



**United Cities and Local Governments
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos**

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUPS AND COMMISSIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR 2007-2010

Decentralised Cooperation

President: Gérard Collomb, Mayor of Lyon, France

Objectives

To contribute elements of thought, guidance and examples of best practices to members of the UCLG in order to contribute to the recognition of the role of the Local Governments in Public Aid to Development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Objectives. To capitalise, share and promote the experiences of decentralised cooperation, update the concepts and methodology on which the activity is based.

The commission on decentralised cooperation has 98 registered members from 6 regional sections of the Union of Cities and Local Governments: Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Latin America and North America. The presidency is held by the mayor of Lyon, Mr. Gérard Collomb, represented by Mr. Jean-Michel Daclin, deputy mayor and vice president of Great Metropolitan Lyon, in charge of international relations. The commission also has five vice-presidents representing the regional sections of the UCLG.

Activities and results 2005-2007

- Analysis of the current evolution of decentralised cooperation:

The commission met 3 times in 2006, once in 2007, at the 3rd World Urban Forum of UN Habitat (Vancouver – June 2006), at the summit of African cities, Africités (Nairobi – September 2006), at the General Assembly of the UCLG in Marrakech (November 2006), at the International Conference on Medium-term Evaluation of the Objectives of Development of the Millennium (Rome, June 2007). During these meetings different innovative practices were presented in order to foster:

- a multi-actant focus: working in a network, sharing experiences, resources, relations between territorial collectives and donors, public-private collaboration, with the UN agencies and programs, the European Union.
- A strategic vision of territorial development.
- Coordinated and joint action in cooperation
- Strengthening the national networks of Local Governments and of South-South cooperation.

Survey on the practices of the members of the commission:

Since June 2006 there has been an on-line, trilingual questionnaire. Only 23 replies have been received. The number is insufficient in order to be able to make an analysis. However, in the replies we can see that there are certain recurrent issues: training, support to territorial governance; health. The initial conclusions will be sent to the members of the commission to inform those that have already responded and encourage the others to do so. Very few cities in the south have responded (only Mali and Palestine). We will ask for help from the regional sections to re-launch the questionnaire.

Coordinating and working with the partners in the commission:

To make the commission part of the action of the European regional section of the UCLG presided by the CMRE to make the voice of local authorities heard in the European Union and international institutions. The commission has participated in the Forum for Responsible Globalisation (Lyon, October 2006), in the meetings of the Observatory on Decentralised Cooperation in Montevideo and at the training session of the Centre for Habitat Training of the UN in Seville on decentralised co-operation (March 2007).

Launch of a solidarity initiative with the Lebanese cities for reconstruction: organisation of a meeting of the UCLG European network (September 2006) and technical support to the Bureau of the UCLG in Lebanon to prepare specific proposals to facilitate mobilisation of aid.

Prospects for 2007-2010

1. Preparation or reference documents:

- ***Preparation of a Charter of the UCLG on Decentralised Cooperation*** containing a definition of what decentralised co-operation is and the basis of its importance. It is conceived as a basic tool of countries, international and other organisations with which we collaborate so that they can recognise the importance of decentralised cooperation in aiding development, and, therefore, in achieving the Millennium Development Objectives.

To bring ourselves closer to international donors, especially to the PNUD: preparation of master cooperation conventions by the UCLG in concert with the Barcelona Secretariat. We need to reinforce collaboration with different actants in order to achieve the Millennium Development Objectives. On the initiative of our commission there are now discussions on the following master agreements between the:

- UCLG and PNUD
- UCLG and the World Bank
- UCLG and the FAO

Based on the results of the questionnaire and the work of the decentralisation and local autonomy commission of the UCLG, to prepare a practical guide on administrative and political organisation and the competencies of local powers by country.

2. To coordinate and act with the partners of our commission to:

- Participate in the creation of a platform of local authorities in the framework of the new master thematic cooperation program of the EU, "non-governmental actants and local authorities in development cooperation".
- Bring ourselves closer to the commission of the Millennium Development Objectives presided over by Rome.

3. To put actions/tools of decentralised cooperation into practice:

- To continue the initiatives in favour of the reconstruction and development of the Lebanese cities.
- Creation of an Institute of Superior Studies on the International Activity of Cities and Local Governments (IACLC)
- Evaluation of the training needs of the actants and local elected officials to fight against pandemics (research of the CIFAL in Lyon).