

**Report of the CIB Working Group Meeting, 25-27 September 2019, Vienna (Austria)**



The supporting documents of the meeting (incl. participants list and final program) are attached to the circular. All presentations used during the meeting are included in the report below (through hyperlinks).

**Communication outings**

Please find a news item from the CIB secretariat about the meeting [here](#).

Please find the Twitter feed of #CIBVienna [here](#).

You will find some more photos from the meeting [here](#).

As you know, we also created small videos during the meeting. These will be published on Twitter in the next few weeks, in the series 'Faces of CIB'. Please find the first one [here](#).

[General PowerPoint presentation day 1](#)

[General PowerPoint presentation day 2](#)

## Main conclusions and way forward

### Information sharing

- Members are invited to continue to update, check and complete information in the [CIB compendium](#) and to actively participate in the [CIB online community](#). The CIB secretariat also invites you to follow CIB on Twitter (@UCLG\_CIB) and to regularly consult the [CIB website](#).
- Members are encouraged to provide input for the bimonthly CIB newsletter, by sending input to [uclg.cib@vng.nl](mailto:uclg.cib@vng.nl). If you want to subscribe to the newsletter and other mailings, or want to instruct colleagues to do so, you can find the subscription form [here](#).
- During the yearly roundtable exchange between CIB members, all members presented an opportunity, challenge and question to the group. Many members are facing difficulties in illustrating and proving the need and impact of their international projects. The SDGs form an opportunity, both within own organizations and in international relations/projects. The topic of gender equality is increasingly important in the development sector. Last but not least, different members mentioned the ambiguous relation with their national government.

You will find the complete overview of this exercise [here](#). Do you want to follow-up on anything mentioned? Please contact CIB ([uclg.cib@vng.nl](mailto:uclg.cib@vng.nl)) – we will make sure to make the connection.

### Programme Management

- It remains important to keep sharing good practices with regard to advancing gender equality at the local level, for example by dedicating part of the CIB newsletter to this topic. It is important to learn from one another instead of reinventing the wheel.
- Following the presentation on the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), members agreed that it would be useful to hear more about the various available tools. The CIB Working Group will include such a call in its work plan 2020.
- There seems to be a (slow) transition towards integration of SDGs in the design phase of programmes. However, members agreed that using SDGs as a communication tool is a valid objective too, as it might increase awareness and support among the general public.
- With regard to country coordination, FCM suggested to work on a “CIB country roadmap for local authorities”, which we can use to strengthen coordination in different countries. The CIB Working Group will explore options for this and see how to include this activity in its work plan of 2020. The next CIB coordination activity will be the SALGA coordination meeting at the UCLG world congress in Durban.

### Knowledge Exchange & Policy Dialogue

- UCLG has published its 2019 report to the HLPF, which showcases the level of involvement of LGAs in the national SDG reporting processes, as well as interesting practices of SDG implementation. You can find the report [here](#).
- Later this year, the 5<sup>th</sup> GOLD report will be published by UCLG. This edition covers the topic of ‘Localizing the international agendas’, and provides readers with a state of the art of local democracy worldwide.
- Different members are involved in structural policy dialogues with their national governments, mostly about Agenda 2030 and the Climate Agenda/Paris Agreement. Members articulated the wish to exchange more on advocacy strategies towards national governments, both on international agendas and on interest in and budget for local government development cooperation. The CIB secretariat will integrate this request into the work plan of 2020.



