

We are pleased to present to you the latest news of the UCLG's Committee on Urban Strategic Planning.

Following on from the last committee meeting in Dakar 2012 which recommended placing emphasis in two strategic planning issues, namely Strategic Planning in Intermediary Cities and to enhance city to city cooperation, the committee also emphasized the need to fortify cooperation with the Committees of Digital and Knowledge-Based Cities and Mobility. Progress has been made on all fields presented in the following pages:

Included in the update are the following:

1. Focus theme of the year 2013: **Intermediary cities**
2. South- South City to City cooperation- engaging more partners Focus :**Brazil and Mozambique**
3. **Peer learning events: Kwadukuza, South Africa** (March 2013) **Lleida, Spain** (June, 2013) **and Nampula, Mozambique** (August, 2013)
4. **Highlights of UCLG World Congress in Rabat:**
 - Joint Committee meeting
 - New co-presidency of Porto Alegre
 - Reaffirmation of leadership from Durban /eThekweni
 - First Walking Audit and Walking Charter promoted in Africa
 - The relevance of intermediary cities promoted in the UCLG Congress
5. Invitation to join UN Guidelines process
6. **Recent publications:** on Peer Learning events and Intermediary Cities
7. **Upcoming activities** and topic

1. INTERMEDIARY CITIES

The Committee has partnered with the CIMES network and agreed to gather an overview of knowledge and research, concepts and experience on planning I-cities. This network is collaborating with architects and geographers in 200 cities, and besides gathering knowledge, is supporting urban planning processes and tools.

The Committee and the Network developed an initial draft frame-document that was shared with researchers, practitioners and partners, in particular UN Organizations (UNHABITAT and ILO), the Cities Alliance and other networks e.g. (FMDV, EURA, FAMSI).

The draft document is still open for comment and contributions from members and as well as case studies. The document can be found [here](#).

2. SOUTH-SOUTH CITY TO CITY COOPERATION

Many partnerships that were encouraged over the last years have matured and now allow for lessons to be shared and political aspects of the cooperation be evaluated.

The Committee has documented the housing partnership between Sao Paulo and Durban, which is also supported through the Metropolis **Initiatives** program. The rich lessons on how to improve social housing programs were presented and evaluated in the Metropolis meeting in July 2013. Find more details [here](#)

The peer learning on Markets in October 2012, in Maputo, led UCLG and the ILO to sign a joint roadmap towards Rabat that fostered South - South and triangular cooperation over the year, in particular between Maputo and Durban. First lessons were presented in Rabat and UCLG will now evaluate innovative policies on cooperation on markets in the global forum on Local Economic Development in Foz de Iguacu, Brazil at the end of October 2013. [Click](#) for video and more information.

Focus: **Brazil and Mozambique city partnerships**

The government of Norway, the European Union and Cities Alliance is supporting the Committee to engage the associations of Mozambique (ANAMM) and Brazil (FNP) as well as two networks: CIMES and Architects without borders to support seven Mozambican and 5 Brazilian cities to learn from each other on planning and management. The project was launched in January 2013 and is on-going for the next two years. For more information, please visit the project [blog](#).

3. PEER LEARNING EVENTS

Intermediary Cities learning exchange, Kwadukuza, South Africa (March 2013)

Intermediary cities have an important role to play not only in planning the development of fast changing territories, but also in liaising with different government tiers, building powerful rural - urban relations and involving unequal stakeholders. They are centers for services as well as for jobs that the rural population demands.

In cooperation with the provincial government of Kwa-Zulu Natal, the Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE) and the cities of Newcastle and Kwadukuza, the UCLG Committee on Urban Strategic Planning coordinated an international learning event on intermediary cities to understand and bring African and other I-Cities into the spotlight of international development partners.



Find the highlights of the event [here](#).

International Forum Lleida, Spain (June 2013)



The International Forum in Lleida took place on the 28th and 29th of June and was the setting for Mayors, practitioners, experts, development partners and network representatives to come together and discuss the strategic and political priorities for intermediary cities.

The Forum was a joint effort of the city of Lleida - the host, the UCLG Committee of Urban Strategic Planning and the network of Intermediary cities – CIMES – along with collaborating partners UN Habitat, the International Labour Organization, Cities Alliance and FMDV.

Consult the publication on this event [here](#) and [video](#).

Nampula, Mozambique hosted a decentralized technical cooperation seminar with technicians of Brazil and other Mozambican cities (August, 2013)

The seminar to exchange experiences and challenges in the areas of urban and territorial planning, cadastre and financial management took place between 26-28th of August 2013. The event, which is part of the activities of the co-operation project of local authorities in both countries as actors of decentralized

co-operation financed by the European Union, Cities Alliance, Government of Norway and Barcelona City Council, brought together more than 40 participants.



Together, 14 Brazilian and Mozambican cities identified areas of co-operation to guide their growth and improve their management. Through the application of reforms or optimization of planning and urban management instruments they will benefit from practical experience of peer cities.

Following the event, Brazilian technicians traveled to different cities in Mozambique to carry out technical assistance visits. As a result of the event and visits, cities will develop a joint work plan to be implemented during the next 18 months that will be supported technically and financially by the project.

Please find further details in this [link](#)

4. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UCLG WORLD CONGRESS IN RABAT:



Joint committee meeting

The joint meeting with the Committee of Knowledge Based and Digital Cities gathered an extended group of cities, partners and networks, as well as a joint understanding of the learning agenda between both committees. More corporative learning activities will also address topics of digital inclusion, economic development and strategic management.

Please find the minutes of the joint meeting [here](#).

