



# **Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG)**

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**07 – 16 July 2020**

**and**

**23 September 2020**

**Online Meeting**

**Hosted by the DeLoG Secretariat**



## Table of Contents

Abbreviations .....	3
Introduction .....	4
Opening Session: Strategic Session I.....	5
Thematic Sessions .....	10
Localising the 2030 Agenda .....	10
Local Finance and Fiscal Decentralisation.....	13
Urban and Territorial Governance .....	16
Decentralisation and Local Governance in Fragile Contexts.....	19
Follow-Up and Strategic Session II.....	21
Appendix 1: Agenda for the Annual Meeting.....	27
Appendix 2: Evaluation Results .....	32
Appendix 3: DeLoG Workplan .....	33
Appendix 4: DeLoG Activity Timeline.....	39
Appendix 5: DeLoG Survey 2019/2020: Some Hand-Picked Tips and Suggestions .....	42



## Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BMU	German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CCFLA	Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance
CEE	National Enabling Environment
CLGF	Commonwealth Local Government Forum
DeLoG	Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DLG	Decentralisation and Local Governance
Enabel	Belgian Development Agency
FMDV	Global Fund for Cities Development
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
GIZ	German Development Cooperation
Global Partnership	Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation
HLPF	High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
IBA	International Building Exhibition Africa
ICLD	Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy
IMIF	International Municipal Investment Fund
IncluCity	Gender Responsive and Inclusive Economic Development in Cities
LED	Local Economic Development
LGA	Local Government Association
LOGIN Asia	Local Governance Initiative and Network
LUX	Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency
M&P	Members and Partners
NALAS	Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
P4R	Partners for Review
RoAid	Romanian Agency for International Development
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SNG WOFI	World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment
SSG	Strategic Support Group of the DeLoG Network
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN	United Nations
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
USAID	U.S Agency for International Development
VNG	International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Dutch Municipalities
VLR	Voluntary Local Review
VNR	Voluntary National Review



## Introduction

The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated the importance of local governments and decentralised systems for crisis response. Throughout the pandemic's course, initiatives led by local governments have proven particularly successful in reacting to the crisis and providing early recovery support for individuals and communities. In addition, progress to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been uneven and sometimes unsuccessful in terms of leaving no one behind. Against this background, designing and implementing approaches to enable the involvement and participation of local governments in governmental decision-making has become more important than ever before.

It is at this critical point in time that DeLoG's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was convened from the 7<sup>th</sup> of July to the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2020 (follow-up on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September), for the first time in an online format. By offering 2-hour online sessions, the Network's focal points or in case of absence authorised representatives were given the opportunity to engage in dynamic exchanges on DeLoG's future development and its four thematic core topics. In total 80 DeLoG members and partners from 27 organisations attended the meeting to discuss the importance of Decentralisation and Local Governance (DLG), particularly against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the positioning of the Network and its way forward.

As in past years, the purpose of the Annual Meeting was to discuss strategic issues of the Network and to review developments and novelties in the thematic areas of interest to Members and Partners. Inputs from experts and organisations were introduced to inspire the participants and widen the scope of discussion. This approach helped to define common interests and identify synergies between Members and Partners to work on during the coming year.

Commonly, one part of DeLoG's Annual Meeting is dedicated to looking back at what was achieved throughout the last year. Due to the online and time-reduced format of this year's meeting, an account of what the Network had achieved in 2019-2020 in terms of working group outputs and learning events was sent out to the Members and Partners in advance (*refer to Appendix 4*).

This year's DeLoG Annual Meeting commenced with an opening session focussed on key results of the DeLoG Survey conducted at the beginning of 2020 and was dedicated to discussing the Network's next steps. The following four thematic sessions covered the topics of DeLoG's four workstreams: Localising the 2030 Agenda, Local Finance and Fiscal Decentralisation, Urban and Territorial Governance and Decentralisation and Local Governance in Fragile Contexts.

Each Workstream session started with a thematic input including a Q&A session, followed by news pitches from Members and Partners. Thereafter, the participants joined smaller groups to exchange ideas and discuss possible joint activities of the Network for the upcoming year. Based on this exchange the DeLoG Secretariat developed a refined draft of the workplan for 2020/21 to share with the Network for commenting and to add further suggestions. The drafted workplan was presented and agreed upon in the follow-up meeting to the AM on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2020.

Based on the discussions during the AM, this report sheds light on the potential of decentralised systems to deal with external shocks, enable inclusive development and work towards sustainable peace. It highlights the ongoing initiatives of DeLoG's Partner and Member organisations to make a case for local governance, the challenges they face and the solutions that have proven successful.



Ultimately, it discusses DeLoG's potential to further facilitate knowledge sharing, create synergies and advocate for the inclusion of local governments, the localisation of development and the empowerment of communities in the global realm.

## Opening Session: Strategic Session I

### Summary

DeLoG's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting commenced with opening remarks by the DeLoG Secretariat. Following these welcoming words, the Network's Members and Partners were invited to quickly introduce themselves and name one word they associate with the DeLoG Network. This introduction round was followed by welcoming words from the SDC and BMZ, the Network's current funding organisations, and the acceptance of two new Member and Partner organisations to the Network (RoAid, NALAS). Thereafter, the Secretariat presented the results of its annual Member and Partner Survey.

In addition, the Network's Members and Partners were introduced to Dr Claudia Gross, an expert on organisational change and innovation, hired by the Secretariat to advise the Network on structuring its future development. This session gave participants the opportunity to reflect on the future path of the Network and discuss thematic and strategic priorities.

### Opening by the DeLoG Secretariat

In his opening remarks **Christian Luy**, the coordinator of the DeLoG Secretariat, acknowledged that a series of online meetings is unable to replace the important informal interactions of a classical face-to-face DeLoG Annual Meeting (AM). He continued by pointing out that an online AM represents an opportunity nonetheless as it allows for broader and more focussed participation, making the Network more independent from in-person meetings and proving its adaptiveness to changing circumstances.

Despite a much shorter agenda in comparison to face-to-face meetings, the aim of this year's online AM was to achieve a similar outcome: The definition of a new annual workplan, which will guide the Secretariat and the Network's activities throughout the next year. Christian Luy called on the Network to work together toward accomplishing the Network's main goal:

To harmonise DLG approaches, exchange knowledge, inform each other and plan new activities to shape the Decentralisation and Local Governance Agenda and further strengthen the Network in future.

### Introduction Round for Members and Partners

Following Christian Luy's opening, the 36 participants of the AM's opening session introduced themselves by saying their name, their organisation and sharing one word they associate with the work of DeLoG. These associations were used to create a word cloud (depicted below) – the bigger in size the more often a word was mentioned.



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## Opening Speeches by DeLoG's Strategic Support Group

**Kerstin Remke** from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) welcomed participants to the Annual Meeting by carving out the challenges of hosting a virtual, instead of a physical meeting and thanked the DeLoG Secretariat for its great organisation. She also thanked Preeta Lall and LOGIN Asia for originally offering to host the DeLoG Annual Meeting 2020 in Sri Lanka and expressed her hope that an Annual Meeting in person will be possible again in the near future. To complement the summary of activities shared before the meeting (refer to appendix 4), Kerstin identified some of DeLoG's highlights from the last year: online learning events like webinars with participation from more than 300 participants from over 40 countries, interesting discussions within the DeLoG Network on Local Finance (e.g. on the SNG WOFI) or the role of associations of local authorities as voices for Local Governance (DeLoG side-event at the World Urban Forum 10, February 2020 in Abu Dhabi), growing communication activities and outreach of DeLoG (every 6 - 8 weeks a Newsletter sent to 1,172 recipients, monthly Updates from the Secretariat and over 280 new followers on Twitter – now 954) and monthly Strategic Support Group meetings for strategic guidance and steering.

**Ursula Keller** from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) stressed the importance of involving DeLoG Members and Partners in the strategic process of securing DeLoG's future and jointly shaping a vision of the Network's future.



She underscored that the aim for the upcoming year should be to get a common understanding of why the Network is needed, to define its added value for Members and Partners, to get a clear future vision, and to create a shared understanding of each Member's and Partner's responsibility. Ursula introduced three open questions to be considered by the Network for its future development:

- Should the Network move from a donor network to a multi-stakeholder network?
- Should the Network's focus be shifted from decentralisation to promoting local governments as key actors in development cooperation and taking into account subnational governance as a key dimension of multilevel governance?
- Should agenda-setting and influence on policymaking be key priorities?

Ursula concluded by underscoring the Network's need for a stable foundation and a Secretariat in charge of activity coordination to be successful, in particularly at this crucial moment in time where BMZ is phasing out and SDC will be the only donor for one year. With this in mind the Network needs to mobilise a broader financing base. To ensure DeLoG's sustainability Ursula asked all Members and Partners to explore how they can contribute. She commented that promising signs from some donors had already been made, but encouraged everyone to work together to ensure the future of DeLoG.

## Presentation of New Members and Partners: RoAid and NALAS

In this section, New Members and Partners got the opportunity to introduce their organisation and their interest in joining DeLoG. Angela Sima from RoAid, the Romanian Agency for International Development, and Kelmend Zajazi from NALAS, the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe, presented their motivation to be part of the Network.

### Presentation of RoAid's Interest and Motivation in Becoming a DeLoG Member

#### **Angela Sima:**

"Romania's national development co-operation and humanitarian aid policy is coordinated by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. RoAid, the Romanian Agency for International Development Cooperation, became operational at the end of 2017, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is responsible for implementing projects and programmes in the field of international development co-operation and humanitarian aid. To this end, the Agency places great value on promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships, including partnerships with the private sector, civil society and academia. Furthermore, RoAid is also actively involved in cooperating with other European development Agencies, being a member of the Practitioners' Network for European Development Co-operation since 2019.

The Agency's activities aim at contributing to the Agenda 2030 and are aligned to the national priorities of promoting good governance and inclusive societies. In this context, RoAid recognises the important role played by decentralisation and local governance in sustainable development.

At the moment, RoAid does not specifically address the issue of local governance and decentralisation in its projects but relies on local approaches. Great value is placed on the engagement of local partners. Most of RoAid's projects are provided at a decentralised level, in partnership with local institutions. In this respect, please allow me to give you some brief examples:

- Romanian experts engaged in missions of experience transfer with the Republic of Moldova in the field of local development in order to create Local Action Groups and gain access to European funds;



- In partnership with the private sector, RoAid has supported the elaboration of various studies on topics related to DLG, such as Smart and Sustainable Urban Development in Lusaka, Zambia, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the Development of the National Public Health System and Municipal waste recovery facilities in Tanzania.

RoAid places great emphasis on partnerships and opportunities to learn from other institutions and organisations. In this context, we seek to learn as much as possible from the extensive experience of the other DeLoG members.

