Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG)

14th Annual Meeting, 20 – 22 May 2019

Bern, Switzerland

**Hosted by the
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**

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Abbreviations

BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DeLoG	Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance
DLG	Decentralisation and Local Governance
Enabel	Belgian Development Agency
FfD	Financing for Development
FMDV	Global Fund for Cities Development
GIZ	German Development Cooperation
HLPF	High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development
IDS	Institute for Development Studies
LG	Local Government
LGA	Local Government Association
LGBTQIA	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PACA	Participatory Approval of Competitive Advantage
PPP	Public Private Partnership
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSG	Strategic Support Group of the DeLoG Network
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VNG International	International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Dutch Municipalities
VNR	Voluntary National Review

Introduction

On May 20 – 22 2019, the 14th DeLoG Annual Meeting took place in Bern, Switzerland, hosted by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). DeLoG members and partners from 14 organisations, as well as speaker experts from other associated organisations, attended the event.

Thematic sessions
As in the past years, the purpose of the Annual Meeting was to review developments and novelties in the thematic areas of interest of the network members. Inputs from specific experts and organisations laid the ground and widened the scope for discussions. This helped to define common interests and synergies of members and partners for the coming year. The content of the thematic sessions is included in Part 1 of this report.

This year's meeting focused on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 'Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels'. The following thematic sessions covered the topics of the other three DeLoG work streams: Urban and Territorial Governance / Local Economic Development, Fiscal Decentralisation / Local Finance, Localising the 2030 Agenda and Decentralisation and Local Governance in Fragile Contexts.

The sessions maximised participation and designed elements for the DeLoG annual work plan in an integrated way. Each session started with a thematic input, followed by working group discussions on related issues and innovative solutions/examples that had arisen since the last meeting. This led to the presentation of action ideas DeLoG members could pursue together. On the third day of the meeting participants worked in detail to refine these working group outcomes into tentative plans that will feed into the DeLoG 2019-2020 work plan.

In addition, there was an opportunity for members and partners to disseminate information about their organisations' key publications, projects, or events that had direct relevance to the DeLoG Network in the 'News from Members and Partners' session, as well as informally through networking during breaks and social events.

DeLoG business
Part 2 of this report covers the DeLoG business sessions. The DeLoG Secretariat presented an account of what the network had achieved in 2018-2019 in terms of working group outputs and learning events.
Besides the thematic sessions with their animated discussions, DeLoG members had the opportunity to reflect on DeLoG's finance and governance. With DeLoG's core funding running out, the issue of funding after September 2020 was at the centre of discussion.

Opening remarks

Welcoming the participants of the Annual Meeting in her opening remarks, **Georgette Bruchez**, Head of the thematic unit Governance at SDC, stressed that DeLoG has particular importance for SDC due to the strong link to development practitioners. SDG 16 has been chosen as the overarching thematic frame for this year's annual meeting. It entails many of the issues DeLoG is dealing with. Certainly, the nexus between good governance and sustaining peace, promoting peaceful societies. Anchoring SDGs on all levels is a prerequisite to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In our partner countries we are facing the challenge of highly centralised states and the need for devolving power to the local level. In any case, it is a process of constant negotiation, renegotiation and adjustments to find the right balance of power sharing, and it is certainly a highly contested political issue.

Over many years, SDC has maintained a strong focus on supporting decentralisation reforms, with the ambition of promoting broad based reform dialogues and protecting the interests of subnational governments. It contributes to strengthen effective and well-resourced subnational governments and to foster democratic local governance processes. In order to better address systemic barriers and increase our effectiveness we tried over the past years to enhance our knowledge base on how to engage with a broader range of multiple stakeholders and how to foster interfaces and collaborative action among committed country stakeholders. Besides the already longstanding support to civil society, this includes for example engaging with parliaments, media, informal local governance institutions or independent oversight bodies. Due to SDCs increased commitment to work in fragile and conflict-affected contexts we also tried to better understand the potentials and effects of our DLG work on sustaining peace. This was another workstream within SDCs thematic governance unit over the past 2 years. And we are curious to learn from others. Some of the challenges we are currently dealing with is to find effective measures in addressing corruption, possible response strategies to the shrinking space for civil society and increasing tendencies of authoritarian rule. Finally, we need to deepen further our understanding how to deal with politics and power issues.

Bernhard Harlander, interim DeLoG Coordinator, welcomed the participants stressing the importance of regularly meeting in person to exchange information about the latest developments. He also expressed his hope for the Annual Meeting 2019 to bring inspiring, interesting and challenging sessions and encounters, helping to shape the future of DeLoG. The cooperation and support of the SDC as this year's host was highly appreciated. The mission of DeLoG, namely the promotion of decentralisation and local governance, could not be fulfilled without adequate funding, which is currently provided by the SDC, represented at the meeting by Ms. Corinne Huser, and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), represented at the meeting by Ms. Kerstin Remke. Ms. Sybille Stamm, the facilitator of the meeting, whose work was highly appreciated by the DeLoG Secretariat, played an important role in planning and organising the annual meeting.

Part 1: Thematic sessions

Keynote speech

Dr. George Mukundi Wachira, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Maendeleo Group, an Advisory Firm on Political and Business Risk Analysis, gave a keynote speech and provided insights on *African countries and the implementation of SDG 16*.

The keynote speech discussed the interrelationship between sustainable development, democratic governance and peace and security. Dr. Wachira outlined the trends that change the nature of processes happening at the local level. Firstly, cities are becoming the spaces where governance matters the most. More people are leaving the farming sector and move to cities. Their identity becomes even more important, so does their potential to act. This gradually leads to people-driven development, when people start taking agency and getting experienced in that. In designing actions to boost positive outcomes on the local level, we have to imagine spaces where we as outsiders have no experience. This makes it reasonable to ask people having experiences locally and listening more attentively to their perspectives.

Furthermore, Dr. Wachira highlighted accountable institutions and transparency as key elements of SDG 16. In this regard, the issue of human rights, access to justice, as well as presence of equitable justice come into play. There arises a need for new paradigms on demanding justice and accountability. How we reflect on new imagined paradigms and challenges is the central question. Thinking of citizen action, organised mobilisation is still useful as an instrument, but is no longer the only means to ask for accountability. Another required ability given the changing circumstances is to see invented spaces. In Africa, for example, people tend to organise themselves differently.

Dr. Wachira highlighted women and young people as groups requiring increased attention with new perspectives. 'The biggest change we will ever mark is investing in women', he believes. It starts with few small changes happening. The few changes seen from women organising on local level matter a lot. When women are empowered, there are positive changes for dignity, accountability and governance. As for young people, the international development community shall take the extent of new methods of involvement and participation into consideration. We see positive outcomes of digital transformation, people expressing themselves and occupying spaces. Yet, there is a tendency to forget about or disregard the fact that the majority of people who vote might be in rural areas and perhaps have no access to digital tools. This, in turn, creates participatory issues, or, at the very least, invites us to rethink the use of new tools to avoid unwanted incidents of leaving certain groups behind. Digital technology and innovation in governance spaces do not come around without important considerations about privacy and security of digital spaces. How local spaces can be used for that, even if digital tools are not involved, is the core question to ask before implementing novelties. The innovation has to correspond with local capacities.

