Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG)

12th Annual Meeting, 16 – 18 May 2017

Brussels, Belgium

Localising the SDGs: What role for DeLoG?

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Hosted by

Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) and the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Development Cooperation & Foreign Trade

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Abbreviations

AFD	Agence Française de Développement
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
BTC	Belgian Technical Cooperation
CLGF	Commonwealth Local Government Forum
DeLoG	Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance
DLG	Decentralisation and Local Governance
EC	European Commission
EU DEVCO	European Commission International Development and Cooperation
FfD	Financing for Development
FMDV	Global Fund for Cities Development
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
JMDI	Joint Migration and Development Initiative
KfW	German Development Bank (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau)
LG	Local Government
LGA	Local Government Association
MAE	French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NUA	New Urban Agenda
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public Private Partnership
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
TALD	Territorial Approach to Local Development
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNSDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
VVSG	Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities

Introduction

Under the patronage of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Development Cooperation & Foreign Trade, the 12th DeLoG Annual Meeting was hosted by the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) in Brussels at the Egmont Palace, 16-18 May 2017. Around 40 participants from 19 DeLoG member and partner organisations as well as guest speakers attended the meeting. (See Appendix 2 for the List of Participants.)

A daily record of the meeting, the presentations and inputs compiled by the presenters[1], and participants' comments can be found on the Storify event documentation pages here. This blog-like chronological account will remain permanently accessible online and can be referred to at any time. The report therefore is structured according to themes discussed and decisions taken. An overview of the three-day meeting can be found in the Agenda in Appendix 1.

Part 1 of this report covers the thematic sessions. Localising the SDGs was the overall theme as well as for the opening session, and under this umbrella, the following themes were pursued:

1. Decentralisation and local governance in fragile contexts
2. Local financing and local revenue mobilisation
3. Urban and territorial governance approaches

The methodological approach of this year's meeting was to move in a practical way towards action with fewer presentations and more structured discussions in working groups. Sessions maximised participation and practical decision making in order to push the 'localising' agenda forward and build into the DeLoG annual work plan in an integrated way. For each session, there was a thematic input, followed by working group discussions, planning, and presentations of challenges, lessons learnt and tentative action plans. The same three structured questions guided the process for each working group session:

a. What are the challenges?
b. What experience do DeLoG members already have in tackling these challenges?
c. What action could DeLoG members take as a result of this discussion?

Part 2 of this report covers DeLoG *business*, compiles decisions taken about the structure and governance of the network, the DeLoG activities for 2017-18, learning events. Part 3 gives an overview of news that members and partners shared on the last day.

Opening remarks

The heads of the hosting organisations opened the meeting: **Charles Bois d'Engien**, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and **Carl Michiels**, Chair of the Management Committee, Belgian Technical Cooperation.

In his speech, Mr. Bois d'Engien expressed his pleasure to see that the focus of the meeting had been put both on the SDGs – to which the Belgian Cooperation is deeply committed and on most of the Belgian cooperation´s policy priorities such as domestic resource mobilisation and fragility, where a strong engagement of local actors is needed. At the same time, he pointed out the usefulness of meetings like DeLoG´s as means for learning, exchanging knowledge, working towards policy coherence and thereby achieving stronger collective impacts.

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[1] Links to the speakers´ presentations and recordings can be found under Appendix 5.

Mr. Michiels on his part explained BTC´s commitment to DeLoG by pointing out the centrality of Decentralisation and Local Governance (DLG) for the agency´s activities and by recognizing the importance of local governments as development actors. He then went further by briefly illustrating BTC´s portfolio of interventions – including a stocktaking study on the agency´s last ten years of work on DLG. In terms of working on fragility, which is at the heart of BTC´s work, Mr. Michiels highlighted the risks that may arise when working in fragile contexts and questioned the ´better equipment´ of decentralised states to navigate through periods of instability. In addition, he highlighted the Territorial Approach to Development as part of BTC´s reflection to promote Local Economic Development (LED) in some of the agency´s partner countries. Mr. Michiels concluded his speech by underlining the value of the DeLoG network for facilitating the exchange of best practices and peer work, and collectively improve the quality support to local actors.

Part 1 Thematic sessions

Localising the SDGs

Inputs

Betty De Wachter, Director of European and International Cooperation, Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG), explained the rationale for localising the SDGs by highlighting the crucial role local authorities have to play in implementing the 2030 Agenda, as first-line governments that develop local policies and practices and as partners for other tiers of government, CSOs, academia and business partners. She explained why the topic is important for VVSG and illustrated how her association incentivises its members to localise the SDGs through information and awareness rising, structural approaches and an action-learning trajectory. Providing concrete examples as to how Flemish local authorities are localising the SDGs. Ms. De Wachter concluded her speech by pointing out the main challenges local governments face: acquiring a seat at international negotiating tables and effectively monitor and evaluate the SDGs.