Becoming a member of the DeLoG Network would give us the opportunity to lay the groundwork for future collaboration with other organisations and institutions on topics of common interest. In this respect, RoAid would be particularly interested in further deepening its understanding of decentralisation and local governance as a means of supporting the objectives of good governance and sustainable economic development, as well as to explore the possibility of expanding its current initiatives in this field.

We believe that through our direct participation in the activities of the DeLoG Network, we can bring an important added value to it through Romania's recent transition experience and related initiatives within the international development cooperation spectrum. Furthermore, we believe that our membership would contribute to a broader geographical coverage of the Network, by bringing to the table the perspective of an Eastern European donor.

I would like to highlight the fact that RoAid greatly appreciates the mission and work of DeLoG and we look forward to making our own contribution to the exchange of know-how and best practices within the Network.

Thank you once again for the invitation and opportunity to take the floor. We look forward to the interesting discussions that will follow throughout this year's Annual Meeting."

## **Presentation of NALAS' Interest and Motivation in Becoming a Partner of DeLoG**

### ***Kelmend Zajazi:***

"We have approached DeLoG with the request to become a partner expecting mutual inspiration: We would like to share NALAS experiences with your members in order to inspire positive change in decentralisation in other parts of the world. And vice versa, we would like to hear about experiences from DeLoG members which could inspire NALAS' work. We want to promote the importance of Local Governments Associations (LGAs) as a unique partner for the 2030 Agenda.

NALAS brings together 14 national Local Governments Associations from 12 countries in South-East Europe. We support institutional strengthening of LGAs and the quality of inter-governmental dialogue. For instance, there is an ongoing debate in Albania with the LGAs, the Ministry of Finance where we showcase experiences in financing social services in different countries of South-East Europe to help the Albanian government to improve its policies. Another example is our [Fiscal Decentralisation Report](#), including its database, which we produce once a year since 2006 which also helps the policy dialogue to be based on concrete evidence.

These days we are collecting inputs from Local Governments on the impact of COVID-19 and identifying good recovery policies at local and central level.

During the Workstreams, you will have the chance to learn more about some of these NALAS activities."

There were no objections from DeLoG Members and Partners. Therefore, RoAid and NALAS were warmly welcomed to become part of the DeLoG Network.





## Results and Conclusions of the DeLoG Survey 2020

After a 5 min break, the Annual Meeting continued with key results from the DeLoG Survey 2020 presented by Bernhard Harlander, former staff member of the DeLoG Secretariat. The results of the survey were divided into three categories: (1) Objectives, Governance, Management, (2) Added Value compared to other Networks, (3) Thematic Priorities. To inspire the discussion and exchange, Bernhard presented handpicked remarks and suggestions from the survey's analysis.

For more details regarding the survey results, please refer to Bernhard's presentation "DeLoG Survey 2019/2020: Some Hand-Picked Tips and Suggestions" in Appendix 5. All survey results, including results concerning financing mechanisms for the Network, have been shared with the Network in writing.

After the presentation, working groups came up with several suggestions for adapting the Network. The most significant suggestions have been summarized below:

- The Network might have to reframe the narrative on **multi-level governance systems**.
- DeLoG Members' requirements and capacities should define the **strategic objectives** of the Network, not the other way around.
- The Network must avoid **going into too many different directions**. We shouldn't get too ambitious: What are the core needs and what is the Network's unique selling point?
- The unique selling point is the membership in the Network. DeLoG's niche could be:
  - (1) **A permanent marketplace**, where sub-groups are created, for example for the recovery from COVID-19;
  - (2) Approaches: Structured discussions, for example on Localising 2030 Agenda or the role of local government organisations.
- The Network could try to find **a way to exchange information beyond the Annual Meeting and other formal events** (e.g. a channel on MS Teams) to facilitate informal exchanges beyond what DeLoG is already offering.
- We could involve **more Think-Tanks to support the work of the Network**.

## Wrap-Up

At the end of the first session, Preeta Lall and Micheline Gilbert, members of DeLoG's Strategic Support Group, summarised the outcomes of Day 1 for DeLoG's Annual Meeting 2020 and shared some thoughts on the future development of DeLoG.

### **Preeta Lall, LOGIN Asia**

After a brief summary of the session, Preeta Lall called on the Members and Partners to be modest and clear about how much DeLoG can achieve given the limited resources and the size of the Secretariat. Regarding the suggestion of introducing a marketplace to the Network, where Members and Partners can share information, she also mentioned that this needs to be tailored to limited resources.

Preeta emphasised that we need to look at why DeLoG was created: to harmonise approaches and donor interventions in the field of decentralisation and local governance. She called on the Network to have a closer look at the linkage to the 2030 Agenda: It would be important to map where the connection to decentralisation and SDG 16 is, to have a look at what others are doing and where



DeLoG fits in. Regarding the joint activities of the Network, Preeta suggested to establish a stronger follow-up process on the annual work plan.

### **Micheline Gilbert, Global Affairs Canada**

In her intervention Micheline emphasised the importance of staying focused regarding the objectives of the Network, focussing on decentralisation and local governance. She remarked that this focus represents the basic character and selling point of DeLoG and should not be diluted. She continued by stating that as an established Network of 14 years, questions around the future, priorities and emphasis need to be raised and discussed, however. She concluded by stressing that DeLoG's Annual Meeting 2020 and the consultation process present a great opportunity to further discuss and develop the future path of DeLoG together.

## Thematic Sessions

On the 8, 9, 15 and 16 July 2020 the DeLoG Secretariat conducted the thematic sessions of this year's Annual Meeting:

- Localising the 2030 Agenda (8 July);
- Local Finance and Fiscal Decentralisation (9 July);
- Urban and Territorial Governance (15 July);
- Decentralisation and Local Governance in Fragile Contexts (16 July).

Each of these sessions started with thematic inputs from the DeLoG Member and Partner organisations, followed by a Q&A section. After a 5-minute break, the Members and Partners had the opportunity to pitch relevant news from their organisations. Following this activity, the participants split up into different working groups for 20 minutes to elaborate and discuss possible joint activities of the Network for the respective four Workstreams for the upcoming year. Based on the results from these discussions, the DeLoG Secretariat drafted a Workplan, to be shared with the Network and to be commented on and added to. The Workplan can be found in the Members' & Partners' login-area of DeLoG's-Website. Each session concluded with a short summary of what was discussed in the working groups and a wrap-up of the whole session.

## Localising the 2030 Agenda

*(Moderated by Preeta Lall, LOGIN Asia, and Agnes Luedicke, DeLoG Secretariat)*

### Inputs from Members & Partners

#### **Input 1: Development Effectiveness Platform**

##### **Francisco Javier Sánchez Cano (Generalitat de Catalunya), Johannes Krassnitzer (UNDP)**

The session started with an input on the Development Effectiveness Platform, a joint initiative by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (the Global Partnership). Francisco Javier Sánchez Cano presented the objectives and four components (Research, Networking, Pilots, Communication) of the initiative. The core objective of the initiative is the promotion of partnerships between key development agents in order to improve interventions and the support of local governments in a more harmonised manner. The effort is directly linked to SDG 17.



Johannes Krassnitzer added that local and regional governments are at the centre of this initiative and presented some of their efforts to strengthen development effectiveness at the subnational level. Beside the clear focus of the initiative on local harmonisation, the projects' activities extend to the political and global level. Therefore, involvement and placement of strategic messages in high-level meetings through the project is possible. As of now, the initiative has a project duration of two years. DeLoG's Members and Partners were invited to join the project.

During the discussion the potential of this initiative for Voluntary Local Reviews was discussed, as well as different tools to localise global agendas, like [CityWorks](#), an instrument developed by GIZ.

## **Input 2: 2020 Report of the Global Taskforce to the HLPF on the Localisation of the SDGs** **Ainara Fernández Tortosa (UCLG)**

UCLG's fourth report by Local and Regional Governments to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) focusses on accelerating transformative actions in the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak toward the localisation of the SDGs. Ainara Fernández Tortosa gave an overview of the scope and methodology of this year's report and underlined result highlights and recommendations. The share of countries that include data from subnational levels in their reporting has gone up from 38% (2019) to 55% (2020). This positive development clearly shows that subnational governments are gaining more and more voice in the SDG reporting process at national level. UCLGs' support to the reporting process in six pilot countries has helped to strengthen the involvement of Local and Regional Governments enormously. Ainara invited DeLoG Members and Partners to join UCLGs' efforts in the support of subnational SDG reporting mechanisms. During the following discussion, Members and Partners showed a lot of interest in joint efforts and methodological tools such as the ones already developed by [UCLG](#).

## **News from Members & Partners**

After a 5-minute break, the participants gathered for the second part of the workstream session, starting with the section on 'News from Members & Partners'. Participants were invited to intervene in 2 – 3-minute pitches to inform members and partners about relevant approaches, news items and initiatives.

### **ADB: E-Learning Course, SDG Snapshots**

**Rainer Rohdewohld** (ADB) presented the launch of a renewed **E-learning course** on decentralisation, local governance and localising SDGs, directed at ADB partners and staff, but also open for DeLoG Members and Partners. This course used the [DeLoG E-Learning course](#) 'Enhancing Development Effectiveness for Decentralisation and Local Governance' as a basis for further development and is scheduled to start in September.

ADB is interested in publishing the content via a creative commons license, so that the course can be adapted to include a broader, more global focus (for example with regard to the case studies). The goal for the Network could be to create a common pool of different modules and country case studies that can be used by all of DeLoG's Member organisations.

**SDG Snapshots** is an initiative in planning by ADB to get a better understanding of the existing level of SDG implementation in selected countries in Asia by taking a deeper look at what subnational level governments are currently doing in the field of SDG implementation. In this context ADB and UNDP have tried to work together to create country level snapshots on SDG implementation. The initiative's aim is to uncover what role and potentials subnational governments have to offer in terms of working towards achieving SDG target at the national level. The initiative will commence in 2021.



### **UNDP: Inter-Institutional Working Group on Monitoring the SDGs: How to use local data for better policy**

**Johannes Krassnitzer** (UNDP) presented the interinstitutional working group on SDG monitoring. This is a joint initiative by UCLG, the Provincial Government of Barcelona and the Region of Andalusia. 10 additional institutions, including national governments like the one from Cape Verde, but also the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) of the European Union, have indicated interest in joining the working group. The overall objective of the working group is to look at certain key aspects of monitoring SDG implementation at the local level, which have not been researched and discussed enough until now. Questions of interest could include the following: How can local data, if it is available, best inform more integrated local policy making? Or, what is out there, what kind of transmission belts need to be put in place, how can that be facilitated? In addition, the working group wants to work together with the GSC to further develop their handbook on indicators for cities in Europe in order to make it more universal and usable worldwide.

Johannes stressed that there already is already a lot of information available regarding cities' data, big data and official subnational government level statistics and that monitoring this information as well as data integration (vertically vs. horizontally) are key for moving ahead on SDG implementation. He concluded by inviting interested parties to join the open network approach and jointly fill in existing gaps.