## UCLG CIB Working Group

Capacity and Institution  
Building

### Remaining CIB activities for 2019 include:

- Expert Sandra Ceciarini is producing a study on gender work of CIB and members, following her work on the gender strategy of UCLG. In the next months, she will advise the Working Group on how to make the CIB work plans of the next years more gender-sensitive. Furthermore, she will produce a booklet on the ongoing gender activities/programmes of CIB members, which will be presented at the UCLG world congress.
- The Region of Catalonia offered to coordinate research on the SDGs & decentralised cooperation, for the broader CIB network to use. Research group “La Mundial” is carrying out this assignment and they are asking for input from the CIB community. They invite you to complete the questionnaire in either [English](#) or [Spanish](#), before the 25th of October.
- The CIB secretariat is leading three sessions at the UCLG World congress in Durban. Many CIB members are also organizing sessions at the World Congress. Please find an overview of all of the CIB-related activities [here](#). If you want to get involved or know more, please contact [uclg.cib@vng.nl](mailto:uclg.cib@vng.nl).
- Two CIB member organizations (VNG International and AMBF, through the city of Ouagadougou) are involved in the evaluation of the Benin programme of the VVSG, as peer evaluators. Experiences with peer evaluations/evaluators, as opposed to external evaluators, will be shared with CIB members.

### UCLG world congress

- Lance Joel from SALGA presented the latest news about the UCLG world congress and urged members to register in time. You can find all information on the congress (programme, registration etc.) [here](#).

### Priorities when setting up the CIB work plan 2020

- CIB members agreed that the following developments/external and internal factors need to be taken into account when drafting the CIB work plan for 2020:
  - (Financial) sustainability of the Working Group
  - Request related to transforming into a broader space for Local Government Associations (not only development cooperation)
  - Becoming an implementing agency?
  - A role in advocacy: need for more position papers
  - How to react to donor developments and how to connect to national governments more effectively?
  - The universality of the Working Group – how to increase/facilitate Southern participation?
  - How to increase participation of cities? (to be followed up with the city of Barcelona)
  - How to measure the effect of our work (monitoring & evaluation)?
  - How to better integrate gender equality and gender mainstreaming in our work?
  - How to better link to other networks? (DeLoG, regional sections of UCLG etc.)
  - Coordination of our projects

## Full report of the meeting

### Day 1: Information sharing

- **Thomas Weninger** (General Secretary of the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns) welcomed the CIB working group to Vienna, and briefly introduced the work of his association. For more information on the association, click [here](#).
- **Peter Knip** (Director of VNG International and Chair of the CIB Working Group) and **Sebastien Hamel** (Executive Director of FCM Programs and Co-Chair of the CIB Working Group) opened the meeting and reflected on the three anniversaries to be celebrated this year: i) 30 years ago, Peter started working at VNG. At that time, the donor community had no attention for local governments. This is something that has certainly changed; ii) 25 years ago, when the first Local Government Associations (LGAs) started working on international projects, the CIB Working Group was formed and iii) Peter became the Chair of this Working Group 20 years ago.

**Peter** reiterated his concerns from last year about the declining support for (local) democracy and for the idea that all citizens matter and that all citizens (incl. minorities) should have the right to participate in public decision-making. In his view, the new UCLG leadership needs to stand up for the protection of democratic values and the reinvention of local democracy.

**Sebastien** notes an important shift towards ‘innovative financing’ within development cooperation: significant parts of Official Development Assistance (ODA) are shifted to loans. He wonders how we, as CIB Working Group, should respond to this development, and whether we have been adequately involved in supporting Local Governments’ capacity to access these loans in the countries that CIB members work in?

Lastly, **Peter** underlined that it remains important to know what colleagues in the world are doing, in order to better coordinate our actions. He stressed that this information is available in the [CIB compendium](#). Everyone should make sure to contribute to this document and upload information on ongoing projects, at least at a yearly basis, prior to the CIB annual meeting.

- **Jessie Post** (CIB secretariat & Project Manager at VNG International) gave a brief update on CIB activities carried out this year, as well as on new and upcoming developments that require input from CIB members:
  - The work plan of 2019 mentions the following 4 headings: i) Information exchange; ii) Building a knowledge base and learning community; iii) Implementation of and reporting on international policies; iv) Shared narrative and evidence building and; v) Strengthening CIB network and collaboration within UCLG network.
  - Some activities which have already taken place this year worth mentioning here are:
    - We have sent out three newsletters to the CIB network, update the CIB website and social media account and actively reached out to members about an update of the CIB compendium (the result can be found in the supporting documents and on the website)