New co-presidency of Porto Alegre

During the joint Committee meeting with the Committee of Digital and Knowledge-Based Cities that took place on the 1st of October, Mr. Jose Fortunati, the mayor of Porto Alegre officially announced that the city of Porto Alegre will become a co-chair of the USP Committee with the city of Durban/eThekweni.

Reaffirmation of leadership from Durban /eThekweni

The Mayor of Durban, Mr. James Nxumalo also reaffirmed the interest to continue leading the Committee initiatives especially related to the African context.



First Walking Audit and Walking Charter promoted in Africa



The Audit was organized by the UCLG Committees of Urban Strategic Planning and Digital and Knowledge-Based cities, the City of Rabat planning department and the international NGO Walk 21. This unique experiential learning exercise was an eye-opener for all those that participated, and it helped creating a better understanding of the city from a pedestrian's perspective.

8 city leaders signed the **charter**: Councillor Samira Achour from Rabat joined the Mayors: Jose Fortunati (Porto Alegre), vice Mayor Ibone Bengoetxea (Bilbao), James Nxumalo (Durban/eThekweni) Benedito Guimino of (Inhambane) and Luciano Rezende (Vitoria) as well as Mohammed Sefiani (Chefchaouen) to sign the charter promoted by Walk 21 to create a culture and community where people choose to walk. Further news in this [link](#)

The relevance of intermediary cities promoted in the UCLG Congress



A **parallel session** in Rabat brought together mayors of intermediary cities from different countries, presenting various sizes and diversified issues: The session presentations and discussions moderated by Alain Le Saux, Secretary General of Metropolis and

FMDV, helped move forward in the understanding of I-cities, confirmed the necessity of a specific approach of cooperation regarding these cities and allowed this category of urban agglomeration to be positioned in the international agenda.

From the session, we can extract the following recommendations on strategic planning:

- Given the challenges of I Cities which are beginning to emulate those in metro areas and the lack of skills and capacity, strategic planning must incorporate:
 - Accurate information on population and other vital issues to ensure better decision making, and being able to raise revenue. In most I-cities, the population served is larger than the population inside the territory
 - Innovation is important because intermediary cities do not have access to large sums of funding neither provide the same services as metro areas.
 - Community involvement in planning is important and lead to increasing opportunities for workers and employees to participate, especially on economic issues and job creation.
 - Strategic emphasis should focus on a limited number of issues e.g. tourism or agribusiness.

Recommendations on financing:

- Need to be creative in tapping different sources of funding in order to avoid being heavily reliant on national government for funding. Taxes and fees cannot be the only instrument.
- Entering into partnerships to increase income collection and income generation is useful in intermediary cities as they often do not have the capacity or skill levels to increase revenues.

The subject of I-Cities was also presented in the UCLG Executive Bureau which took place on the 2nd of October by the mayor of Chefchaouen, Mohamed Sefiani. The ExBU welcomed the initiative and the draft frame document will be shared to UCLG members in order to position and approve recommendations at a later stage

The promotion of diversity as opportunity for innovative governance

The USP Committee, together with the committees of Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights and the committee of Culture supported the organization of the Thematic Roundtable: **Promoting Diversity.**

The speakers of this session highlighted that promoting diversity is a **MUST** as it is a reality faced by **ALL** cities and territories. Respect and promotion of diversity emerged as an asset and a powerful source of innovations for improving living conditions of vulnerable groups.

One key recommendations of the roundtable:

- Promoting diversity is not only about sectorial and actor's focused policies (national and foreign migrants, street traders and informal workers, citizens with diverse religious or sexual options, etc.) but also about spatial planning and policies just the same.
- Land use planning and preservation of public spaces triggers the promotion of diversity and spatial inclusion can become a guiding principle.

5. INVITATION TO JOIN UN GUIDELINES PROCESS

United Nations invited the USP Committee to actively participate in the preparation of the global guidelines for urban planning, a process vis a vis Habitat III that is scheduled for the next 2 years starting in October. Four experts were nominated to be part of the process: Head of planning Durban, an urban planner of Porto Alegre, the head of the CIMES network as well as the UCLG Word secretariat coordinator on planning.

The meeting showed a steadily extending group of cities and partners and networks, as well as a joint understanding of the learning agenda between the 2 committees. More corporative learning activities will also address topics of digital inclusion, economic development and strategic management.

6. RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Throughout 2013, the Committee has launched the following publications that you can consult online.

Based on the subject of Intermediary Cities and gathering highlights and lessons for Peer learning events and activities on various subjects:

- **The Power of I-Cities**
- **Intermediary Cities- Southern Africa Learning Exchange**
- **Mentoring Story – Johannesburg and Lilongwe**
- **Hygiene, Health and Markets – Maputo peer learning**

You can also consult the updated versions of the publications:

- **Governance and Urban Development – Peer learning exchange in Durban, 2011**
- **Integrating lessons of housing development- Peer learning exchange Sao Paulo, 2011**

7. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND TOPICS

Experts nominated by the Committee will participate in the expert group on UN guidelines on planning in Paris 24 and 25th of October.

Committee representatives to participate in the **II World Forum of Local Economic Development** will be held in Brazil (Foz de Iguazú) from 28 to 31 October.

4th and 5th of November: Santa Fé region in Argentina has invited the Committee to support the regional agenda on Intermediary Cities.

For the next committee meeting, the Durban MILE will propose strategic actions and strategies for UCLG to position itself as an apex organization for supporting and monitoring city to city learning through the current and upcoming processes.

The Mayor of Chefchaouen announced that he would like to profit and join the next Intermediary Cities gathering with the coming together of stakeholders of the **network of fortified “medinas”** of the North of Morocco in April, 2014.

Further news and details to follow this newsletter.