### **CILG-VNG International: “Maghreb: Why Local Government Matters – Now More than Ever?”**

**Neila Akrimi** (CILG-VNG International) reported on CILG-VNG International's current activities in the Maghreb region. She pointed out that COVID-19 had revealed the importance of local governments as partners for democratisation and crisis management processes and the development of recovery plans and had raised the willingness of other stakeholders to consider local governments as partners. She stated that regional identity had gained in importance since COVID-19, particularly with regard to the local level. She explained that the local level is linked to the bigger geopolitical situation in the Maghreb, which is characterized by problematic and sensitive circumstances in countries such as Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco or Mauretania. Akrimi underlined that many interlinkages exist between local governments in different countries and that these connections exist despite the Western Sahara problem between Algeria and Morocco and despite any issues or tensions between these countries. She explained that UCLG Africa is using these similarities and interlinkages as an entry point to solve problems such as the economic social crisis, the problem of illegal migration, radicalisation, etc. and to tackle COVID-19. In conclusion she stated that the linkages between different countries and local governments as well as regional identity should be evaluated in terms of their potential to contribute to solving bigger geopolitical economic problems.

### **Partners for Review (P4R) / GIZ: Example of VLR Bristol, VNR 2019 analysis**

**Thomas Wollnik** (Partners for Review / GIZ) presented participants with Bristol's Voluntary Local Review (VLR) as an inspiring example for VLR reporting. He also provided a comparative analysis of VNRs conducted for and presented at the High-Level Political Forum 2019. He invited DeLoG Members and Partners to exchange with P4R's staff and to identify possibilities to support each other in terms of reporting at the subnational level and exchange experiences on reporting on the 2030 Agenda at the national level.



### **NALAS: VNR Macedonia and Kosovo**

**Joachim Roth** (NALAS) shared NALAS' experiences as implementing partner for GIZ on VNRs in Northern Macedonia and Kosovo. He explained that NALAS is actively involved in setting up the coordination entities and organizing the consultation processes with municipalities and Local Government Associations (LGAs) for Macedonia and Kosovo in order to develop the content for the VNR reports. He explained that the project is being implemented in collaboration with GIZ for both the "Implementing the 2030 Agenda" and the "Leave No One Behind principle for vulnerable groups" projects, which have focussed on identifying and upscaling successful approaches at regional level. Roth stressed that NALAS is trying to help LGAs and Local Governments with conducting social mapping and promoting capacity development for LGAs and municipalities interested in implementing these identified approaches.

### **GIZ: Side Events during HLPF 2020**

**Sandra Fuhr** (GIZ) shared information regarding 3 side events organized by GIZ for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2020:

- SDG review as an engine for action: Promising practices from around the world.
- Making Voices Heard and Count. Community-driven data as transformative means for accelerated action and SDG delivery.
- Inclusive and integrated monitoring, follow-up and review to accelerate SDG implementation.

She invited DeLoG Members and Partners to participate in the side events, which are open to the public.

## **Wrap-Up**

In her finishing remarks, **Preeta Lall** (LOGIN Asia) stated that the session had illustrated the potential of DeLoG to bring very diverse actors, all working on decentralisation and local governance, together. She continued by remarking that it had been a pleasant surprise to learn about the diverse efforts underway, which in turn underline the importance of DeLoG as a platform to share these. By asking the Network "What is going on, what are the issues?", it was demonstrated that DeLoG's role should not be understood as that of a broadcaster, but for building synergies. She concluded by stating that the Network should provide evidence-based insights why decentralised systems are better for sustainable development and for reacting to external shocks. She stressed that the Network's focus needs to be on building evidence and making a case for local governance.

## **Local Finance and Fiscal Decentralisation**

*(Moderated by Agnes Luedicke and Christian Luy, DeLoG Secretariat)*

### **Inputs from Members & Partners**

**Input 1: UCLG Strategy on Localising Finance and Key Challenges**  
**Serge Allou, UCLG**



The first contribution by Serge Allou from UCLG focused on the question whether COVID-19 may trigger an overhaul of the local finance architecture in developing countries and provided important facts about the current situation of local finance and the potential long-term impacts of the pandemic.

Serge pointed out the diverse factors that make the current situation of local government finance in developing countries rather dire. Firstly, local governments rely heavily on intergovernmental transfers, the governing rules and regulations of which are often unclear, making transfers often unpredictable and with little flexibility to react and adapt to external shocks. Average public spending by local governments in developing countries barely reaches USD 300 PPP per capita, compared to almost USD 6,000 PPP in OECD countries. Second, local governments rarely have access to credit and capital markets and are therefore unable to carry out large-scale capital investment projects independently. Third, local governments' own-source revenues are very limited. Moreover, they depend to a large extent on local economic activities which are disproportionately affected by the pandemic: In developing countries, most revenues are drawn from business taxes rather than property taxes which amount to only 20% in least developed countries compared to 40% in OECD countries.

In Africa, local governments are expected to lose between 30 - 60% of their financial resources due to the COVID-19 pandemic, facing increased spending simultaneously with reduced revenues. In order to overcome the crisis, fiscal autonomy at the local level needs to be strengthened, in particular by diversifying and broadening the tax base of local governments, giving them also more leeway in setting tax rates and helping them to access capital markets. Serge underlined that donors will have to support local governments both through technical assistance and advisory services and by supporting the development of sub-sovereign investment and access to capital markets.

## **Input 2: UNCDF's Work on Local Finance and Supporting Cities in the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Efforts, Including Gender Aspects**

***Tehmina Akhtar, UNCDF***

The second input was provided by Tehmina Akhtar of the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). Tehmina introduced UNCDF's measures to support cities in the field of local finance amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. She underlined that as the effects of the crisis are localised – so therefore the response should be as well. Local governments have been at the forefront of protecting citizens and providing services to communities in need, underlining once again that local governments are best equipped to respond to both health crises and their impact in other areas such as the economy. UNCDF works on two levels: On the level of subnational finance, they provide immediate support for the local level for example through performance-based fiscal transfers. On the level of policy support, they advise for long-term economic recovery planning, safeguarding the inclusion of the needs of the most vulnerable. Examples include the "Guidance Note for Immediate Responses to the COVID-19 Recommended for Local Governments" that can be used by local governments as a resource to determine how to best approach crisis response, or the deployment of specific investment instruments and grants such as Emergency Operational Expenditure Block Grants, a specific type of intergovernmental fiscal transfer used to support local governments to respond to immediate needs (more information on UNCDF's COVID-19 response can be found [here](#)).

Tehmina's input triggered a lively discussion on the challenges and opportunities to connect crisis response to a long-term perspective to strengthen local government's fiscal base and to readjust existing rules and regulations, so that money can be where it will have the most beneficial, inclusive and sustainable results.



### **Input 3: Delivering on International Urban Climate Finance Needs**

#### ***Ruben Werchan (BMZ – German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)***

The third input was provided by Ruben Werchan of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Ruben talked about the need to leverage local finance to enable cities to implement projects that address climate change. He underlined that the lack of financial capacities – often caused by an overreliance on insufficient intergovernmental transfers and a limited access to capital markets – constitutes one of many impediments to urban climate action.

To address this challenge, the BMZ together with the BMU (German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety) and the government of Luxemburg initiated the Cities Climate Finance Gap Fund designed to support early-state climate action projects. BMU and BMZ also jointly finance the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA) that helps advocate for the role of urban climate finance and support the creation and dissemination of knowledge and best practices. Finally, Ruben introduced the C40 Cities Finance Facility (C40 CFF), which supports city governments in the preparation of sustainable infrastructure projects and its financing. So far, the efforts of the C40 CFF have enabled the construction of Colombia's first large-scale cycling avenue, Mexico's first zero-emission bus corridor and the Durban river management programme. For more information, please see Ruben's presentation.

## **News from Members & Partners**

### **OECD: World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment – SNG WOFI (OECD / UCLG)**

**Isabelle Chatry** (OECD) introduced the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment (SNG WOFI), an initiative by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). Launched in 2017, two years after the launch of the first pilot, the SNG WOFI is the largest and most comprehensive collection of data on subnational finance. Covering more than 120 countries and 80 indicators, its web portal enables practitioners and researchers to analyse and visualise data through interactive tools, to compare countries, to customise country comparisons, to draft in-depth analysis by selecting individual indicators and much more. For more information, visit the website [here](#).

### **NALAS: Report on Local Finances Dedicated to the Financing of Local Social Welfare Policy in South-East Europe**

**Elton Stafa** (NALAS) presented NALAS' recent report on local finances dedicated to social welfare policy in South-East Europe. While NALAS regularly reports on fiscal decentralisation in South-East Europe, this year's report aimed to provide local governments with updated information on how the social sector is regulated and financed. While the drafting started already before the COVID-19 pandemic, the crisis made it even more important. NALAS identified two dire problems: first, there is no harmonisation between how the social sector is regulated at the local and at the national level and second, since grants are determined by the national level, local governments were unable to adapt to the pandemic, leading to much unpredictability and instability for local communities.

### **UNCDF: International Municipal Investment Fund – IMIF (UCLG / UNCDF)**

Jaffer Machano (UNCDF) introduced the International Municipal Investment Fund (IMIF), which was created by the Malaga Coalition, a coalition for "a global financial ecosystem that works for cities



and local governments” consisting of the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and their technical partner, the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), to support cities and local governments in developing countries to implement sustainable development projects in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The fund will be managed by Meridiam, an infrastructure investment and global asset manager, and launched with a starting capital of 350 Million Euro, operating from Paris. More information can be found [here](#).

## Wrap-Up

The session on ‘Local Finance and Fiscal Decentralisation’ concluded with a wrap-up by Christian Luy, the Coordinator of the DeLoG Secretariat, who pointed out once more that Local Governments are at the forefront of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Drawing on the conclusions from the earlier discussion on financial instruments, he stated that these instruments need to be adapted to the specific shocks caused by the pandemic. He stressed that a well-functioning local government finance architecture is key for the COVID-19 recovery process.

Luy highlighted the role of the DeLoG-Network as a platform to exchange ideas on solutions and advocated for the strengthening of local finance. He concluded by stating that the session had made apparent that there is a strong interest in sharing experiences and further exploring the specific financial structures of the different countries affected worldwide.

## Urban and Territorial Governance

*(Moderated by Andrea Iff, SDC, and Christian Luy, DeLoG Secretariat)*

### Inputs from Members & Partners

#### **Input 1: Mainstreaming LED and the Importance of LED in the COVID-19 Recovery Period Lucy Slack (CLGF)**

Lucy Slack, Deputy Secretary General at the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), started the third thematic session with an input highlighting the importance of local governance and decentralisation for coherent responses to COVID-19 recovery. Citizens need and demand Local Economic Development (LED), but the Local Governments are often lacking a mandate for LED measures. Beside the absence of mandates, the CLGF Members see a 30 – 65% decrease in funds and resources due to the COVID-19 crisis and at the same time an increase in service demands through citizens. Lucy underlined the need for improved mandates for Local Governments and clear direction and vision to implement LED policies. Local Authorities need guidance, e.g. guidelines, toolboxes and templates. Additional funds and revenue need to be mobilised, as well as the administrative capacities strengthened. LED should be inclusive and integrate both formal and informal sectors. As a promising example, Lucy referred to South Africa and the National Government COVID-19 Response Plan, focussing on eight pillars which include national and local level responses (like corporation support, supporting agricultural reform and local construction and infrastructure).