- We have organized [two county coordination calls](#), together with PLATFORMA – one on Morocco and one on the Ukraine. CIB and PLATFORMA members discussed who is doing what and where and how possible synergies can be sought. Participants also studied the EU roadmap for engagement with local authorities template, which was drawn-up by the European Commission in Brussels, for EUDs to use.
- The CIB secretariat hosted a [webinar on measuring municipal capacity](#), with contributions by ICLD, the city of Barcelona, SALGA and FCM.
- The CIB secretariat provided input for UCLG’s GOLD report and reached out to various LGAs about the report to the HLPF, and how to become (more) involved, based on earlier experiences of CIB members.
- A lot of time has been spent on preparing for the CIB annual meeting and the UCLG world congress. CIB will organize three sessions at the latter event.

#### Upcoming activities:

- Expert Sandra Ceciari has been hired to carry out a **study on gender work of CIB and members**, following her work on the gender strategy of UCLG. In the next months, she will advise the Working Group on how to make the CIB work plans of the next years more gender-sensitive. Furthermore, she will produce a booklet on the ongoing gender activities/programmes of CIB members, which will be presented at the UCLG world congress. She has sent out a survey and will plan in-depth interviews with CIB members for this cause.
- The Region of Catalonia has been a financial supporter of the CIB Working Group for the past years. This year, they offered CIB in-kind support, through working on a **study on the interface between the SDGs and decentralized cooperation**. The research aims to come to conclusions about how the sustainable development agenda can help to make our practices more innovative and transformative. The ultimate goal of the study will be to feed into the new training module of UCLG, devoted to SDGs and decentralised cooperation, to assure a good connection with the realities in the field. The research group “La Mundial” is carrying out this assignment and they are asking for input from the CIB community. They invite you to complete the questionnaire in either [English](#) or [Spanish](#), before the **25th of October**.
- Last years’ CIB annual meeting saw a discussion on monitoring and evaluation of programmes of CIB members. In that discussion, the idea arose to facilitate **peer evaluation** for one or more of our programmes, in view of the mixed experiences with external evaluators. As a result, two CIB members will be strongly involved in the evaluation of the VVSG programme in Benin, which takes place at the end of November. They will also report on their experiences as peer evaluators, for future reference. In Spring, The VVSG will evaluate its programme in Ecuador; CIB members are invited to also participate in this evaluation. Members can contact **Hanne Albers** (Advisor VVSG International) for more information.
- **The Centre for Public Administration Research, KDZ (Thomas Prorok), The City of Vienna (Alena-Sirka Bred) and NALAS (Elton Stafa)** provided the participants with a brief introduction on their organizations’ international cooperation and capacity building activities.

- **Alena Sirka Bred** introduced Vienna as an international Metropolis, bridging the East and West of Europe. Vienna is a student city, as well as a diplomatic hub, due to the presence of one of the four UN Headquarters and 40 other international institutions. You will find the presentation [here](#).
- **Thomas Prorok** explained KDZ's programme "Building Administrative Capacity in the Danube Region and Western Balkans (2018-2021) (BACID)". BACID is funded by the Austrian Development Agency and implemented by the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns (AACT) and the KDZ-Centre for Public Administration Research. It aims to strengthen Governance and Public Administration Reform, and to support European Integration on the local and regional level. Please find his presentation [here](#).
- **Elton Stafa** from the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe introduced their Fiscal Decentralisation report that provides policy makers and researchers with reliable, comparative data on municipal finances and up-to-date information on intergovernmental fiscal relations in South-East Europe. Please find the presentation [here](#), and the report [here](#).
- In the discussion that followed the presentations, some notable points were raised:
  - Members noted that international projects in cities often also have a domestic focus. This also seems to be the case of Vienna, as Alena Sirka Bred mentioned that their main goal is to strengthen and stabilise the region of the city, including the Western Balkans. At the same time, these (soft) objectives have to be repeatedly explained to councillors and secretaries to sustain their legitimacy (and funding).
  - Moreover, it was observed that Mayors are increasingly becoming spokes people for global challenges which nation states fail to address. Many national governments do not have strategies to implement the SDGs; local governments are making progress on these agendas without national government guidance.
  - The discussion also touched upon the struggle to involve staff in international cooperation projects, while they are also needed back home, at the office. It's mostly a matter of strategic priorities.
- During the **yearly roundtable exchange** between CIB members, all members presented an **opportunity, challenge and question** to the group. You will find the overview of this exercise [here](#). Do you want to follow-up on anything mentioned? Please contact CIB ([uclg.cib@vng.nl](mailto:uclg.cib@vng.nl)) – we will make sure to make the connection.