Paula Lucci, Senior Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), started her speech with a brief overview on the status of the SDGs´ implementation at the local level. She then presented a series of initiatives seeking to raise awareness on the localisation of the SDGs (e.g. SDSN´s publication *Getting Started with the SDGs in Cities;* UNDP, UN-Habitat & the Global Task Force´s *Toolbox for Localising the SDGs*; ODI´s publication *Projecting progress: are cities on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030?*) and provided some Latin-American examples of SDG implementation at the local level such as mapping assessment of targets and indicators, and carrying out implementation plans. Ms. Lucci presented some of the key challenges that cities face when monitoring and assessing the SDGs and identified the exchange of knowledge on early stages of implementation and the provision of good practices on key issues for implements, as potential entry points for DeLoG to support this process.

Working group discussions on localising the SDGs

The three working groups on localising the SDGs - (1) *Political frameworks and dialogue*, (2) *Project implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the local level* and (3) *Monitoring and review of the SDGs: the role of the local level* - came up with the following challenges and possible courses of action for DeLoG.

Challenges

In terms of **political frameworks and dialogue,** the main challenge is about coordination and working together on a global–local agenda when each development partner has its own country-specific agenda. Building a common understanding for knowledge management on

localising SDGs is hard when each development partner has different priorities, works in different contexts and uses different ways of implementation. Going beyond sharing tools and ways of working is difficult, as coordination needs to happen for mobilising key players, agreeing on pilots and how to scale them up, and getting institutions to work together. Therefore, although it might be possible for DeLoG to map where and what donors are doing to support localising the SDGs, there would have to be an agreement to this process between the donors concerned at the country level.

In terms of **project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the SDGs at local level**, challenges include the complexity and scale of the SDGs (and how to standardise and prioritise when there are 17 goals and more than 200 indicators) as well as data collection, given that 80% of the data is not collected at local level. Then there is the conflict between bi-lateral development cooperation which focuses on sectoral support at national ministry level, and the need for integrated territorial approaches. Integrated development planning and implementation is often not reflected in country plans and there is a trend in the development community to prioritise only one or two sectors to fund in each country. In bi-lateral negotiations, there is still an unwillingness to bring the local authorities to the negotiating table and this exacerbates the sectoral-ministry approach. The risk also exists that both national governments and development partners impose their development objectives on local and regional governments by hindering them to focus on their own agendas. At the same time, the complexity of the 2030 Agenda may result in "cherry picking" and in the prioritisation at national level of the SDGs and sectors that governments are good at or can get funding for, neglecting local needs and hindering local ownership. A last challenge is the difficulty to synthesize impact when a vast number of local and regional governments set their own priorities and focus on specific areas of needs, as this might lead to a rights-based but fragmented result without covering all the SDGs.

Possible courses of action

In general, the DeLoG network has been identified as a useful means for building a common understanding, mapping and promoting coordination on localising the SDGs. To feed existing tools for localising the SDGs, share experiences and best practices on M&E, and to promote data collection on the SDG implementation, have equally been identified as possible courses of action to be implemented through the network.

Decentralisation and Local Governance in fragile contexts

Inputs

Seth Kaplan, Professorial Lecturer, John Hopkins University, opened the thematic session on DLG in fragile context. He illustrated his social cohesion perspective to fragility and fragile states, which he identified as the product of the combination between social fragmentation on the one hand, and the institutions´ inability to manage conflict on the other. Mr. Kaplan highlighted how addressing fragility requires context-based decentralised governance strategies focussing on institution- and not state-building. In fact, working through institutions - including a broad spectrum of actors ranging from local governments and communities, to traditional and religious systems, etc. - allows creating greater scope for state legitimacy, accountability social cohesion, and access to services across territories. He then identified the advantages and disadvantages of decentralisation in fragile contexts, and highlighted what a successful institution building approach requires, namely: flexibility and moving away from templates; context-specific decentralisation formulas; cohesive local groups; and a mix of vertical and horizontal approaches, which should be sustainable over a long time horizon.

Working group discussions on Fragility

The three working groups on fragility and DLG - (1) *Migration and forced displacement*, (2) *Fragility: a social cohesion perspective* and (3) *Fragility and conflict assessment systems* - came up with the following challenges and possible courses of action for DeLoG.

Challenges

In terms of **migration and forced displacement,** challenges include the creation of parallel systems by humanitarian relief agencies which tend to work with central governments and thereby circumvent the local level. Another challenge is related to the need for the national level to make more resources available at the local level, especially where large camps or large numbers of displaced people put a huge strain on local infrastructure and services. Moreover, migration, displacement and the proliferation of political mandates and interests makes it difficult to 'Do No Harm'. Understanding the context before intervening, building on, and coordinating with what's already in place, supporting host communities as well as migrant ones in a place-based approach, and understanding and categorizing the different types of refugees (economic migrants, IDPs, asylum seekers, regal and irregular rather than legal and illegal, etc.), are all factors that can so easily be handled badly.