Another inconvenient reality is that we have failed to understand the link between national and local government plans. We assume we can interact with national governments, but we should instead learn to approach local actors. Possible action that can lead to better results is to connect with initiatives that have no link to national planning. Plans are political, not technical. The challenge lies in cultivating political will to create initiatives. If we approach the question what the paradigm shift is that needs to take place in the relationship between national and local plans from international development cooperation perspective, the first step should be getting rid of the idea that societies are homogenous. In Ghana, for example, the level of government centralisation is strong. There is

contested power, contested resources and ability to rule over the people. Given these conditions, we then reflect on what possibilities to engage with social accountability exist on the local level. The following step would be to identify common interests and compromise. Compromises on local level might be easier, because interests are shared more.

Localising the SDGs

Annika Schoenfeld, GIZ
Localising the SDGs: Why decentralisation and local governance are key

In the presentation Ms. Schoenfeld elaborated on what localising the SDGs is generally about, how Decentralisation and Local Governance (DLG) matter for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to what extent it might be a push for local self-governance. What can the 2030 Agenda do for local governments and what can local governments do for the 2030 Agenda?

The localisation of the SDGs raises awareness on the status quo of decentralisation and related challenges. It has the potential to:

- trigger a discussion about the functionality of the existing multi-level governance system
- review the distribution of responsibilities, human and financial resources between government levels
- increase the participation of Local Governments in national policy discussions and decision-making
- improve the identification of local needs, capacities and resources.

For several reasons, a functional multi-level governance system increases the likelihood of successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Firstly, accountability of all governance levels might increase through multiplication of change agents. Secondly, the roles of national and sub-national governments might get redistributed, and positive outcomes might result from interaction. The key example of positive consequences could be devolved tasks and responsibilities, serving in turn as a starting point for localising the SDGs. However, capacities as well as human and financial resources of sub-national governments can differ, and depending on the scope, can have the potential to serve as enabling or limiting factor.

Participants were invited to share their experiences and to reflect on the time pressure (>2030) vs. the 'decentralisation takes time' paradigm and on possible risks of (re)centralisation for quick wins.

You can find the presentation [here](#).

Preeta Lall, LOGIN Asia
Localising the SDGs in Asia: Reporting back from the regional DeLoG/UCLG/LOGIN workshop in Cambodia

LOGIN Asia is a member-driven, south-south learning community and change coalition aiming to advance decentralisation and local governance reforms in the Asia region. LOGIN linked its overall mandate to SDGs 17 and 16. The network serves as a proof-of-concept or exemplification of SDG 17, by way of providing a platform that readily facilitates cross-country partnerships among stakeholders, capacity building of key local functionaries for implementation and monitoring, innovative financing modalities and enabling policy coherence. SDG 16 lies at the core of the work of LOGIN with its focus on strengthening citizen-centred local governance, as well as governance is

key to achieving development outcomes.

LOGIN's approach locates the citizen at the heart of governance initiatives, with focus on local governments as frontline agents of change interfacing with citizens for local development and resilience. Local capacities and strengthening multi-level governance through its work on Functional Assignment and on Fiscal Decentralisation are defined as priorities. Another focus is on participatory and inclusive planning practices as well as on accountability strategies and systems. Crosscutting, emphasis is put on political empowerment of women, being discussed, adapted and mainstreamed in different country contexts. The LOGIN mandate and scope of interest exemplifies the principle of Leave No One Behind (LNOB), with focus on inclusion and equitable access for all. The LOGIN Network spurs high convergence of institutional mandates around the SDG 5 as well, working towards 'gender equality and empowerment of women'.

LOGIN serves to enhance south-south cooperation, supporting multi-level capacity building efforts, contributes to policy and institutional coherence (local, national, transnational) and facilitates multi-stakeholder partnerships. The network works on public financial management approaches to support local development priorities, as well as enables knowledge partnerships and hubs supporting improved, citizen-centred local governance. Through the Horizontal Learning Programme, it creates a learning environment for local governments. The programme includes a comprehensive analysis of local governance issues to guide state action on decentralisation and improving local governance, modules on local governance for academic courses and efforts towards an enabling policy environment for context-relevant decentralisation frameworks.

Shortcomings in relation to localising noted by LOGIN members include the limited focus of their member mandates and the rather sporadic contribution to national efforts for data harvesting, harmonisation, analysis and evidence building; insufficient focus on towns, peri-urban and rural areas. The problems cited repeatedly by local government associations and civil society organisations point towards systemic weaknesses: weak governance frameworks, parallel governance structures and systems, poor enforcement, weak intergovernmental mechanisms, inadequate devolution, poorly informed and endowed subnational and local governments.

A workshop on 'Enhancing the Capacity of Local Governments in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals', jointly organised by the DeLoG Secretariat, ADB, UCLG, SDC, LOGIN and others, took place in April 2019 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. It confirmed uneven commitment, preparedness and reporting of the national governments across countries. Another insight concerned systemic issues that constrain decentralisation efforts such as lack of comprehensive, systematic and regular functional reassignment and the according access to financial resources. It was acknowledged that engagement across national and subnational or provincial governments does not yet have downstream impact on the local governments. The role of the local government or associations was noticed as peripheral to reporting and VNR preparation. Most experience building of 'localising' is evident in the cities, while there is little evidence from Asia on localising-processes at the provincial level. Most of the representatives cited lack of financial resources and human capacity as key challenge.

The following immediate actions for LOGIN were proposed:
- Collate methods/evidence of Voluntary Local Reviews/Shadow reports
- Invest in member's efforts in prototyping localising
- Prioritise actions with local government associations that are emerging
- Map the results towards SDG attainment more rigorously.

You may find the presentation [here](). For more information about the workshop, please have a look at the [article]() on the DeLoG website as well as at the [report]().

Working group 1

The main outcome of this group was the issue of data collection and processing, citizen involvement in SDG tracking and a gradual approach to local priorities:

- An important first step would be to consolidate available local data on key priority indicators and integrate into the contribution of data. There might be a difference between data used for local policy design and planning and the data for SDG-reporting. Both data sets are important.
- Data collected on the local level has to be simplified to make it comprehensible. Don't forget to review what has already been done before aligning the efforts with the 2030 Agenda. Align reporting and language with local beneficiaries of potential transformations, not with the external consumers of this data.
- Link SDGs and national visions by inclusion of civil society into the process. Evidence showcasing the contribution of civil society has to be sought for, demystifying the 2030 Agenda. Citizens should find themselves at the centre of the SDGs, rather than the agenda being imposed on them. Some of the proposed options are building on past investment in citizen engagement, improving service delivery, ensuring accountability and transparency.
- Make gradual approach a priority, focusing on one SDG at a time. The national plan should be checked for its reflection of local realities. Local priorities do not necessarily correspond with national targets and approaches. The situation can be aggravated when sectoral offices are not used to talk with local governments. Programme proposals for SDG implementation need to be linked with local development planning from the very start. Resources and finances for implementing plans and tackling prioritised issues remain crucial factors.