**Elena Pierce** (Adviser Governance, Policy and Networks, FCM) summarized some **general trends** from the roundtable :

- Many members are facing difficulties in illustrating and proving the need and impact of their international projects. This ranges from 'disrespect' from the national government (South Africa, Brazil), to less demand from municipalities (Sweden, France).
- Almost all members are working on the SDGs in their organizations and/or in their international programmes. It is still a lot of 'learning by doing', but different members have elaborated interesting tools and strategies in the meantime. Some members are worried about insufficient knowledge on the SDGs by their LGs, caused by a lack of funding to engage in SDG training (e.g. Cambodia).

- Nearly all members indicate that coordination within, mobilisation and the enlargement of municipal networks is a wonderful opportunity, but that it remains a challenge how to leverage on this opportunity. What role can CIB play to overcome this question?
  - The topic of gender equality is increasingly important in the development sector. In some countries, national governments are issuing new programmes which are specifically directed at (or with a large component on) increasing gender equality in local government (Canada, Sweden, Flanders). Other members (e.g. Mali) face shortages of means to integrate gender equality into local governance.
  - Different members indicated that it can sometimes be difficult to criticise your donors/national governments. “How do you manage the hand that feeds you?”
- The afternoon of day 1 saw four **break-out sessions related to programme management**. Please find a short summary of the outcomes of each session below.

#### **Break-out session 1: Gender responsive programming (led by FCM)**

The CIB Working Group is committing to integrating gender into the work plan of 2020, based on recommendations from Sandra Ceciarini, as well as experiences from members. Ceciarini will also develop a list of gender experts in developing countries, as well as guidelines on how to integrate gender approaches in programmes. This work is grounded in the belief and need for local governments as key stakeholders in promoting and ensuring women's empowerment and gender equality.

- **Elena Pierce** briefly introduced the work that Sandra Ceciarini is doing for CIB and explains that the input from this session can be used by her. She then gave the floor to **Sabrina Ines** from CILG who shared information about the FCM-CILG programme which is currently being carried out, which has a clear gender focus.
- Sabrina explained that in Tunisia, women represent more than half of the population. Therefore it is important that they are well-represented in the Inclusive Municipal Leadership Program (2018-2022), financed by the Canadian government. The overall objective of this project is to ensure that citizens and elected officials have more influence on the management of local affairs in 8 Tunisian municipalities. With technical support from Canadian municipal specialists, these 8 municipalities will strengthen their ability to integrate the gender aspect into their day-to-day management practices. Furthermore, they will develop a better ability to provide women and the most vulnerable groups with inclusive and gender-specific services, in partnership with civil society. This project should also provide support to various national institutions, to create an environment that promotes the political involvement of women in the management of local affairs.
- The CILG presentation was followed by a presentation from **Sokundara Pok**, Secretary General of the National League of Local Councils, Cambodia. His association is also involved in a partnership programme with FCM to promote women in local governments. Within this programme, which is called “Women in Local Leadership” and executed in 5 countries (Benin, Cambodia, Ghana, Sri Lanka and Zambia), training is given to women candidates, to encourage them to run for office.
- After the introductory presentations, the group was split up in smaller groups, to facilitate a discussion on the challenges in integrating gender equality approaches,

between peers. Members also talked about what their institution is doing to promote women in local leadership in partner countries.

- The most important conclusion of the break-out session was to keep sharing good practices, for example by dedicating part of the newsletter to this topic. It is important to learn from one another instead of reinventing the wheel.