For **social cohesion**, challenges include a lack of tools and staff capacity to properly analyse the context and address the issues from a social cohesion perspective. Capacity is also an issue for development partners who find it difficult to engage with non-traditional actors on the ground (e.g. religious leaders, or armed groups) that are out of their comfort zone, have no legitimacy in terms of bi-lateral aid, but need to be involved in the process. This can lead to bias in the analysis and the intervention falling back on formatted formulas and improper programming activities. In addition, implementing agencies are often not able to identify and react swiftly to rapidly changing dynamics and scenarios.

In terms of **conflict assessment systems** the analyses are usually confidential, donor specific and designed for internal consumption, in order to inform risk analyses, levels of engagement and foreign policy. The diplomatic lens makes conflict assessment systems hard to 'share', be done jointly, or made cohesive with other donor country's analyses. In addition, the organisational up-take of the analysis creates a tension between following the warning signs of the analysis once the situation starts to deteriorate and the pressure to spend development funds.

Possible courses of action

DeLoG´s members and partners have expressed the need of knowledge exchange and the collection of good practices on topics related to the local and regional governments´ role in relation to migration issues. With reference to a social cohesion perspective to fragility , the need of promoting exchange on initiatives overcoming social divides as well as on training events aimed at strengthening the social inclusion skills of local leaders, have been highlighted. Another possible course of action is the sharing of experiences on how each member/partner deals with non-traditional actors. Lastly, in order to set up a successful conflict assessment system that may be valid for more than one country, the network´s members have pointed out the need of sharing already existing conflict assessment systems through DeLoG.

Local financing and local revenue mobilisation

Input

Carlos de Freitas, Director of programs of the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) opened the session on *Local financing and local revenue mobilisation*. By referring to Article 34 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Mr. de Freitas framed his presentation on the connection between revenue and planning, local governments´ right to borrow, and their

need to mobilise private sector resources and investment and combine them with public funds. The topic of local financing becomes even more important regarding the €2.5 trillion funding gap for financing the SDGs at the local level, since many cross-cutting issues fall under the responsibilities of local governments. Mr. de Freitas mentioned the lack of standards, frameworks or approaches for local government financing, limited experiences of local governments about financing as well as a donor focus on exclusively property taxation and fiscal transfers as major reasons for the gap in local financing. In the following, he explained the need for a so called 'glocal' paradigm shift, rethinking local governments autonomy, towards more private sector involvement, growth and alternative financing instruments for local governments, such as crowd sourcing, pooled bonds, mini bonds (which serve as saving bonds for local populations while financing local government), green local currencies or renewable energy production cooperatives. There was an agreement that it is important to empower local governments and that new partnerships need to be explored. Nevertheless, participants mentioned considerable risks and other implications, e.g. that the local governments need strong capacities to deal with private sector investments and to manage loans (debt management).

Working group discussions on local financing and local revenue mobilisation

Two working groups on local financing - (1) *Localising public finances – for what? (use, sources and accountability)* and (2) *External financing (supply, demand, access)* - came up with the following challenges and possible courses of action for DeLoG.

Challenges

In terms of **Localising public finances – for what?** challenges focused on the imbalance between capital investment and the need to fund social services as the local population as well as local political leaders rather tend to focus on visible effects of infrastructure than soft services like health and education. In addition, local planning guidelines may overemphasize infrastructure over service projects and do not take the sustainable effect of local service provision into account.

In terms of **External financing (supply, demand, access)** challenges include the need to involve new actors for the new decentralised aspects of local financing (e.g. PPPs), how to link donor grant-aid to loans and use blended financing to produce more credit and spending power; how to build capacity for the deployment and use of new financial instruments, including a better understanding of the new financing models, and how to change donor attitudes especially as donors tend to be cautious regarding innovative financing mechanisms.

Possible courses of action

The working group on local financing discussed various and already concrete ideas on how to tackle the above mentioned challenges. Among them were the interest in sharing knowledge regarding innovative approaches to local financing as well as reviewing the discussion on fiscal decentralisation and open it up to discuss instruments apart from intergovernmental transfers and own revenue collection. Further, participants discussed their interest to organise a learning session for DLG members (setting a common ground and understanding) and to produce an issue paper on innovative financing approaches as well as to provide inputs at international conferences such as the CLGF meeting in Malta in November 2017 and the 4th World Forum on Local Economic Development to be held in Cape Verde in October 2017.

Urban and territorial governance approaches

Input

Andrea Ciambra, from the Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (UCLG), presented the findings and results of the Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD) IV, titled "Co-creating the urban future: The agenda of metropolises, cities and territories". The report collects information on local government processes, collates it into a usable product to strengthen the local governments´ voice and recommends that the local government experience should directly inform global policy and the new international consensus that had been incorporated in the New Urban Agenda (NUA). Mr. Ciambra then showcased the steps following the publication of the report, including a 5-page report developed at and by the local level, with a focus on narrative and story-telling addressing: ownership creation for the SDGs; involvement of LRGs in national and global processes; and enhancement of inter-LRGs collaboration. This should ideally allow LRGs to directly contribute to the efforts of the United Nations and the High-Level Political Forum, as well as create a space to drive change locally and have a consistent voice internationally.

