

## MEMBERS

- ▶ Asian Development Bank
- ▶ African Development Bank
- ▶ Austrian Development Agency
- ▶ Belgian Technical Cooperation
- ▶ Canadian International Development Agency
- ▶ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ▶ European Commission
- ▶ French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ▶ French Development Agency
- ▶ German Development Bank
- ▶ German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- ▶ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- ▶ Inter-American Development Bank
- ▶ Irish Aid
- ▶ Lux Development
- ▶ Luxembourg Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- ▶ Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- ▶ Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
- ▶ Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ▶ Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- ▶ Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- ▶ Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- ▶ UN Capital Development Fund
- ▶ United Nations Development Programme
- ▶ UN-Habitat
- ▶ UNICEF
- ▶ United Kingdom Department for International Development
- ▶ U.S. Agency for International Development
- ▶ World Bank



## DECENTRALISATION & LOCAL GOVERNANCE

DeLoG is an informal network of bi- and multi-lateral development partners, founded in 2006. The network is a platform for joint learning and exchanging knowledge on decentralisation, local governance and the implementation of the SDGs on the subnational level.



## DECENTRALISATION & LOCAL GOVERNANCE

DeLoG – Development Partners Network on Decentralisation & Local Governance



## CONTACT

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Supporting development  
where it happens:  
At the local level.

## WHY DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE MATTER FOR DEVELOPMENT

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, the United Nations General Assembly decided on an ambitious set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to address ongoing and emerging global challenges.

During the post-2015 process the international community took into account lessons from the MDGs implementation and further acknowledged the importance of localising the agenda and including all levels of government. As the Rio+20 declaration 2012 and the Busan Global Partnership 2011 emphasise the role of local governments in enhancing democratic ownership, accountability and participation, the new 2030 Agenda, together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, mark a step forward to consider the local level as an indispensable partner to implement development at all levels.

Decentralised governments play a crucial role in enabling local development, assuring equal and adequate basic service delivery and thereby improving livelihoods. Due to their proximity to citizens and communities, local actors are more likely to have a better understanding of local needs than central authorities.

Further, local governments are able to adjust national and regional development strategies to the realities of their territory, leading to more effective resource allocation and improved development results.

The subnational level – including local parliaments, civil society organisations, media and community groups – plays a major role in establishing and nurturing accountability towards citizens and aid beneficiaries.

## EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Decentralisation and local governance (DLG) reforms are highly political processes. They involve different government levels and a multitude of actors with different interests and incentives. Development partner need to take these political economy dynamics into account when providing support for DLG.

In order to fully unlock the potential of DLG to achieve sustainable development results, reforms need to establish an appropriate legal and institutional framework and must be embedded coherently in a wider public sector reform process.

Reforms also need to provide lower tiers of government with adequate financial resources, ideally through intergovernmental transfers and access to meaningful local sources of revenue.

What can development partners do to support sustainable development of local governments and other actors at subnational level?

- Develop the necessary capacities in local governments to effectively fulfil their assigned functions;
- Strengthen and increasingly use sound and transparent public financial management systems at the local level;
- Strengthen oversight mechanisms and performance assessment systems;
- Support national M&E systems for measuring the impact of DLG reforms;
- Secure transparency, accountability and citizen participation in local development planning;
- Promote an enabling environment for local economic development.

## THE DELOG NETWORK:

To achieve increased development effectiveness in the implementation of DLG reforms, development practitioners need to learn from each other, share their knowledge and experiences.

DeLoG acts as a platform that collects, provides and produces knowledge on DLG through the DeLoG-website, social media, newsletters and studies on selected topics.

Learning on DLG is a significant value in our network. Jointly with our members, we conduct tailor-made in-country and regional seminars, face-to-face open courses for member agencies and tutored e-learning for a broader target group.

To support the implementation of the SDGs on the local level, effective decentralisation frameworks and empowered local governments are required. Our network offers space for the necessary policy dialogue and the exchange of approaches and implementation strategies.

We can only improve livelihoods, when people on the local level are being reached by the measures of development cooperation.