#### **Conclusions/follow-up actions**

- The CIB Working Group secretariat will make sure to share the findings with Sandra Ceciarini.

#### **Break-out session 2: The Common Assessment Framework (led by KDZ and City of Vienna)**

- This group discussed the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) – a free system for quality management in public sector organisations, based on the concept of self-assessment. CAF’s overall aim is to reflect on the quality of public services. The focus is placed on elementary/holistic topics that might be forgotten or invisible in the day-to-day work (e.g. strategy). One of its strengths is that CAF is not a certification (like ISO); it is purely used to improve the civil service itself. Also, CAF is well-known and well-regarded by donor organisations too. Please find the PowerPoint presentation of Thomas Prorok [here](#).
- The City of Vienna explained how it is using CAF in practice. Her Powerpoint presentation is available upon request ([uclg.cib@vng.nl](mailto:uclg.cib@vng.nl)).
- Various CIB members indicated that for EU candidate member states and the Eastern Partnership integration, CAF is very important, as it helps to reach EU standards on public administration.

#### **Conclusions/follow-up actions**

- Following the presentations, SALAR suggested to plan an online session on different local government assessment tools. SALAR itself is also using the CAF, in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Members agreed that it would be useful to hear more about the various available tools, including VNG International’s tool from LOGO South. The CIB Working Group will include such a call in its work plan 2020.
- For more information on CAF, please contact Thomas ([prorok@kdz.or.at](mailto:prorok@kdz.or.at)).

#### **Break-out session 3: Glocalizing the SDGs (led by VVSG)**

- This break-out session provided member with the opportunity to further discuss how to connect the local and the global dimensions of the SDGs; and how to implement SDGs in international decentralised cooperation programmes.
- Hanne provided two useful examples from Flandres to illustrate how SDG integration in international cooperation programmes can be mutually beneficial for both parties. One of the examples used was the Harelbeke (Flandres) – Eenhana (Namibia) city mentoring. CIB members shared additional good practices, and agreed that SDG integration should be used more as a tool than as an obligation, whereby city-to-city mentoring has proven to be useful.
- A central point of discussion was whether or not SDG implementation is about ‘dressing up’ one’s already determined goals and projects, or whether it creates new value. Some reactions from members included: (1) “we need to know how to engage the narrative



of SDGs to get more funding” and (2) “how to strengthen our local government for sustainability and capacity building sake”? Both elements will be taken into account when elaborating the SDG study (work of La Mundial).

- There seems to be a (slow) transition towards integration of SDGs in the design phase of programmes. At the same time, primarily using SDGs as a communication tool is a valid objective too, as it might increase awareness and support among the general public.

#### **Conclusions/follow-up actions**

- For more information on mutually beneficial city-to-city mentoring examples, please contact Hanne ([hanne.albers@vmsg.be](mailto:hanne.albers@vmsg.be)).
- During the UCLG World Congress 2019, CIB, PLATFORMA and the Region of Catalonia are organising a session on SDGs and decentralised cooperation. This takes place on Wednesday 13 November, from 09:00 to 10:30. Please contact CIB for more information ([uclg.cib@vng.nl](mailto:uclg.cib@vng.nl)).

#### **Break-out session 4: Country coordination (led by PLATFORMA and CIB Secretariat)**

- This session discussed pros and cons of various instruments that are being used by stakeholders in order to improve synergies of local government development cooperation actions, including the CIB compendium, the country coordination calls of CIB, in-country coordination seminars, donor coordination meetings, the EU country roadmap and others.
- All participants concluded that more coordination is needed. The CIB’s compendium is a good start, but more information is needed. It is also important to have and share knowledge of the political situation and the risks. Moreover, projects from different donors should complement one another. Members agreed that when writing new project proposals, they should align to ongoing efforts and make use of lessons learned of others.
- It is important to also involve the national governments in beneficiary countries; the international donor community and implementing organizations should not surpass them. We should showcase what we see in the field.
- The European Commission is experimenting with a “ EU country roadmap for local authorities”. This template should give direction to the EUD’s activities with local authorities in the next years.