Working group discussions on urban and territorial governance

The working group on *Considering the NUA in policy advice and programme design* came up with the following challenges and possible courses of action for DeLoG.

Challenges

The major challenge relates to defining what a territorial approach is. Is it in fact old wine in new bottles? Further discussed was the role of local authorities in territorial development, the NUA's focus on urban settlements and the challenge of integrating rural development into the agenda, and the need to combine vertical-sectoral and horizontal-integrated approaches, 'break the silos' and build multi-disciplinary teams able to work on the economic aspects of integrated local development planning and implementation.

Possible courses of action

Participants agreed that there is the need of a repositioning of DeLoG in the debate on territorial development and decentralisation. This could be done through a planned Global Seminar Series together with the EU who has recently adopted its Territorial Approach to Local Development (TALD).

Part 2 DeLoG Business

The DeLoG Business sessions focused on ongoing matters of the network and activities for the upcoming year. The (governance) structure, the workplan 2017-18, the next host as well as DeLoG´s learning activities (Learn4Dev) were discussed and agreements were taken on the last day of the meeting.

1. Structure and governance of the network

Kerstin Remke, Senior Policy Officer, BMZ, representing one of DeLoG's funders, outlined the role of DeLoG as follows. With 29 development partner members and other partners, and funded by BMZ and SDC, DeLoG's value is to help share knowledge on DLG, generate evidence based advocacy, contribute to the design of partner strategies and conduct learning events. She appreciated the work done by the DeLoG Secretariat and voiced BMZ's and SDC's perceived need for future changes, e.g. relating to the governance structure, the funding commitment and functionality of the workstreams, in order to maintain and improve significance and to ensure the future of DeLoG.

Jochen Mattern, DeLoG Secretariat, summarised the findings of the DeLoG evaluation that has been carried out in May - July 2016. The evaluation looked at DeLoG in terms of steering structure, services and products, interests and contributions of the members, thematic inputs, DeLoG's knowledge broker vs. agenda setter role, and the annual meeting as a core event for the network. The recommendations from the evaluation can be summarised as follows:

- Create a more formal steering structure;
- Enhance DeLoG´s visibility on the international agenda;
- Cooperate with other actors and networks;
- Retain localising the SDGs as the frame, but have more flexibility in the work streams;
- Restructure the work streams and explore ways to measure outcomes, beyond the dimension of output driven activity reporting.

Corinne Huser, Policy Advisor SDC, and DeLoG funder, proposed the following adjustments based on the evaluation recommendations and previous internal talks with BMZ and the DeLoG Secretariat:

- A body to support the Secretariat and the structure of the network helps with follow up and ensures continuity of DeLoG's work. which would meet quarterly, have rotating membership and support the annual meeting;
- More structured work streams in order for the work stream members - not the Secretariat - to shape and follow up action plans and commitments during the year, and make the work more output oriented;
- More engagement and participation in key events;
- A broader funding structure: up to 2020, BMZ and SDC will provide core funding to DeLoG with an approximate budget of €2 million. However, for specific activities and sustainability beyond 2020, new funding will need to be secured through enlarging the number of co-funders.

Participating DeLoG members agreed upon the following action:

Steering structure

A more structured steering group will be adopted and called the *Core Group* until an appropriate term has been identified. It will comprise one member of BMZ and one of SDC representing the funders, the previous and future host(s) of DeLoG´s Annual Meetings, and one DeLoG member on a rotating basis. The DeLoG Secretariat facilitates and attends the meetings of the Core Group. The 2017-18 Core Group will therefore be composed by:
- Kerstin Remke, BMZ (funder)
- Corinne Huser, SDC (funder)
- Jean-Christophe Charlier, BTC (previous annual meeting host)
- Christel Alvergne, UNCDF for the United Nations (rotating member)

Immediate core group tasks

The Core group tasks for 2017-18 will be to:
- revisit DeLoG´s vision and mission;
- address the question of membership;
- define the Core Group´s ToRs;
- define the organization of the work streams;
- explore how to enlarge the core funding basis;
- carry forward the other decisions taken during the Annual Meeting.

2. Host for the 2018 Annual Meeting
VNG has agreed to host next year´s annual meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, in the proposed period of 14-18 May 2018.