Working group 2

The main focus of the group was on the **institutionalisation of social accountability and the role of governance systems**:

- The suggestion was made that one could try to work with outcomes of social accountability programmes through innovation grants.
- Considering the role of government systems and an example of drugs being distributed through the government, it is valid to assume that local institutions can and, in certain cases, should take on more responsibilities on social accountability.
- Integrated development planning in South Africa was brought up as a positive example.
- Finding a reasonable middle level to work towards both directions of governance systems (top-down and bottom-up), thereby spurring horizontal exchange, is viewed as a crucial step.
- Political will has to be regarded with due importance. There are situations when it is necessary to reach out to officials directly to ensure smooth functioning.
- Another point appearing in the discussion was what development practitioners can do to revive decentralisation programmes with positive interventions.
- One of the questions to reflect on was whether decentralisation really has to take that much time or whether it is about political process before one can recognise something as a decentralisation process. The working group suggested that, technically, it shouldn't take much time, but political dynamics affect the progress in every country.

Working group 3

The main focus of the group was around the following questions: **How are your organisations supporting the localisation of SDGs? What are the opportunities and bottlenecks?**

Bottlenecks/challenges:

- Weak information
- Very few programmes on SDG localisation, specifically more effort is needed on general achievement of SDGs
- Difficulty of reaching remote regions and people
- Time and resources required to understand local contexts and to contextualise projects
- Diverse actors and approaches make measurement a challenge
- Politically sensitive issues (devolution, federalism etc.)
- Measuring impacts
- Political development out of our control
- Need for comprehensive approaches
- Empowerment of local governments in all ways: mandate and linkage, capacity, finance, trust/accountability
- Social and cultural barriers

Opportunities:

- Local-level planning, including harmonisation of plans at different levels (municipal-national)
- Awareness raising
- Setting up monitoring systems of citizen involvement
- Territorial information system
- Multilevel dialogue processes of involvement of Local Government Associations (LGAs)
- Initiatives aligned with SDGs and LNOB: LGBTQIA initiative at local level, global action on disabilities, education for girls and women in conflict zones and fragile states
- Focus on multilevel governance contributes to SDGs, if local level is the primary level of engagement
- Strengthening interlinkages between different levels of governance
- UNCDF, UNDP, UN Habitat programme of localisation of SDGs
- Local 2030 initiative: advocacy, finance, data, local hubs
- International Municipal Investment Fund
- Private capital and domestic finance for SDG-positive projects

Working group 4

The main focus of the group was turning around the questions of: **Which SDGs are easier to collect data on? What is the added value for the local level?**

- Harmonisation of data collection among different actors is needed, along with the ability to learn from each other.
- Innovation in data collection should be promoted. Examples include participatory data collection and community mapping (such as an Indian portal ipaidabribe.com).
- In certain cases, it can be safer not to collect data because of high sensitivity of the data.
- Make a commitment to create capacity at the local level and to adapt to the local systems rather than following the existing donor systems and approaches. An example was given on relying on reports of local newspapers where donors wanted to improve roads but had no data on where it is more necessary. An alternative example was where data is available but has to be paid for.
- Understanding data collection systems, as well as capacities on national and local levels makes further programme implementation more efficient.
- Local ownership of the data, potential and limitations in this regard were discussed.
- Incentives approach (i.e. performance-based budgeting) can prove to be effective in certain cases.

Local finance and fiscal decentralisation

Joern Meyer, GIZ
Financing Urban Development

Mr. Meyer highlighted the importance of the role of cities in striving for a sustainable future. He shared the BMZ perspective on cities, which states that cities can shape their development independently though a diverse financing mix. The urban century calls for adequate municipal financing. Cities have enormous investment needs and rising running costs. More financial resources are needed to meet challenges of urbanisation and implement the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Public budgets are not sufficient, private funds have to be mobilised. Joern Meyer put the urban needs in numbers: Approximately USD 50 trillion will have to be invested in new urban infrastructure by 2030. Operation and maintenance can triple the total need for financing. According to this, the annual demand in cities is USD 4.2 trillion. However, USD 1 trillion p.a. is missing.

Municipal financing is the basis for cities to become development actors. They have to look for the mobilisation of external financiers such as banks, infrastructure funds, small private or institutional investors (insurance companies, pension schemes, foundations). At the same time, national shortcomings include a lack of autonomy and mandates for cities and insufficient funds. Local gaps comprise a lack of urban capacities and own revenues. Capacity to develop bankable projects is also missing. On the finance markets, there is a lack of urban access and lack of products.

Further development cannot take place without adequate financial resources. For that to happen, there is a need to adjust framework conditions, strengthen capacities and mobilise all possible resources.

Fields of action:
- Provide and use public funds, starting with own resources. National decentralisation and reform processes must include all short- and long-term goals. Strengthening of local actors in all areas of revenues and financial management should be made a priority.
- Raising the attractiveness of projects and getting urban investment projects ready for financing, encompassing project planning and bankable preparation, as well as linking with appropriate external sources.
- Targeted use of financial cooperation, international financial institutions and multilateral development banks should be brought in as an instrument.
- Market Development – Mobilising Private Capital for Cities: access to development funds can help to finance cities and provide them with financial services.

You can find the presentation [here](#).

Luc Aldon, UCLG
UCLG-OECD World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment / First Results

Prior to the official launch of the first report of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment (SNG WOFI), Luc Aldon presented an overview of the progress the database has made:

120 country fiches provide the following information:
- Brief description of the multi-level governance system
- Regulatory framework of local and regional governments
- Local government structure: division of powers; electoral process
- Ongoing administrative and territorial reforms

- Assignment of responsibilities (under 8 functions) + *de facto* power sharing
- Both qualitative information and quantitative data on:
  - Local and regional government expenditure by category and by economic function
  - Local and regional government investment
  - Local and regional government revenue
  - Local and regional government debt

Some challenges still persist:
- Risk of discontinuity of data access or data information
- There are limited qualitative information for several countries and lack of quantitative data in 10+ mostly in Africa and Low Income Countries.
- Must continue efforts to involve national associations of local governments and local partners in gathering data.