## **Input 2: Analysing Measures for Economic Recovery from COVID-19: Preliminary Findings from NALAS Regional Survey**

### ***Elton Staffa (NALAS)***

During the second input for this session Elton Staffa from NALAS shared some preliminary results of [NALAS regional survey](#) with focus on the social and economic recovery measures in response to the COVID-19 crisis of Local Authorities in Southeast Europe. The results show a clear picture of how Local Governments are affected by the COVID-19 crisis. 39% of survey respondents say that there is a strong impact of the COVID-19-crisis with a severe disruption of public services and the ability to perform government tasks. Another 40% reported a medium impact, which is associated with disruption of several municipality services and short and medium impacts on the local level. So, there is a need to increase municipal spending to up to 20% to cope with the challenges in mobility, local economy and healthcare. Revenues, expenditures and local budgets will be severely impacted and are going to be under pressure due to the expected second wave of infections. New investments and transfer payments are expected to fall for local budgets. NALAS' recommendations include fiscal relief measures, as for example spending reviews and revenue mobilisation, support local economic activity and vulnerable groups, awareness raising, monitoring and coordination, citizens and private sector engagement. Local governments expect additional financial support, improved and well targeted policies for social and economic development by their national governments. Further (fiscal and sectorial) decentralisation and an improved coordination across levels of government is needed, as well as provision of digital services on the local level.

## **Input 3: Rating the National Enabling Environment (CEE) for local governments in Africa: A Status Quo and Outlook**

### ***Rene Hohmann (Cities Alliance) and Francois Yatta (UCLG Africa)***

Rene Hohmann (Cities Alliance) and Francois Yatta (UCLG Africa) presented evidence from the 'Rating of the National Enabling Environment (CEE) for local governments in Africa' tool. The instrument was launched in 2012 across all African countries with the aim of identifying and monitoring policy gaps at the national level. Since 2012, three analysis have been conducted (2012, 2015, 2018), using 12 assessment criteria (for example constitutional framework, role of local governments, resource revenues, local democracy, etc.) The assessment of the 2018 report shows favourable environments in 4 countries, somewhat favourable conditions in 12 countries, major reform needs for 21 countries and unfavourable conditions for 13 countries (based on the rating of the 12 assessment criteria). Major variations were identified between countries and regions. While East Africa recorded considerable advancements (44% in 2018 in comparison to 2015), conditions in Central Africa only advanced by 2%. In addition, the analysis demonstrated that indicators concerning urban strategy are the slowest to improve.

Part of the elaboration process of the following report will be the identification of new partners, sources of information and a strengthening of the peer review process. DeLoG Members and Partners are warmly invited to reach out to [Rene](#) and Francois if interested in being involved in the process. The next report will be launched at the Africities Summit in November 2021 in Kisumu, Kenya. You can find the 2018 report [here](#).

Please also refer to a corresponding CEE Rating Asia with UCLG Aspac [here](#).



## News from Members & Partners

### **GIZ: Eight Years to Build an Urban Future: Innovating, Implementing and Exhibiting Urban “Next Practice” with the IBA Approach (GIZ Project International Building Exhibition Africa)**

**Lena Weiler** (GIZ) presented the IBA Africa Project which tries to foster an enabling environment and deals with the limitations on the African continent. Therefore, the project tries to look into possibilities to develop a new approach to urbanisation in Sub-Saharan Africa. The project is inspired by one of the best-known development mechanisms, namely the International Building Exhibition Africa (IBA). The idea behind this approach is to build a real-life model of how a sustainable future on the African continent could look like. The project's approach is to first lay the conceptual foundations of this IBA-approach and secondly initiate a decision-making process that develops IBA-proposals in at least two cities. This GIZ project is working together with a multi-faceted partnership-network like the German IBA-Council, African and Germany City Officials and many more to reach its goals. For more information and for the IBA- Project factsheet, please contact [lena.weiler@giz.de](mailto:lena.weiler@giz.de) or see the official [IBA website](#).

### **UNCDF: IncluCity – Gender Responsive and Inclusive Economic Development in Cities**

**Tehmina Akhtar** (UNCDF) announced that UNCDF is launching a new initiative called IncluCity which is going to focus on gender responsive and inclusive economic development in cities. She explained that worsening inequalities in cities are often accompanied by great gender disparities with increased urbanisation and that safety and vulnerability in cities is a major challenge especially for women engaged in economic activities. She continued by stating that lack of secure and durable housing and public services expose women to violence and insecurity and that women living in cities are often part of the informal job sector which often pays poorly and offers no job security or social protection. In addition, she explained that under-representation of women in leadership roles and decision-making processes means that their concerns are not considered. Against this backdrop Akhtar stressed that urbanisation can be a positive change and that UNCDF's IncluCity initiative therefore focuses on reducing inequalities and alleviating poverty among women and girls through increased investments in municipal services and infrastructure. She concluded by saying that the initiative also contributes to strengthened networks of municipal leaders and technical capacity on inclusion and generating new knowledge and exchange of lessons learned.

### **CLGF: Advocacy for Sustainable Urbanisation**

**Lucy Slack** (CLGF) informed participants about a webinar series by CLGF on sustainable urbanisation and cities and towns desired by the Commonwealth. The results and insights obtained throughout the series will feed into the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The initiative represents an exciting opportunity to foster a multi-sectoral and multi-level approach to sustainable urbanisation. Details of the seminars can be found [here](#) and for more information, click [here](#).

**Preeta Lall**, **LOGIN Asia**, and **Rolf Swart**, **VNG International**, informed the sessions participants about new publications by their organizations:

- **Devolution index / Assessment of the enablement of local governments**  
To learn more about the Devolution Index, please contact Login Asia at: [secretariat@loginasia.net](mailto:secretariat@loginasia.net)
- VNG has published a new report on LED in Somalia. Access the publication [here](#).



## Wrap-Up

**Andrea Iff** (SDC) concluded the thematic session on 'Urban and Territorial Governance' by summarizing its highlights:

The session started with two very interesting inputs on local economic development and the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on DLG by Lucy Slack and Elton Staffa. Questions evolved around the topic of informality related to Lucy Slacks input on the stronger use of informal networks. Rene Hohmann and Francois Yatta presented an interesting account on the Rating of the National Enabling Environment (CEE) for local governments in Africa that resonated in the discussion with Preeti Lall and LOGIN Asia's work on the Delusion Index and the assessment of the enablement of local governments.

Iff underscored that data played a key role in this session and all of its discussions and that data provides local governments with the opportunity to better understand their own evaluations and can help to advance their planning. Iff encouraged DeLoG to look at interesting examples from the municipalities and their different approaches on data and urbanisation in future.

## Decentralisation and Local Governance in Fragile Contexts

*(Moderated by Amy Gill, UNDP, and Lena M. Harris-Pomeroy, DeLoG Secretariat)*

### Inputs from Members & Partners

#### **Input 1: Study on Inclusive Local Governance in Fragile Settings (Key Findings)**

##### **Volkert Doop (VNG International)**

The fourth thematic session commenced with a ten-minute input by Volkert Doop during which he presented the key findings of a study commissioned by VNG International and Clingendael focusing on the legitimacy of traditional authorities in areas of limited statehood in Mali, Niger and Libya. The study explores how the three countries have incorporated traditional authorities into their governance systems and how these systems are affected by their involvement. Following the presentation of the methodology used for the study, i.e. the organisation of focus groups and interviews with traditional authorities living in the border region of Mali and Niger, Volkert presented the challenges and problems posed by including or excluding traditional authorities: firstly, the politicisation of traditional authorities and secondly, an increase in violence.

In Niger, where the state recognises traditional authorities, traditional authorities have become persecuted by armed groups due to their association with the government. In Mali, in turn, where the state rejects traditional authorities, they have partially aligned themselves with armed groups for protection. In both countries, traditional authorities have started to flee their area of influence to avoid getting caught in the crosshairs.

The study suggests that the politicisation of traditional authorities has resulted in the division of communities and the emergence of inter-ethnic conflict. As a result, traditional authorities have lost their ability to mediate local conflicts and are becoming actors of conflict themselves. The study concludes that while instrumental and beneficial in the short-term, the involvement of traditional authorities in official governance systems will undermine their authority in the long-term and result in community members turning to armed group actors for orientation instead. Therefore, the study recommends that programming should make use of traditional authorities as governance actors as crucial entry points to improve governance and security and should address their politicisation. With



regard to the increase of violence, the study suggests using positive examples of community reconciliation to once again improve the legitimacy of traditional authorities in the context of mediation and to promote efforts of local conflict prevention to prevent further spiralling.

## **Input 2: Study on Decentralisation and Peace: Experiences from Burkina Faso (Key Findings)**

### **Jerome Schroth (GIZ)**

In a second thematic input Jerome Schroth from GIZ invited participants to consider the relationship between Decentralisation and Peace. In this context, he presented preliminary findings from a study commissioned by GIZ focussing on this topic in the country of Burkina Faso. He began his presentation by outlining the motivation behind conducting the study:

Approx. 70% of GIZ's programmes are implemented in fragile states. Therefore, implementing in fragile contexts has become the new normal. Nevertheless, there is little research or knowledge of successful donor approaches to promote decentralisation and local governance reforms to positively impact peacebuilding efforts. It is assumed that the involvement of the local level is crucial to address challenges of peace, to prevent violent extremism and to foster social cohesion and stability. The study explores these assumptions.

The study's results are based on an analysis of the fragility and conflict situation in Burkina Faso and the Sahel region according to the OECD's five dimensions of fragility. The study explores the relevance of the local level for peacebuilding efforts and describes the need for a decentralised state structure. The given recommendations are derived from GIZ's decentralisation portfolio in Burkina Faso and are aligned with the goals and indicators of the Sahel Alliance. According to the study there are three main takeaways that need to be considered:

### **1. Go (More) Local**

Impacts and quick wins for the population are more likely to be achieved at the local level than through advising complex and slow reform processes at the national level. Nevertheless, sector ministries and their deconcentrated structures remain crucial for the delivery of public services as many competencies are shared. Thus, a multi-level approach should be followed that puts local actors at the centre as drivers of change. Encouraging stakeholders located at the national level to cooperate with the local level and adopting to the changed context remains a challenge, however.