#### **Conclusions/follow-up actions**

- Members are encouraged to use the EU country roadmap when they discuss with EUDs, even if they are not yet aware of the existence.
- FCM suggested to work on a “CIB country roadmap for local authorities”, which we can use to strengthen coordination. The CIB Working Group will explore options for this and see how to include this activity in its work plan of 2020.
- The next CIB coordination activity will be the SALGA coordination meeting at the UCLG world congress in Durban. This takes place on Monday 11 November, from 15:00 to 16:30. Please let us know if you want to join this meeting, by sending an email to [uclg.cib@vng.nl](mailto:uclg.cib@vng.nl).

## Day 2: Knowledge Exchange & Policy Dialogue

- **Presentation on World Bank – Austria Urban Partnership Program (UPP)**

- On day 2, **Tamara Nikolic** (World Bank Program Coordinator) and **Solène Dengler** (World Bank Urban Partnership Program) presented the World Bank-Austria Urban Partnership Program (UPP), which is being carried out in South-Eastern Europe. The programme is aimed at strengthening local governance, but also puts emphasis on local and international cooperation. The presentation can be found [here](#). More information can be found on their [website](#), including the book mentioned at the meeting.
- The UPP has produced two self-assessment tools: the “*Municipal Finance Self Assessment*” and an “*Urban Audit*” (to assess the level of service and infrastructure delivery within respective jurisdictions). Both focus on Public Finance Management (PFM) and service delivery in South-Eastern Europe. Both tools have recently been transformed from an excel-based assessment, to a web-based assessment for user-friendliness. Moreover, the tools have been made available to NALAS, in order to reach a wider audience.
- Furthermore, the UPP works on participatory approaches and integrity-building processes. In response to the lack of citizen engagement in decision-making, they have offered participatory planning tools to planning officials.
- In the discussion following the presentations, various CIB members enquired about how to engage their own LGA networks and bring stakeholders together. Tamara and Solène indicated that in UPP (1) various levels of experts (e.g. LGAs, international organisations, LGs) are engaged depending on availability; (2) various thematic experts keep the cities and municipalities in the loop during the programme; and that (3) a number of pioneers have been identified in various municipalities who now act as tutors for others.

- **Policy dialogue & advocacy strategies of CIB members**

In this session, representatives from the UCLG Learning team (**Sara Hoeflich** and **Raphael Sedlitzky**) presented some updates on the work of UCLG on various global agendas (SDGs, Climate Agenda, New Urban Agenda, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Local Financing).

- Sara mentioned that ‘business as usual’ is not enough to reach the SDGs and that attention should be placed on financing the agenda. She also mentioned that a new edition of the Global Observatory on Local Democracy (GOLD) report will be presented at the UCLG World Congress. This GOLD report focuses on the localization of the global agendas, while portraying the state of the art of decentralization and local governance across the world.
- Sara also touched upon the second Local and Regional Governments’ Forum, which was held during the UN General Assembly. The message of UCLG is clear: the global agendas cannot be carried out in isolation. It is only through the localization of Agenda 2030 that we will be able to go through the necessary transition, to address the climate emergency and other global challenges. The report of UCLG of 2019 to the UN can be found [here](#).
- Raphael discussed both the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the work of UCLG on local financing. UCLG has developed a specific strategy on “Localising Financing in Support of Sustainable Urbanisation”, which was adopted by the organisation's Executive Bureau in May 2018. This strategy is gradually being

implemented, In close collaboration with the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), which is now a key partner of UCLG. An important component of the strategy is the International Municipal Investment Fund that aims to facilitate access to financing for local government capital investment projects on national and international financial markets. A first pilot with this fund is ongoing; 15 cities are currently participating.

