



" Dear colleagues,



"The Committee represents the response to the increasing demands of local governments to find spheres for the discussion and exchange of experiences on Urban Strategic Planning.

Those of us who are involved in the daily management of cities in dynamic contexts of high complexity consider that responding to the urban development phenomenon, facing the fight against poverty, contributing to the betterment of the quality of life and adapting local governments to these new scenarios are key responsibilities of local authorities.

It is in this context that we promote the integration of urban strategic planning in local policies, as well as to facilitate the visibility and worldwide appreciation of good management practices and local policies that have already accomplished relevant urban transformations."

As stated by our committee president, Miguel Lifschitz, the mayor of Rosario

We are very pleased to hear your interest to enrich our dialogue to help each other through continuous updating of our planning processes and policies. However, our work will only be effective as you demand for it and communicate your needs and advances.

We therefore invite you to participate actively, through virtual communication or through other commitments to our agenda.

This year we expect to meet during the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro or in November, during our UCLG congress in Mexico.

You find in this update:

- **message of our president**
- **the outcomes of the Guangzhou meeting,**
- **the development of the policy paper**
- **the new partnerships the committee**
- **the draft agenda for the coming year**
- **mentoring news**

Committee meeting in Guangzhou, China

*The last meeting took place on November 12 in Guangzhou, China, in the context of the UCLG world council meetings and was chaired by the president Miguel Lifschitz, mayor of Rosario and vice-president Michael Sutcliff, CEO Durban. Please find the summary below and more information in the **minute** attached.*

Policy Paper on Urban Strategic Planning

As agreed in Istanbul, the task force of members in the different region became focal points to gather first hand information of the members and work on conclusions. Along the regional chapters, first recommendations are:

Asia: the importance of environmental issues related to disaster and climate change was underlined, while the case presentation of Guangzhou focused on the needs for change in the system, along their experience from infrastructural to economic focus

Europe: the strong legal bases on planning competences and the highlighting of uniqueness was outlined by the city of Bilbao

Africa: the debate included the need to set up planning systems, routines and instruments. The mayors from Morocco announced reforms on planning as a possible scope to apply the recommendations

Mediterranean: the urgent need for changes towards greater sustainability, regarding services but also land, especially coastal areas that are affected by change of patterns loosing the historical compact city model;

Latin America: the inequity is a major challenge and the local level must be more concerned with civil society. The processes of social inclusion are the priority of many strategies, as the continent in general is on a positive economic path but poor people still are excluded

The recommendations

The recommendations were adjusted as below and agreed to be presented to the UCLG bureau the next day (annexed)

It was agreed to prioritize the work on the policy paper to come up with a printed draft in the next UCLG meeting. Several cities offered to commit staff to oversee the paper.

Cooperation with development partners, support and funding issues.

In November and December, the World Secretariat could sign funding agreement for CDS with the Cities Alliance and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Norway.

Furthermore, the Norwegian association KS is foreseeing technical support in 3 areas: i) policy input on the Eurasian region, ii) CDS and Climate change, and iii) mentoring support for LGAs.

Thanks to this co-operation, the committee can be more active and increase outreach.

The world secretariat will inform on further opportunities for Cities to apply and to budget networking and other activities.

The agenda 2010

- In the first months of 2010, members will help to finalize the chapters of the Policy Paper, which will be presented to the Executive Bureau in Chicago and distributed at the World Congress of UCLG in Mexico;
- The committee will meet at the World Urban Forum in Rio to debate;
- mentoring will be carried out by Committee members throughout the year with Lilongwe launching its CDS in February;
- Mentoring activities will take place in various regions of the world;
- Profiles of cities and associations demanding and offering mentoring will be collected and disseminated;
- Strategic planning observations profiles will be set up;
- Knowledge exchange with donors inside Cities Alliance will be established.

Dates of meetings:

- 12 February: launch CDS Lilongwe
- 24 march World urban forum Brasil
- June: roundtable on planning peripheral cities Spain
- October Medcities conference Spain
- December (tbc) Learning event
Launching mentoring Philippines

Commitments:

- The city of Guangzhou has offered to support the policy paper regional chapter on Asia and to actively participate as a possible mentor
- The League of Philippines has formally invited the committee to be a partner in a joint learning event, with Cities Alliance
- The city of Ekurhuleni will become member and possible mentor to a Malawian city



Mentoring Lilongwe

Highlight of the month

On 20 of January, Cities Alliance invited the cities of Lilongwe and Johannesburg to present their mentoring partnership to the policy forum that took place in the city of Mumbai, India.

This forum was especially important as Cities Alliance celebrated its 10 years of existence.

The mentoring partnership was described by the manager of Cities Alliance as a breakthrough in effective city assistance.

The Bill and Melinda Gates foundation is now interested in sponsoring the important CDS project of Lilongwe. We are convinced of the ongoing success of this initiative and hope to expand mentoring partnerships during 2010, testifying the commitment of both cities; Lilongwe and Johannesburg and their teams