### **2. Go Beyond the State!**

The population at the local level often does not have access to justice or perceives the legal system as corrupt and inefficient. Therefore, traditional leaders and religious authorities play an important role for local conflict resolution and mediation as they have a high legitimacy and credibility among the population. To promote peacebuilding efforts, the state needs to become a facilitator for local conflict management. Thus, the role of traditional leaders and religious authorities in these processes should be formalised and incorporated by the state. However, these actors are not without risks and need to be assessed before an official cooperation is started!

### **3. Go Towards the Youth!**

In conflict-affected areas extremist networks focus their recruitment efforts on the young (male) generation. Therefore, young people need to be considered as a specific target group for the provision of public services. They often do not have access to these services or specific services dedicated to them. Thus, alternative offers focussed on the needs of the youth (e.g. local youth centres, youth councils, idea competitions, political and religious education, etc.) need to be developed. Competencies in this field should be shared between the local, regional and central level!



## News from Members & Partners

### ***UNDP, UN-Habitat and UCLG: Urban Crisis Alliance***

**Amy Gill** from UNDP presented the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, a multi-disciplinary, collaborative community of practice founded in 2016 to connect humanitarian and development actors, NGOs, the UN, urban planners, academics, local government networks and other interested stakeholders interested in working together on preventing, preparing for and effectively responding to humanitarian crises in urban settings. The current focus of the network is on strengthening the Alliance and fostering knowledge creation and sharing. Of DeLoG's Members and Partners three are already a member of the Alliance: UNDP, UN-Habitat and UCLG. Others are invited to join,

### ***SDC: Policy Note – Governance in Authoritarian Contexts***

**Melina Papageorgiou Trippolini** from the SDC presented the organisation's recently published policy note on "Governance in Authoritarian Contexts". The policy note summarises a conceptual approach to understanding different kinds of authoritarian regimes and trends, SDC's approaches to working in authoritarian states and contexts, a collection of possible concrete entry points for programming and lessons learned for cooperation offices and HQ in Bern. The policy note was developed by SDC against the realisation that many partner countries are experiencing a trend of democratic backsliding. Linked to the policy note, DeLoG's Members and Partners could explore local entry points to intervene.

### ***Forum of Federations: Report on Fragility and Federal / Decentralised States***

**Michael Youash** from the University of Toronto presented his research on federalism, decentralisation and fragile states.

## Wrap-Up

**Amy Gill** (UNDP) concluded the session by advocating for intensified research, knowledge exchange and cooperation in the area of decentralisation and local governance in fragile contexts. She highlighted the importance of including a diverse set of stakeholders to tackle challenges in said field and encouraged the Networks' Members and Partners to consider how to better achieve inclusivity in programming, while stressing the need to intensify efforts of cooperation with local and national governments as well as traditional authorities.

## Follow-Up and Strategic Session II

DeLoG's Annual Meeting 2020 was conducted entirely online. This gave Members and Partners the opportunity to gather for a final, second strategic session on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, 2 ½ months after the AM's official commencement on the 07<sup>th</sup> of July 2020. This last meeting was dedicated to the results of Dr. Claudia Gross' consultation process and defining next steps for the future development of DeLoG in order to secure its sustainable future. Besides, presenting the elaborated Workplan for 2020/2021, the second strategic three-hour session focussed on Dr. Claudia Gross' findings and the determination of possible implications for the Network. 30 representatives of 17 Member and Partner organisations joined the session. The meeting was moderated by Dr. Claudia Gross.



## Presentation of the Discussion So Far

As the final version of the Workplan 2020/2021 was already shared via E-Mail before the session, **Christian Luy**, the Coordinator of the DeLoG Secretariat, did not provide specific details on planned activities during the meeting. Instead he began the session by giving a short summary of how and what had already been discussed during the other five online meetings of DeLoG's 15<sup>th</sup> AM in July 2020.

Throughout his presentation, he provided key data, and selected key messages from each of the five sessions. This approach was chosen to give participants who had been unable to participate previously an idea of the dynamics and topics of concern to DeLoG's Members and Partners:

In total, 80 participants from 26 different Member and Partner Organisations attended at least one of the Annual Meetings' five sessions. During these sessions 12 very rich thematic inputs and 17 pitches on planned or current activities of Members' and Partners' organisations were delivered. 33 Members and Partners from 19 organisations committed to take part in at least one of overall 20 activities outlined in the DeLoG Workplan **2020/2021**.

In terms of content, Christian Luy shared the following information during his opening:

### Strategic Session I

- Analysis of the DeLoG Survey 2020 and implications for the Network: **DLG is highly relevant, but we need to redefine our strategic objectives and the narrative around DLG.**
- Implication for DeLoG:
  - To better define DeLoG's **future** we need to jointly **shape a vision** of where the Network is heading. A **stable foundation for the Secretariat** that coordinates these efforts needs to be ensured.

### Localising the 2030 Agenda

- Subnational reporting as well as harmonisation and the unification of our voices are key elements for supporting the localisation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Implication for DeLoG:
  - DeLoG should be a platform that **builds synergies through connecting diverse actors** to foster knowledge exchange.

### Local Finance and Fiscal Decentralisation

- Local Governments are at the **forefront of responding to the COVID-19** pandemic. Financial instruments need to be adapted to the specific shocks caused by the pandemic. A **well-functioning local government finance architecture** is key for the COVID-19 recovery process.
- Implication for DeLoG:
  - DeLoG should provide a platform to exchange ideas on solutions and to advocate for the strengthening of local finance.

### Urban and Territorial Governance

- Local Service Delivery is strongly affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. **Financial support and multi-level dialogue** are needed to support Local Economic Development (LED) and social recovery.
- Implication for DeLoG:



- Due to the relevance and linkage of Governance and Urbanisation, DeLoG should place Urban Governance and Sustainable Urbanisation higher on its Agenda.

## Decentralisation and Local Governance in Fragile Contexts

- Members and Partners working on DLG in contexts of fragility, conflict and authoritarianism are confronted by **growing difficulties and challenges**.
- Implication for DeLoG:
  - DeLoG should support a common understanding of “**fragile settings**”, facilitate exchange on stakeholder mapping and successfully implemented approaches.

Christian Luy concluded his presentation by expressing his gratitude in the name of the DeLoG Secretariat to all participants for being part of the different sessions and for making the Online Annual Meeting 2020 “*an Annual Meeting that felt real*”.

## Results of Consultancy regarding the Sustainable Future of the DeLoG Network

(see [Presentation here](#))

After Christian’s summary, **Dr. Claudia Gross** proceeded by presenting the findings of her consultation process through 5 proposals for change. This approach was used to get a general impression of the opinions and sentiment of all participants as well as feedback from the Network’s Members and Partners on how to proceed regarding potential next steps for the Network.

The consultations process, which commenced in July 2020, had three objectives:

- to analyse the current status quo of the DeLoG Network,
- to outline possible options for the future development of the Network and
- to draft recommendations for different scenarios for the way forward.

During the time period from July to September, Claudia Gross interviewed 21 colleagues from 16 Member and Partner institutions. Based on their feedback and responses she developed five proposals for change in the following areas:

1. Objectives and results;
2. Communication;
3. Information Exchange and Cooperation;
4. Themes and Workstreams;
5. Finance Hosting and Membership.

During her presentation Claudia Gross outlined her results for each area of change, by giving an overview of the debates and feedback she had received during the consultation process. For each area of change, she then presented recommendations as well as one key message (see *table*):



Objectives and results	<i>“Put decentralisation at the centre of the development agenda”</i>
Communication	<i>“Many voices, one song”</i>
Information Exchange and Cooperation	<i>“Let’s work the net”</i>
Themes and Workstreams	<i>“R*evolution of decentralisation”</i>
Finance Hosting and Membership	<i>“Funding DeLoG as a common good”</i>

Thereafter, the session’s participants were given the chance to ask questions.

A detailed presentation of Claudia Gross’ findings as well as the presentation for the entire second strategic session can be found [here](#).

## Moving Forward

Following a five-minute break, the session’s participants were split into five groups along the identified areas of change in order to discuss the insights and options presented by Dr. Claudia Gross. Participants were asked to join the group of their choosing according to their own interests. Prior to the session colleagues from the DeLoG Network (Anusha Lall (LOGIN Asia), Björn Möller (ICLD), Tehmina Akhtar (UNCDF), Johannes Krassnitzer (UNDP) and Rainer Rohdewohld (ADB)) had already agreed to moderate these breakout groups and to facilitate the discussion. Immediately at the beginning of the breakout session, the moderator for the group for the area of change “Communication” realised, that too few participants joined their session. Therefore, they merged with the area of change “Formats for Information Exchange and Cooperation”. Therefore, the table below only reports results for four and not for five areas of change.

The exchange within the groups was organised along three concrete steps:

1. **Step 1:** Collect observations, opinions regarding the proposals and open questions.  
Check first, do we need time to read the proposal and open questions?  
Do we agree? If not, why? What alternative do we suggest? Any other thoughts?
2. **Step 2:** What options do we identify? What are feasible next steps for the Network?  
Who should take these steps? The SSG, Secretariat, Members and Partners?  
Do we see risks that need to be considered?
3. **Step 3:** What do we bring to the discussion within the plenary? Do we have a concrete proposal or decision to be taken?

Each of the groups was allotted 30 minutes to discuss these questions internally and develop proposals to be presented to the plenary. In addition to presenting their results, the groups were asked to develop concrete proposals or decisions to be posted into the chat, so that the other participants could voice their opinion by “liking” the proposals with a hands-up symbol or posting in the chat. This feedback allowed the participants and the DeLoG Secretariat to get an impression of the different opinions within DeLoG. The following table documents the results of the plenary discussion:





Areas of Change	Proposal	YES
<b>Objectives &amp; Results</b>	Focus on aspects related to democracy / human-rights-based approach;	<u>6</u>
	Advocacy work;	<u>9</u>
	Continuity of core group of the Network: focus on donor and implementing agencies.	<u>4</u>
<b>Finance, Hosting and Membership</b>	Keep the Secretariat in traditional donor countries;	<u>2</u>
	One host (current model);	<u>4</u>
	Secretariat presents a visionary proposal approaching potential donors who can shape the vision.	-
<b>Formats for Information Exchange and Cooperation</b>	Introduce Virtual Coffee Breaks (initiated by the Secretariat);	<u>10</u>
	Co-Writing / Writing Sprint to cocreate within the Network	<u>8</u>
	LindedIn Group (set up by Secretariat).	<u>9</u>
<b>Thematic Areas and Workstream Topics and Beyond</b>	Set up a post-disaster / post-Covid-19 workstream;	<u>13</u>
	Focus on cross-cutting issues (like Gender & Inclusion);	<u>8</u>
	Activity: Mapping of different organisations and their perspective on DLG.	<u>7</u>



## Wrap-Up

**Ursula Keller** (SDC) concluded the Strategic Session II by drawing on the very telling metaphors and pictures outlined by Claudia Gross in her presentation to the Network:

- The Networks' communication seems to be characterised by some kind of babylonian language confusion. Therefore, we need to make sure that in future we communicate with many voices but one song.
- It is essential for the Network to exchange and network ("let's work the web") on the topic of decentralisation in order to develop our thematic focus and to place the funding of the Network as a common goal for all Members and Partners.
- The Network's Members and Partners different interests and issues have to match each other. The Network needs to address what its vision is. Many members perceive the Network as an open knowledge platform but there is also a strong need for an advocacy platform on DLG issues. Through the discussions it has become apparent that different Members see value in one or the other.
- The question that remains open and has to be addressed is what kind of resources and governance structure are needed and can be provided by the Network in future.