- **Christine Rehberger** (Regional Manager for Sustainability and Environment in Upper Austria) provided the members with an outlook on the realities of integrating SDGs at the local level. Please find her presentation [here](#). Ms. Rehberger's presentation was followed by an exchange between members about how to raise awareness, about the SDGs, for example by trainings.
- The policy dialogue was followed by a video message from **Emilia Saiz** (Secretary General of UCLG). She mentioned three things that CIB members should strive to address in their work:
  - We need to find better ways to share experiences and learn from each other. We need to promote solidarity (not only when there is enough funding and resources), but also in the hard times.
  - We should find ways to scale up the capacity building projects that CIB is promoting.
  - We need to make sure that the structural political dialogue (national and local in particular) is continuing and strengthened.

The video message is available upon request ([uclg.cib@vng.nl](mailto:uclg.cib@vng.nl)).

- After the different presentations, members discussed their ongoing advocacy work on the five policy agendas. Different members are involved in structural policy dialogues with their national governments, mostly about Agenda 2030 and the Climate Agenda/Paris Agreement. Members articulated the wish to exchange more on advocacy strategies towards national governments, both on international agendas and on interest in and budget for local government development cooperation. The CIB secretariat will integrate this request into the work plan of 2020.
- Following the discussion in groups, a last presentation was given by **Pablo Martinez Osés**, who is conducting a the study on SDGs and decentralised cooperation, financed by the Region of Catalonia, for the CIB network. He mentioned that many of our organisations are striving to design plans and policies to implement –or localize– the Sustainable Development Goals, both at home and abroad. The research aims to come to conclusions about how the sustainable development agenda can help to make our practices more innovative and transformative. The ultimate goal of the study will be to feed into the new training module of UCLG, devoted to SDGs and decentralised cooperation, to assure a good connection with the realities in the field.

Pablo asks for input from the CIB community and he invites everyone to complete the questionnaire in either [English](#) or [Spanish](#), before the **25<sup>th</sup> of October**. His presentation can be accessed [here](#).

- **Wrap-up day two**
  - The first two days of this years' CIB annual meeting were wrapped up by Peter, who thanked KDZ and the CIB Secretariat for the organization of the meeting. He welcomed

all participants to next year's CIB meeting, which will be hosted by VVSG and a Flemish city, in Flanders.

- The afternoon of day 2 was dedicated to **two field visits**. The field visits were a new element in the CIB meeting, following comments from evaluations of previous CIB annual meetings.
  - Some participants took a '**gender-sensitive urban planning**'-tour in the city of Vienna, which also included a visit to a cooperative housing project with multi-use functions in the City of Vienna. The tour was led by Ms. Eva Kail, who has been working for the City of Vienna for over 30 years. She is currently the Gender Planning Expert and one of the leading experts for Gender Planning in Europe.
  - Others visited smart city Aspern-Seestadt: a part of the city which came about after holistic, sustainable planning. This tour was led by Nikolaus Summer - a Smart City expert at Urban Innovation Vienna, the competence centre for future urban issues in Vienna.

### Day 3: UCLG World Congress Durban and CIB work plan 2020

#### UCLG World Congress – 11-15 November, Durban (South-Africa )

- The third day saw a presentation by **Raphael Sedlitzky** (UCLG learning team) and **Lance Joel** (SALGA) on the **6th UCLG world congress**, which is taking place in Durban from 11-15 November. The programme of the Congress can be downloaded [here](#). Please make sure to register in time, as a security check needs to be done prior to entering.
- Many CIB members will be present in Durban; some are also organizing sessions. The CIB secretariat committed to sharing a matrix which showcases the sessions which are organized by CIB members. This matrix is now available [here](#). If you want us to add your/another session to this matrix, please contact us by emailing [uclg.cib@vng.nl](mailto:uclg.cib@vng.nl). A coordination call will be organized on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, from 14:00 to 15:00 CET. Please find more information in the circular.
- The CIB secretariat itself is also leading three sessions at the congress; please find more information on these sessions [here](#). If you want to play a role in any of the three sessions, or would like to propose a speaker, please let us know by emailing to [uclg.cib@vng.nl](mailto:uclg.cib@vng.nl).