3. The DeLoG 2017-18 activities

On the last day, the participants reviewed the outcomes of the thematic subgroup discussions and agreed on activities for the work plan 2017-18.[2]

Workstream LOCALISING THE SDGs

Objectives / Courses of action
- A DeLoG Working Paper on Development Effectiveness and Localising the SDGs is developed;
- A snapshot of DLG implementation in different countries based on e.g. 8 core collective indicators (from a UCLG Africa and Cities Alliance study) is provided;
- The 2014 DeLoG survey on M&E for DLG is updated and extended (additional countries) and shows developments in the respective countries;
- If available, members of the DeLoG network share LG "narratives" on localising the SDGs in order to make the topic more vivid (e.g. feed it into the "localizing the SDGs" toolbox or UCLG´s collection of narratives).

Workstream DLG IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS

Objectives / Courses of action
- Information on how specific migration-LG topics are addressed by different donors is shared among DeLoG members and partners;
- Conduct a thematic Joint Learning Event: Sustaining Peace in fragile situations through DLG;
- Share information on how to work with different types of non-formal/traditional actors along the humanitarian-development continuum;
- Screen experiences within DeLoG members on work on the social cohesion dimensions;
- Share existing training materials that strengthen local leaders´ social cohesion skills.

Workstream LOCAL FINANCING AND LOCAL REVENUE GENERATION

Objectives / Courses of action
- Collect examples of (successful) innovative financing mechanisms at the local level to provide background information for the network;
- Organize a DeLoG side event at The 4th World Forum on LED (November, Cape Verde) and CLGF Conference (November, Malta) to discuss and share experiences (in preparation of an issue paper);
- Develop an issue paper on innovative finances/blended financing approaches for local governance.

Workstream TERRITORIAL APPROACHES

Objectives / courses of action
- Develop and conduct a Global Seminar Series on "Territorial Approach to Development";
- Collect tools and approaches that contribute to an enabling environment around a territorial approach.

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[2] Details to the **objectives/courses of action** below can be found in the work plan.

4. DeLoG Learning

Pauline Girard, learn4dev, presented the [learn4dev network/learning platform](#) and announced the upcoming learn4dev annual meeting in Brussels, 6-7 June 2017.

Nils Huhn, DeLoG Secretariat, gave a brief update on the general e-learning course that is taking place from May to June 2017. There had been 98 registrations from a wide range of countries and organisations, from which 40 participants were chosen. The course content had been updated and now includes a section on fragility. SDC funding will ensure at least one learning event per year.

Marija de Wijn (UNICEF), Amy Gill (UNDP) and Christel Alvergne (UNCDF) presented the course they are jointly developing on *Local governance and sustaining peace.* This will be a three-to-five day course with key expert inputs on 'new evidence', practitioners' experience and relevant tools that can be shared. There will also be four e-learning/webinars – one for each subject area that the course covers: (1) state-society relations regarding service delivery and how it can be strengthened – for example with grievance redress mechanisms; (2) social cohesion; (3) local economic development; and (4) creating an enabling environment around decentralisation and federalism. (Because the course is a DeLoG product, it focuses on how members work in local contexts and how to coordinate good practice for DLG. It is therefore not a general course on fragility at the local level.)

Target countries to involve will be Somalia, Liberia, Tajikistan, and from Southeast Asia. DeLoG will help organise participants from the focus countries as well as a broader audience. The following decisions were made about further developing the course:

- Amy Gill (supported by Nils Huhn) will source a consultant who will develop a scheme of work including session content and outcomes, key speakers, expertise and tools to be sourced and developed;
- Members of the Expert Group will provide feedback on the concept note;
- The DLG expert group will analyse a) funding opportunities for organizing speakers/presenters; b) training institutes for collaboration;
- The Secretariat will look at the costs, develop the ToRs and support the tendering process.

Nils Huhn brought up the issue of the in-country course in Burkina Faso. There is a general interest by different donors but coordination on the country level is difficult. The following action was agreed:

- Members will follow up with their respective country offices in Burkina Faso.
- The Secretariat will approach Burkina Faso´s government through CCT and UEMOA.

The possibility of another in-country course in the MENA region, where there is a lot of demand, will be followed up.

Part 3 News from members and partners

News from UNCDF

Christel Alvergne informed members that UNCDF has a new strategic approach. It has shifted its focus from working on fiscal transfers to working on systems development and market development and trying to move grant aid towards this approach. They are also beginning to issue loans for local development to work with domestic banks and providing support at this meso level in order to encourage domestic bank involvement. The current climate requires UN agencies to take some risk in this area. Perhaps DeLoG could look at how DeLoG members are undertaking similar changes in their approach to loans and risk areas.

News from SDC

Corinne Huser announced that SDC has a new policy document on Democratisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance (here). It describes their approach in terms of decentralisation reforms, institutional strengthening of democratic local government and promotion of democratic processes , inclduding anti-corruption, election support, citizen participation and the media, parliamentary strengthening and access to justice.

SDC has just finalised three other working documents defining the SDC approach to governance: (1) a paper that describes SDC's definition, approach and thematic; (2) a guidance document on how to integrate governance in sector work; (3) a series of guidance documents for specific sectors, starting with the integration governance in the health sector, (next will be on water and so on).