Ursula Keller closed the Annual Meeting 2020 by stressing how extremely beneficial the results of the consultation process have been to the Network to determine and address its issues and to clarify next steps.



## Appendix 1: Agenda for the Annual Meeting

### 15<sup>th</sup> DeLoG Annual Meeting

Day 1: Tuesday, 07 July 2020

14.40 – 15.00	<b>ARRIVAL + MEET AND GREET</b> Welcome and Opening by DeLoG
15.05	<b>OPENING REMARKS by the Strategic Support Group</b> Kerstin Remke (BMZ) & Ursula Keller Alazzawi (SDC)
15.40	<b>Presentation of New Members and Partners: NALAS, ROAID</b> Angela Sima (ROAID), Kelmend Zajazi (NALAS)
15.50 - 15.55	COFFEE BREAK
16.00	<b>Results and Conclusions of the DeLoG Survey 2020</b> Bernhard Harlander, former staff member of the <b>DeLoG Secretariat</b> Presentation & Plenary with Q&A
16.30	Discussion in Parallel Working Groups (contd.)
16.30	Share Learnings from Working Groups (Plenary)
16.55	<b>Evaluation &amp; CLOSURE</b>

Day 2: Wednesday, 08 July 2020

14.40 - 15.05	<b>WELCOME AND OPENING DAY 2</b>
15.10	<b>WORKSTREAM SESSION: LOCALISING 2030 AGENDA</b>  <b>Setting the scene: Presentations &amp; Inputs in the Plenary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development Effectiveness Platform (Presentation) <b>Francisco Javier Sanchez Cano, Generalitat de Catalunya; Johannes Krassnitzer, UNDP</b> Q&amp;A, Discussion – Plenary</li><li>• 2020 Report of the Global Taskforce to the HLPF on the Localisation of the SDGs (key findings) (Presentation) <b>Ainara Fernández Tortosa, UCLG</b> Q&amp;A, Discussion – Plenary</li></ul>



- 15.50 - 15.55 COFFEE BREAK
- 16.00 **News from our Members/Partners**
- **UN-Habitat: Local 2030 - Spotlight Series**
  - **ADB: SDG Snapshots; E-Learning Course**
  - **UNDP/UCLG: Institutional Working Group on Monitoring: How to use local data for better policy**
- 16.30 **Discussion in Parallel Working Groups on Workstream Activities (contd.)**
- Share Potential Key Activities for Future Workplan from Working Groups (Plenary)**
- 17.00 CLOSING REMARKS

Day 3: Thursday, 09 July 2020

- 14.40 - 15.05 **WELCOME AND OPENING DAY 3**
- 15.10 **WORKSTREAM SESSION:  
LOCAL FINANCE, FISCAL DECENTRALISATION**
- Setting the Scene: Presentations & Inputs in the Plenary**
- UNCDF's work on Local Finance and Supporting Cities in the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Efforts, including Gender-Aspects. **Tehmina Akhtar, UNCDF**  
Q&A + Discussion – Plenary
  - UCLG Strategy on Localising Financing and Key Challenges **Serge Allou, UCLG**  
Q&A + Discussion – Plenary
  - Delivering on International Urban Climate Finance Needs **Ruben Werchan, BMZ - German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development**  
Q&A + Discussion – Plenary
- 16.00 COFFEE BREAK
- 16.05 **News from our Members/Partners**
- **NALAS: report on local finances dedicated to the financing of local social welfare policy in South-East Europe**
  - **OECD: World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment (SNG WOFI)**



- **UCLG/UNCDF: International Municipal Investment Fund (IMIF)**

16.30

**Discussion in Parallel Working Groups on Workstream Activities (contd.)**

**Share Potential Key Activities for Future Workplan from Working Groups (Plenary)**

17.00

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Day 4: Wednesday, 15 July 2020

14.40 - 15.05

**WELCOME AND OPENING DAY 4**

15.10

**WORKSTREAM SESSION:  
URBAN AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE**

**Setting the Scene: Presentations & Inputs in the Plenary**

- Rating the National Enabling Environment (CEE) for Local Governments in Africa: A Status Quo and Outlook  
**Rene Hohmann, Cities Alliance; Francois Yatta, UCLG Africa**  
Q&A + Discussion – Plenary
- Mainstreaming LED and the Importance of LED in the COVID-19 Recovery Period  
**Lucy Slack, CLGF**  
Q&A + Discussion – Plenary
- Analysing Measures for Economic Recovery from COVID-19: Preliminary Findings from NALAS Regional Survey  
**Elton Staffa, NALAS**  
Q&A + Discussion – Plenary

16.00

**COFFEE BREAK**

16.05

**News from our Members/Partners**

- **GIZ: Eight years to build an urban future: innovating, implementing and exhibiting urban “next practice” with the IBA approach (GIZ Project International Building Exhibition Africa)**
- **UNCDF: IncluCity**
- **CLGF: Advocacy for sustainable urbanisation**
- **LOGIN Asia: Devolution index / Assessment of the enablement of local governments**

16.30

**Discussion in Parallel Working Groups on Workstream Activities (contd.)**



**Share Potential Key Activities for Future Workplan from Working Groups (Plenary)**

17.00 CLOSING REMARKS

**Day 5: Thursday, 16 July 2020**

14.40 - 15.05 **WELCOME AND OPENING DAY 4**

15.10 **WORKSTREAM SESSION:  
DLG IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS**

**Setting the scene: Presentations & Inputs in the plenary**

- Inclusive local governance in fragile settings  
**Volkert Doop, VNG International**  
Q&A + Discussion – Plenary
- Decentralisation and Peace, experiences from Burkina Faso  
**Jerome Schroth, GIZ**  
Q&A + Discussion – Plenary

16.00 COFFEE BREAK

16.05 **News from our Members/Partners**

- **UNDP, UN Habitat, UCLG: Urban Crisis Alliance CLGF:**
- **SDC: Policy Note – Governance in Authoritarian Contexts**

16.30 **Discussion in Parallel Working Groups on Workstream Activities (contd.)**

**Share Potential Key Activities for Future Workplan from Working Groups (Plenary)**

17.00 CLOSING REMARKS

**Day 6: Wednesday, 23 September 2020**

14.40 - 15.05 **CLOSING, STRATEGIC SESSION II**

**15.05 – 17.55 Future of DELOG**



- **Presentation of the DeLoG Annual Workplan**
- **Results of Consultancy regarding the Sustainable Future of the DeLoG Network**
- **Moving Forward**

17.55

CLOSING REMARKS



## Appendix 2: 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

<b>The following was useful for my work:</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>n/a</b>
1	The key note on SDGs 16	3	6	2		3
2	Thematic session 1 on localising the SDGs	3	4	5		2
3	Thematic session 2a on local financing	4	4	3		3
4	Thematic session 2b on urban and territorial governance / LED	2	8	2		2
5	Thematic session 3 on DLG in fragile contexts	7	5	1	1	1
<b>The following sessions were useful for developing the DeLoG Network:</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>n/a</b>
6	Pick-up where we left last year's AM (Day 1)	3	5		1	6
7	The 'brain storm flashlights' for potential activities at the end of all thematic sessions (Day 1/2/3)	6	4	1		4
8	Developing the 2019-20 work plan (Day 3)	2	6	1	1	5
<b>The following methodology enhanced participation and exchange during the meeting:</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>n/a</b>
9	Short inputs followed by group-work followed by presentations in plenary	6	7		1	
10	The moderation and facilitation in plenary and working groups	11	2		1	1
<b>In general:</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>n/a</b>
11	There were ample opportunities to participate, talk about key issues.	7	5	1		1
12	There were ample opportunities to network.	9	4		1	1
13	The workshop was well organised.	11	2	1		1
14	The workshop was well facilitated.	12	2		1	
15	Workshop arrangements (venue, food, logistics) were well organised.	11	3			1
16	Host partner inputs, hospitality, and evening events were well done.	9	4			2

17. What I particularly liked about the meeting was ...

Friendly open exchange of ideas (4 similar comments)

Inspiring inputs from participants (4 similar comments)

Networking opportunities and spirit (4 similar comments)

Swiss competence and facilitation (4 comments)

18. What I think we could improve for next time is ...

More practical cases from member's work (4 similar comments)

Better quality inputs needed (external speakers) (1 comment)

Go narrower and deeper (2 comments)

Build on lessons learned (2 comments)





## Appendix 3: DeLoG Workplan

DeLoG Workplan 2020/2021 Work-stream	Topic	Activity	Format	Key responsibility	Next steps
Localising 2030 Agenda	Reporting / VNRs / Sub-national Reports	Collaboration of UCLG with different projects (e.g. GIZ) for the preparation of subnational reporting on the 2030 Agenda (with the aim to include it in the respective VNRs)	<i>Cooperation / Regional, In-Country workshops</i>	Edgardo Bilsky (UCLG) Agnes Luedicke (DeLoG Secretariat) Thomas Wollnik (GIZ/P4R)	DeLoG Secretariat facilitates first exchange between UCLG and (GIZ) projects in the countries planning to report to the HLPF in 2021; follow-up to potentially get other M/P's commitment; Explore opportunities for organising in-country or regional exchanges; DeLoG Secretariat shares information regarding SNR planned to be reported at the HLPF 2021
	SDG implementation and monitoring	Inter-institutional Group on Monitoring the SDGs (UNDP): Finalised study on existing monitoring systems (through universities, local governments, donors, etc.), DeLoG could be a platform for peer-review the results of the study	<i>Information exchange / validation</i>	Johannes Krassnitzer (UNDP) Thomas Wollnik (GIZ/P4R) Edgardo Bilsky (UCLG) Rainer Rohdewohld (ADB)	DeLoG facilitates first exchange between UNDP and interested other members and partners
		Share experiences with other organisations regarding SDG mapping. What is the contribution that organisations make to reach the SDGs? (There is no standardised format for SDG mapping.) Ease possible contributions from Members and Partners and develop synergies	<i>Exchange / Information Sharing</i>	Tehmina Akhtar (UNCDF) Gemma Aguado (UNDP) Micheline Gilbert (GAC)	Identify other M&P for sharing experiences and collecting initiatives of other organisations (for example Local 2030 Initiatives); Focus on Changing conditions/ activities because of Covid-19 Secretariat tracks and share these inputs from development partners; Possibly, Webinar with tools that have proven successful



