



■ CLOSING STATEMENT 8th DeLoG Annual Meeting New York 4-6 June 2013

Making the Case for Decentralisation and Local Governance in the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda.

DeLoG member organisations, local government associations and forums have gathered in New York to discuss the inclusion of **decentralisation** and **local governance** in the Post 2015 global development framework given local government's potential to accelerate the achievement of development goals. This statement was agreed upon by the participants of the meeting and does not necessarily reflect the institutional views of DeLoG member organisations.

We acknowledge the growing attention that **local governments** have received at the **international level** at the **2010 UN Global Forum on Local Development, Kampala**, the **2011 Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Busan**, the **2012 Rio +20 Summit**, **2013 Commonwealth Local Government Conference on Developmental Local Government, Kampala**, the **2013 European Commission Communication on Empowering Local Authorities in Partner Countries for enhanced Governance and more effective Development Outcomes** and the **Report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons for the Post-2015 agenda**.

We note the contribution of the **Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation** launched in Busan, which **recognises local governments as partners and actors**.

Local governments are key actors for achieving sustainable development goals. To fully unlock the development potential of local governments a properly designed and implemented **multi-level-governance framework** - based on the subsidiarity principle - needs to be in place.

This provides an essential part for local governments to fully assume their role in **basic service delivery** such as water and sanitation, waste management, public transport, education and health but also for ensuring connectivity between urban and rural areas, in addition to food security, disaster risk-, natural resource and land use management, promoting inclusive and sustainable local development, and employment creation.

In **fragile and conflict environments** stability can re-emerge from the local level. Local governments can have a decisive function in these situations facing additional responsibilities in relief, conflict mediation, reconciliation and restoring confidence and sense of security.



This requires **good local governance** with developmental-oriented, responsive, transparent and well-resourced local governments that have financial, social and democratic **accountability mechanisms** in place that ensure **inclusive** and **equal participation** and civic engagement of all citizens, including women, youth as well as marginalised and vulnerable groups.

DeLoG notes that persistent and emerging **global challenges** such as **urbanisation**, social and geographical **inequalities, demographic and climate change** can only be tackled, if all levels of government act in a structured and coherent manner. Urbanisation implies widening fiscal capacities, and in this context local resource mobilization, while desirable, can further deepen existing inequities in service delivery across different territorial units. This requires further efforts for equitable service delivery, among others through **fiscal equalisation**, and enable local governments to play their role in reducing income, gender and other social inequalities conducive to pro poor local development. This also requires building better planned and more sustainable and resilient cities.

Stressing that subnational actors need representation at the global level, DeLoG is committed to supporting, among other initiatives, the **Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments** for the Post-2015 development agenda towards Habitat III that is advocating for a more prominent place for the local and subnational level in the emerging global sustainable development agenda.

DeLoG emphasises that local governments need to be integrated into the emerging set of **global goals, targets and indicators** outlined in the recent **High Level Panel report**. All identified goals and targets need to be measured and monitored through **disaggregated indicator systems** that gather data also at the subnational level, taking into account **rural, urban and gender dimensions**.

Calls on DeLoG members and partners, to support the integration of decentralisation and local governance into the Post-2015 development agenda recognizing **local governments** as **partners** and **actors** in realising the future world we want for all.

The Development Partners Working Group on Decentralisation & Local Governance – DeLoG is an informal platform of 27 bi- and multilateral development agencies.

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