#### CIB priorities in the next years

- The Working Group members then took time to reflect on the **current work and position of the CIB Working Group**, and on how this should evolve in the next years. We discussed the sustainability of the Working Group, its role in advocacy, and on how to share methodologies to measure the effect of our projects. Peter and Jessie highlighted 11 developments/challenges/internal and external factors, which have an impact on our work. These can be summarized as follows:
  1. (Financial) sustainability of the Working Group
  2. Request related to transforming into a broader space for Local Government Associations (not only development cooperation)
  3. Becoming an implementing agency?
  4. A role in advocacy: need for more position papers
  5. How to react to donor developments and how to connect to national governments more effectively?
  6. The universality of the Working Group – how to increase/facilitate Southern participation?
  7. How to increase participation from cities? (to be followed up with the city of Barcelona)
  8. How to measure the effect of our work (monitoring & evaluation)?
  9. How to better integrate gender equality and gender mainstreaming in our work?
  10. How to better link to other networks? (DeLoG, regional sections of UCLG etc.)
  11. Coordination of our projects
- Expert Sandra Ceciari provided **recommendations** on how to make the work of CIB (and work of members) more **gender-sensitive** in the next years. Please find more information about her study in the supporting document. During the UCLG World Congress CIB will present a publication which is based on the work of Sandra. It will showcase projects of CIB members working on gender and provides guidelines for how local government development cooperation projects can improve gender equality in local/regional governments.

- According to the CIB members which were present on the third day, next year's work plan should:
  - Make sure that all CIB activities for 2020 are more gender-sensitive in their set-up.
  - Continue with the organization/facilitation of country coordination, in view of higher development effectiveness, through the set-up of conference calls per country or theme. CIB members agree on the need for further discussions on synergies between the different local government development cooperation programmes which take place in the same country.
  - Providing of support to LGAs reporting to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development should remain a priority for CIB.
  - Commit to the writing of a successor to the policy paper 'Development Cooperation and Local Government' (2013), in view of the international agendas adopted since 2015, and other developments in the sector. This should happen in consultation with other committees and Working Groups of UCLG.
  - Continue to feed into UCLG's advocacy work, with special focus on Agenda 2030, the new urban agenda and local financing (with focus on new forms of financing; or 'innovative financing').
  - Explore the set-up of a policy paper on capacity building gaps related to innovating financing.
  - Pay increased attention to the (capacity gaps in) national advocacy work of members, on international agendas.
  - Explore the options for renewing the UCLG/CIB Champions programme (with special attention for female leaders) to promote the global agendas and the policy documents developed by the Working Group.
  - Continue facilitating peer evaluations. 2020 will see another peer evaluation of a VVSG programme; this time in Ecuador. Please let us know if you are interested to participate ([uclg.cib@vng.nl](mailto:uclg.cib@vng.nl)).
  - Continue to facilitate exchange among CEOs and Presidents of LGAs within the world organization.
  
- The CIB Working Group secretariat and chairs committed to including the suggestions in the CIB work plan for 2020, which will be distributed at the end of November, for feedback.
  
- The 2020 CIB annual meeting will be hosted by the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities, most likely at the end of May or the beginning of June. The CIB secretariat will send out save the date soonest.

### Evaluation of this years' CIB annual meeting

The evaluation forms of the CIB annual meeting showed that:

- The plenary introduction by all participants, the break-out session on gender, and the discussion on (the future of) CIB on day three were rated as **most interesting**.

- Members indicated that they would have liked to have **more opportunities for dialogue** between members (in smaller groups) to discuss how synergies between international capacity and institution building could actually be created.
- Members indicated that they would to see more participants and speakers coming from **emerging and developing economies**.
- Several members proposed to **include provincial/regional/national government officials** to next year's meeting - to be able to showcase the value and quality of the discussions that are already taking place within LGAs and at city level.

Findings from the evaluation form of last year were very useful in organising this year's annual meeting, and will also been taken into account when organizing the CIB annual meeting of 2020.

Finally, for those who wondered: most of the surplus from our plentiful lunches is donated to charitable institutions or made available to the employees of the catering company. However, some food could not be frozen or kept for longer.