SDC also wanted to link DeLoG with two other networks: (1) LOGIN Asia, a unique multi-stakeholder, member driven network of Asian peers (training institutions, local government associations, think thanks, NGOs, government ministries/departments), spanning 12 countries in Asia. LOGIN members are engaging around 5 thematic priorities, and LOGIN is interested to engage in learning partnerships with other networks and to connect to other development partners. (2) GovNet who is currently defining its workplan for 2017/2018. There is a need for DeLoG to coordinate with GovNet. DeLoG collaborated on a study on innovative approaches to public service with GovNet before and there is potential for collaboration on SDG 16. In addition, Canada, BTC, ADB and SDC and other members are involved in GovNet. BMZ and SDC, in coordination with the Secretariat, will explore a possible cooperation.

News from UNICEF

Marija de Wijn described UNICEF's new paper on child sensitive disaster risk reduction from a local governance perspective, which will be finalised soon and shared with the Secretariat. It is a practical guide on how to do child sensitive risk reduction on the ground and what the challenges are, using the different contexts of Kenya, Nepal and the Philippines to discuss seven key areas.

UNICEF is also currently developing a new framework on engagement in decentralisation and local governance which will focus on local participation in the decision making process (a social accountability mechanism) strengthening service delivery, and equitable local financing. Marija will contact the DeLoG members in order to get feedback on the framework.

News from LuxDev

Vincent Glaesener requested support from DeLoG members on useful tools for analysing local stakeholders. VNG recommended the organisational development tool developed by the European Centre for Development that looks at 5 skill areas and uses a set of 25 indicators to assess local government capacity. SDC offered its study on informal actors (see above) and UNCDF also offered support.

Part 4 Annual meeting evaluation

As every year, participants had the opportunity to evaluate the Annual Meeting. The following points provide a summary of all evaluation forms (See Appendix 3 for detailed results). 19 DeLoG members and partners completed the evaluation form. The results can be summarised as follows:

- 78% agreed/strongly agreed that the thematic sessions were useful to their work. The session on DLG in fragile contexts got the highest rating.

- 88% agreed/strongly agreed that the working group discussions based on challenges, best practices, and possible activities, and plenary feedback leading to tentative work plans enhanced participation and exchange during the meeting.

- 90% agreed/strongly agreed that the strategic options meetings, developing the work plan, and the Learn4Dev sessions were useful for developing the DeLoG network.

- 93% agreed that the general arrangements and organisation of the meeting were a success. At least 75% strongly agreed that there were ample opportunities to participate, talk about key issues and network, that the workshop was well planned and facilitated, and that the food, venue, logistics, role of the hosts, and extra curricula events were good.

- In terms of using the new live documentation tool, about two third strongly agreed/agreed, and one third disagreed that Storify enhanced the meeting.

- Participants particularly liked the friendly and open exchange of ideas (4 similar comments), the networking with concrete outcomes (4 similar comments), the spirit and willingness to improve DeLoG (3 similar comments) and the fact that it was good to start on a Tuesday and end on a Thursday (1 comment).

- What participants thought could be improved for the next annual meeting was: more concrete induction information on DeLoG for new members (4 similar comments), less intensive with shorter sessions (2 similar comments), thematic discussions narrower and deeper (1 comment) and more about building on lessons learned (1 comment).

Appendix 1 Annual Meeting Agenda

12th DeLoG Annual Meeting
Localising the SDGs: What role for DeLoG?

Day 1: Tuesday, 16 May 2017 (09:00 - 18:00)
Using *Localising the SDGs* as DeLoG's framework

09.00 - 09.30	**Arrival and registration** *[coffee will be available half an hour before the meeting starts every day]*
09.30 - 09.45	**Opening remarks and welcome** (Mr. Charles Bois d'Engien, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General Development Cooperation, Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Carl Michiels, Chair of the Management Committee, Belgian Technical Cooperation)
09.45 - 10.00	**Introduction by the meeting facilitator** (Psyche Kennett)
10.00 – 11.00	**Opening Session: Localising the SDGs**

Input by Betty De Wachter (VVSG) and Paula Lucci (ODI) addressing:

- Localising the SDGs: Where does the initiative stand?
- What are the entry points for the DeLoG network to support this?

