

Cities Alliance Executive Committee Meeting
17 January 2010
Mumbai, INDIA
Meeting Report

Attendance:

Executive Committee:

Messrs. Maehara (France); Marré (BMZ) and Baehring (GTZ) (Germany); Vawda (South Africa) Gateau (UCLG -Chair); Hoballah and Smaoun (UNEP); Badiane (UN-Habitat); Allaoua and Karam (World Bank), Simpson (GHK International – Observer)

Apologies: Representative from Chile

Secretariat:

Messrs. Cobbett, Milroy and Henderson

Morning Session: 17 January 2010

Venue: Golden Room, Taj Mahal Palace and Tower Hotel

The meeting was called to order and the agenda (see Annex 1) of the Executive Committee of the Cities Alliance was adopted.

Main item: Presentation by Secretariat on Updating MTS

The Manager presented an overview of the new business model, based on the MTS. This prompted a number of questions for clarification, and a long discussion. After Secretariat responses and clarification, EXCO felt the document needed further clarity, particularly with respect to (i) the CA's continued focus on cities, (ii) the role of local government and (iii) country programmes. Secretariat was requested to revise the presentation prior to the policy debate on Wednesday on the 20th. With the incorporation of these comments from EXCO, there was firm support for the overall direction of the proposed new business model. It was agreed that, following consideration by the CG, the Secretariat would need to address the details of the practicalities of implementation of the new model, following a period of transition. It was also agreed that the new business model could provide an opportunity for enhanced coherence of effort, and the better engagement of CA members, through whom the partnership will continue to work.

Item Two: Secretariat presented on decision to withdraw from CLIFF

CLIFF is a DFID grant managed by Homeless International (HI), a UK based NGO, with the funds being routed through the Cities Alliance over a number of years. Based on the progress of CLIFF, a second phase of \$30m was proposed, using existing institutional arrangements. However, in the context of changing TF policies of the World Bank as well as the changing Cities Alliance business model, Legal had raised a number of queries about the routing of the funds through the World Bank (via the Cities Alliance). These included, inter alia, CLIFF's alignment with WB operations, and the appearance that the CA was being used as a pass-through for funds, with limited substantive input. After consultations with relevant World Bank personnel, and with DFID and Sida, the Manager of the Cities Alliance had decided to inform the CLIFF partners that it would be in the longer term interests of all parties for an alternative route to be found for the transfer of funds. However, it was acknowledged that this decision was taken at

a very late stage, causing some disruption to the second phase of CLIFF. The Manager had apologized to CLIFF partners for this aspect of the decision, and for the disruption, but indicated the willingness and desire of the CA to continue collaboration with CLIFF, particularly in the context of future in-country programmes.

Item Three: Secretariat's Work Programme and Portfolio Analysis

The Secretariat shifted its Work Programme to reflect Results Based Management and improved Monitoring and Evaluation. The report is based on DAC income classifications, with the three main objectives being to reflect improved knowledge, improved policy and improved implementation. The Secretariat will be aligning all input and information systems around this framework and business line, as far as practical. The portfolio analysis is based on results from types of countries. Overall, the Secretariat aimed to provide better reporting on the entire portfolio to the members and also tried to capture the shift of new suggested business model of the Cities Alliance.

Item Four: Monitoring and Evaluation

M&E will again be presented to the CG on Thursday, 21 January. The CG has yet to come to a definitive decision about the CA's M&E and thus it is a work in progress. On the project level, the Secretariat is waiting for the decision on the new business model before moving forward.

Item Five: Update on Advocacy Plan and Results Based Management

Cities Alliance has a gap at the country level in the LDCs in views and attitudes towards slums and slum dwellers. With a view to becoming more comprehensive and professional in CA's outreach, and to also improve our advocacy with our members, the Secretariat has engaged with a professional agency, whom had been invited to attend relevant meetings this week in Mumbai. (Unfortunately, visa problems prevented his participation). EXCO discussed the need for the Cities Alliance to clarify messages and target audiences. Members observed that the Cities Alliance Joint Work Programmes provided an excellent mechanism for members to use to exchange tools and expertise and a Joint Work Programme with UCLG on advocacy is planned. It was also recommended that the Alliance s build upon existing events and tools to further the urban agenda.

In terms of Results-based management, there will be a presentation on this topic on Wednesday (20 January). The Manager noted that this issue required final resolution, to allow the Secretariat to make progress in implementing CG resolutions from previous meetings.

Item Six: Evaluation of Project Implementation Modalities

GHK International had won the bid. As had been presented at the Chile EXCO, they will be evaluating the implementation modalities of 25 projects, 10 of which are client executed, and their team is also planning 4-8 field visits.