Opportunities for contribution in the future include:
- Create regional networks of partners and peer-reviewers
- Gradually update territorial information and multi-level governance
- Enhance ownership on national debates about subnational public finance
- Connect with national institutions (Ministry of Finance or National Accounts etc.) and support regular collection of financial data
- Support efforts for data reliability and harmonisation
- Comment on the *de facto* spending assignment and revenue allocation
- Assess existing financing mechanisms and conditions to mobilise external resources from national government or markets
- Financial support to keep the initiative running

The **UCLG priorities** have been presented as well, containing the following aspects:

- Continue the works of the **World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment (SNG WOFI)**.
- **Malaga Coalition**: Since 2017, UNCDF and UCLG with the support of the Global Fund for City Development (FMDV) promote global policy on a national-subnational debt strategy, pooled financing, and asset allocation strategies for institutional investors.
- **International Municipal Investment Fund**: Since 2018, this joint initiative (UNCDF-UCLG with the support of FMDV), has been set-up with the objective of providing financial and technical assistance to cities. A first batch of 10 pilot cities will be announced at the UCLG Congress. These will receive support for revenue generating projects/programmes and provide additional assistance to build up creditworthiness.
- **Local and Regional Government reports to the HLPF and follow-up of the Ecosoc FfD**: Since 2017, UCLG on behalf of the Global Taskforce has coordinated a complementary assessment of National Voluntary Reviews and the Financing for Development from the perspective of local and regional governments. The reports also assess the level of involvement of LRGs in the localisation of the SDGs, particularly the evolution of the institutional framework, alignment of local and national plans and budgets with the SDGs and the available means of implementation.
- **GOLD V: Localising the Global Agendas**: Fifth edition of the UCLG triennial report on local democracy and decentralisation, to be launched at the UCLG World Congress in November 2019. It presents the main results of LRGs involvement as decision takers to achieve the necessary transformations of the SDG era. GOLD V also makes policy recommendations, per region and globally, to gear up for the implementation decade.

It was suggested to consider the following questions to reflect on:
- How is the topic of fiscal decentralisation and local revenue generation addressed within your organisation?

- What kind of actors, partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms are relevant from the point of view of your organisation?
- Is your organisation integrating data of the *World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment* in some form in programming?

You can find the presentation [here](#).

Local economic development

Andrea Iff, SDC, led the session on Local Economic Development (LED) by presenting *study findings from Serbia on decisive aspects and entry points for LED.*

Ms. Iff started highlighting the importance of all three concepts – Local, Economic and Development. Gains and outcomes of invested efforts must stay in the region. Efforts have little value if farmers' productivity is enhanced, but food for the population is later not sufficient because the product is saved for exports. A key principle to stick to is adding value back to the territory.

In this framework, the following **definition of LED** was offered for consideration:
- Takes place in a territory
- Participatory/inclusive process
- Encompasses pursuit of economic competitiveness
- Undertaken for purpose of economic well-being

The SDC Serbia office came up with the following subsequent **preconditions for LED**:
- Capacity to manage
- Political will, functioning decentralisation
- National LED policy
- Level of trust and collaboration
- Participation of public and private actors

Andrea Iff noted that the initial Political Economy Analysis was overall very good in pointing out existing local problems. The next step was to think of solutions, taking multiple actors into consideration.

One observation on the ground was that the local and the national structures tend to pass the buck between each other. The programme approach aimed at integrated local strategic planning. Private actors in Serbia are not interested to work with public actors at all, fearing corruption. Everything is accompanied by the absence of transparency, there is just political 'who gets what' dynamics. A notorious characteristic in Serbia is the institutional red-tape with gaps and overlaps. There is no clear-functioning policy and no clarity on fund allocations, which affects the whole working environment. There is a national LED policy, but municipalities are thought to be responsible for LED, although their capacities are inadequate. Consequently, a vague LED policy translates into weak LED programmes. There is a strong need for more efficient inter-ministerial and inter-municipal cooperation and so-called 'bridge-builders'.

Some of the lessons learned of SDC in Serbia were not to concentrate activities in peri-urban centres, but rather look more into rural areas and pay more attention to those 'falling outside', especially women and youth.

The remaining question for further reflection was how to go about trust-building processes in this context. Finally, it was concluded that a professionalisation of service and public sector reform

might need to take place in one way or another. Other aspects to pay special attention to are localised integrated strategic planning, data capacity and monitoring.

You can find the Political Economy Analysis here.

Learnings from working groups

After the three presentations in the plenary, participants of the Annual Meeting were invited to run discussions in two parallel working groups, focusing on LED and local finance.

Working group LED

- Example of innovative alternative models: 'economie sociale et solidaire'
- Hypothesis made by the working group: LED is more sustainable in a long term. Question raised: to what extent does LED affect local or regional demands?
- Dialogue needs to be facilitated at the local level. Question for reflection: what is the role of donors/the DeLoG Secretariat and why do we think we have a role to play in LED?
- Competencies and strengths of donors and recipients should be evaluated: Participatory Approval of Competitive Advantage (PACA) was suggested as a method to find out where one's competitive advantages are.
- How can different donor projects in a country context be brought together? Partner networks should not be viewed as consumers, but rather as providers. Local governments should perceive it correctly.
- Focus on 'technical capacities' has to be combined with conceptualisation of LED reaching beyond 'revenue generation'.
- Evidence should be thought of: what should be done at the local level, on what territory, what is the starting point.
- Examples to consider for LED strategies could be drawn from practices of UNCDF. There is also positive evidence from UCLG on circular economy, SDG 8 involving tourism and 'economie sociale et solidaire' positively affecting youth and women.
- For the DeLoG work plan on LED, it was suggested to link it to sector governance.
- Partners and donors should be connecting with the right actors and change makers. 'Silo' functioning of multiple actors has to be taken into account and trust-building processes and dialogues need to be maintained to provide favourable environment for LED. Processes where local population identify their needs requires facilitation.
- Another question for reflection: what is the role of local governments in the global economy?

Working group Local Finance

- Observing massive investment needs relies on data on actual spending and on revenue sources. Inquire how to address financial dependency: through fiscal transfers, long-term credits, bonds or loans.
- At a diagnostic level, participants suggested that legal frameworks must evolve, and expenditure assignments, both current and capital, need to be evaluated.
- There is a need not to forget intermediary cities and 'rural municipalities' in strategic planning. Some of them lack capacity to match standards to raise capital. Measure would be building up their capacity to be credit-worthy. Meanwhile, path dependency should be avoided. For some international donors, local financial needs could appear too low to be considered for funding projects. Therefore, one needs to attract and work with different actors at the local level.
- The question of importance of the institutional set-up was brought up. Participants of the working group also highlighted the matter of who signs the funding/loan contract. VNG International 'City Deal' examples could be consulted for inspiration.
- UNCDF approach regards setting up transfer systems is a key factor to establish credit rating,

work with town/city development funds and to organise PPPs. This approach involved the municipal level, the private sector and UNCDF concessional loan. Special attention is paid to rural capacities and specific economic rationale.

- Match financial and fiscal data with well-being and analyse service delivery info.
- Enhance economic rationale for rural areas, e.g. market facilities, roads
- Sustainability: involve national development institutions to integrate this effort through reporting and/or call for action.
- Need for clarity on taxes: Which taxes, who defines the types and rates. Tax collection process, who is targeted as a taxpayer and what are the outcomes. Besides taxes, there must be clarity on fees regarding which services and needs they cover.
- Potential of cities buying-in and asking for support: raising own revenue and being less dependent on national transfers.
- Multi-stakeholder dialogues are needed between the municipal government and the private sector, and the question of domestic revenue and who is to be included in which process and distribution has to be clarified. Additionally, there should be an understanding of how it feeds back 'revenue generation', specifying the type of revenue and infrastructure.
- The problem is not lack of money, but rather a lack of bankable projects. 'Bankable' implies a governance issue. Money is an issue of risk appetite, and a dramatic time issue can make the situation more complicated.
- LOGIN members should advocate to link the local finance agenda with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Decentralisation and Local Governance in Fragile Contexts

Daan Stelder, VNG International
VNG 'IDEAL' programme: Towards peaceful and inclusive societies – addressing fragility at the local level

VNG International has specific expertise in strengthening local government in developing and transitional countries, strengthening local governments, associations of municipalities and local training institutes.