11.00 - 11.30	***Morning break***
11.30 - 12.45	**Parallel working groups: Localising the SDGs**

- Group 1: ***Political frameworks/political dialogue***, led by Sylvia Kimpe (European Union)
- Group 2: ***Project implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the local level***, led by Bettina von Dungen (GIZ)
- Group 3: ***Monitoring and review of the SDGs: the role of the local level***, led by Paula Lucci (ODI)

Each working group will focus on three questions:

a) *What are the challenges?*
b) *What experience do DeLoG members already have in tackling these challenges?*
c) *What action could DeLoG members take as a result of this discussion?*

12.45 - 14.15	***Lunch (and group picture)***
14.15 - 15.15	**Working group discussions cont.**

15.15 - 16.15	**Presentation of working group results and proposals for activities 2017-2018**
16.15 - 16.30	*Afternoon break*
16.30 - 18.00	**Strategic options for DeLoG**

- Introduction by DeLoG's core funders, Corinne Huser (SDC) and Kerstin Remke (BMZ)
- Presentation of DeLoG's Project Evaluation results and initial ideas about the next phase, (DeLoG Secretariat)
- Discussion on (selected) key topics

19.00 – 23.00	**Dinner**, hosted by M. Carl Michiels, President of the Management Committee, Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC)

Day 2: Wednesday, 17 May 2017 (09:00 – 18:00)

DeLoG's thematic sessions: Fragility, Local financing, Urban and territorial governance

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09.00 - 09.15	**Wrap up, Day 1 and Opening, Day 2**
09.15 - 10.00	**Thematic session 1: Decentralisation and local governance in fragile contexts**

> Input by Seth Kaplan (Professorial Lecturer, John Hopkins University) addressing:
>
> - Decentralisation and local governance in times of violent conflicts and fragility: relevant, feasible, effective?
> - What is the role of local actors in conflict prevention and resolution, and how can external partners contribute?

10.00 - 10.15	*Morning break*
10.15 - 11.45	**Parallel working groups: Decentralisation and local governance in fragile contexts**

- Group 1: *Migration and forced displacement*, led by Amy Gill (UNDP)
- Group 2: *Fragility: a social cohesion perspective*, led by Jean-Christophe Charlier (BTC)
- Group 3: *Fragility and Conflict Assessment Systems*, led by Kerstin Remke (BMZ)

Each working group will focus on three questions:

d. *What are the challenges?*
e. *What experience do DeLoG members already have in tackling these challenges?*
f. *What action could DeLoG members take as a result of this discussion?*

| 11.45 - 12.30 | **Presentation of working group results and proposals for activities 2017-2018** |

| 12.30 - 14.00 | *Lunch* |

| 14.00 - 15.00 | **Thematic session 2:** |

a) Local financing and local revenue mobilisation

Input by Carlos de Freitas (FMDV), addressing:

- What are the emerging strategies, mechanisms, and partnerships for financing the implementation of the SDGs at the local level?

b) Urban and territorial governance approaches

Input by Andrea Ciambra (UCLG), addressing:

- What approaches and mechanisms already exist to actually implement the New Urban Agenda?

| 15.00 - 15.30 | ***Afternoon break*** |

| 15.30 - 17.00 | **Parallel working groups: a) Local financing and b) Territorial governance** |

- Group 1 (Local financing): ***Localising public finances – for what? (use, sources and accountability)***, led by Marija de Wijn (UNICEF)
- Group 2 (Local financing): ***External financing (supply, demand, access)***, led by Christel Alvergne (UNCDF)
- Group 3 (Territorial governance): ***Considering the NUA in policy advice and programme design,*** led by Kurt Petit (BTC)

Each working group will focus on three questions:

a. *What are the challenges?*
b. *What experience do DeLoG members already have in tackling these challenges?*
c. *What action could DeLoG members take as a result of this discussion?*

| 17.00 - 18.00 | **Presentation of working group results and proposals for activities 2017-2018** |

| 19.00 – 23.00 | **Informal evening event** |

09.15 – 10.15	**News from our members and partners**

- News from UNICEF (Marija de Wijn, UNICEF)
- A new strategic framework approach, UNCDF (Christel Alvergne, UNCDF)
- SDC´s new policy paper on Democratisation, Decentralisation, and Local Governance (Corinne Huser, SDC)
- DeLoG and GovNet – what are the synergies? (Corinne Huser, SDC

10.15 - 10.45	*Morning break*
10.45 - 12.00	**Summary of the (Day 1 and 2) working group session results**

- Development of the 2017 – 18 work plan
- Deciding on the DeLoG Annual Meeting Host for 2018

12.00 - 13.15	*Lunch*
13.15 – 14.45	**DeLoG – Learn4Dev meeting**

- Report: Nils Huhn (DeLoG Secretariat)
- Input: Pauline Girard and/or Miguel Exposito Verdejo (Learn4Dev)