DeLoG Workplan 2020/2021 Work-stream	Topic	Activity	Format	Key responsibility	Next steps
				Preeta Lall (LOGIN Asia) Anusha Lall (LOGIN Asia) Agnes Luedicke (DeLoG Secretariat)	
		Collaborate on the Action Area 2.6. of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation: <i>Development Effectiveness at Sub-national Level</i> , which will help advancing the practice and the understanding of effective development cooperation at subnational level and its contribution to achieve the SDGs	<i>Research / Knowledge exchange</i>	Jean-Baptiste Buffet (UCLG) Javier Sanchez Cano (ORU-FOGAR) Johannes Krassnitzer (UNDP)	DeLoG facilitates first exchange between UNDP and interested other members and partners.
		Share Learning Modules on DLG (special focus on localising the 2030 Agenda) and create a common pool of course modules and learning material which can be used by all DeLoG member organisations	<i>(E-) Learning</i>	Rainer Rohdewohld (ADB) Agnes Luedicke (DeLoG Secretariat)	Secretariat and ADB formalise collaboration in a MoU. Open Call within the Network to share existing learning modules and include content/examples/case studies in the adapted E-Learning Course
<b>Local Finance and Fiscal Decentralisation</b>	Taxes, Own Revenue of Local Governments and Data	Realise a format to discuss about access to financial markets and guarantee structures of Local Governments	<i>Exchange Webinar</i>	Jaffer Machano (UNCDF) Mathilde Penard (UCLG)	Call to exchange ideas on specific topics and format of the Webinar; DeLoG Secretariat supports realisation, promotion and sharing of the Webinar
		Realise a format dedicated to Taxes and Financial Services of Local Governments	<i>Exchange Webinar</i>	Tehmina Akhtar (UNCDF) Amy Gill (UNDP) Dominic Bourcier (GAC) Go Nagata and Rainer Rohdewohld (ADB)	Call to exchange ideas on specific topics and format of the Webinar; DeLoG Secretariat supports realisation, promotion and sharing of the Webinar; Identify other organisations and share information (e.g. International Center for Tax – Initiative)



DeLoG Workplan 2020/2021 Work-stream	Topic	Activity	Format	Key responsibility	Next steps
		Fiscal Decentralisation and the role of Data – Platform for discussion for Development Partners	<i>Information sharing / Exchange</i>	Serge Allou (UCLG) Isabel Chatry (OECD) Christian Luy (DeLoG Secretariat) Rüdiger Wehr (GIZ)	Define first step: Which format should be used to provide the platform? (e.g. Webinar or participation in an event); DeLoG Secretariat supports the exchange regarding a regional Workshop in West Africa on Fiscal Decentralisation
	Dialogue around Local Finance, Fiscal Decentralisation and the Economic Recovery Process	Attract more National Governments to the CCFLA (Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance) Initiative	<i>Coordination</i>	Ruben Werchan (BMZ) DeLoG Secretariat	DeLoG Secretariat establishes contact with the CCFLA initiative and analyses synergies
		Promote dialogue with finance ministries and local governments to underline the important role of Local Governments in the recovery process	<i>Advocacy</i>	Elton Stafa (NALAS) David Jackson (UNCDF)	First exchange on how that dialogue could look like and what would be the role of the Network Possibly, organise a Webinar or an In- Country Course in the Region
		Exchange on how to support investments that have social and economic impact and strengthen economic growth services on local level? How to re-municipalise financial services? (Diaspora Financing example Senegal, example of Moldova)	<i>Information Sharing / Exchange</i>	Tehmina Akhtar (UNCDF) Amy Gill (UNDP) Dominic Bourcier (GAC)	DeLoG Secretariat facilitates first exchange on how this information sharing could look like
<b>Urban and Territorial Governance</b>	Local Economic Development	Analyse how successful multilevel / decentralised systems are in coping with Covid-19 and economic recovery and the adjustment of local finance?	<i>Research / Diagnostic</i>	Rainer Rohdewohld (ADB) Elton Stafa (NALAS) David Jackson (UNCDF) Christian Luy (DeLoG Secretariat)	Realisation of two webinars on Covid 19 Response in Multi-Level Governance Systems; ToR drafted by DeLoG Secretariat in collaboration with GIZ Contribution of comments and selection of possible case studies by DeLoG M&P (written form or during a call); Presentation and discussion of the study within the Network



DeLoG Workplan 2020/2021 Work-stream	Topic	Activity	Format	Key responsibility	Next steps
	Rating and Assessments of Urban and Territorial Governance	Organise an open Call for the Network M&P aiming to test Index in South-East-Europe and its methodology	<i>Workshop</i>	Elton Stafa (NALAS)	NALAS will share information on that, opening participation to Network and M&P
		Which Indices do exist and how we can use them for programming and implementation?	<i>Information Sharing / Exchange</i>	Lucy Slack (CLFG) Francois Yatta (UCLGA) Rene Hohmann (Cities Alliance) Preeta Lall (LOGIN Asia)	Open call organised by the DeLoG Secretariat which formats we should use to inform and exchange (idea: Webinar); Open call organised by the Secretariat for M&P who are interested to be involved in validation
	Inclusive Urban Governance	Informality, Housing, and Rights-based Approaches and Urban Governance: How do we deal with informal economics sector and economic recovery?	<i>Webinars / Exchange</i>	Joelle Piraux (ENABEL) Lucy Slack and Greg Munroe (CLGF) Rene Hohmann (Cities Alliance)	First call to outline scope and possible invites and topics facilitated by DeLoG Secretariat; Secretariat provides platform and moderation of the Webinar(s) (to be recorded) and the promotion of it
	Climate and sustainable Urbanisation	Sustainable Urbanisation (in Sub Sahara Africa)	<i>Information Sharing / Exchange</i>	Lena Weiler (GIZ) Lucy Slack (CLFG)	Call facilitated by the Secretariat to define a possible format to take this discussion further (Webinar?)
		Climate resilience in cities	<i>Information Sharing / Exchange</i>	Rene Hohmann (Cities Alliance) Tehmina Akhtar (UNCDF) Joelle (ENABEL)	Call facilitated by the Secretariat to define a possible format to work on this topic



DeLoG Workplan 2020/2021 Work- stream	Topic	Activity	Format	Key responsi- bility	Next steps
DLG in Frag- ile Contexts	Linkages of authori- tarianism and fragil- ity	Analyse the relationship between authoritarianism and fragility	<i>Webinars / Exchange</i>	SDC (Melina Papa- georgiou) Volkert Doop (VNG International) Daan Stelder (VNG International) Melina Papageor- giou (SDC) Jerome Schroth (GIZ) Katharina Lampe (GIZ) Agnes Luedicke (DeLoG Secretariat)	Organise a call between the interested parties to define the scope and content of the exchange; Webinar on Decentralisation and Local Governance in authori- tarian contexts (October 2020, VNG, SDC, GIZ)
	Stake- holder Analysis in Fragile Settings	Analyse the role and responsibilities of local gov- ernments and other stakeholders in fragile set- tings and identify best practices for working to- gether in fragile contexts with local governments on the ground (accessibility, LNOB) Tools for stakeholder analysis	<i>Information sharing / Ex- change</i>	Greg Munro (CLGF) LOGIN Asia (Anusha Lall) Michael Youash (FoF) Jerome Schroth (GIZ) Sanne van Amer- ongen (VNG) Rainer Rohdewohld (ADB), DeLoG Sec- retariat	Organise a call between the interested parties to define the scope of the exchange (for example the idea to elaborate the How-To-Manual)
	DLG and disaster	Collect best practices on disaster risk manage- ment (pandemics, floods) and Grievance Man- agement Mechanisms in decentralised contexts	<i>Research / Information Exchange</i>	Amy Gill (UNDP) NALAS (Jelena Ja- nevaska)	Call facilitated by the Secretariat to define a possible format to work on this topic



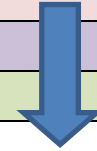
DeLoG Workplan 2020/2021 Work- stream	Topic	Activity	Format	Key responsi- bility	Next steps
				SDC (Isabella Pa- gotto) LOGIN Asia (Anusha Lall) Angela Sima (RoAid) Lena Harris-Pome- roy (DeLoG Secre- tariat)	



## Appendix 4: DeLoG Activity Timeline

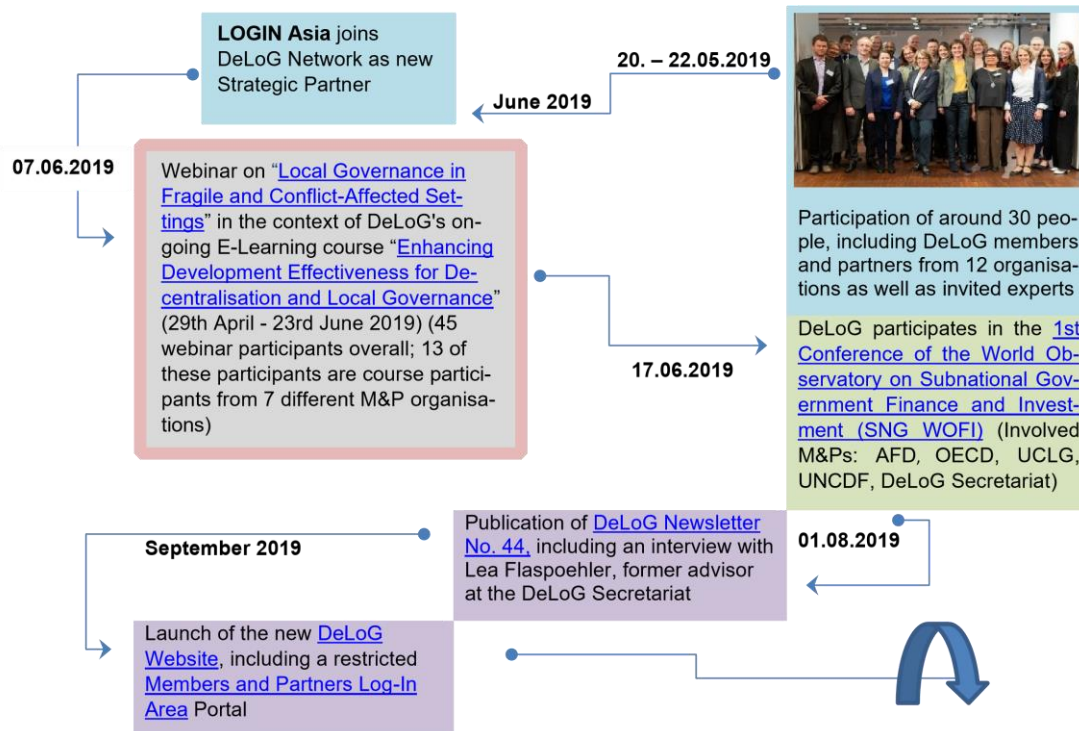
### ★ DeLoG Activities –

Workstream Activities	Localising the 2030 Agenda
	Local Finance and Fiscal Decentralisation
	Urban and Territorial Governance
	Decentralisation and Local Governance in Fragile Contexts
Network Management	
Learning Events	
Communication Activities	
Conference Participation	