Each of VNG's individual country programmes is focussed around the same three outcomes:

- **Effective services**. Local governments offer many services to their citizens. It is important that these services address the most pressing challenges in a community and tackle the problems they are designed to solve.
- **Inclusive decisions**. The policies of local governments have a direct impact on the daily lives of citizens. Therefore, it is important that all citizens can influence the local decision-making process, as well as be consulted and informed about these decisions. This also extends to local business, civil society organisations and other local institutions in which citizens are represented.
- **Enabling environment**. When challenges are too big to be addressed at the local level, local governments need to work together. Through their associations or other mechanisms, they can overcome these challenges, participate in all levels of governance, and defend interests of local communities.

At this session of the Annual Meeting, VNG presented four examples from countries where the programmes focused on a topic affecting local stability and in which citizens' voices were not sufficiently heard.

Working groups

Participants were divided into four groups, given cases to work on and asked to come up with three tools they would want to use to tackle local issues, specifying their approach. An additional task was to name benefits and risks of the approach. The cases included Kauswagan (Philippines), Wau (South Sudan), Palmira (Colombia) and Musanze (Rwanda). These cases are drawn from VNG International projects as well as the global UCLG Peace Prize for local governments, of which VNG International hosts the secretariat. The cases and outcomes from the working groups are described below:

Kauswagan, Philippines

Background: Kauswagan is facing a historical dispute between the Moro population and the Christian and Spanish speaking Filipinos. The Moro communities claimed a historical right to lands that they had inhabited for centuries, while the absence of a land entitlement system indiscriminately allowed for the purchase of land and settlement. This came to a boiling point in the early 1970s when the Moro Liberation Front (MNLF) was founded and started a violent campaign for independence. The MNLF leadership laid down its guns when the government established the autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao in 1987. However, a group of expelled combatants, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), was not yet satisfied and continued the fight for independence. One of the areas where the MILF was active, was the Lanao del Norte province, which lies just north of the territory that is part of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Here lies Kauswagan, a coastal rural municipality of around 25 000 citizens. Since Christian settlers moved to the area, the municipality became increasingly divided and conflict was latent. When the MILF started to extend its activities into the urbanised areas of Kauswagan, this caused an escalation of violence and large-scale displacement of its citizens. In 2001, President Joseph Estrada declared an all-out war against the MILF. Intense fighting and the deepening of divisions along religious lines followed, with significant impact on Kauswagan, and the whole Lanao del Norte province. At the same time, poverty levels rose to an all-time high, reaching nearly 80% in 2009.

Working group approach

Tool 1: Involve religious institutions in promotion of peace
- Description: interface forum and developing plan of action for mediation
- Benefit: constructive and peaceful dialogue
- Risk: not all get engaged

Tool 2: Facilitate dialogue between groups
- Description: identify common interests and possible solutions related to land issue
- Benefit: trust and cohesion
- Risk: not finding an agreement on the main issues

Tool 3: Strengthen service provision through local governments
- Description: adequate and equal services
- Benefit: better livelihoods
- Risk: unequal services

You find the real-life undertaken approach here.

Wau, South Sudan

Background: Besides the devastation of the most recent civil war, cattle migration and cattle rustling are the biggest sources of conflict, discord, death and destruction between communities in South Sudan, not only impacting community relations but also the relations of the local governments from cattle sending and cattle receiving counties and states. The impact on very limited local government resources in the counties of this region is enormous, with high numbers of officials per county fully occupied with cattle migration related conflict, damages, injuries and deaths. Agriculturalist and

pastoralist communities increasingly see their livelihoods diminished and destroyed during the dry season cattle migration. Agriculturalists in Wau State contemplate to stop farming because in one day, after months of hard labour, all of their crops can be destroyed, leading their owners in villages back home to poverty, and often, setting off more retaliatory violence. Communities experience stress and health issues in anticipation of dry-season conflict, losses of livelihoods and hunger. Local Governments, the county commissioners included, have to deal on a daily basis with the conflict between the communities, oftentimes involving heavily armed protectors of cattle, cattle-owing army soldiers and vigilantes.

Working group approach

Tool 1: Provide new employment opportunities for youth
- Description: identify market opportunities and stakeholders; facilitate interaction between market actors; services and service development
- Benefit: creates alternative perspectives
- Risks: uncontrolled urbanisation; limited market capacity; renewed 'civil war'; lack of interest; unequal opportunities for women and men; fragmentation of communities

Tool 2: Facilitate informal meetings between rival communities in a safe setting
- Description: identify stakeholders and informal leaders; consult with both groups on approach; consult on facilitator, topics etc.
- Benefits: involvement, buy-in and ownership of stakeholders; learning of possible conflict resolution by community
- Risks: enhanced confrontation; wrong incentives; no voice for marginalised women

Tool 3: Establish a community justice court
- Description: identify existing systems and areas to adjust; promote legitimacy in the eyes of the users; strengthen capacity
- Benefits: trust-building; longer-term conflict resolution
- Risks: create a new bureaucratic institution; capture by elite and single party

You find the real-life undertaken approach here.

Palmira, Colombia
Background: Palmira is a fast-growing city at the heart of Colombia's sugar industry. After 2010, when the municipality's population passed 300 000, the situation in the city deteriorated. High poverty levels fed criminal activity and within a few years the city's marginalised had formed hubs of drug trafficking and addiction. In this context, violence and homicide rates went through the roof, as local gangs started to crowd the streets and fight each other over territory.
Palmira still features in many lists as one of the world's most dangerous cities. Semana, one of the country's most influential magazines, classified Palmira as the eighth most dangerous city in the world and the most dangerous in Colombia per number of inhabitants, above Bogota, Medellin, and Cali. Although gang violence affects the lives of many of the city's citizens, the primary group of victims has been children and adolescents, as they get drawn into violent lifestyles centred around drug trafficking, and their already fragile futures are put at risk.

Working group approach

Tool 1: Provide new employment opportunities for marginalised groups
- Description: skills development; access to finance; tax benefits to companies; actors: private sector, women, youth
- Benefits: source of income, economic alternative, inclusion in society
- Risks: lack of interest (lower income, status), migration/brain drain, insecurity (targeted by gangs)

Tool 2: Bring together different youth and civil society organisations who work on peace
- Description: ask workers; facilitate political dialogue; involve civil society organisations
- Benefits: build on existing resources, multi-stakeholder approach

Tool 3: Enhance presence of community
- Description: train the police on de-escalation; actors: police, civil society organisations, gangs

You find the real-life undertaken approach here.

