for the Al Fayhaa Union of Municipalities that link three cities—Tripoli, El Mina and Beddaway. The Governor of North Lebanon, Mr. Nassif Kalouch, together with the chairman of the Union and the Mayor of Tripoli, Rachid Jamali, presided over the opening ceremonies and the launch that included a meeting of the CDS Committee, followed by a townhall meeting for local stakeholders, international partners, and the press.

In a show of support in connection with the reopening of the CDS, [Medcities](#) hosted its General Assembly 2008 in Tripoli, Lebanon from 29 January to 1 February. Medcities is a network of Mediterranean coastal cities created in Barcelona in November 1991 at the initiative of the [Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program \(METAP\)](#). The goal of Medcities is to strengthen the environmental and sustainable development management capabilities of local administration. Medcities will, under the co-ordination of Barcelona, set up a working group to promote the use of sustainable city development strategies in the region.

The Al Fayhaa Union of Municipalities is looking to develop a CDS to promote economic growth, increase employment, improve governance, and alleviate urban poverty. The CDS will contain a local economic development strategy and investment plan for urban renewal and environmental management. The original start of the CDS was delayed due to political uncertainties and security concerns in northern Lebanon in 2006.

The Cities Alliance was represented at the CDS launch and the Medcities General Assembly by Pelle Persson, Senior Programme Officer.



View of Tripoli, Lebanon



Mayor of Tripoli
Speaking at the
CDS Launch

New Thinking on Slums discussed on National Public Radio (USA)

Cities Alliance members and partners discussed changes in assumptions about urban slums, now home to one billion people worldwide, on [National Public Radio's Kojo Nnamdi show](#), 22 January 2008.

Rose Seisie Molokoane, Founder, South African Homeless People's Federation, and founder and coordinator of Slum Dwellers International (SDI); and Maria Sonia Vicenta Fadrigo, Regional Director, Homeless People's Federation Philippines (HPFP) participated.

Cities Alliance Updates Grant Application Form and Guidelines

The updated *Application Form and Guidelines* for Cities Alliance grants are now available on the Alliance Web site. The streamlined form is more user-friendly, and the enhanced guidelines provide greater direction and clarity to applicants in formulating proposals. Terms of reference for grant recipient organisations and sponsors are now included. Revisions to the form and guidelines were discussed and approved at the Consultative Group meetings in November 2007.

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