**14<sup>th</sup> DeLoG Annual Meeting**

**May 2019 – June 2020**





DeLoG participates in [UCLG Congress - World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders](#) in Durban and takes part in a panel session on the SNG WOFI

Many of DeLoG's members and partners are involved in the organisation of interesting sessions, including UNDP, UN-Habitat and ICLD, among others

28.10.2019  
11. – 15.11.2019



Publication of [DeLoG Newsletter 45](#), including an interview with Micheline Gilbert (Global Affairs Canada)

DeLoG conducts a [webinar on Local Finance](#), focussing on the SNG WOFI (Inputs from OECD and UCLG; 26 participants from 15 countries)

January 2020

Review of the DeLoG E-Learning course on Decentralisation and Local Governance starts in close collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

16.12.2019

Publication of [DeLoG Newsletter 46](#), including an interview with Preeta Lall (LOGIN Asia)

27.01.2020

Publication of [DeLoG Newsletter 47](#), including an interview with Dr. Rene Peter Hohmann (Cities Alliance)

DeLoG participates in the 10th World Urban Forum and hosts a session titled "If you want to go far, go with many: Strengthening the local voice at the international level" with EU DEVCO and panelists from UCLG, CLGF, UCLGA, EU and PLATFORMA



08. – 13.02.2020

12.03.2020

Publication of [DeLoG Newsletter 48](#), including an interview with Paolo Ciccarelli (EU DEVCO)



06.05.2020

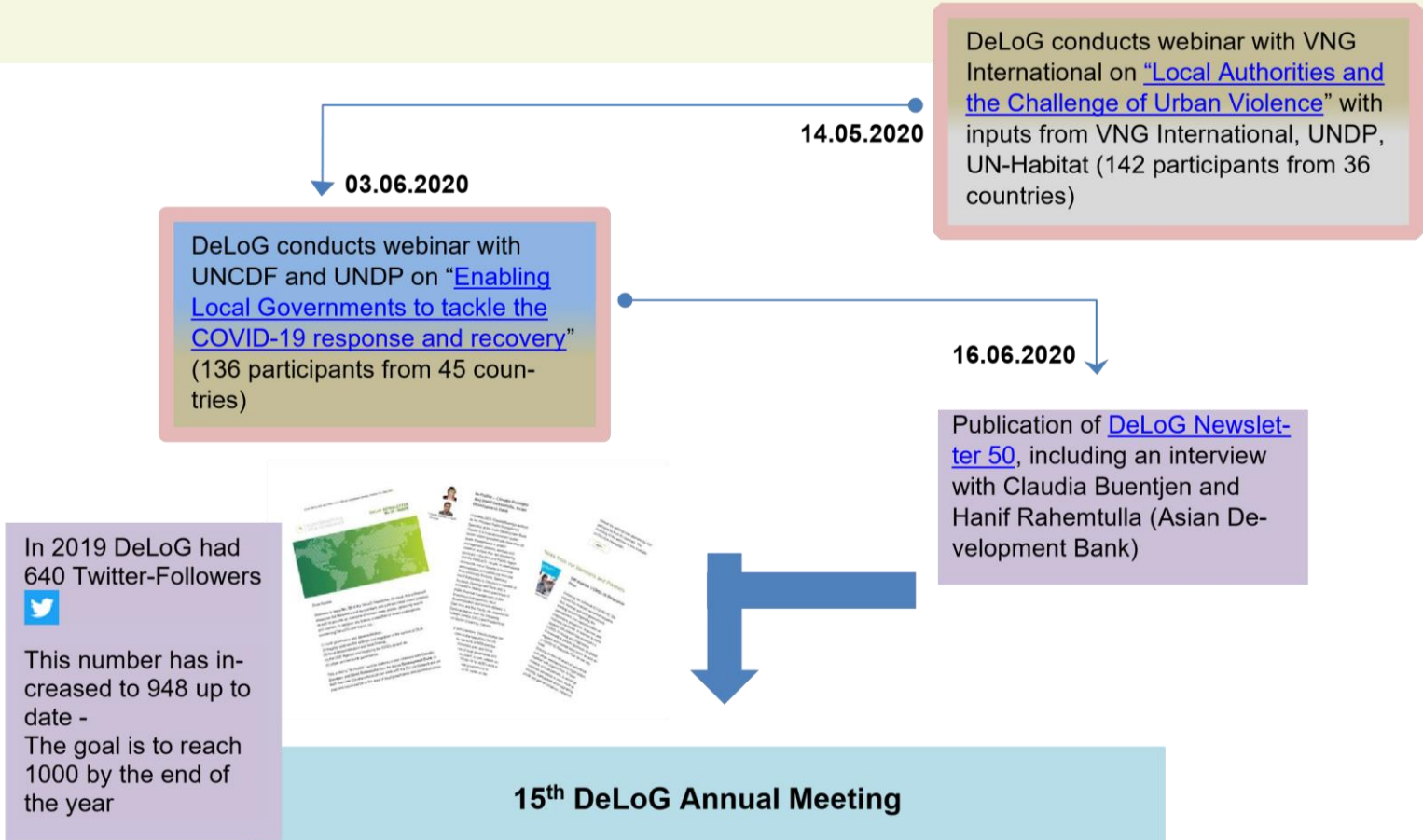
Publication of [DeLoG Newsletter 49](#), including a personal address by the DeLoG Secretariat on the role of local governments to overcome global challenges like the COVID-19 crisis

24.04.2020

DeLoG moderates online session with Partners for Review (P4R) on "[Linking Local SDG Reviews with the National Level](#)"







## 15<sup>th</sup> DeLoG Annual Meeting

<b>07.07.2020</b>	<b>Opening Session</b>
<b>08.07.2020</b>	<b>Workstream Session on Localising the 2030 Agenda</b>
<b>09.07.2020</b>	<b>Workstream Session on Local Finance and Fiscal Decentralisation</b>
<b>15.07.2020</b>	<b>Workstream Session on Urban and Territorial Governance</b>
<b>16.07.2020</b>	<b>Workstream Session on Decentralisation and Local Governance in Fragile Contexts</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Closing Session</b>



## Appendix 5: DeLoG Survey 2019/2020: Some Hand-Picked Tips and Suggestions

# Development Partners Network on **Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG)**



## **DeLoG Survey 2019/2020: Some Hand-Picked Tips and Suggestions**





## A: On the Relevance of DLG

- All respondents rate the relevance of decentralisation, local governance and territorial governance **as very relevant or relevant** for their organisation:
  - for regional departments
  - for operational programmes in partner countries
  - for technical divisions for learning, communication, policy and advocacy
  - for research



## B: On the Institutional Setup and Mandate

- Expectations are very much met
- Informality allows flexibility and easy adaptation to new trends and topics
- It's a convening platform for networking, providing formats for learning and exchange
- Secretariat: very competent staff, but multiple changes last year were a challenge for the network



## C.1: On the Promotion of Harmonisation, Learning, Exchange of Experiences and Agenda Setting

- Key objectives to be pursued, as long as influence (advocacy) is driven by exchange of experiences
- Greater emphasis on **bringing together the network and cities' networks** to develop joint initiatives
- More emphasis on **influencing agendas**
- On the other side, reservations to what extent DeLoG should influence agendas



- Suggested actions:
  - Strengthen the networking aspect within its member institutions as well as externally
  - Assess to which extent it has been successful in its efforts directed at **harmonisation**
  - Provide a periodic perspective on developments trends, current challenges, global events and their consequences
  - Establish a **'linkage' function to the DAC GOVNET** as a key player for standards and good practices



## C.2: On Governance and Management of DeLoG

- The strategic support group is good
- But: It needs strengthening and broader **anchoring among the members**
- The work plan/work streams depend heavily on members' inputs, but **capacities are limited**
- Significantly more efforts need to be invested in the **preparation of the annual work plan** and its follow-up
- A strong secretariat is key for networking staying relevant and attractive for members



## D.1: On Added Value compared to Other Networks

- Currently lacking:
  - Clear **strategic purpose and orientation** – the membership profile should be oriented towards a strategic goal
  - DeLoG may have to **‘reframe’ its thematic priority focus**
  - Reshape the narrative on what DeLoG stands for, as topics and trends tend to shift continuously





## D.1: On Added Value compared to Other Networks

- DeLoG as unique platform for **promoting information, exchanges and coordination of efforts**
- **Mixed membership** is an added value
- DeLoG closer to the field and relevant constituencies
- Can **act as interlocutor** between the mixed membership
- Other networks often centred around a particular subtopic of local governance
- Or, they consist of mainly local governments and their associations



## D.2: On Partners / Members – and Other Networks

- The network must **clarify the strategic directions** and **identify the value** added (or the niche that DeLoG has)
  - Is it the transfer of good practices and experiences to policy making?
  - Is it **providing the linkages** between different constituencies?
  - Is it the focus on topics and issues that are not dealt with otherwise?
- Based on this, DeLoG could reshape and add members/partners



## D.2: On Partners / Members – and Other Networks

- DeLoG needs to be very clear on what its **members' expectations** are and what it hopes to achieve
- Policy-oriented research institutions and think-tanks would be a valuable addition
- Relations with e.g. **private sector, CSO** should be sought when dealing with specific issues
- Be careful not to make this network too big and lose focus and relevance
- Informally, dialogue with other networks exist anyway



## E: On Thematic Priorities (I)

- DLG as an actor of **local and regional development**;
- **DLG in fragile contexts** (here we need to become a little bit more specific and focus on i.e. prevention of extremism);
- Decreasing support for decentralized international cooperation
- Contexts where implementation experiences influence the **donor agenda**
- **Multilevel governance mechanisms** to support the localisation of the SDGs
- More emphasis on **fiscal decentralisation**; LRG's access to capital markets;
- Broader approach towards **urbanisation**



## E: On Thematic Priorities (I)

- **Digitalization and governance**; DLG and digital transformation;
- **Countering climate change and sustainable energy at local level**-policies and financing; local governments and climate governance;
- Youth/child perspectives
- Integration
- **Resilience/crisis management** related to crises like the COVID-19 pandemic; response functional decentralization; fiscal incentives; open government;
- Local governments and role in **migration issues** (including reverse migration); **Trust/legitimacy**



## F: On one More Thing

### **One little thing that may be interesting:**

- The heroic failures:
- When sharing experiences, give specific attention to things that did not work well
- Oftentimes, members are inclined to share good practices and success stories
- But: There are many things that we can **learn from failures**

**G: Thank you for listening!**