Musanze, Rwanda
Background: Two and a half decades after the genocide that left over a million people dead and displaced many more, the small Central East African country of Rwanda seems remarkably peaceful. The country has experienced high and persistent economic growth, and Rwanda nowadays is among the safest countries in Africa. To the average observer, Rwanda seems an almost perfect example of successful post-conflict reconstruction. Indeed, the achievements of the government and its partners in achieving growth and reconstruction since 1994 are commendable. Like no other, the Government of Rwanda has been able to attract and maintain donor funds and employ these funds for growth. And indeed, the figures are astounding: Rwanda's economic growth in the past 20 years averaged 6%. Through high aid effectiveness and the near absence of high-level corruption, Rwanda remains an attractive country for development aid to be spent on. Through its Vision 2020 and National Transformation strategies, Rwanda aspires to become a middle-income country by 2020.
However, beyond the economic progress and the absence of violence lies a country that with a large number of deeply traumatised people, is subject to deep social cleavages and rife with suppressed emotions. One of the biggest challenges Rwanda faces is to defuse the tensions that still exist below the surface. Besides historical tensions in society, a rift has been growing between the globalised and modernised capital of Kigali and the rural districts. Facing a wave of rapid urbanisation, six secondary cities like Musanze have been identified as growth poles for the future.

Working group approach

Tool 1: Foster an inclusive civil society and empower marginalised groups
- Description: ensure protection of minorities; create educational narratives that promote inclusive society; establish rules for ethnical power-sharing
- Benefits: unity instead of disparity; prevention of violence
- Risks: provoke deeper tensions; narratives promote narrow worldview

Tool 2: Youth Empowerment
- Description: provide sufficient access to education; create possibilities for community participation for youth; strengthen individual development through art
- Benefits: ensure the development of educated, self-confident youngsters; diffuse tensions in future society
- Risks: lack of financial support due to image of lesser importance; lack of acceptance in society due to image of lesser importance

Tool 3: Create and maintain safe spaces for leisure activities
- Description: create a feeling of being together through competitions and games; host interregional sport events to bring people together (urban-rural, different backgrounds etc.)
- Benefits: address indirectly hidden traumas of society by strengthening the common identity and feeling of belonging together; create peaceful spaces
- Risks: high possibility of non-understanding and resentment by the local population; lack of acceptance in society due to image of lesser importance

You can find the real-life undertaken approach here.

Part 2: DeLoG business
Report on DeLoG activities 2018 – 2019

Agnes Luedicke, DeLoG Secretariat

Ms. Luedicke gave an overview about some of the main activities DeLoG has conducted from June 2018 to May 2019.

Thematic workstream Decentralisation and Local Governance in Fragile Contexts:

Joint Learning Event on Local Governance and Sustaining Peace
Participating DeLoG member organisations: UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNDP, EU, GIZ, SIDA, SDC, Global Affairs Canada.
The DeLoG Secretariat together with UNDP, UNICEF and SDC organised and conducted a course in March, which was hosted by Enabel in Brussels. 27 participants from 23 countries, representing 12 development cooperation organisations discussed the nexus between **local governance and sustaining peace** in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The course (mainly) focused on three thematic components:
- Overview of the **local governance and sustaining peace nexus**
- **Local governance for service delivery**
- **Local governance for social cohesion**
An additional short session put a focus on the **nexus between cities and peace in fragile contexts.**
The objectives for the Joint Learning Event were raising awareness of and re-affirming the significance of local governance for sustaining peace in fragile and conflict-affected settings, as well as facilitating knowledge- and practice-sharing in this thematic area.

Some of the main takeaways were the following:
1. The topic of Local Governance in fragile and conflict-affected settings is highly relevant for DeLoG member organisations and more coordinated approaches are needed.
2. Interventions in the area of governance have their limitations in fragile and conflict-affected settings and especially monitoring and showing impacts is rather challenging. Nevertheless, in order to transform conflicts, interventions in local governance are highly relevant.
3. Social cohesion is oftentimes not given enough attention in interventions in fragile and conflict-affected settings.
4. For a next course, the 2030 Agenda and its relevance and implementation for countries in and around conflict should be taken into account.

This four-day course provided room for knowledge and experience sharing from the donor's perspective and content-related informal networking between participants. Micheline Gilbert (Global Affairs Canada) who participated in the joint learning event expressed her appreciation of the course structure (a combination of peer-to-peer learning and classical methodology) that provided a good linkage of conceptual and practical, challenging to rethink the issues given the variety of introduced perspectives from colleagues. One of the core learnings for her was the importance to reactivate social cohesion by reaching out to marginalised groups. The concepts and documentation shared on this specific topic are of particular relevance to GAC's Peace and stabilisation operations. Madina Davletkildeeva who provided support during the event highlighted the following key takeaways from the learning event: variety of fragile environments and their impact on local governance; distinction between community empowerment and community participation in designing policies; institutionalisation of youth participation and the need to define which youth groups by age are brought into discussion; role of religion in social cohesion.

For more information, please have a look at the [*DeLoG website*](.).

Thematic workstream Localising the SDGs

DeLoG session at the Africities 8 Summit in Marrakesh, Morocco
Participating DeLoG member organisations: GIZ, UCLG, Global Affairs Canada.
In late November, the 8th edition of the Africities Summit took place. 8300 participants gathered in Marrakesh, Morocco, to discuss 'The Transition to Sustainable Cities and Territories, The Role of Local and Sub-National Governments of Africa'. Within the framework of Africities, the DeLoG Secretariat, together with UCLG, organised a session on the topic 'Leave No One Behind – by localising the 2030 Agenda'. This session gave room for an exchange on the experiences, opportunities and challenges when localising the 2030 Agenda. The main focus was to raise awareness for the principle Leave No One Behind (LNOB). The session was supported by SDC and GIZ, who invited speakers for the panel discussion.

Main outcomes:
The participants of this session agreed that the 2030 Agenda can only be implemented if the LNOB principle is at the forefront of all development efforts. Development plans, implementation strategies and policy frameworks need to reflect this priority. Inclusion should not be a tick-box agenda. Instead, the principle to leave no one behind has to be applied to all targets when localising the SDGs. It was also noted that quality and quantity of available data on the localisation of the 2030 Agenda need to be increased, especially with regards to LNOB. This will improve the local governments' ability to cater specifically for the needs of the ones left behind furthest. One key factor is capacity development efforts regarding the disaggregation of data and technical support regarding the completion of VNR. The message from the DeLoG session resonated strongly with the whole conference agenda and is prominently placed in the final declaration of the development partners: '(…) We commit ourselves to support such partnerships to fulfil our global commitment to a sustainable future guided by the principle of 'Leave No One Behind'.'
It was mentioned that DeLoG should make effective use of its members' and partners' expertise: The networks' experience should contribute to capacity development efforts to enable local actors to participate in VNR processes in their respective countries. As a participant, Micheline Gilbert (Global Affairs Canada) appreciated the variety of peoples' perspectives and backgrounds (various mayors, regional and local authorities) during the event. One of the key takeaways for her were talks on challenges, opportunities and the complexity faced by all key players when it is time to concretely leave no one behind to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and issues the lack thereof can pose.

For more information, please have a look at the [DeLoG website](.).

