PLENARY SESSION

Sub national governments as key actors in promoting LED. A post 2015 perspective

Title of the session: Sub national governments as key actors of promoting LED. A post 2015 perspective.

Date & Time: 31st October 2013, 08.30-11.00

Room: information to be provided by organizers

Organizers: The ART Global Initiative (Articulation of Territorial Networks for Sustainable Human Development) is UNDP’s international cooperation initiative promoting the formulation and implementation of a legal, programmatic, operational and administrative framework - the ART Framework-Programme - in the countries that request it. The UNDP launched the ART Global Initiative in 2005, as part of its commitment to support countries in their efforts to accelerate progress on the MDGs and achieve sustainable development. Since then, the Initiative has demonstrated that regional, municipal and local authorities have an important role to play in promoting sustainable development. ART had the support of more than 1,600 decentralized cooperation partners (600 from the North and 1,000 from the South) and 40 regional networks and associations.

Focal Point: ART Global Initiative, UNDP Geneva

1. Description of the Plenary session

Around the world, sub national (intermediate and local) governments increasingly perform a pivotal Local Economic Development (LED) promotion role within their localities. In both North and South countries, sub national governments provide strategic guidance to LED promoters by actively coordinating and consolidating their actions towards achieving strategic development objectives. Placing local governance at the centre of ongoing deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda has been especially evident in the recently released report of the High Level Panel, which calls for “a fundamental shift - to recognise peace and good governance as core elements of wellbeing, not optional extras.”
In this context, a future institutional framework for sustainable local economic development seems to be deeply rooted in the principles of multilevel and multi-stakeholder governance in order to allow for interaction, synergy and links between all levels of governments. Sub national governments close proximity to citizens means they have a prime position to understand their needs, challenges, and opportunities, as well as to influence the direction of growth, local development, employment and welfare. Important opportunities for poor people, women and minorities to participate in the development of their communities are to be found in sub national institutions of governance. The transition to a more sustainable pattern of LED does not only represent a problem but, on the contrary, offers a whole series of opportunities particularly when environmental improvement and the generation of economic and social value added are considered in terms of potential synergy.

2. Objective of the session

The overall objective is to capture the experience, best practices and lessons learnt from different sub national governments for promoting local economic development and asses potential entry points for integrating sub national governments in the Post-2015 Framework.

3. Key points of discussion

- What is needed to enable local governments to play an effective role in LED promotion? Specifically, what policies, legal and regulatory, institutional and capacity inputs as well as financing options will be needed and what are the challenges usually faced in securing them?

- Where local governments have performed effectively towards the promotion of local economic development, what where the factors that facilitated their success? What were the factors that have contributed to ineffective performance of others?

4. List of invited speakers/moderator/ (confirmed and foreseen)

Chair: Presidente FOGAR, Paul Carrasco
1. Gobierno Junta Andalucia. Consejería Administración Local Relaciones Institucionales, AACID. Enrique Pablo Centella, Director General. (tbc)
2. President, National Confederation of Municipalities, Brazil, (tbc)
3. Montgomery Sanchez Reyes, Prefecto, Presidente Consorcio Gobiernos Provinciales Ecuador (tbc)
4. LG/LD Senior Advisor, UNDP, Kodjo Mensa
5. National Government of Ghana, High level Representative, (tbc)
6. Governor of Narino, Colombia, (tbc)
8. BID and FOMIN, Claudio Cortellese
9. PNUD Jorge Chediek