UCLG's Capacity and Institution Building Working Group
Work plan 2020

Overarching goal: UCLG's Capacity and Institution Building (CIB) Working Group aims to advance the effectiveness and quality of international policies and programs of local and regional governments and their associations. The CIB achieves its purpose by exchanging knowledge and information, enabling coordination and cooperation among its members and within UCLG.

The CIB Working Group is a voluntary community of practitioners, members of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), who are engaged in international development cooperation.

Priorities 2018 – 2020

1   General **information exchange** related to policies and programs implemented by CIB members and fostering of **coordination** among CIB members to avoid overlap and to create synergies

2   Building a common **knowledge base and learning community** on programming methodologies to contribute to a more effective programme approach

3   Support the implementation of and reporting on **international policies**

4   Support the development of a **shared narrative and building evidence**, to feed lobby and advocacy efforts and increase recognition of the role of local government in development cooperation.

5   Alignment and collaboration with **UCLG**

Orientations & activities in 2020[1]

1. **Main activities of the CIB Working Group in 2020, organized according to the main components of UCLG's strategic priorities**

Please note: CIB will make sure to make all CIB activities for 2020 more gender-sensitive in its set-up. Newsletters will include a section on female role models and leaders in local governance.

A.	Implementation

- Continuation of facilitation of regular communication and knowledge exchange, through its bi-monthly newsletter, website, social media channels and the CIB networking whatsapp group, among other.

- Organization of 2020 CIB annual meeting, in close collaboration with the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities, which will host next years' meeting in June 2019.

- Continuation of organization of country coordination, in view of higher development effectiveness, through the set-up of conference calls per country or region. CIB members agree on the need for further discussions on synergies between the different local government development cooperation programmes in the same country or region.

  Suggested countries/regions:

  - Sahel (May 2020)
  - Nepal (September 2020)
  - Mozambique (November 2020)

  We will also stimulate follow-up to the SALGA coordination meeting which we organized at the UCLG world congress, in early 2020.

- Continuation of organization of several thematic webinars, with speakers from different (CIB member) organizations.

  Suggested topics:
  - Gender (February 2020)
  - Innovative financing (April 2020)
  - Humanitarian aid vs. development (October 2020)
  - Participatory democracy – methods for projects (December 2020)

- Providing of support to LGAs reporting to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2020, together with UCLG.

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[1] All activities described below are subject to available funding.

B. Advocacy

- In 2020, the CIB Working Group will 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, and in consultation with other committees and working groups of UCLG.

- In 2020, the CIB Working Group will also explore the set-up of a policy paper on capacity building gaps of local government (associations) with regard to attracting innovative financing.

- Furthermore, CIB will pay increased attention to the national advocacy work of members, on international agendas. The CIB meeting of 2019 showed that members stand ready to exchange good practices and lessons learnt with regard to their structured policy dialogue with central governments.

- Members have requested that CIB will give attention to the outcomes of the SDG study of the OECD, to which different members have contributed.

- CIB will continue to feed into UCLG's advocacy work, with special focus on Agenda 2030, the new urban agenda and local financing.

- CIB will 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.

C. Monitoring and follow-up

- The CIB Working Group will continue facilitating/contributing to peer evaluations in 2020. CIB members acknowledge that external evaluations of their local government development cooperation programmes often do not grasp the specificity of working with local and regional governments and therefore do not show the real impact of these programmes. As a continuation of work started in 2019, the CIB will support VVSG (Association of Flemish cities and municipalities) in its peer evaluation of the VVSG program in Ecuador. This evaluation will provide space for up to two CIB members to participate in the evaluation. The CIB secretariat will share the experiences and results of both the Benin (December 2019) and Ecuador (Spring 2020) peer evaluations with the CIB network, through a webinar or paper.

- By the end of 2020, the CIB secretariat will work with members to identify the next possibility for a peer evaluation, within our network. The second round of peer reviews will lead to the development of documentation and approach for other types of external evaluations. This should be ready for distribution at the end of 2021.

- Evaluations of the 2019 CIB annual meeting showed that members had wished for more exchange on trends and developments in monitoring and evaluation. We will pay special attention to this in the set-up of the 2020 annual meeting.

D. Learning

- The CIB Working Group plans to enhance its collective knowledge on innovative financing methods of donor organisations/development banks.

- A strong effort will be made to contribute to UCLG's SDG learning module 4 on SDGs and decentralized cooperation, as many CIB members are discussing integration of the SDGs in international capacity building programmes, or have already done so.

- Following the organization of the forum for local government associations in Durban, the CIB Working Group and LGA forum will continue to facilitate exchange among CEOs and Presidents of LGAs within the world organization.

E.   Strengthening the UCLG network

- Following the UCLG world congress in Durban, the CIB secretariat will see how to further disseminate and build on the GOLD V report, the advise of the UBUNTU group and other relevant outcomes and publications.

- The CIB secretariat will update members on the calendar of UCLG events which are relevant to the network, assuring high participation of CIB members at key events, such as the World Urban Forum and the High Level Political Forum.

- Following the participation of several related networks and working groups in the CIB activities in 2019, the CIB Working Group secretariat will work on a strategy to structurally align work and efforts with such organizations (e.g. DeLoG, Metropolis, regional UCLG sections)

- Associations of local governments account for around 75% of the active membership of CIB, as opposed to 25% cities. CIB members and the secretariat commit to further reaching out to cities next year, both in terms of participation at the CIB annual meeting, and at other events. The services provided by the secretariat will also be diversified, to be able to better serve cities.

2.   Update in the leadership of the Working Group and any relevant information

- Peter Knip, director of VNG International, has indicated that he is happy to continue as chair of the CIB Working Group. Sebastien Hamel, Executive Director of FCM Programs, will also remain co-chair in 2020.
- Both chairs did raise the issue of sustainability of the CIB Working Group at the CIB annual meeting 2019. The CIB secretariat will explore different scenarios for the years to come, in this regard.