Joint Workshop 'Enhancing the Capacity of Local Governments in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals', Siem Reap, Cambodia
This regional course / workshop has been jointly organised by the DeLoG Secretariat, ADB, UCLG and LOGIN-Asia/SDC. Other co-organisers have been UCLG ASPAC, FCM and the National League of Local Councils of Cambodia.
Preeta Lall, LOGIN Asia has given detailed information on this workshop and its outcomes (see pp. 7-9).

Local Finance and Fiscal Decentralisation

World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment (SNG WOFI)
The DeLoG Secretariat supports financially as well as with data collection the joint initiative of the OECD and UCLG World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment (SNG WOFI). Support also comes from other DeLoG members and partners, such as AFD and UNCDF. Hopefully, more of the DeLoG members and partners will contribute in the future through the support for data collection.

Joint Learning Events / Learn4Dev
Participating DeLoG member organisations in DeLoG courses: UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNDP, EU, GIZ, SIDA, SDC, Global Affairs Canada, BMZ, VNG, LuxDev, ADB, Enabel, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

E-Learning / Webinars
Besides the Joint Learning Event on 'Local Governance and Sustaining Peace' in Brussels, DeLoG has offered two E-Learning courses on 'Enhancing Development Effectiveness for Decentralisation and Local Governance' in 2018 and one so far in 2019. Four webinars have been conducted, focusing on 'Localising the 2030 Agenda' and 'Local Governance in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings'.
The ADB offered to support financially either a new course or the existing course with modifications.

In addition to that, the active membership, including regular meetings, within the Learn4Dev network is ongoing and our new colleague Jelena Karamatijevic has taken over this role from Lea Flaspoehler. Next week, there will be the Learn4Dev Annual Meeting in Bonn, where Jelena will participate for the DeLoG Secretariat.

Communication
- DeLoG Updates: 7 in 2018, 1 in 2019 + additional information on the DeLoG Secretariat
- Newsletter: 1,628 subscribers, 5 Newsletters in 2018, 2 Newsletters in 2019 so far
- Twitter: 640 followers, + 211 since May 2018 (Twitter-account: @DeLoG_2030);
  Hashtag for the DeLoG Annual Meeting 2019: #DeLoG2019
- Website (www.delog.org):
  Last year, we were already discussing about modifying the DeLoG website; this is being done at the moment. *(Agnes Luedicke gave a first impression of the new design of the DeLoG website.)* Besides a modern design, the website will for example be adapted to the mobile view (mobile phones, tablets), there will be the possibility to search for publications by using categories and there will be a restricted area for DeLoG members and partners.

Please feel free to always share with us relevant publications, information on events and courses which we can include into our Newsletter, the website and Twitter.

You can find the presentation [here](#).

Future DeLoG

The 'Future DeLoG' session was about:
- Relevance of the network: based on the present fields of activities of the network and the secretariat, participants reflected on important and valuable aspects. Some key elements mentioned are, for example: the training offers, the practice exchange and lessons learned around concrete topics, policy orientation and update on relevant information (newsletters etc.).
- Existing thematic areas were scrutinised and a number of potential themes of interest listed.
- Finally, the discussion covered future cooperation highlighting modalities, formats as well as ideas around membership and governance of the network.
- A major issue is the future financing: the current phase is financed by BMZ and SDC and ends in September 2020. The core funding contribution of BMZ will not be continued, SDC might continue some funding in case other core funders can be identified. BMZ, SDC and the DeLoG Secretariat will reach out to member organisations to see if we can find financing for the phase

after September 2020.

With regard to all these aspects, the Strategic Support Group (SSG) would like to open up and invite you to contribute to the future of DeLoG with your ideas and suggestions.

Apart of your contributions to the debate and the solutions, we want to lay emphasis on two more points:

- **The Strategic Support Group has 2 vacant places[1].**
- **The venue for next year's 15th Annual Meeting has not yet been fixed**.

Implications for future programming: suggestions for workstreams

Participants of the Annual Meeting formed groups based on four workstreams and reflected on potential topics, activities and changes the DeLoG Network could engage in during the upcoming year. The outcome of this session is listed below.

LED
- Gather knowledge and share best practices and noteworthy failures
- Sharing of methods for facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues
- Break discussion down to sectors we need to invest into, share experience
- E-learning and/or in-country courses on LED (e.g. in Serbia)
- E-learning to bring together private-public communities' perspectives
- Collating experience, identifying needs, reconsidering the role of local government and donors
- Making explicit what role of DeLoG members in LED is, as well as their added value in the context of many players
- Webinars on subnational finance and LED
- Embed LED within workstream on local sector governance, strengthening relevance of LG

FINANCE
- Learn from urban finance, apply it in the rural context (balanced approach)
- Mapping of existing approaches to increase local finances, evaluating how they impact each other
- Deepen reflection, partner with actors from financial development
- Produce reflective/analytical content with link to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda
- Assessing the relationship of produced and applied data with that of IMF, WB, AfDB etc.
- Link local finance to LED and consider merging them into one workstream
- Learn from concrete examples, inspiring new methodologies; leverage others' inputs
- Mapping of existing approaches to increase local finances, assessing how they impact each other
- Finding info/data gaps and ways to fill them in
- Sharing knowledge on building fiscal revenue and capital mobilisation

LOCALISING THE SDGs
- New/redesigned e-learning course? Focus on localising the 2030 Agenda
- More ideas on other components, such as sector governance
- Invite 'champions' to side events
- Collect experiences from members' support to local governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda
- Local governance narratives: sector governance; talking with those not yet converted

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1 In the meantime, Micheline Gilbert (GAC) and Claudia Buentjen (ADB) have been welcomed as voluntary members of the SSG.

- Identify your added value in supporting quality data generation
- Networking between networks (DeLoG + LOGIN Asia, for example)
- Discuss LG beyond sector approach and more LG out of its silo (sector governance focus)
- More grassroot sharing, real field experience rather than high abstract debating

FRAGILITY: GENDER AND CONFLICT
- Inspiration webinar session: Daan Stelder takes the lead, DeLoG Secretariat acts as a facilitator, constant members and broader audience are welcome to join
- Select information and spread it through the website and newsletter, inviting others to submit feedback: Micheline Gilbert, Bernhard Harlander and DeLoG Secretariat collect ideas for the website and request feedback from members
- Possible thematic inclusion as part of the next e-learning course
- Share innovative practices from LGs around the world (and maybe mobilise speakers)

News from members/partners and observers

Marija de Wijn (UNICEF) is finalising a UNICEF Programme Guidance Note on Local Governance. She welcomes support in form of reading and commenting this draft.
The publication defines four action areas:
1. Supporting local actors/local governments
2. Local governments strengthening local planning and budgeting processes, developing strategies for resource mobilisation
3. Community empowerment and social accountability
4. Service delivery arrangements, especially for children and families.

Luc Aldon (UCLG)
- First International Conference of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment (SNG WOFI) on June 17, 2019 at the OECD Headquarters in Paris.
- UCLG Congress – World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders on November 11-15, 2019 in Durban, South Africa.
- Jointly with UNCDF set up the International Municipal Investment Fund (IMIF).