They will look at the quality of the project – role of the CA member/client, ownership, mode of execution, Cities Alliance business processes. What is a good project? What is a quality project? Is the CA contributing to poverty reduction?

The inception report should be ready by the end of January. February – April has been reserved for field work, with half of the field visits taking place in Africa. It is envisaged that the evaluation should be completed by the end of June.

EXCO and CG members will be contacted for interviews as well.

Item Seven: European presence

Three options were presented to the EXCO (see paper)

Sub-office / staff – Not Supported

CA-financed project – possibility

Consultancy – possibility

The Secretariat will continue to investigate options as part of development of its advocacy plans.

Item Eight: 15% Supervision fee

This matter was raised by the secretariat, which had noted possible non-compliance or reinterpretation by a few CA members. EXCO agreed to change procedures, making the 15% guideline solely for supervision, and that any implementation fees or costs should be motivated as a separate budget line outside the 15% cap.

Item Nine: Staffing Issues

The Cities Alliance Secretariat current organization chart is available to members. With the suggested changes to the business model, it will be necessary for the Manager to restructure the Secretariat focused on a geographical level with a view to improve knowledge management.

EXCO endorsed the invitation by the Director of FEU for the Manager of the Cities Alliance to become a Principal member of the Urban and Local Government Sector Board of the World Bank. It was felt that this would better integrate the Cities Alliance into the most appropriate policy and decision making structure of the World Bank.

The FEU Director explained that the Cities Alliance is now a component of the new Urban Pillar within the Finance, Economics and Urban Department, the other Pillar being focused on Finance. With a view to improving coherence amongst the eight units of FEU, an office move is planned for April 2010 when the Secretariat will move to the fourth floor of the World Bank's Main Complex to be located between the Urban and Local Government Unit and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).

Item Ten: Membership Issues

EXCO reconfirmed the Barcelona decision that non-payment for two years will lead to automatic loss of membership. (In 2010, this will apply to Japan, Canada and ADB). EXCO also discussed the application received from Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI). Although concerns were expressed about the possible dilution of the CA's local government focus, the request for HFHI's membership was endorsed, for recommendation to the Consultative Group meeting. Some members of EXCO felt that it may be appropriate to review the Membership sections of the Charter, prior to the forthcoming independent evaluation of the Cities Alliance in 2011.

Item Eleven: Next CG meeting

Secretariat stressed the need for host country support.

UCLG offered possibility of co-hosting with Mayors meeting in Mexico, November 2010

**The Cities Alliance
Executive Committee Meeting
Agenda**

17 January 2010

***Venue: Taj Mahal Palace and Tower Hotel, Mumbai, INDIA**

THURSDAY, 21 January 2010		
09h30 - 10h00	<i>Morning Coffee</i>	<i>Venue: Golden Room</i>
10h00 -11h30	<p>Presentation: Updating the Medium Term Strategy</p> <p>Implications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grant Facility ➤ Secretariat's Work Programme ➤ CLIFF ➤ Pacific Proposals 	<p><i>Secretariat: Billy Cobbett</i> <i>(Handouts: Updating and Implementing the Medium Term Strategy, Work Programme and Financial Plan, Pacific Proposal Application Summaries)</i></p>
11h30 – 11h45	<i>Tea/ Coffee Break</i>	
11h45 – 12h30	<p>Continue: Implications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Results-based Management ➤ Advocacy Plan ➤ European Presence 	<i>(Handouts: European Presences Options Paper)</i>
12h30 – 14h00	<p>***** <i>Lunch</i> *****</p>	<i>Venue: Princes Room</i>
14h00 -15h00	<p>Presentation: Portfolio Review & Reflections from the Portfolio, 2000-2009</p>	<p><i>Secretariat: Kevin Milroy</i> <i>(Handouts: FY09 Summary Portfolio Review, Portfolio Reflections, 2000-20009)</i></p>
15h00 -15h30	<p>Financial Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Secretariat Budget Update ➤ 15% Supervision Guideline 	<p><i>Secretariat: Kevin Milroy</i> <i>(Handouts: Financial Reports, Costing Definitions and Supervision Guidelines)</i></p>
15h30 – 16h00	Staffing Issues	<p><i>Secretariat: Billy Cobbett</i> <i>(Handouts: Staff Restructuring, Current Organisation Chart)</i></p>
16h00-16h30	<i>Tea/ Coffee Break</i>	
16h30	<p>Membership Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Existing Members ➤ Applications for membership 	<p><i>Secretariat: Billy Cobbett</i> <i>(Handouts: Membership Issues, Letters of Intent)</i></p>
19h00	<i>Informal Welcome Reception</i>	<i>Venue: Gateway Room</i>