14.45 – 16.30	**Strategic Working Group**

- Agreement on the network´s strategic positioning and development

16.30 – 17.00	**Wrap up and closing remarks**

Appendix 2 List of participants

	Organisation	Surname	Name	Position	Department	e-mail
1	BMZ	Remke	Kerstin	Senior Policy Officer	Division 301: Sectoral and thematic policies; governance; democracy; rule of law	kerstin.remke@bmz.bund.de
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5	BTC	De Hantschutter	Els	Web Content Officer	Communication Unit	els.dehantschutter@btcctb.org
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24	GIZ	Nolting	Armin	Programme Manager	Governance and Human Rights	armin.nolting@giz.de
25	GIZ/DeLoG	Harlander	Bernhard	Advisor	Governance and Human Rights	bernhard.harlander@giz.de
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28	LuxDev	Glaesener	Vincent	Rural and local development expert	Programmes Directorate	glaesener@luxdev.lu
29	MAE/France	Berthelot	Louis	Responsable du pôle «fragilités, réforme des institutions et mobilités»	Mission de la gouvernance democratique	louis.berthelot@diplomatie.gouv.fr

30	Modera-tor	Kennett	Psyche	Moderator	Independent	psychekennett@yahoo.com
31	SDC	Huser	Corinne	Policy Advisor Democratisation, Decentralisation, Local Governance (DDLG)	Western Balkans Division	corinne.huser@eda.admin.ch
32	Speaker	Kaplan	Seth	Professor, Author, Consultant	Independent	seth@sethkaplan.org.
33	ODI	Lucci	Paula	Senior Research Fellow	Growth, Poverty and Inequality	p.lucci@odi.org.uk
34	UCLG	Ciambra	Andrea	Research Officer	Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization	a.ciambra@uclg.org
35	UNCDF	Alvergne	Christel	Deputy Director	Local Development Finance Unit	christel.alvergne@uncdf.org
36	UNDP	Gill	Amita	Local Governance Specialist	Bureau of Policy and Programming Support	amita.gill@undp.org
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38	UNICEF	de Wijn	Marija	Policy Specialist	Public Finance Local Governance Unit	mdewijn@unicef.org
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40	VNG	Swart	Rolf	Business Unit Manager	Asia, Sub-Sahara Africa, Latin America	rolf.swart@vng.nl
41	VVSG	De Wachter	Betty	Head of Unit International affairs	International Affairs	betty.dewachter@vvsg.be

Appendix 3 Evaluation results

Please indicate how much you agree with the following statements:
1 = strongly agree   2 = agree   3 = somewhat disagree   4 = strongly disagree   n/a = not applicable/ wasn't there

The following was useful for my work:	1	2	3	4	n/a
1	The opening session on localising the SDGs	6	9	3		1
2	Thematic session 1 on DLG in fragile contexts	10	8			1
3	Thematic session 2a on local financing	10	3	1		3
4	Thematic session 2b on urban and territorial governance	3	8	3		5
The following sessions were useful for developing the DeLoG Network:	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**n/a**
5	Strategic options for DeLoG (Day 1)	5	8	3		3
6	Developing the 2017-18 work plan (Day 3)	5	10			4
7	Learn4Dev meeting (Day 3)	1	4	2		12
8	Strategic working group meeting (Day 3)	2	4			13
The following methodology enhanced participation and exchange during the meeting:	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**n/a**
9	The 'challenges'-'best practice'-'possible activities' approach to the working groups	8	9	2		
10	The working group presentations in plenary	10	7	2		
In general:	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	
11	There were ample opportunities to participate and talk about key issues.	14	4	1		
12	There were ample opportunities to network.	15	3	1		
13	The workshop was well planned.	16	3			
14	The workshop was well facilitated.	17	2	1		
15	Storify as a documentation tool enhanced the meeting.	6	5	6		2
16	Workshop arrangements (venue, food, logistics) were well organised.	14	4			1
17	Host partner inputs, hospitality, and evening events were well done.	16	1			2

18. What I particularly liked about the meeting was ...
Friendly open exchange of ideas (4 similar comments)
Networking with concrete outcomes (4 similar comments)
Spirit and willingness to improve DeLoG (3 similar comments)
Good to start on a Tuesday and end on a Thursday (1 comment)

19. What I think we could improve for next time is …
Provide more concrete induction information on DeLoG for new members (4 similar comments)
It's too intensive – shorten the sessions and the time (2 similar comments)
Go narrower and deeper (1 comment)
Build on lessons learned (1 comment)

Appendix 4 Links to speakers´ presentations and recordings

Mr. Charles Bois d'Engien, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General Development Cooperation, Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs
➢ A recording of the intervention is available here.

Mr. Carls Michiels, Chair of the Management Committee, Belgian Technical Cooperation
➢ A recording of the intervention is available here.

Ms. Betty De Wachter, Director of European and International Cooperation, Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG)
➢ The PowerPoint presentation of her intervention is available here.

Ms. Paula Lucci, Senior Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
➢ The PowerPoint presentation of her intervention is available here.

Mr. Seth Kaplan, Professorial Lecturer, John Hopkins University
➢ A recording of the intervention is available here.
➢ The PowerPoint presentation of his intervention is available here.

Carlos de Freitas, Director of programs, Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV)
➢ The PowerPoint presentation of his intervention is available here.

Andrea Ciambra, Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (UCLG)
➢ The PowerPoint presentation of his intervention is available here.