



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

**SUMMARY OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS ACTIVITIES  
AND 2007-2010 PERSPECTIVES**

**Capacity Building (ACB-CIB Platform)**

Chair: Peter Knip, Director VNG International, Netherlands.

This Working Group is related to the Committee on Decentralized Cooperation.

**Objectives**

- Exchange experiences, best practises and know how in order to improve the quality of the work of associations of municipalities and individual cities in this field;
- Contribute where possible to better co-ordination and fine-tuning of the work that associations of municipalities and individual cities are doing;
- Attract and secure external donor funding for developing, managing and implementing MIC, ACB or LGR projects and programmes on a bilateral or multilateral basis;
- Give professional advice where appropriate to the political committees of UCLG on Decentralised Co-operation, City Diplomacy and the Millennium Development Goals;
- Develop and stimulate professional working methods and codes of conduct for organisations involved in MIC, ACB and LGR projects and programmes.

The Capacity and Institution Building (ACB-CIB) Working Group of United Cities and Local Governments brings together professional practitioners from associations of local governments and individual cities active in the field of Municipal International Cooperation (MIC), Association Capacity Building (ACB), and local government and public sector reform programmes (LGR).

**Activities and achievements 2005-2007**

- Meetings of the working group:
  1. **2005 Beijing**: working group meeting of CIB with 8 Northern Association, the city of Barcelona and association from African countries and UCLG Africa.
  2. **November 2005**: partner conference organised by the chair of the CIB working group in The Hague; in depth discussion about our work in the field of Association Capacity Building. Conclusion: the donor community still does not have a good understanding of the important role of Local Government Associations in decentralisation processes, nor of the specific non-party political character of LGA's.
  3. **February 2006 Washington**: report of the CIB working group to the Executive Bureau meeting of UCLG in Washington; in addition to this a meeting of the CIB working group took place in which the following conclusions were drawn:
    - closer cooperation between the Decentralised Cooperation Committee of UCLG and the CIB working group should take place; the political committee is invited to use the professional experience of the International Agencies of LGA's;
    - a number of national local government associations in Africa do not yet receive any support from donor agencies;
    - an updated policy document of UCLG on ACB should be developed; a draft document will be developed by Local Government Denmark, FCM/ICMD and VNG International.
  4. **September 2006 Africities**: in a combined effort ICMD/FCM, KS and VNG International a successful session was organised on Association Capacity Building during Africities in Nairobi together with the support of and presentations of the national associations of Zambia, Mozambique and Kenya. The session was attended by more than 75 participants from different African LGA's and the donor community.
  5. **March 2007 Brussels**: in close co-operation with the Association of Cities and Municipalities in Flanders, Belgium, VVSG. The agenda of this meeting consisted of:
    - (a) Presentation on existing Municipal International Cooperation programmes, based on an analysis of the questionnaires by Mr Bart Palmaers of the VVSG;

(b) New trends in European policy on development cooperation and decentralisation. MIC in the programme for 'Non-state actors and Local Authorities' by Mr Jean Bossuyt, Programme coordinator ECDPM;

(c) Comparing notes on Association Capacity Building: approach, partnership, success factors, result, information productions, Presentation of ACB cases Mali (by VNG) and Tanzania (by KS Norway).

This meeting resulted in very concrete recommendations for the agenda of the ACB/CIB working group for the coming period. It was stressed that a working group of professionals dealing with project implementation in the field of Municipal Cooperation, Association Capacity Building and Public Administration Reform within UCLG remains of crucial importance.

6. **UCLG World Congress:** Organize a workshop entitled "A Century of Association Movement: Innovations and Perspectives" that will include several guest speakers (i.e. Asian partners of CIB members)

## Perspectives 2007-2010

General priorities for the CIB Working Group are:

- *Annual Meetings of the CIB Working Group:* Annual meetings will be hosted by members of the CIB Working Group on a rotational basis. The next year's meeting is scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2008, in Helsinki and for April 2009 in Barcelona.
- *Assignment of Project Manager to support the Working Group.* The project encompasses the appointment of a CIB project manager in Barcelona for two years to coordinate and implement this plan.
- *Information sharing:* Create an UCLG compendium or annotated list of key tools and publications that have been developed and used by members of the CIB working group in their ACB and MIC programs. Enhance the CIB knowledge sharing platform on the UCLG website in order to facilitate access to the compendium and its associated documents.
- *Policy/advocacy:* Develop a position paper on the value and role of municipal associations (ACB) and local governments (MIC) in development cooperation, taking into account the emerging aid effectiveness agenda (i.e. the Paris Declaration). Prepare and propose to the Decentralized Cooperation Committee a coordinated advocacy strategy to guide lobbying activities with individual donors and DAC/OECD.
- *ACB-MIC Capacity Development Conference:* The CIB Working Group members will jointly plan and organize a global working conference on MIC/ACB in 2009 that will be designed to foster dialogue and share knowledge and best practices amongst northern and southern LGAs.
- *Peace conference (Hague, June/08):* CIB members will prepare and present relevant case studies of local governments that have been involved in conflict prevention for the conference on City Diplomacy in The Hague in June 2008 (VNG chairs the UCLG committee on this theme).
- *Program coordination:* Strengthening coordination and harmonization among LGA implementing agencies working in the same southern country. Such coordination will be piloted in three countries with the following LGA leads: Mali - Cités Unies France/AMM; Ghana – VNG/NALAG; Nicaragua – FCM/AMUNIC.
- *Code of Ethics:* Develop an international professional code for organizations involved in MIC, ACB and LGR programmes.