Tehmina Akhtar (UNCDF)
Ms. Akhtar mentioned the 'SDG It' programme focusing on localising the SDGs, supported by UNDP, UNCDF and UN-Habitat. Project document is being finalised. Interesting experiences from the programme in Uganda are presented (identifying data, gaps, issues coming up and then developing models which are SDG-respondent).

Corinne Huser / Melina Papageorgiou (SDC)
- Learning stream link between DLG and fragility: available synthesis paper on case analysis and several rounds of discussions, available analysis on global status, and currently in elaboration is a guidance paper for programmes. The guidance will be shared via the DeLoG Secretariat, and feedback is appreciated.
- Available working paper on gender-responsive and inclusive budgeting (will be also shared).
- Current workstream on shrinking space for civil society: Facing the challenge of increasingly contested space for civil society occurring across different countries, SDC mandated a desk study on international practice responding to the phenomena and it animated several discussions across the SDC and with other actors. The desk study provides an overview of the main characteristics and drivers of restricted or shrinking space for civil society, highlighting the systemic challenges to an enabling environment for civil society and provides an overview of existing response strategies and approaches based on the international literature produced on the topic. The discussions categorised donor responses according to whether they are making a strategic, operational, alliance- or evidence-building contribution to the pushback against

shrinking space. As next step positioning paper for SDC will be prepared.

Felix Knuepling (Forum of Federations):
Mr. Knuepling shortly introduced the Forum of Federations to the participants: it is a network of federal countries. While the Forum's core area of specialisation is federalism, its expertise is increasingly in demand across the range of multilevel systems, including in decentralised and devolved countries. No advocacy work, but responsive to local needs and requests; two primary areas of Forum activity:
Policy Programmes with a focus on:
- Governance and Service Delivery
- Environment
- Constitutional Issues and Diversity and Inclusive Governance

Development Assistance Programmes with the objective to supporting emerging federations / post/conflict countries.

Bjoern Moeller (ICLD):
- Policy brief: Toolbox for Local Governments to implement SDG 5 on Gender Equality. The policy brief summarises the findings from the investigation into SDG 5, and the efforts to turn this global goal into local policies and practice in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH). The toolbox is also available in Serbian and Bosnian. Please follow the link for further information.
- Local Democracy Academy will take place in Umeå, Sweden, on June 10, 2019. Participants will be 45-50 scholars from junior to senior level plus some practitioners. The goal is to present current research in the field of local democracy, explore directions for future research and foster collaboration across disciplines. The academy will include sessions on participatory videos, 'writeshops' as well as policy labs where researchers, leading policy makers and practitioners can discuss concrete problems experienced by local governments and provide possible solutions.
- Policy brief on 'Community Currencies as means of Local Economic Empowerment', more info on the website.

Daan Stelder (VNG):
Mr. Stelder shortly presented the Governance of Inclusive Green Growth in Cities (DEALS) programme in Kumasi, Ghana. The proposed City Deal for Kumasi comprises efforts towards decongesting the city's Central Business District by bringing together the key stakeholders. Through an integrated and multi-stakeholder approach, the decongestion process should result in economic opportunities and tangible improvements for inhabitants of Zongo areas that are to become new hubs of economic and social activity. More information here.

Closing remarks

Corinne Huser, from SDC, concluded the Annual Meeting by underlining in her remarks that it was, once again, an event 'rich in exchange on very relevant topics' and that it was a great opportunity to decide on concrete next steps for the network. Ms. Huser also pointed out that she appreciates the collaborative spirit of the network and thanked the participants for their great contributions.

Appendix 1 Annual Meeting Agenda

Agenda

14th DeLoG Annual Meeting

Day 1: Monday, 20 May 2019

08.30 – 09.00	**ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION**
09.00	**MEET AND GREET**
09.30	**OPENING REMARKS** Welcome Notes, Introduction of Conference Theme **Georgette Bruchez**, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) **Bernhard Harlander**, DeLoG Secretariat
10.00	**KEYNOTE Dr. George Mukundi Wachira:** **African countries and SDG 16** Presentation (30') with Q&A (30')
11.00	COFFEE BREAK
11.30	**PICK UP where we left last year's AM: What has been realised?** Plenary: short presentation and ad hoc contributions by SSG, the Secretariat, members and partners
12.30	LUNCH BREAK
14.00	**LOCALISING THE SDGs** • Localising the SDGs: Why decentralisation and local governance are key (Presentation) **Annika Schoenfeld, GIZ** • Localising the SDGs in Asia: Reporting back from the regional DeLoG/UCLG/LOGIN workshop in Cambodia (Presentation) **Preeta Lall, LOGIN Asia** Discussion in Working Groups COFFEE available in between discussion in groups **Share Learnings from Working Groups** (Plenary) Including potential key activities for future programming
17.00	CLOSURE
17.30	CITY TOUR: 1848 – Bern becomes the Federal Capital
19.00	DINNER at "Altes Tramdepot"

Day 2: Tuesday, 21 May 2019

09.00 **OPENING DAY 2**
Hands-on practical workday:
Participants' interests

09.30 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

A) LOCAL FINANCE / FISCAL DECENTRALISATION

B) LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Setting the scene: Presentations in the plenary
- Financing Urban Development (Presentation)
  Joern Meyer, for BMZ
- UCLG-OECD World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment / First results (Presentation)
  Luc Aldon, UCLG
- Decisive aspects and entry points for LED: study findings in Serbia (Presentation)
  Andrea Iff, SDC

Discussion in Parallel Working Groups A) and B)

11.00 COFFEE BREAK

11.30 Discussion in Parallel Working Groups (contd.)

Share Learnings from Working Groups (Plenary)
Including potential key activities for future programming

12.30 LUNCH

14.00 **Future DELOG**
- Our network, now and in future
- Strategic Support Group
- Next DeLoG Annual Meeting

COFFEE available in between discussions

16.00 **News from our Members/Partners and from Observers**
- UNICEF
- UN-HABITAT
- SDC
- UCLG

17.00 CLOSURE

Day 3: Wednesday, 22 May 2019

09.00	**OPENING DAY 3** Transfer of learnings into our future work
09.30	**Workstream Fragility** • VNG "IDEAL" programme: Towards peaceful and inclusive societies – addressing fragility at the local level (Presentation) **Daan Stelder, VNG** Discussion in Working Groups **Share Learnings from Working Groups** (Plenary) Including potential key activities for future programming
11.30	COFFEE BREAK WITH SNACKS
12.00	**Implications for future programming** • Wrap up of learnings from the working groups • We translate these learnings into elements for Workstreams and the DeLoG Workplan
13.00	CLOSING REMARKS
13.30	LUNCH
14.30	INDIVIDUAL TIME FOR FOLLOW-UP/TRAVEL

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

The following was useful for my work:		1	2	3	4	n/a
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
The following sessions were useful for developing the DeLoG Network:		**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**n/a**
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
The following methodology enhanced participation and exchange during the meeting:		**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**n/a**
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
In general:		**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**n/a**
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)